

Mansfield Road Baptist Church

NOTTINGHAM

MRBC news

OCTOBER 2026



DIARY DATES

Sunday Service each week at 10.30am with groups for the children and young people (term time only)

Evening Communion—Wednesday 7th October—7.00pm

Shalom Fellowship—Sunday 11th October—3pm

Toddler Group—Mondays 5th & 12th October—10.00am-11.45am

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

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

Small Group Network @ MRBC:

Tuesday 6th & 20th October at 7pm Alexandra Park Home Group with Jennifer

Wednesday 7th & 21st October at 10.30am Ladies Fellowship at church with Neelam

Thursday Fellowship 8th & 22nd October at 11am at church with Ceinwen

Link-up Cinema—Thursday 29th October at Savoy Cinema

Our Church Mission Statement

Love Jesus

Love Others

Grow Disciples

Minister's letter for October

We must learn to love better!

Jesus was asked by the Pharisees (religious leaders and experts in law) which of the commandments was the most important, to which he replied: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.*³⁹ *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* (Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 10)

I'm often reminded of these words when I consider the state of our nation and world. It grieves me to see recurring and escalating news which centres on hate, discrimination, division and greed.

Whether it's the conflict in the Middle East, war in Ukraine (or any of the other many countries at war), the propaganda of hate and suspicion propagated by our media and the intimidation and violent threat of those claiming to represent the values and interests of the country as they don their balaclavas. The overarching message in our headline news is, protect your own, claim your land, preserve your assets.

When Jesus came into the world in human form, he re-wrote the rules, inviting humanity into a new kind of relationship

with God – a relationship based not on national power, military strength or geographic boundaries, but based on the Amazing Grace of God and an invitation to all, to love God and love one another. As a race, humanity has largely failed to do this. We are not very good at sharing the love we have been offered so freely – we attach conditions and provisos according to our own agendas and preferences.

You will have your own opinions on the various issues I've hinted at, whether that's international war, domestic policy on asylum seekers, religious division. That's ok. We may not all agree on this stuff. But, we must, absolutely must, consider all these issues through the lens of Jesus' teaching.

In the conversation documented in Luke 10, Jesus explains further with the story of the Good Samaritan – a beautiful allegory in which the true neighbour is not defined by religion, nationality, skin colour, but by the action of love shown to one in need.

We must learn to love better!

God bless.

Matt Jones

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray that as a church we leave what is behind as we strive to what is ahead, as we look to the goal in praising and worshipping together.
2. Let us keep in our prayers all our church community as we acknowledge the new members and be thankful for our minister's leadership. Let's hold Rev Matt in prayer as he has now completed his first year at MRBC and keep him and his family in our prayers as we look forward to the forthcoming year.
3. Pray for all who are stepping forward to drive our progress with the various small groups; that the Holy Spirit be their guide.
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.

Just in Time

No matter what anyone said to Johnson, he refused to stop playing pranks on people. It was a habit he carried proudly, even when it frustrated everyone around him. But one day, he learnt his lesson the hardest way possible.

Johnson suddenly began shouting that he had been bitten by a snake. Everyone around him dismissed it as yet another one of his tricks. His screams grew louder, but people simply shook their heads, assuming he was joking again.

It was not until his voice began to fade and his body weakened that the truth became terrifyingly clear, because the venom was spreading through his system. As Proverbs teaches, *“The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”* Johnson’s behaviour had blinded others to the danger he was truly in.

His father, who had been fooled by Johnson many times before, heard the faint, desperate cries and rushed toward him. Seeing his son collapsing, he realised instantly that this was no prank. Without hesitation he called emergency services.

By the time the paramedics arrived, Johnson was barely conscious. After assessing him, they told his father that if he had delayed even one more minute before calling the ambulance, Johnson would not have survived.

Just like the prodigal son’s father, who ran toward his child in compassion despite past mistakes, Johnson’s father responded with love, urgency, and mercy. God’s mercy often arrives **“just in time.”** Psalm 46:1 says God is *“an ever-present help in trouble.”* Johnson survived because mercy arrived one minute before death.

Believers, it can be overwhelming dealing with the worries and uncertainties that surround our world, and it could be lonely enduring pain, sorrow, and confusion. Be assured; God will not come too late but **‘just in time’**.

Stay blessed.

Contributed by ‘Gbade Dawodu

The Holy Grail – what is it?

For centuries people have been fascinated by the Holy Grail, the cup Jesus drank from at the last supper.

The legends surrounding King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table detail their obsession over this search for the cup. It was believed that the cup had magical powers. In film, Indiana Jones and his father Henry fulfilled Henry’s lifelong pursuit of the Grail. While this makes for fascinating storytelling, the truth is much more straightforward. The cup itself has no special powers! The real power is found in what it represents. Matthew describes the scene in the upper room the night before Jesus went to the cross: ***Then Jesus took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, “drink from it all of you, this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”.***

(Matthew 26:27-28)

The cup is a picture of the blood that Jesus would shed on our behalf. John the Baptist introduced Jesus as ***“the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”***. (John 1:29). Hebrews 9:2 tells us, ***without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*** and Paul wrote that ***Christ himself is our Passover lamb***.

(1 Corinthians 5-7)

Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. How thankful we are for the shed blood of our saviour, the Lamb.

PS What does it mean for you to celebrate communion? How do you express your thanks for the sacrifice Jesus made for you?

Prayer - Loving Father, thank you for the provision of your Son and his willingness to go to the cross in our place.

Amen.

Hazel O’Connor

Fun at the Church Picnic



ABOUT OUR CHURCH

If you are new to the church or just visiting

You can expect a warm welcome and a friendly group of people of all backgrounds and ages gathering to learn more about God. **Sunday Services are at 10.30.** 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. Coffee/tea and biscuits are 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 – On the first Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm

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

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

Toddler Group meets on Mondays during term time from 10.00am to 11.45am.

Small Group Network - Three groups meet fortnightly

Renew Wellbeing Café meets on Thursdays from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

Room Hire: Different rooms are available for hire.

For specific dates of the above and other activities please see the Diary section.

Church contact details: Email: admin@mrbc.org.uk

Phone: 0115 9604304 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 October for the November edition.

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