

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—OCTOBER 2023



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

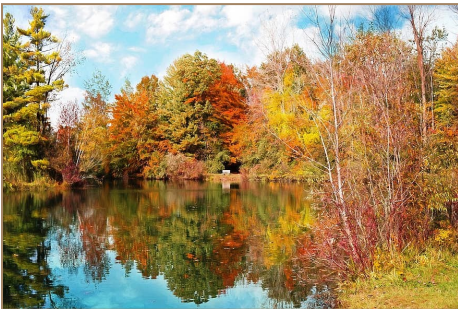
Message for October from Haroon Azam

We are entering the month of October. In Church history, this month the Church celebrates the feast of William Tyndale (1494-1536), which is on the 6th of October. William was a Biblical Scholar and translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek texts into English and he was also one of the protestant reformers. Therefore we as English speaking Christians have the chance to say, thank God that He raised such people to become God's servants who spread God's good news through the translation of the Bible.



Statue of William Tyndale on
Victoria Embankment, London

By mid October the winds of winter also start to touch our cheeks. Leaves start to fall by mid-September and by mid-October the earth becomes golden and the trees become naked. For some people it's depressing, but for many it is a new hope. The leaves are withered, but we will have hope that there will be a new start for the trees. Do not be depressed, life will carry on.



Leaves wither but trees remain there. William Tyndale was a man of God and we believe he is now in heaven, but his work is still fruitful. The month of October is the month when we have the chance to say, thank God that life still continues. Thank God that He has done marvellous works through His people. However, physically many precious lives are not among us today, but we still remember them as we do the leaves and we are still enjoying the fruit of their works. Let us do something which will be fruitful for generations. Thank God for the continuous life.

CHURCH DIARY for OCTOBER

Sunday Service each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people.

Prayer meeting before the Sunday Service each week at 10.15 in the Boulevard Room. All welcome.

Baptismal Service—22nd October

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 15th at **12.30pm**

Toddler Group—Monday 2nd, 9th & 16th—10.00am to 11.45am

Men's Group—Thursday 12th & 26th from 7.30 to 9.00pm

Renew Wellbeing Café—Every Thursday in October—1.30pm to 4.00pm

Church Meeting—8th October after morning service

Vision Day—Saturday 14th October 10.00am to 1.00pm. ALL are invited. Please try and attend as your opinion and contribution is valued.

FUNERALS

Fri 13 th Oct 10.00am	Clifford Miller
Wed 18 th Oct 10.30am	Fredrick Darling
Fri 20 th Oct 11.30am	Gwendolyn Darby
Tue 24 th Oct 11.00am	Aarun Bernard
Thu 26 th Oct 12 noon	Loxley Howell
Fri 27 th Oct 10.30am	Lynette Brown

(Note: timings are sometimes subject to change)



PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for unity within MRBC as we seek to go forward in the process of change for the future.
- 2) Pray for a positive drive to stir our hearts for how God's world should be.
- 3) Pray for spiritual growth in our church life to bring up renewed energy.



The church's first **vision day** took place on 23rd September. We were all a little unsure of exactly what the session would involve, but fortunately our regional minister Mike Fegredo is experienced in leading such sessions, and so brought a wealth of experience and wisdom to our

discussions. After a short period of worship and prayer our discussions began.

What are we like? Around the hall Mike had placed signs with various decades written on them and we were asked to move and stand next to the sign showing the decade when we first came to MRBC. In our groupings we discussed why we had first come to MRBC, why we kept coming, what worship was like, what the focus of church was and its main activities and what were the main challenges the church faced. Mike then asked us to share some of our ideas. It was clear that the church has gone through many changes.

What is Church? Mike talked about the changing nature of churches since New Testament times. He pointed out that there has never been one set pattern for the way that churches form or the way that they function. Although churches are constantly changing however, there are always three things at their heart: worship, community, and mission.

When the new minister arrives In our small groups we were asked to complete two statements. When the new minister arrives, *they will find a church that* and *a people that* This prompted some lively discussion in our groups!

Strengths and Weaknesses After a break for coffee we tried to identify:

- Strengths - what are we really good at as a church?
- Things that need some attention - what areas of church life need working on to improve?
- Any gaps – what are we not doing at all that maybe we should think about?
- Any barriers – what's getting in the way, holding us back from moving forward in certain areas

It was surprising how many groups identified similar issues that the church will face as it moves forward.

How much change? The final activity involved discussing how much change we thought was needed in the direction of the church. A little or a lot? What will that change look like?

What are your thoughts on these questions? The final vision day is on **14th October from 10am to 1pm**. Mike will review the first session and then ask us to reflect on some more questions as we consider appointing our next minister. Please come along and share your insights.

