

# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—DECEMBER 2025—JANUARY 2026

## Christmas at Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Corner of Gregory Boulevard  
and Sherwood Rise  
NG7 6JN

For unto us  
a child is born!



**All Age Nativity Service - Sunday 14th Dec at 10:30am**

**Carol Service & Refreshments - Saturday 20th at 4pm**

**Christmas Day Celebration - Thursday 25th at 10:30am**

**Shalom New Year's Day Service - Thursday 1st Jan at 3pm**  
(in Urdu/Punjabi/Hindi)

**Everybody Welcome**

## Thought for the Month from our Minister

As we enter into the season of Advent, with Christmas rapidly approaching on the horizon, we're reminded that this is a time of waiting! However, waiting feels like a very passive word at a time when we might feel so busy, so disorganized or ill-prepared. And let's not even mention attempting to go into town – the streets, car parks, shops and bars are busy, anything but a restful sense of waiting!

As we look forward to Christmas, let's take a moment to look back – way back! Over 800 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Micah spoke of a ruler being born in Bethlehem and just over 700 years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah prophesied about a child being born to a virgin who would be called Immanuel, meaning God with us. The people of Israel knew all about waiting – they had been waiting for that moment for centuries, with generation after generation passing on the mantle of waiting.

For Mary, it was a different story again – her wait was very unlike that of her country folk. Beginning with the shocking and life changing news that she would give birth by the Holy Spirit, she had a wait which would be far from passive. After all, she had a baby to prepare for and no amount of good planning can fully prepare a mother for that kind of chaos!

So, what about us – what does our wait for Christmas look like? Is it overwhelmed with the sense of urgency and ever growing 'to do' list that can easily obliterate Advent? It's easy to get lost in the busyness and before you know it, Christmas is over and we're searching for the spare roll of bin bags. We would love to find a way to slow down time during these coming weeks – partly to make the things that need to be done more manageable, but more importantly to create space in which we can really prepare ourselves: to re-focus on what it's all about. The promise of the Messiah – the one of whom it's said, *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

We hope you find time and space to savour the real joy of celebrating our Saviour this Christmas. We offer our very best wishes during this season of celebration.

# CHURCH DIARY

## for DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

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

**Toddler Group**—Mondays— 10.00am-11.45am— 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Renew Wellbeing Café**—Thursdays—1.30pm-4.00pm— 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Reflective Prayer Meeting**—Thursdays — 11.00am—4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December and 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Link-Up Lunch**—Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December—12 noon—Sprinters

**Church Members' Meeting**—7<sup>th</sup> December after Sunday service

**All Age Nativity Service**—14<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am

**Carol Service**—Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm



**Christmas Day Celebration**—Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am

**Shalom Fellowship**—25<sup>th</sup> December & 1<sup>st</sup> January 3.00pm

**Deacon's Meeting**—Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January—7.00pm

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for all who are living with a traumatised heart and struggling with brokenness and unhealed trauma.
- 2) Pray for healing in the life of our church family to be restored by the grace of Jesus.
- 3) Pray for Christians whose faith has been tested by hardship, spiritual dryness or any outside pressure that they may hold fast to you Lord Jesus.
- 4) Pray for “Peter and Paul” and “Andrea and Ian” in their work with BMS World Mission.

# COME PLAY & SING

WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER  
7-8:30PM

For anyone who wants to have a go at playing music together  
Bring your instrument or voice



## Nativity & Youth Service

### ***Dates to note from Diana:***

December 6, 2025- at 11.00am - Rehearsal for nativity and youth service.

December 13, 2025 - at 12.30pm—setting up and decorating hall for Youth Christmas lunch

December 14, 2025. Youth service and Christmas Nativity. All those taking part to be at church for 10.00am.

## Christmas Cards

As in previous years, Joan Sheppard has organised a board for us to attach a Christmas card with a message for friends in the church family. The money you save on buying separate cards can be given to Joan as a donation to BMS World Mission.

## The Darkest Valley

When I lost my son Patrick to cancer on the 17<sup>th</sup> September it was heartbreaking.

But even in his last days we saw God's grace to us as a family, and in the periods when he slept I prayed to God for him. In the darkest of days there were moments of comfort.

David's most famous psalm echoes this reassurance. The first half of Psalm 23 sounds as though life is great in the peace of God, being physically and spiritually looked after by Him. I lack nothing, David said. God makes me lie down, he leads me, he refreshes my soul (v1-3).

Yet the Christian experience does not shield us from tragedy or illness, and David describes walking through the darkest valley. Whether we or our loved ones slip away peacefully or whether death comes like a violent thief, we can say to God with confidence "you are with me, your rod and staff they comfort me" (v4). Though death is terrifying, it is not the end. We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (v6).

Have you experienced God's grace in dark times? I have. I held his hand and he held mine. I prayed "loving God our shepherd and guide, please lead me to the rock that is higher than I, give me comfort every day, and give to Pat your resting place". Amen

*Hazel O'Connor*



## Teams4 U

### Love in a Box

"A big **thank you** from all of us at Teams4U for your filled shoebox donations - you are helping us to make a big difference!"

## Link-up Lunch

18 people attended our November Link-up Lunch.

Mrs Mavis Collins graced the table before we ate, thanking the Lord God for bringing us together, blessing us and allowing the food that we ate to bring strength to our bodies and nourish our souls.

Mrs Gloria Mundel read and recorded Corinthians 13: 1-13, on behalf of Norma Watts who was not able to join us. This reading spoke about the greatest gift we have to give is love. The reading was shared with Norma.

We took a moment to think about our church sister Veralee. Her sister Sandra passed away in Jamaica whilst on holiday. Our thoughts and prayers went out to Veralee as she travelled through the hurricane to bring Sandra's body back from Jamaica.

We are looking forward to seeing all who can come to our last link up lunch for 2025



### CHRISTMAS LINK-UP LUNCH

**DATE: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**TIME: 12:00**



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

Click on this link to find menu and restaurant details

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

Please let us know if you're coming and we'll book you a seat.

**Jeniba** 0798 541 8848 & **Audra** 0797 310 2886

NOTE: There will be no Link-Up in January and then we will alternate the lunches by monthly dates to be sent over soon

**Requests for prayer** can be written on the cards provided and put in the box in the Welcome Hall. They will be forwarded, with consent, to our Prayer Chain ministry.

## Christians standing together

In John's Gospel, chapter 17, verses 20 and 21, Jesus turns from prayer for his close disciples to prayer for all believers. He says: *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* (NIV)

The history of God's people is a story with some sad elements; there was a low point when it was thought worthy to go to war because of our different traditions. However, Christians have moved on from conflict among themselves to competition, then co-existence and cooperation, and now to greater fellowship and sharing. Praise God for this progress.

The prime truths held in common by the three Christian traditions (Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant) are:

- Personal faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord
- Submission to the Scriptures as the supreme authority for faith & conduct
- Confession of the Nicene Creed of the late 4<sup>th</sup> century.

For those unfamiliar with the Nicene Creed of 381AD, it is a statement of doctrine and belief that sums up the Christian faith in around 225 words. Space does not permit its inclusion here, but look it up for yourselves. (If necessary, I am sure that Professor Google will assist.)

***John Sheppard***

***Would YOU be prepared to write an article or bio for the magazine? It would be lovely to have more contributions for future editions. See overleaf.***

## 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> January for the February edition.

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