

---

# MRBC

---

CHURCH MAGAZINE—JUNE 2026



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Thought for June from our Minister

In recent weeks, the theme of ‘gathering’ has been on my mind – gathering is an important part of community life. We gather for important events or occasions in society, whether for a birthday or other family occasion, we gather for collective events or activities, in protest and celebration. We gather for sport, for music, for entertainment. God created us to live in relationship with one another and to exist as community.

We continue this sense of gathering and being together in our life as church, often reminding ourselves of God’s promise that “where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18: 20) These words offer great encouragement when we meet in small numbers, and in such times it’s good to remember the fledgling church who grew from nothing into the global church we know today. In Acts 1, we read of the disciples seeking to add another to their number so they can retain the 12 that Jesus appointed, we then read of the 120 who were gathered together.

Coming closer to home, I’ve had the privilege of ‘gathering’ recently with our national Baptist family, around 1000 people, as we met for our annual Baptist Assembly, and looking ahead will gather with Christians from across Nottingham at the forthcoming ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ prayer event at Trent Vineyard. In June, the East Midlands Baptist Association host their annual event called the EMBA Gathering.

Gathering is important! At MRBC our main gathering is together on a Sunday, but that is not where church begins and ends – in between these services we gather in many ways, friends catching up for coffee, phone calls checking in, Renew Wellbeing Café, Thursday morning prayer and study, Shalom Fellowship. Every time we meet with Christians, we are church, and we have the potential to experience fellowship with God.

So I encourage you to ‘gather’. Look out for new opportunities to do this in the coming months as we launch Monday Prayers, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Communion, and little further ahead new home groups! Next month I look forward to sharing a little more with you about my experiences of gathering in a different way, as I serve as Chaplain at the Download Festival from June 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> – please do keep this in your prayers.

## CHURCH DIARY for JUNE 2026

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

**Toddler Group**—each Monday in June —10.00am-11.45am

**Drop in Prayer**— each Monday in June—12 noon– 1.00pm

**Evening Communion**—Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June— 7 pm

**Renew Wellbeing Café**—Each Thursday in June—1.30pm-4.00pm

**Reflective Prayer Meeting**—Thursdays —4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June— 11.00am

**Shalom Fellowship**—Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June—3 pm

**Deacons and Trustees Meeting**— Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June—7.00pm

**Link-up cinema visit**—Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June—Film tbc

### PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for our church community as we are reflecting on all the recent passing of sisters and brothers in Christ. May their souls rest in peace, and we pray for the comfort of those who are mourning and feeling the pain of these losses.
- 2) Pray for all who feel spiritually lost and who are trapped by emotional and financial burdens that they keep Christ at the forefront of their lives.
- 3) Pray for all young people who are in the process of their final exams, that they are free from fear and burdens.
- 4) Pray for our link missionaries, “Arthur and Reeta” and “Andrea and Ian” in their work with BMS World Mission.

### Memorial Service

Please note the change of date for our Memorial Service. It will now take place at MRBC on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 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.

## News of forthcoming local, regional and national events

East Midlands Baptist Association Day - **The Annual Gathering** takes place on Saturday 20 June at The Well in Retford.

See: [The Gathering - EMBA](#)

If anyone wishes to attend, speak to Matt about transport.



## Upcoming events at MRBC

We have a few new things happening in the life of the church which will give us more opportunities to gather. Beginning in June we look forward to:

- **Monday Prayers** (starting 1<sup>st</sup> June): each Monday from 12noon to 1pm there will be space to gather for prayer. Come and go as you are able, and use this time to pray for the world, the church and personal concerns.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Communion** (starting 3<sup>rd</sup> June): on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7pm we will gather to share bread and wine in a short reflective communion service.

And looking slightly further ahead:

- **Home groups:** over the coming months you will hear about the launch of some new home groups. Have a think about whether this is something you might like to attend or even host.
- **Bereavement Course:** as a church, we know a thing or two about supporting people at times of bereavement. The Bereavement Course is designed to support people as they continue to work through their loss in the longer term. More information on this will follow.

## Finance Update

In January as part of the Epiphany service, Matt and I spoke about the church finances and the need for everyone to review their free will offering to the church. The response was quite remarkable and within a short time 10 new people had signed up for gift aid and more than that had increased the amount they regularly donated to the church.

In March, Ricky informed the church meeting that the cost of repairs to the church roof was currently far beyond the church's reach and that a roof fund possibly matched by grants would be necessary to cover the costs. The target figure is £23K by 31 August. The response to this has been equally generous and, so far, nearly £6,500 has been donated and set aside for this purpose.

The response of the church members and congregation to these appeals, along with a number of people from beyond the church, has been generous in the extreme but this is only the start. It will be necessary for regular giving to be maintained and built upon if the church's expenditure is to be met without recourse to the reserves. The roof fund will need to continue growing until we are able to meet the high costs involved.

So may I say a huge thank you on behalf of the church for your response so far and encourage you to seek ways of increasing this over the coming months and years. Some of us have been worshipping at this church for many years, some have been coming for a much shorter time, but all of us know the strength we draw from being part of God's family in this place.

Together, with God's help, we have achieved so much.

Remember: *"God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause"* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

***Alan Joddrell, Treasurer.***

***May 2026***



### **Do you ever make purchases on-line?**

IF SO—here is another way we can all help to fundraise. We have set up a “cause” within

**easyfundraising** called ***Mansfield Road Baptist Church - roof fund.*** From your weekly shop to your annual holiday, you could now be raising free donations and it won’t cost you a penny extra. All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mansfield-road-baptist-church-roof-fund/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping. The retailer will then make a donation, sometimes pence, sometimes pounds, but it all helps.

Any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask me.

**Susan Bye**

## **Two famous prayers, from famous Englishmen**

Firstly, we shall consider Sir Francis Drake of the 16th century, the first Elizabethan age. Drake is famous as a sea-captain who played a significant role in the defeat of a Spanish invasion fleet in 1588 and who sailed completely round the world as an explorer. I have set out his famous prayer in modern English:

**“Lord God, when you give your servants the task to achieve any great matter, help us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the task, until it is thoroughly finished, which gives the true glory; through Him, who for the finishing of the work you gave Him, laid down his life for us, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen”**

Secondly, there is Sir Jacob Astley of the 17th century. Having gained much experience in the Continental wars of those times, at the outbreak of the English Civil Wars in 1642 he joined King Charles I and was made Major-General of the infantry troops. At the battle of Edgehill he was leading his men to take up their positions when he halted them and prayed (again I put this in modern English):

**“O Lord, you know how busy I must be this day. If I forget you, please don’t forget me.”** This noble and useful prayer was promptly followed by *“March on, boys!”*

**John Sheppard**

## So - what is prayer?

Some people say praying is talking to God. A solemn petition to God? A formula for worship, public or private? Some say prayer is like a telephone - you can talk to God without interruption. Prayer lifts your spirit and gives you a feeling of comfort, especially if you are a bereaved person. For us Christians, prayer is an integral part of our lives.

## So - why do people pray?

We pray because we believe and know that God answers prayers. Not always in the way we want, but still prayer is answered. Sometimes we feel foolish bothering God with little things, but we shouldn't be. The Bible says pray about everything and pray without ceasing. Prayer strengthens our faith in God.

**Philippians 4:6** tells us: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God".

Tell God everything. Tell him what you need and thank him for all he has done in your life. God is interested in every detail. If something is important to you, it is important to him.

**Matthew 10:30** tells us: "The very hairs of your head are all numbered".

Can you count the hairs on your head? I don't think so! How great and wonderful this God is. When you put your trust in him, he will answer your prayers. Praying is important and listening to God is important. There is power in prayer and there is power in the name of Jesus. So keep on praying. Our God is listening. God bless you.

*Hazel O'Connor*

## Keen to learn more on the subject of "prayer"?

The Reflective Prayer Group on a Thursday morning has just experienced the first week of an 8-week course on "The Lord's Prayer", based on the book "How to Pray" by Pete Greig.

Each session is stand alone, so you are welcome to come whenever suits. A twenty minute video sets the scene for our discussions afterwards.

## 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 one 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 20<sup>th</sup> June for the July/August edition.

© Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG7 6JN

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