Dave Mangan

The Church—God's People and Possession

What is the Church? And what does it mean for us to be part of it?

The Church is the body of Christ established by God. When we hear the word Church, it's common to have an image of a physical structure. From what we read in scripture, however, we're compelled to think people over place, believers, instead of buildings. The Greek word translation of "Church" means "Assembly" and in most cases in the New Testament it refers to a gathering of believers in Jesus in a special location.

God's special relationship with the plans for the Church are reflected in the words and explanation used to describe it. "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that we may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." *1 Peter 2:9*.

So what does this mean for how believers interact with each other? That those who belong to the family of God are to love and care for each other. As we gather together we have the privilege to "Encourage one another to show love and to do good." *Hebrews 10: 24*. It is however something the Bible offers as a means to bear us up in faith. What a wonderful reason to seek the community of a church and to nourish one another with God's word when we meet together in his name.

Thank God I can encourage other believers and be encouraged by them when we meet together in Jesus' name.

Hazel O'Connor

BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme



Please feel free to contact Jenny Hall, the church co-ordinator, for further details about this scheme.

Would you like to receive a card on your birthday from the BMS World Mission scheme?

It helps to support the work of the mission. You would receive a card, and if you feel thankful, give a birthday gift of money. An envelope is provided for your gift, which you then hand to Jenny, or you can give online, or over the phone.

The Questionable worth of Modern Ideas

In his letter to the early church of Colosse, a modest town on trade routes in those days, Paul says in verse 8 of chapter 2,

“See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

Paul’s purpose in writing this letter was to refute the heresy, the false and misleading ideas on faith, which some wilfully wrong-headed persons were teaching to the ‘young’ Christians of Colosse. Paul delivers, in his customary vigorous style, a crushing verdict on their teachings.

Readers will no doubt agree with me that, in our present age, we are presented with a huge choice of hollow and deceptive notions, attractively packaged to draw those looking for purpose in their lives, but who are content to ignore the living God and his risen Christ. GK Chesterton, a Christian writer of the early 20th century, commented *“When a man stops believing in God, he doesn’t then believe in nothing, he believes anything.”*

It would be possible to draw a whole lot of modern nonsense to your attention in this connection, but even a moment’s review of current worldly concerns and causes would probably bring up, firstly, the way in which a rightful concern to avoid waste and damage is beginning to move towards worship of the earth itself; and secondly, the obsession with the avoidance of certain foods, not as a choice but as an all-enveloping way of life, whose adherents would dearly like to inflict on all of us. At the risk of indulging in a mild flippancy, it would be true to say that, for some, the love of honey is the root of all evil!

One can do no better than to close by returning to Paul’s words from verses 20 and 22; *“Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules? These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.”*

John Sheppard

Shining like Stars

(after Philippians 2:15)

When dusk falls
and the daylight fades away
it's the brightest of the stars
that step forward
to greet us
in their awesome wonder
as heaven-sent shards of God's
love.

And as the night darkens
more and more stars step forward
to bathe us in their holy light
and whisper as one
into the darkness of our souls.
'Do not fear the night
for you are loved.'

Now, children of God
step forward.
Go shine like stars in the sky
to light the pathway.
Go tell the Good News.



Clive Trusson

About our Church

If you are new to the church or just visiting, you may find this page helpful.

You can expect a warm welcome and a friendly group of people of all backgrounds and ages gathering to learn more about God.

We meet every Sunday at 10:30am for our Sunday Service. During school term time groups for children and young people from 3 - 18 are held downstairs, with a crèche available for under threes. Stewards in the Welcome Hall will be happy to show you where to take your children.

The Shalom Fellowship meets one Sunday every month for worship and teaching in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

Toddler Group meets Mondays during term time from 10.00am to 11.45am. Parents, grandparents and carers are warmly invited to bring along the children in their care to enjoy play and activities.

The Men's Group meets alternate Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.00pm for fellowship, discussion and dominoes.

Renew Wellbeing Café meets Thursdays from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. Join us for activities, chat and refreshments.

For specific dates of the above activities please see the Diary section of the magazine. If you would like to get in touch with someone at the church office please use the contact details below.

Room Hire Different rooms are available for hire. Please contact the church office for details.

Phone: 0115 9604304 during office hours—Mon-Fri 9.00am-2.30pm

Email: admin@mrbc.org.uk

Church Address:

Mansfield Road Baptist Church,
Corner of Sherwood Rise/Gregory Boulevard
Nottingham NG7 6JN

A big “thank you” to all contributors this month. Please continue to furnish us with YOUR news, YOUR pictures, YOUR poem, YOUR story, any articles of interest to others. Please give to Susan Bye or Sharon Joddrell at church or post or send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, to arrive by **10th October** for the November edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk