



Tony Peace took this photo showing a silhouette of a deer in the low winter sun during an early morning walk at Wollaton Park

## A Franciscan Blessing

Shared by Mary Wilson

May God bless you with discomfort at half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things that others tell you cannot be done.

A big "thank you" to all contributors this month. To continue monthly we need YOUR news, YOUR pictures, YOUR poem, YOUR story, any articles of interest to others. Please send by email to [susan@msbye.co.uk](mailto:susan@msbye.co.uk), or phone Sharon Joddrell or Susan Bye and dictate, or by post, to arrive by **15th February** for the March edition.

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# MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—FEBRUARY 2021



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

## Message for February from our Treasurer

Dear Friends

In no particular order- no holidays, no visits from or to children or grandchildren or friends, no travel, no church services or group meetings, no meals out or visits to concerts or theatre. In these times of coronavirus, social distancing and successive restrictions, searching for something to cheer up our lives may sometimes seem like a thankless task. But look again, God's blessings are all around us and life may be different but it can still be good.

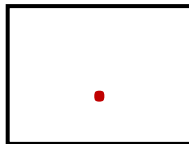
Lambley lockdown walks have proved to be a blessing to us both with no need to get in the car at all. We are surrounded by fields all with recognised footpaths so we can walk different routes every day and even now when the fields and paths are extremely muddy, there are alternatives which have helped us to get a change of scenery and some fresh air.

Modern technology has enabled us to keep in touch and share our thoughts and experiences with friends and family. The post is still being delivered and the telephone can be a comfort if we need to hear someone's voice. We may not get to the shops but deliveries are regular so we are eating well. The online church services are a weekly blessing and we were able to share in some decision making at the November Whats app church meeting. Books, DVDs, television, games and puzzles help to keep our minds active.

Speaking of puzzles reminds me of this story:

A minister addressing a group showed this picture. "What do you see?" he asked. A red dot was the immediate answer.

"But what else?" asked the minister. When nobody responded, he explained. You are missing the most important thing of all- the sheet of paper. In life we can be distracted by disappointments, difficulties or painful experiences and forget the innumerable blessings we receive from God. The red dot represents the difficulties, the sheet of paper, the blessings of God. Read Psalm 105 1-5 and be thankful.



The bible assures us that God's blessings are offered to us even in (or especially in) the most difficult of times. Read Ezekiel 34: 25-6 to hear of the blessings which God will shower upon his people. Or if you are feeling afraid at this time, turn to Psalm 91 which speaks to the heart of our situation.

With the possibility of vaccination becoming available in the near future, let's pray that we can soon resume our normal lives. In the meantime, may God bless you all in ways you may not be expecting.

Alan Jodrell

## An extract from the December prayer letter of —Pippa and Toby Vokuhl



How are you enjoying the winter season? Cold, wet and windy days certainly don't sell British winters to the Vokuhl family very well.

Having spent the last winter seasons in Nepal, where nights are cold, yet days are dry and sunny, we long for spring to come. And how about the cold of Covid-19 times? Don't we all long for the end of the long Covid winter? For the freedom to freely be with friends and family, and to embrace each other again without fear?

We have had to temporarily leave Nepal and transition the family to a locked down UK, and I was struggling with that recently. At that point a C.S. Lewis quote from 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' took on a new meaning: *"Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight, At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more, When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death, And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again."* We believe in a God 'with teeth'. Winter may last for a while, but when God so decides, then there will be the joy of spring again. As prayer crosses borders, we invite you to pray with us for Nepal at this time:

- 1) Currently C-19 lockdown measures and track & trace are not employed anymore in Nepal. Community spread in Kathmandu and Pokhara is a given now, and we are becoming aware of many cases.
- 2) Please pray for the pastor of Pokhara Baptist Church, K.P. Tripathi, and his family, who is currently in ICU with C-19 symptoms. Pray for healing and full recovery.
- 3) Do pray for Asal Chimekki staff (Pokhara Christian NGO). Five staff, returned Covid-19 positive after a trip delivering aid to landslide victims.
- 4) Please also cover the staff at Green Pastures Hospital in your prayers and pray for continued excellent medical service to the community.
- 5) INFI has recently been able to recruit a new Country Director, Angus Douglas from BMS. Do pray for wisdom for him. Some agreements with the Nepal Government need to be renegotiated. Expat visas are dependent on these.
- 6) Our family are grateful for accommodation in Didcot, a schooling option for Jakey, Ella, and Millie, and for colleagues preparing the ground for our return to Nepal. Toby is still supporting INF from a distance. We trust that 2021 plans will come together according to God's will, we are ready for 'His spring'.

In the meantime, it has been great joining in with some church services, prayer meetings, and coffee morning here via Zoom. It is lovely for us to put faces to names, and to better get to know our link churches. We are looking forward to moving into 2021 with you. God bless, *Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella and Millie*

## A Special Place—Scarborough

### by Rosemary Mangan

Many of you know that I lived and worked in Scarborough for 11 years and, even though I moved back to Nottingham in 1987, it is still one of my favourite places. The school where I taught was on the top of a hill, and my classroom had an amazing view across to the castle. Happy memories include speech days at the Spa, which is right on the seafront. Swimming galas took place in the South Bay pool, which was filled by the tide; the pool closed some time ago, and has been filled in.

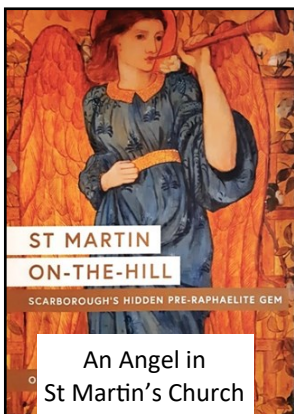
A special place to enjoy the panoramic view of the South Bay is the Clock Café near the South Cliff lift. You can watch the boats come in and out of the harbour, and the scene is like a postcard coming to life. The homemade cakes are highly recommended!

The South Cliff paths and gardens make a refreshing walk down to the sea; then you can stroll along to the harbour; another good place for a coffee with a view of all the fishing boats. There is even a café on the fish quay, where you can look down on the boats. There is an impressive new lifeboat station, which is well worth a visit.

If you are feeling energetic, climb up through the old town to St Mary's Church on the hill, where the last street is aptly named Paradise. From the top of the headland, you can see the wilder North Bay and the coastline beyond.



David and Rosemary 2019



I worshipped at Westborough Methodist Church, which is just opposite the station. One year, a coach trip was organised to Roker Park in Sunderland, where we went to hear Billy Graham preach to a packed football stadium. I made some good friends at the church, and was a bridesmaid to one; the reception was at the Holbeck Hall Hotel, which sadly slipped into the sea in 1993! If you are able visit Scarborough this year, you will see that a lot of work is still going on to stabilise the cliffs.

If you enjoy visiting beautiful churches, then St Martin's Church on South Cliff is full of Pre-Raphaelite stained glass and painted panels. The Bible stories are brought to life in a richly colourful way by craftsmen such as William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.

I visit Scarborough as often as possible, and it always a delight to walk the familiar paths, to revisit favourite places, and also to catch up with friends.

## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

**Each Sunday** there will be a pre-recorded service available on the church website. (This will usually be uploaded by the Saturday morning each week)

All Sundays at 3pm - **Young Disciples**

(This is a Zoom Session with Meeting ID 7032705653 and password mrbc)

**Church Meeting:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

This will be done remotely through the WhatsApp Group, MRBCMmembers

### LENT MEETINGS

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm

(This is a Zoom Session with Meeting ID 7032705653 and password mrbc)

There will be no services or meetings in the church buildings before March.

## Count Your Blessings

Shared by Alan Joddrell

WE ARE THE LUCKY ONES You can read ... so you are luckier than over one billion people who cannot read at all.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ..... then you are luckier than the million who will not survive this week..... and even luckier because you have healthcare in case of illness.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation..... then you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend any meeting you want—political, religious, social... then you are luckier than 3 billion people in the world.

If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep..... then you are richer than 75 per cent of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace... then you are among the top eight per cent of the world's wealthy.

From the website of the Canadian Red Cross



## Woodborough Road Baptist Church War Memorials by Gordon Jeffrey

When we are able to return to worship in our buildings, we will see a slight change to the appearance of our worship space, this change being the siting of the war memorial plaques which were formerly installed in the now closed Woodborough Road Baptist Church. This Church, sited at the junction of Woodborough Road and Alfred Street, close to the City Centre, has some shared history with our own congregation here at MRBC with both having split from the congregation at the old Stoney Street Baptist Church in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Our own congregation separated from Stoney Street in 1849 and built their own Church on Mansfield Road on a site opposite the old Victoria Station clocktower, now part of the Victoria Centre, whilst the Woodborough Road congregation left Stoney Street 26 years later in 1875. It was not until 1893 that the latter congregation felt that they had the resources to build their own premises, having engaged the eminent local Architect, Watson Fothergill to design premises of huge and unusual proportions on a site just 400yds or so from the relatively new MRBC building.

The photograph, taken around 1970 when the Church was still open, shows a very unusual style of church building which was built of red and blue bricks, and comprised of a many sided polygon shape at the Alfred Street end and a 100ft high octagonal tower at the other, but it is the interior which is truly remarkable by today's standards.

The nave, which was situated between the two ornately shaped ends, comprised some seven bays with a high gallery running around the circular Alfred Street end and along both sides of the central nave, providing seating for some 284 persons. However, this was eclipsed by the ground floor seating in the nave which comprised some 930 seats, a space of truly cathedral like proportions. The worship space was also unusual in that the pulpit was situated in the centre on the nave along with the organ and baptistry, a most unusual layout for a Baptist building.



In keeping with many other congregations, that of Woodborough Road declined in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and finally closed in 1975, with the buildings being taken over by the Pakistani League of Friends and later becoming an Islamic Social Centre, which it continues to be today.

With the shared history and close proximity of the two congregations down the years it is most fitting that the memorial plaques should find a new home in our buildings, and with this little potted history we may be able to look at these memorials and picture in our minds some of their glorious history.



Here is a picture of the memorials in our worship space, sited behind the piano.

## BIBLE VERSE FOR 2021 Philippians 3: 13b-14

This verse within The Message version reads:

<sup>12-14</sup> I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

How are these words challenging ourselves at this moment in our life?