

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—SEPTEMBER 2025



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

# Thought for the Month from Hazel O'Connor

## When God feels distant

What do you pray when you're in a totally impossible situation? Do you try to figure out it yourself and tell God how He can fix things? Have you ever felt like God wasn't listening? What can you do when it feels like God just isn't there?

In Psalm 13 King David knew that feeling. He was a man after God's own heart. God was at the centre of everything he did and yet even he had seasons when he cried out. *"How long Lord? Will you forget me forever?"* When it seems as though God is silent and your prayers are not being answered, David teaches us not to despair.

This is not a sign of failure, but a reminder that while we are in this world, our faith will be challenged in many ways. Will we still trust God's loving presence, even when we can't feel it? Yes, we can trust Him. The Lord is always at work for us, even when we can't see what He is doing. We don't need to have it all together when we pray. We don't need to have the right words. Sometimes we don't need any words at all, no matter what we are going through, and how we can express it. Prayer is how we hand our own burdens to the Lord, and put our trust entirely in Him to answer.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all our ways acknowledge Him and He will direct our path.

God bless, **Hazel**

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## Rev Matt Jones

We look forward to welcoming Matt who starts his ministry with us on 1<sup>st</sup> October. A formal service of Induction will take place on a Saturday date to be advised.

## CHURCH DIARY for SEPTEMBER

**Sunday Service** each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people. There is a **Prayer Meeting** at 10.15am in the Boulevard Room every week before the Sunday Service All welcome.

**Deacons' meeting**—Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 7pm

**Church Members' meeting**—Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> after the morning service.  
Short meeting to discuss baptisms.

**Shalom Fellowship**—Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm

**PFA meeting**—Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm

**Baptismal Service**—Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Toddler Group**—Mondays 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> Sept— 10am-11.45am

**Renew Wellbeing Café**—Every Thursday —1.30pm-4.00pm

**Reflective Prayer Meeting**—Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am-12 noon

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for our children and young people as they start a new year in school, college and university. Pray for God's blessing and protection in their lives.
- 2) Pray for our loved ones, friends and church family who we have lost touch with and for anyone who may feel let down.
- 3) Pray for those suffering long term and chronic illness experiencing a slow recovery or mental anguish.
- 4) Pray for "Peter and Paul" and "Andrea and Ian" in their work with BMS World Mission.

## PFA COMMITTEE VACANCY

Have YOU any property, building, fabric, finance, administration skills which could be used to further God's purpose in our Church setting? The small Property, Finance, Administration team (PFA) are looking to include one or two more church members on its committee. Interested? See Ricky Bennett for more details.

## Youth Trip to Berlin 2025

18 of us started our **journey** at MRBC at 05:00 on Friday 25 July. We took a coach to Birmingham Airport and flew with easyJet to Berlin .On arrival every young person was asked to buddy up and encouraged to stay together for safety reasons. We took the train and Uban to get to YMCA .Each room had two



bunkbeds so all were excited to choose their rooms and their roommates.

**Meals**—Allergies and special dietary needs were made known to YMCA and all restaurants for the evening meals. Breakfast was a buffet which started at 07:30. The different cuisines we enjoyed were Jamaican, Vietnamese, Turkish and German. There was also a Lidl nearby for snacks.

**Excursions**—Berlin has a very good transportation system. We used trains (underground and overhead) and buses to get to our destinations. The sightseeing we did was amazing- Victory Angel, Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, Museums, Concentration Camp, Reichstag Parliament building, Alexanderplatz, Kurfurstendamm and Tropical Island—an indoor water park & tropical forest.

**Church**—On Sunday we visited the Presbyterian English speaking church and we took part in the service. Robin and Cyrus did the interactive Lord's Prayer. Afterwards we met up with the young people from the church who hosted a lunch and quiz. It was wonderful to see them all interacting.

**Devotions**—We had devotions twice a day of music, praise and worship sessions, sharing and teaching. We acknowledged the presence of the Lord. This was an amazing experience for the group.

**The aims and objectives of the retreat**—To get closer to God and share our spiritual journey. To encourage team building. To identify oneself away from parents and their environment. To increase educational awareness of Berlin and the history it has to offer. To increase the level of activity and reduce screen time.

The overall experience of this trip was amazing. With good planning , organisation and a brilliant team and young people, this trip was a success. Thanks to all who helped to make it so.

God bless, **Diana Palmer-Fritz**



## Reflections of our trip by Ria Sidhu

As you know we went to Berlin in July and I want to share our experience with you.

This trip wasn't just a holiday but it was also an opportunity to bring us closer to God and to each other. Every morning and night we'd have devotions which helped us grow with God. We didn't let this trip forget Him, the God who made it happen. Many new friendships and bonds were made and I thank God that I met and spoke to the people that I did as we were there. I learnt a lot spiritually and mentally through these people and through the times we all shared. We travelled a lot and saw many things that we were all blessed to see and learn about as not many people have that opportunity. We thank God that the weather was great and we all had an amazing time walking and talking with each other.

My personal favourite highlight of the trip (and I think I can speak for most of the youth here) was Tropical Island. It was a fun day for everyone to relax and enjoy. The entire trip was amazing. I want to give all thanks to Diana, our amazing youth leader who made this happen, as without her efforts none of it would have been possible.



## Link-up Lunch

These are photos from the last Link-up Lunch on 1st August.



What a wonderful turn out. Fun and good conversation had by all.



A WhatsApp Link-up group has been set up so that we can inform people collectively about our LINK-UP Lunch and meet ups.

**The NEXT Link-up LUNCH will be on:**

**DATE: Friday 5th SEPTEMBER**

**TIME: 12:30**

**PLACE: Sprinters, 83-85 High Street, Arnold, NOTTINGHAM. NG5 7DQ**

For those people already in the WhatsApp group **please** put a message in the chat to let us know if you are coming so that we can book you a seat.

All others are **most welcome**. Please contact Jeniba on 0798 541 8848 to let me know if you would like to attend.

Click on this link to find menu and restaurant details:

<https://sprintersarnold.co.uk/>

Thank you

***Jeniba Grant***

## Good Training

A further selection of timeless wisdom from the book of Proverbs.

He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray (10 v17)

He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded. (13 v13)

He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. (15 v31)

A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver (25 v11)

Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding (23 v23)

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it (22 v6)

Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge (23 v12)

***Verses selected by John Sheppard***



We were so pleased on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August to have our link missionaries, Andrea and Ian, visit and take part in our morning service. They told us of their work in Spain in the field of media. They value our support and prayers as they continue God's work. It was great to chat over lunch too, so our prayers can be more focussed in future. Do ask Joan Sheppard if you would like to see a copy of their regular prayer letters.

## 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. Join us for coffee/tea and biscuits in the Church Hall after the service.

***The Shalom Fellowship*** meets on the first Sunday every month at 2.30pm 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.

***Reflective Prayer Group*** meets fortnightly on Thursdays from 11am to 12 noon. All welcome.

***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.

***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

***Car Parking*** is allowed on a Sunday in the Page Kirk / Jarodale House car park along Gregory Boulevard. On weekdays the Sports Car Park opposite should be used. Disabled parking only on the church forecourt.

A big “thank you” to all contributors this edition. 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](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), to arrive by 15<sup>th</sup> September for the October edition.

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**Website: [www.mrbc.org.uk](http://www.mrbc.org.uk)**