

MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—FEBRUARY 2026



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Thought for the Month from our Minister

I have a confession to make!

I have always been somewhat dismissive of leaf-blowers, believing them to be the most pointless power tool ever designed. Until... A couple of months ago, I was trying to clear an entire Autumn's worth of leaves from my driveway, which is mainly gravel, so difficult to sweep. I gave in, and in spite of my previous cynicism, I borrowed a leaf blower.

I discovered 2 things: firstly, that a leaf blower is in fact a superb tool for gathering all your leaves into one place so they can be swept up into a bin. Secondly, and this caught me off-guard, how difficult it was to control the air flow from the leaf blower. If you're not careful, you can end up with a huge whirling mass of leaves just blowing around everywhere with no sense of direction. At one point I felt like I was in the eye of a storm with leaves just circling me with no hope of ever regaining control.

For a brief moment, this became an enlightening experience, as I recalled the words of Jesus, speaking to Nicodemus in John's gospel: *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*

We cannot contain, restrict or control the movement of God's Spirit. But when we give ourselves to God in faith, we become part of that movement. It's not always comfortable, sometimes scary, and occasionally even feels chaotic. As Christians, we may be tempted to try and bring the movement of the Spirit under control, so we can keep things neat and tidy, but there's beauty and creativity in the apparent chaos.

As we move forward as a church, let's be bold in looking for signs of God's Spirit moving, and instead of trying to restrict and contain it, so that we feel safe, maybe see the beauty of the swirling leaves and allow ourselves to be caught up in the wonder of God's work.

Matt Jones

CHURCH DIARY for FEBRUARY 2026

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

Shalom Fellowship—1st February— 2.30pm

Toddler Group—Mondays— 2nd, 9th, 23rd February—10.00am-11.45am

Renew Wellbeing Café—Each Thursday in February—1.30pm-4.00pm

Reflective Prayer Meeting—Thursdays —12th, 26th February— 11.00am

Link Up Lunch—See overleaf

Lent Course—Thursday 19th & 26th February—7.30pm

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for God's love to flourish and sustain us against the mistakes of short sightedness and arrogance of this world, that in Christ we may learn to respect one another.
- 2) Let us pray for the wounded and the afraid, the despairing and the rejected that they may find Christ, suffering alongside them and allow him to restore them.
- 3) Pray for each member of the body of Christ as they take on the daily work for the glory of God.
- 4) Pray for our link missionaries, "Arthur and Reeta" and "Andrea and Ian" in their work with BMS World Mission.

Christmas Card Donation

The sum of £196.50 was raised from the Christmas Card board for the work of BMS World Mission.

Thank you, Joan, for organising this.



Looking Ahead

At the start of this new year, it's a good moment to look ahead and consider what lies before us. The church leadership will be meeting in the coming weeks to consider how we develop and grow the life of the church, and we welcome your prayers as we do this. As we journey through the year, look out for new events, activities and opportunities to serve – particularly as we enter the season of Lent and approach Easter. Meanwhile, here are key dates for your diary:

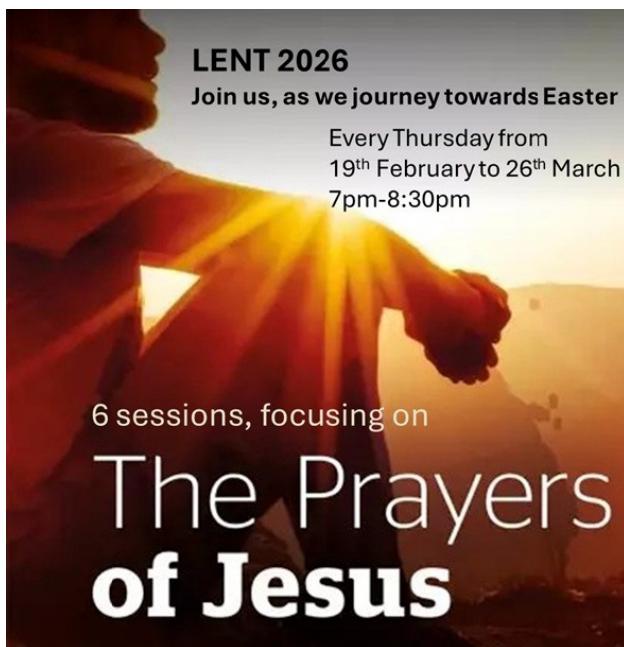
Deacons and Trustees' Meeting (Wednesday at 7pm):

