
MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—MAY 2026



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Thought for May from our Minister

As many of you will be aware, I've just returned from a week's holiday – this is our annual jaunt to the North Yorkshire Moors which we've been visiting for the best part of 30 years. As a bit of a creature of habit, there are a number of recurring themes when we go to Yorkshire – favourite ice cream shop, favourite chip shop, favourite picnic site (they're not all food related, honest!). One special place that we regularly visit is St Mary's Church in the village of Lastingham.

The site of this church has been significant for around 1400 years when it was initially the home to a monastery, and aspects of the current church building date back around 1000 years. Taking a few careful steps down the old stone staircase takes you into one of the oldest bits of the building, the crypt.

Entering this dark room, your eyes are drawn to the small stained glass window

which is a simple depiction of the cross. It's a beautiful space, a place that is imbued with a sense of worship and history. Sitting there in the quietness, I am reminded that I am just a tiny part of a long history of worship that has taken place there.

It's a humbling and inspiring place – somewhere that can help you feel closer to God and our spiritual ancestors. But, as I think about that special place, I am reminded yet again that the power and the presence of God can be experienced anywhere and anytime. In his conversation with the woman at the well (John 4), Jesus responds to her question about where they can worship, by telling her that “a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.” Our worship is not confined to a space or a time, although those things can be helpful. Our worship is born out of our desire and intention to be in the presence of God.

As the family of God at MRBC, I invite you to find the places that help you to feel closer to God, sometimes that will be when we gather together,



sometimes it may be when we are alone. Both are important. In the coming months, we will have more opportunities to be together in prayer and worship and I look forward to sharing with you as sisters and brothers in being together with God.

Matt Jones

CHURCH DIARY for MAY 2026

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

Shalom Fellowship—3rd May— 3.00pm

Toddler Group—Mondays— 11th & 18th May—10.00am-11.45am

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

Reflective Prayer Meeting—Thursdays —7th & 21st May— 11.00am

Deacons Meeting— 6th May—7.00pm

Link-up lunch—Wednesday 27th May—Venue tbc

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for the breaking down of suspicion, double standards and hypocrisy in our world, that nations may work for peace.
 - 2) Pray for our Father in heaven to help all who are afflicted by war and disaster, that good may rise out of every evil and growth out of every suffering.
 - 3) Pray for courage and understanding in the strength and guidance of Jesus Christ as we have hope in a safer and more caring society.
 - 4) Pray for our link missionaries, “Arthur and Reeta” and “Andrea and Ian” in their work with BMS World Mission.
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**Thinking about being baptised?
Come and talk about baptism:
Wednesday 13th May at 7pm and
the following 3 Wednesdays**

News of forthcoming local, regional and national events—
please pray for these and speak to Matt for further info

1. The National Baptist Assembly takes place in Harrogate 15-17 May with the theme *United in Mission: Gathering and Sharing*.



See [The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Assembly 2026](#) for full details.



2. Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for

more people to come to know Jesus. We are invited to take part in a local “Thy Kingdom Come” event at Trent Vineyard on 21 May. This is free, but registration for your ticket is required. See Nottingham City Prayer website for details and here for tickets. [Thy Kingdom Come](#)

3. East Midlands Baptist Association Day - The Annual Gathering takes place on Saturday 20 June at The Well in Retford. See: [The Gathering - EMBA](#)



Thank you from Miriam Grant

I would like to thank all the people who sent me cards and messages following my sister’s death. God bless you all. It meant a lot.

Church Roof Fund

Donations, extra to the normal weekly offering, would be most welcome for the “**CHURCH ROOF FUND**” so work can commence on repairing the roof in the church hall and also along the corridor. Payments can be made by BACS with “roof” as reference. **Bank details: Sort Code 40 35 18 Account 21761862.** Donations could also be made by cash or cheque to the treasurer, into the church office, via the SumUp machine or using QR code here:



No Limits

The other day, I spotted a guy in a wheelchair rocking back and forth on a street corner. One of his front wheels was stuck on the pavement and he was struggling to get loose. Moments later a kind man came along and gave him a push to set him free. Many of us would refer to the man who offered assistance as a “good Samaritan”. We borrow that label from a well known story Jesus told in Luke 10: 30-35.

The story centres around a man who was robbed and left for dead on a remote road to Jericho. His attackers left him badly beaten and in need of major assistance. Amazingly two Jewish travellers ignored the man and then a Samaritan man came along and went out of his way to help. The point of Jesus story is obvious—be a neighbour to anyone who is in need.

We live in a world where prejudices run deep, but the story of the good Samaritan reminds us that a sincere love of God is merciful and compassionate to all, not just certain people. So, we all need to be good Samaritans to one another.

God bless.

Hazel O'Connor

BMS Prayer Leaflets

Joan Sheppard would like to thank all those who are taking the weekly BMS Prayer Leaflets. However, she would like even more people to take them and pray daily, using the prayer that is on each leaflet. It would help our brothers and sisters in BMS to know that we are supportive and interested in their work.

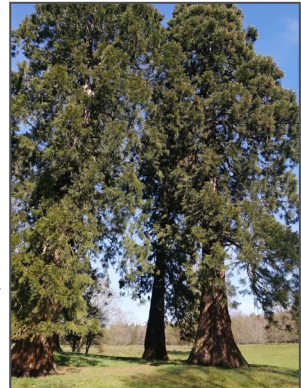


Church Walk to Clumber Park

Alan Davies writes: On Easter Monday, a group of athletic members completed a 5 mile stroll from the tiny village of Carburton into the grounds of Clumber Park. Being a Bank Holiday, the area around the visitors' centre in



the park was extremely busy but we found some



quiet areas to admire the coming of Spring and were even able to make friends with a few trees

which caught our attention like these Californian Redwoods (sequoias) which towered above us. Look out for the next walk – it could be you in the photo next time!

And **Clive Trusson** adds: Thank you, Alan, for organising the walk. As always, Alan had worked out when we could park for free, a route that was scenic and flat, a beautiful stopping point in the woods for a drink, a nice place by the lake to have our packed lunch, and a tea shop at the finish. The whole walk was a testimony to God's glory. Alan even encouraged us to engage in a spot of tree hugging! It was enjoyed by all of us who went.

Date for your Diary—Memorial Service

We will be having a Memorial Service at MRBC on Sunday 28th June 2026 from 2-3pm followed by light refreshments in the hall.

All are welcome to come along to remember a loved one they have lost, whether that was recently or many years ago.

See Diane Trusson, Jennifer Maxwell or Dave Mangan for more details.

Link-up Lunch

Our next Link-up Lunch will be on Wednesday 27 May. Look out for the venue on the Sunday church notices.

In March, eighteen people attended when we met at Sherwood Manor. The seating area that was reserved for us seemed to be a very popular spot

because so many people in the restaurant came around and said hi-ya. A lovely afternoon shared by us all as we laughed, drank and ate together.



The Link-up Lunch meet ups are growing in popularity. Please do feel free to join us on 27 May and encourage your friends and family to join us too.

In the Bible, Ecclesiastes 9:7-9 urges enjoying life's simple

pleasures—eating, drinking, and finding joy in relationships—because God approves of this.

Thank you. **Jeniba Grant**

Tel: 0798 541 8848



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 in the afternoon 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 May for the June edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk