

Mansfield Road Baptist Church

NOTTINGHAM

MRBC news

SEPTEMBER 2026



Sunday Service each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people **recommencing** on *Sunday 13th September* after the summer break.

Evening Communion—Wednesday 2nd September—7.00pm

Church Picnic- Saturday 5th September – 12 noon

Baptismal Service—Sunday 6th September

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 6th September—3pm

Toddler Group—each Monday in September—10.00am-11.45am

Drop in Prayer—each Monday in September—12.00 noon–1.00pm

Deacons' Meeting—Wednesday 9th September—7.00pm

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

Reflective Prayer Meeting—Thursdays— 10th & 24th September—11.00am

Church Members' Meeting—Sunday 20th September following the church service

Harvest Service and Bring & Share lunch—Sunday 27th September

Link-up Lunch—Wednesday 30th September at Stadium Leisure

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

2026 Harvest Service

This year's harvest service will take place on Sunday 27th September. During the service we will take a special offering to support the work of **Operation Agri** - this is one of the mission agencies that MRBC has supported for many years. We will also receive **food gifts** on the day which will go to support a local food bank, so please be thinking about what you can give.

Following the service, we will have a bring and share lunch - or fuddle, as some may know it!

Minister's letter for September

What a summer it's been! Heatwave after heatwave, various historic weather and climate records broken, pressures on water supplies, significant fires leaving a long-term mark on the landscape as well as agricultural impacts. You only have to glance at our green spaces and see the scorched and yellow grass to remind ourselves of the lack of rainfall over recent months.

In July this year, Sarah and I went to France for our holiday – the south coast – where we continued to experience the heat of the summer, but whilst there, we did notice a different phenomenon to our experience in the UK. The grass was green and the areas of bedding were lush and in bloom. As we looked at the towns' green spaces and flower beds, we realised that something unseen was happening to keep them in such a healthy state. They were being fed by some kind of watering system that was just beneath the surface of the soil – this ensured that the roots continued to be fed and nourished!

It serves as a good reminder of how we should be fed in our faith. We need to maintain a constant source of contact with our creator. This isn't just about the bits we see: our worship together on a Sunday, or joining in prayer meetings and other church activities.

This is about a life that is committed to prayer and devotion, often unseen things that feed us from below the surface.

We receive our 'watering' in a number of ways, and I want to encourage you to invest in looking after yourself spiritually. How can you do that? There are several ways, including but not limited to: prayer – find time and space to pray every day, and not only in specific times set aside, but in those everyday moments of conversing with God; read the Bible – this can be as you feel led, or use a resource, there are plenty of published or online resources available such as Lectio 365; join with others – this might be your own clusters of family or friends, or by joining in other midweek activities in church life.

In summary – keep well fed!

With all that in mind, do look out for the launch of some new 'small groups' in the coming weeks – these are a great way to connect with one another in friendship, prayer and learning.

God bless.

Matt Jones

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for compassion for all who are broken and lost, that they find healing through God's power and love.
2. Pray for all the young people and children as they return to their schools, colleges and universities to be covered by our prayers for clarity and grace in their daily lives.
3. Pray that our hearts are blessed with trust and faith as we seek to be generous with each other in God's grace and truth.
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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Small Group Network @MRBC

Groups meet every 2 weeks - please speak to the group leader for more information



Tuesdays at 7pm (from 22nd Sept)

Alexandra Park Homegroup
Leader: Jennifer Maxwell



Wednesdays at 10:30am (from 7th Oct)

Ladies Fellowship (at church)
Leader: Neelam Sidhu



Thursdays at 11am (from 24th Sept)

Thursday Fellowship (at church)
Leader: Ceinwen Harris

Small groups are a great way to get to know one another better, grow in faith, find support and friendship, and rooted in scripture - Acts 2: 46-47



2026 marks the centenary of the calling of Violet Hedger to the pastorate of Littleover Baptist Church in Derby.

To mark this important anniversary, and to celebrate all those women who followed in her footsteps, you are invited to a celebration service at Violet's first church.

The event is from 3-6pm at Littleover Baptist Church, Thornhill Road, Littleover, Derby DE23 6FZ

See the EMBA website for details of how to sign up to attend. The link is here:

<https://eastmidlandbaptistassociation.churchsuite.com/events/ads9vbx>



Celebrating the Centenary of Women in Ministry

Sunday 11th October 3pm at Littleover Baptist Church, Derby



A service to celebrate one hundred years of women in Baptist ministry and women in leadership in our Baptist churches.

Rev Lynn Green, General Secretary of Baptists Together will be the speaker and there will be refreshments afterwards.

Grief is hard. Death can impact all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey.
a place to talk



7 Sessions of films
and discussions

for *anyone* bereaved *anytime*



Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)



Starts Tuesday 29th September



10am to 12 noon



At Mansfield Road Baptist Church



To book a place or find out more talk to Dave Mangan or Andrea in the church office.
(Phone: 0115 9604304, Email: admin@mrbc.org.uk)

thebereavementjourney.org

Love in Action

contributed by Eunice Campbell-Clark

Scripture has a lot to say about the way we treat people. If we have been saved by God, and have been shown the goodness of God, then we ought to show mercy and goodness to other people. Essentially... what we believe determines how we act. All of us who have received grace freely from God ought to also give grace freely to others. In Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, he encourages them to be kind and compassionate to others. This idea is spread across God's Word:

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11)

"All of us be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." (1 Peter 3:8)

"You must be compassionate, just as your father is compassionate" (Luke 6:36)

Showing other people compassion is one of the primary ways that we can communicate

God's love. If we fail to love other people, we also fail to show them God's love.

Paul also says we should forgive other people in our lives, just as we have already been forgiven by Jesus. Forgiveness and compassion go together. When we do not forgive others, we fail to show them the same compassionate love that Jesus has shown us. A love which as it suffered for us and because of us, still allowed Jesus to say, "Father forgive them-they don't know what they are doing." We ought to be careful that we do not deny others the same love that we've been freely given. If you want to learn more about kindness, compassion and forgiveness towards others, read through the stories of Jesus' life and ministry found in the books Matthew, Mark and John.

But right now, should you have the opportunity, is a great time to show compassion to people in your own life; and is there a person you can forgive or someone you can encourage?

(Taken from the Bible App by YouVersion)

Centuries of Prayer

“Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts to yourself; bind them together in inseparable love, that we may abide in you, and you in us, and that the everlasting covenant between us may remain certain forever”.

Myles Coverdale (1488 - 1568), who was the first translator of the complete Bible into English.

“You are infinite in mercy, and it is your will that we should learn to know you. You created heaven and earth and rule overall. You are the only true God and there is no other God above you. Grant through our Lord Jesus Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit that all may come to know you, for you alone are God”.

Irenaeus (c 130 - c 200), who was a Greek bishop, noted for his role in the development of Christian teaching and its spread and establishment.

“Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom”.

Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430), who was one of the most influential thinkers in Western history, shaping Christian doctrine and much more. Hippo was a North African city of the ancient world, now to be found as Annaba, in Algeria.

Prayers chosen by John Sheppard

What's wrong with the world?

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15).

This is an often-heard story from the turn of the 20th century. Apparently, the Times newspaper posed this question:

“What's wrong with the world? That's the question isn't it? Well, how much time do you have for me to tell you?”

And that would be fair, as there seemed then to be so much that was wrong with the world. The Times received a number of responses, but one in particular came from an English writer, poet and philosopher named GK Chesterton. He is thought to have written this four-word response to the usual passing of the buck:

Dear Sirs, I am.....

Whether the story is factual or not is up for debate, but that response was nothing but true.

Long before Chesterton came along, there was a man named Paul who was used by God to write several books, which we can find in the Bible. Far from a lifelong model citizen, Paul confessed his shortcomings: “I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man”. (1 Timothy 1:13). He went on to say that “Jesus came to save sinners - of whom I am the worst”. Paul knew exactly what was and is wrong with the world and he knew the only hope of making things right is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (v.14).

What an amazing reality. This truth lifts our eyes to the light of Christ's saving love.