11 March	6 May
1 July	2 September
4 November	

Members' Meeting (Sundays, following the morning service):

22 March	12 July - AGM
20 September	15 November

Annual Memorial Service – 28 June (afternoon)



Link-up Lunch

I would like to introduce alternative options to link-up luncheon meals in the community. Every Thursday morning at 11.30am, Savoy Cinema offers its Silverscreen customers a new release film and a cup of tea or coffee for just £4.95! The Silverscreen club is as much about the film as it is the social gathering. Doors are open from 10am and close at 11:30am when the performance starts. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO** - we can do this every alternative month, starting on the last THURSDAY of FEBRUARY 2026.

We will update you all closer to the time about dates and film screening.

Thank you. **Jeniba Grant** Tel: 0798 541 8848

Westdale Lane Baptist Church in Mapperley would like to extend an invitation to any children and young people to join in with their Girls or Boys Brigade Clubs.

Contact details for more information are on the poster.

Clubs for Young People

Girls' Brigade England & Wales THE BOYS' BRIGADE >the adventure begins here

©Westdale Lane Baptist Church

Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade

Badge Work Craft
Life Skills Christian Knowledge
Competitions New Friends Games
Sports



For GB

4th Nottingham meet here in term time on Fridays.

Explorers- yr R-yr 3 6pm - 7.30pm
Juniors- yr 4- yr 6 6pm - 7.30pm
Seniors yr 7 - yr 9 6pm - 8.30pm
Brigaders yr 10 + 6pm - 8.30pm

Tel : 07833296442

Email pat.rouse105@gmail.com or 4thnottmgb@gmail.com

For BB

37th Nottingham meet here in term time on Tuesdays.

Juniors - age 8-11 7pm - 8pm
Seniors - age 12-18 - 7pm- 9pm

Tel : 07237823445

37nottingham.boys-brigade.org.uk
I: bbinmapperley

Heavenly Music

On a Saturday evening in early December last year, Joan and I attended a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. This was presented by the Nottingham Harmonic Society which supplied the chorus of nearly 200, ably supported by 4 professional singers and an orchestra of 22 professional musicians.

For the benefit of readers not familiar with *Messiah*, it is a most wonderful artistic creation, the words of which are entirely those of the Bible and the music that accompanies those words is some of the best written in the 18th century, by any composer of that time. It recounts the whole of the earthly life of Jesus, from the prophecies of Isaiah to the triumphant choruses of Revelation, and everything in between.

Handel's *Messiah* is more than a piece of music, it is a monument of western civilisation. It has, across the two and a half centuries since it was written, acquired an enormous status, and has been performed by amateurs and professionals in both small-scale numbers, and occasionally in absurdly large-scale presentations. There is no prescribed or "official" version, but in recent decades there has been a movement towards the style and the scale of 18th century performances.

The remarkable thing is that it was originally written by Handel, a prolific and financially successful composer, as just another item in his catalogue of work. That it was not only an instant success, but has outlasted all his other works involving singing, strongly suggests its Providential prompting.



John Sheppard

The Hope of Christmas

Christmas is over. We have eaten the turkey and food with families and friends, drunk the wine and made merry. Christmas is the one time of the year when everything goes. Diets and budgets are thrown out of the window for a few days of celebrating and generosity.

But what does Christmas look like during a cost of living crisis? When icy evenings mean the choice between a cooked meal or turning the heating on? When every tank of petrol means one less present under the tree? When anxiety increases with the supermarket prices? Many may have had to rely on the kindness of strangers and charities to bring Christmas cheer in our homes.

Our worries, questions and problems may change from year to year. But the Christmas story remains the same.

Jesus knew how hard life can be on earth. He lived in a cost of living crisis; not that he saw it that way. He owned nothing, had no savings and relied on the kindness of others for this daily needs. When he was born he was laid in a borrowed manger. When he rode into Jerusalem he did it on a borrowed donkey. So why did he bother coming here at all? Why leave his throne in heaven to live a humble and brutally short life on earth?

He came to claim the only treasure worth having, you and me. His passion was to reach each person. But what he loved most was connecting with individuals, and showing them their true value to him. We are all his treasures and he is ours. And every one who trusts in Jesus enters a lasting and secure relationship with God. That's the hope of Christmas, why he is the real treasure we need. Jesus himself. He is our Christmas.

Hazel O'Connor

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, to arrive by 15th February for the March edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk