
MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—JULY-AUGUST 2026



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Thought for July/August from our Minister

You may recall that in last month's magazine I talked about the importance of 'gathering' – that moment of meeting with other believers and finding strength and encouragement in our togetherness. I'm really excited that since then we have launched our weekly Monday Prayers and our monthly evening communion service, First Wednesday.

It's from this place of gathering, that we then progress to a second idea, that of 'sending'. In the gospels there were several times when Jesus 'sent' his followers: he sent the 12 disciples to preach (Mt 10 & Lk 9), he sent 72 followers out in pairs (Lk 10), he instructed Mary at the tomb to 'go' and tell (Jn 20), and in The Great Commission (Mt 28) Jesus instructs us to 'go and make disciples'.

As many of you will be aware, I recently had the privilege of serving as a chaplain at the UK's largest rock and heavy metal music festival, Download. It's great fun, and a real honour to be part of that work, but it's not all glamour and glitz. Each shift, we are 'sent out' from our chaplaincy tent in pairs to simply be among the festival goers and respond to any situation that may arise. This might well be a conversation about faith, but it is just as likely to be supporting someone who is having an anxiety attack, feeling unwell, or suffering the after affects of too much alcohol. My experience at this year's festival ranged from one extreme to the other – supporting a man who was incapacitated by alcohol and unsafe to be left alone, leading a ceremony in which a couple renewed their wedding vows and many other interactions in between.

Our need to 'gather' as the family of God is so important, but equally is our need to 'go'. How you live your faith in the times between our gathering is so important. Author Brennan Manning once wrote that "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle."

When you leave church on a Sunday, where do you go? Where might Jesus be sending you? Who are the people you connect with, maybe through work, family, friendship and leisure groups? Our ministry is not simply what we do in church, but more significantly what we do beyond these walls. You have the incredible opportunity and privilege to serve Jesus in every encounter – GO.

CHURCH DIARY for JULY & AUGUST 2026

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

Memorial Service—Sunday 5th July—2.00-3.00pm with refreshments

Toddler Group—Mondays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th July—10.00am-11.45am

Drop in Prayer— each Monday in July & August—12.00–1.00pm

Evening Communion—Wednesday 1st July & 5th August—7.00pm

Renew Wellbeing Café—Each Thursday in July & August—1.30pm-4.00pm

Reflective Prayer Meeting—Thursdays— 2nd, 16th, 30th July & 13th, 27th August — 11.00am

AGM for Church Members—Sunday 12th July after morning service

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 12th July—3pm & Sunday 9th Aug—2.30pm

PFA meeting—Monday 10th August— 1.30pm

Link-up Lunch—Wednesday 29th July

Link-up Cinema—Thursday 27th August

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) Pray for patience and understanding in our spiritual lives as we lean on the grace and mercy of God in these challenging times.
- 2) Pray for harmony and peace, mutual respect and appreciation of one another's cultures and traditions.
- 3) Pray for God's love to be in our homes and places of work, so that all our friendships and business transactions, shopping and leisure times may be opportunities for rejoicing in His grace.
- 4) Pray for our link missionaries, "Arthur and Reeta" and "Andrea and Ian" in their work with BMS World Mission.

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.

Forthcoming Sundays

During July and August we will be following a series on the Lord's Prayer followed by a short series looking at some Psalms.

We will also be welcoming Neelam Sidhu as she leads our service on 19th July, Bishop Fitzroy Sterling who will take the service on 26th July and Clive Trusson as he leads us on 16th August.

Memorial Service

Our Memorial Service will take place at MRBC on **Sunday 5th 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.

Save
the
date...

Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Church Picnic



Bring food, drink, a blanket or chair, outdoor games and most importantly, yourself!

Date: Saturday 5th September

Time: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

On the Forest - near the pavilion

Homegroups: Growing in Fellowship

I have volunteered to host a Homegroup, I want to tell you why and invite you to think about getting involved.

You might already be aware of Homegroups; Matt, our minister, has mentioned them during a service, it was listed in June's newsletter as an upcoming activity and will be announced again during June.

For me, a Homegroup is where a small group of people, come together outside of the Sunday service to grow in fellowship as a spiritual community. An example of this is the Thursday Reflective Prayer meeting. I've been attending this group for over a year and have gained a lot personally and spiritually from varied activities: praying, studying the Bible, exploring faith, discussions on Jesus' life and teaching, connecting with God and growing in fellowship.

I believe Homegroups support fellowship. The word fellowship comes from the Greek word *Koinonia* and describes two elements of spirituality: (1) Your personal relationship, a shared mutual bond with God the Father and Jesus Christ and (2) Your shared partnership, community and unity with other believers.

Homegroups take many formats and can be fluid. They evolve with the group and expand church beyond the building. We are not expecting that the groups will be the same or follow set programmes. The members shape their group keeping Jesus and God at the centre.

The group might focus on thematic Bible study, prayer, study Christian / spiritual books, look at topics, include pastoral care, social activities, community outreach, shared meals, or, simply provide a prayerful meditative space.

We (the Deacons and Minister), wish to see Homegroups as part of church. Starting in or after September (date to be agreed) I am happy to host a group, to invite you into my home to shape a Homegroup and grow in fellowship in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Please speak to me, Dave Mangan or Fritz Mundle if you would like to know more, or wish to join the group I will be hosting, or explore hosting a group yourself.

Worship the one who holds our future

(Jude:24-25)

Praising God is joyful and fulfilling. As we praise him, God blesses us in return. However, as good as praising God is, it can be challenging to worship him in this way when life is hard and people are anxious.

At the end of his letter, Jude launches into one of the Bible's most exciting passages of worshipful praise. One of the things that makes it so joyful is that it is not circumstantial. Regardless of what we're going through, this is a song of praise we can offer up ourselves. As the Matt Redman song says, "I will offer up my life in spirit and truth".

Jesus is the beginning and end of our own destiny. He is our security and our guarantee. On our worst days, and I do have many of them myself, who do we turn to? Jesus! Tell him all our troubles.

When praise is hard to come by and our hearts are heavy, help us to lift our eyes to the one who holds our future in his hands - Jesus.

This I believe.

Hazel O'Connor

(To save readers the task of looking them up, these are the powerful and familiar words of Jude 24-25, often used as a doxology).

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen.

BMS Birthday Scheme

As a scheme member you receive a card on your birthday with a gift envelope inside and if possible give a gift out of thankfulness for the work of the Baptist Missionary Society. If you would like to know more or to join the scheme contact **Jenny Hall**. BMS do very worthwhile work all over the world.



Out Now

from Five Leaves Publications

A new photography book featuring the stories of six Nottingham Windrush gardeners told in their own words.

CARIBBEAN PIONEER GARDENERS

Hungerhill Gardens, St. Ann's Allotments, Nottingham



Colin Haynes

Available at Five Leaves Bookshop

14a Long Row, Nottingham, NG1 2DH

order online or by phone at fiveleaves.co.uk | 0115 8373097

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 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 Joddrell at church or post or send by email to susan@msbye.co.uk, to arrive by 20th August for the September edition.

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

Website: www.mrbc.org.uk