Please pray

What is wrong with the world? Father God, thank you for your immense patience with us sinners. To you be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen

Hazel O'Connor

Stop Majoring in the Minor

(Luke 10:38–42)

Contributed by 'Gbade Dawodu



We live in a world that pulls us in a hundred directions at once, with diverse responsibilities such as family needs, work demands, ministry commitments, appointments, rehearsals, church programmes, and the constant pressure to keep everything running. None of these is wrong. In fact, many of them are noble and necessary. But the danger comes when the urgent begins to overshadow the essential, when activity replaces intimacy, and when we major in the minor.

Martha was busy for Jesus, yet missing Jesus. She was not careless or spiritually shallow. She was hospitable, warm, and genuinely honoured to welcome Jesus into her home. She recognised Him as **Lord**, acknowledging His authority and pre-eminence. Her desire to prepare a meal for Him was sincere and commendable. Her expectation that Mary should help her was not unreasonable. Under normal circumstances, Martha's actions would be celebrated. But this moment was not normal because an unusual personality was sitting in her living room speaking eternal truth. Martha was doing a good thing, but she was missing the **God thing**. Her service became a distraction.

Mary made a different choice, sitting at Jesus' feet, showing a posture of humility, hunger, and discipleship. She listened intently to His words.

Jesus affirmed her decision with a timeless declaration:

"But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Mary understood what mattered most; she chose revelation over responsibility, devotion over distraction, intimacy over activity.

The Message for Today's Believers

Believers must learn to prioritise the essential over the urgent.

There will always be work to do, programmes to run, people to help, tasks to complete, yet none of these should replace the primary calling of every disciple: to sit at the feet of Jesus and receive His Word. Remember "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

You cannot serve effectively if you are not being fed. You cannot pour out if you are not being filled. You cannot labour fruitfully if you are not listening faithfully. Being busy *for* God is not the same as being close to God.

As you labour in God's vineyard, never lose sight of the source of your strength- **THE WORD**. Do not allow busyness to rob you of intimacy. Do not let activity replace devotion. Do not major in the minor.

Choose the one needful thing. Choose the good part. Choose to sit at His feet.

We hope you like the new look **MRBC News**. Due to the imminent demise of Microsoft Publisher which was used to create the A5 booklet format of the magazine, a decision has been made to have a new start.

Would YOU be prepared to write an article or personal story for MRBC News? We've had some interesting biographies in the past. As a guide, 300-350 words would be fine.

It would be lovely to have more contributions for future editions.

See last page for editors' contact details.



Link-up Lunch

There were 18 of us in all at our Link-Up lunch in July and a few apologies were sent beforehand so this was another fantastic turnout.

A special welcome to Maxine and Miracle who joined us for the first time. And, a BIG!! “thank you” to John for his amazing Grace before we ate together. A personal message to John; “.. sometimes speed and accuracy is all that is needed to get the Lord’s message across...”

And now, turning to the Bible: Elijah proved that a short prayer is powerful. This was displayed in Elijah’s prayer on Mount Carmel. Elijah’s brief focused prayer led to an immediate powerful response from God (1 Kings 18:36-37)

I look forward to seeing you all on 30th September for our lunch at Stadium Leisure.

Jeniba Grant

Church Roof Fund—we’re nearly there.....

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:



THANK YOU !

Ceinwen would like to say the biggest “thank you” imaginable to everyone who contributed to make her 97th birthday so special. She says she thinks it’s the best she’s ever had!

About our Church

If you are new to the church or just visiting, you may find this 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 two groups for children and young people from 4 - 18 are held downstairs, with a crèche available for under fours. Stewards in the Welcome Hall will be happy to show you where to take your children. Join us for coffee/tea and biscuits available after the service.

Offering – the church operates solely on the financial giving of its members and congregation. An offering is taken during the morning service, or non-cash donations can be made on-line or via the SumUp station in the Welcome Hall.

Evening Communion – An evening communion service is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm

The Shalom Fellowship meets one Sunday every month in the afternoon for worship and teaching in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

Drop-in Prayer – each Monday from 12.00 to 1.00pm.

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.

Room Hire: Different rooms are available for hire. Contact the Church Administrator for details.

For specific dates of activities please see the Diary section.

If you would like to get in touch with the church office, please use the contact details below.

Email: admin@mrbc.org.uk

Phone: 0115 9604304 during office hours—Mon-Fri 9.00am-2.30pm

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 16th September for the October edition.

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Website: www.mrbc.org.uk