
M R B C

CHURCH MAGAZINE—MARCH 2026



EASTER 2026

Join us, as we celebrate Easter

Palm Sunday – 29th March

Morning Service at 10:30am

Each morning of Holy Week (Monday to Friday)

a short devotion via Facebook and WhatsApp – 9am

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April

Reflective Communion Service at 7:30pm

Good Friday - 3rd April

Readings and reflection at 10:30am

Easter Day – 5th April

Morning Service at 10:30am

Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Gregory Boulevard / Sherwood Rise

NG7 6JN

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Follow us



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Thought for March from our Minister

As this month's magazine goes to print, we are a couple of weeks into Lent. This is a special and yet easily overlooked part of our Christian calendar. It's a time of reflection, preparation and potentially transformation.

During Lent, we echo the time Jesus spent in the wilderness just prior to the start of his public ministry. Let's just refresh our memories of this moment (you can read it in Matthew 4 and Luke 4, with a shortened version in Mark 1). Jesus had come to John the Baptist to be baptised – that caused a bit of a stir! Knowing who Jesus was, John questioned how he could do this, but Jesus was clear that his baptism was important to fulfil scripture. After his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights during which time he fasted. At the end of this period, the devil came and tempted Jesus with challenges designed to meet Jesus' need and allegedly bring him glory – Jesus resisted, and returning from the desert, he began public ministry.

Lent is our time of 40 days in preparation for Easter. Traditionally, people may give something up during Lent, the intention being to engage in some level of sacrifice through which we might demonstrate our focus on and commitment to God. But it's the wilderness I want to think about for a moment.

During his time of preparation for ministry, Jesus experienced the desert or wilderness. This was a place of hardship – a brutal landscape – but through it, Jesus remained faithful to his call and was able to be focussed on the task God had set before him. I believe that we have a twofold relationship with wilderness. Firstly, there will be times when you find yourself in the wilderness, experiencing the physical, emotional and spiritual struggles of life. During these times it can be easy to lose focus, lose faith, and fall into the despair and hopelessness that such times can bring. What are the struggles you face today? And how might you maintain your focus on God in such struggle, bringing glory to him?

Secondly, I think the challenge of the wilderness is not always something that is thrust upon us, but as in Jesus' story, a place we need to put ourselves. Around us, there are many wilderness places – places of hardship and hurt.

As Christians we are called to live and be Christ in these places, bringing hope to those in despair. Are there places, situations or people's lives that you need to be more present in this Lent, even though that might be a struggle, in order that you present the peace, grace and love of God to those in need?

God bless you in the wilderness!

Matt Jones

CHURCH DIARY for MARCH 2026

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

Shalom Fellowship—1st March— 3.00pm

Toddler Group—Mondays— 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March—10.00am

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

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

Lent Prayer Course—5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March—7pm

World Day of Prayer—Friday 6th March—see overleaf

Church Leaders Vision Day— Westdale Lane Baptist Church – Saturday 7th March 10.30am

Mothering Sunday—15th March—see overleaf

Church Members meeting— Sunday 22nd March after morning service

Palm Sunday—29th March 10.30am

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for God's goodness and guidance to bring order to our sinful disorder.
- 2) Pray for discipline to accept the blessings from God and the help He gives to sustain us to walk and grow in His love.
- 3) Blessings without wisdom turn into burdens. Let's pray for the preparing of our minds to be opened to God's will.
- 4) Pray for our link missionaries, "Arthur and Reeta" and "Andrea and Ian" in their work with BMS World Mission.

World Day of Prayer

Friday 6 March at Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Welcome with Tea, Coffee, Cake and Biscuits from
2.30 to 3 pm

3 to 4 pm Service—this year prepared by the women of Nigeria based on Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

All welcome—Please come and support this lovely thought provoking service.

Speak to me for more details.

Jenny Hall



Mothering Sunday

15 March at 10:30am

Everyone is invited to a morning of prayer and praise led by the Young People. We will be fasting in the morning so if you are able to join us in fasting, please do so.

Everyone is invited to afternoon tea immediately after the service.

Please wear a traditional attire from the country that you or your mother is from.

Young people who are taking part in the service must be at church for 10:00 am.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers.
God bless.



Diana Fritz-Palmer

Lectio Divina—Prayerful Reading into Practice

Lectio Divina tells us to read, mediate, pray, contemplate the scripture.

Jesus can be controversial. In Matthew 15:21-28 he refers to a Canaanite woman as a dog. She asks him to heal her sick child and *“He said it is not right to take bread out of children’s mouths and throw it to dogs” (The Message)*. *“Dog”* was a derogatory word used by Jews for non-Jews (Gentiles) and *“children”* refers to the Jews. Wow, not nice. Why would he say such a thing?

Her response was quick; *“You’re right Master, but beggar dogs do get scraps from the master’s table”*. He responds *“Oh, woman your faith is something else. What you want is what you get”*. Right then her daughter became well.

When we look closer and put the verse into the context of the preceding and following chapters we see that this interaction is part of Jesus developing his ministry. He talks about clean and unclean with the Pharisees, he deliberately goes into the community of Gentiles. His response to the woman is also for his disciples who see her as a hinderance and want to shoo her away. Jesus is handling so many different relationships, he’s working out his ministerial pathway. In verse 24 he tells the disciples that he has been sent *“only to the lost sheep of the people of Israel”*, but he goes on to show compassion, acknowledges the mother’s faith and heals her daughter.

Jesus’ words sound harsh. He responded in a way that shows he understood the social hierarchy, but he praises the mother for her faith and blesses her daughter. His actions transcend the discrimination between Jews and non-Jews. I think the woman’s response made him reflect on and clarified his purpose. Following on from this encounter he went on to heal many people and feed four thousand, many of them non-Jews.

I encourage you to - Read the passage. Mediate on Jesus. Pray using the thoughts and feelings from meditation. Contemplate on what comes from your meditation.

Jennifer Maxwell

What do you think about prayer?

Does praying help? - YES IT DOES!

When we were young children growing up, my mother taught us to pray, sing and even dance.

I remember that once my sister prayed to God asking for new shoes and a new dress. My mother said,

“You don’t ask God for shoes and clothes! He knows what we need. When you pray you must give God thanks and praise for all that he is doing for you and others”.

I never forgot what Mama said. Prayer is a fundamental practice of Christian faith, yet how many of us *really* commit time talking to God?

During my times of grief I prayed and sang praises to God, and he gave me the strength to cope. I would not have coped otherwise.

We can only spend more time with God, benefitting all. So never stop praying and praising Him, for our God is good and His mercies endure for ever.

Amen.

Hazel O’Connor

The photo opposite was taken about 100yds from the church entrance on a public space.

Who knows where this not-very-secret garden is? In March it will be full of daffodils; they are already pushing up strongly.

Evidence of God's abundance, beauty and majesty on our doorstep.

Alan Davies

Centuries of Prayer

Three examples of prayer from earlier times that come across to us with remarkable freshness.

“Induce me, O Jesus, to lay aside my former self and to be renewed according to Your will and desire.”

Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

“Give me a humble, lowly, quiet, peaceable, patient, generous, kind, tender and compassionate mind. Grant me, good Lord, a full faith, a firm hope and fervent love, that I may desire only that which gives You pleasure and conforms to Your will.”

Thomas More (1478-1585)

“My dearest Lord, be a bright flame before me, be a guiding star above me, be a smooth path beneath me, be a kindly shepherd behind me, today—tonight—and forever.”

Columba (521-591)

John Sheppard



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 Jodrell at church or post or send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, to arrive by 15th March for the April edition.

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