



Jenny shares memories of her mother, Barbara Hall, who would have been 100 on April 6th.

She writes: Barbara was a deacon of MRBC, a ward sister, a great mum and a fine lady.

The photo was taken during a holiday in the Loch Lomond area of Scotland

Save the Date !

No travelling needed this year to attend the Baptist Assembly! Plenty of seminars to choose from and a world-renowned keynote speaker, **Shane Claiborne**.

Shane is a best-selling author and activist. He worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and founded The Simple Way in Philadelphia. He heads up Red Letter Christians, a movement of folks who are committed to living 'as if Jesus meant the things he said'. Now grace fuels his passion to end the death penalty and help stop gun violence. See: www.shaneclaiborne.com for details of his life and books.

Registration for the Assembly is free— See www.baptist.org.uk for details. MRBC will be joining in with the service on Sunday 16 May.

#BaptistAssembly

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY ONLINE2021

Thursday 13 - Sunday 16 May

equip

inspire

connect



BAPTISTS TOGETHER

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, or phone Sharon Joddrell or Susan Bye and dictate, or by post, to arrive by **15th April** for the May edition.

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MRBC

CHURCH MAGAZINE—APRIL 2021



Mansfield Road Baptist Church

Message for April from Hazel O'Connor

"Praise the name of Jesus, He is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, in whom I trust".

My thoughts during this time of isolation. Like most people, I find this isolation trying. I like to be out and about, visiting and encouraging people. The virus has turned our world upside down, as we work out new ways of life. It has been unsettling, stressful and lonely. Thank God for technology which keeps us in touch. God is with us in our suffering and we should never forget that. Remember that David cried out in prayer to God, who answered him, delivered him and showed him the way. (Psalm 34 4-8). He will do the same for us. Some days it is hard to know what to pray for, but we can call to the Lord for help. He sends words of hope and light into the dark places of our hearts. I pray that this virus will subside, but only God knows what the future holds. Will Covid revive faith? Religion helps, yes, it brings people together.

The power of music and singing. I do a lot of singing. The writer Victor Hugo said, "Music expresses that which cannot be said, and on which it is impossible to be silent". The Psalms provide us with honest reflection of life and its pain. Throughout the scriptures God's people are urged to lift their voices in songs of praise. Singing is a gift from God, a way to express our feelings and give us peace.

As we journey to the cross with Jesus let us remember that God loved us so much He sent His only Son to die a sacrificial death on our behalf. Through Him, all our failures, mistakes, acts of rebellion and weak expressions of love will be done away with. Remember too that Jesus' earthly life was hard. Born into poverty, hunted by the authorities and forced into the life of a refugee as a child. Misunderstood, hated and rejected, often homeless and hungry as an adult. Crucified as a common criminal. John tells us that God sent His Son to atone for our sins. Amazing love expressed by action. Let us joyfully celebrate the new life that crucifixion gave to all, for the gift of God is eternal life. Jesus kept his promise to rise from the dead. On Good Friday Jesus laid down the price, and on Easter Sunday God picked it up and our salvation was paid for. The songwriter puts it like this - "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."

Jesus announced: "I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive for ever more. Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die". (Revelation 1 18). **Amen.**



WORD SEARCH

He is Risen!

Find and circle the 21 words listed below which may be forward, backward, vertical or diagonal.



E	P	X	W	J	Y	N	S	C	O	T	S	O	L	R
N	H	G	L	O	E	U	R	H	U	Y	D	R	U	E
E	E	F	N	S	N	S	T	R	A	J	C	M	T	S
L	A	T	I	D	Z	S	A	I	N	N	A	H	O	U
A	S	R	A	I	L	O	P	S	C	R	G	N	M	R
D	T	Y	E	L	O	R	J	T	Y	Q	X	E	B	R
G	E	Q	W	J	I	C	K	U	A	S	A	D	L	E
A	R	M	S	V	R	P	Q	L	D	F	Z	N	H	C
M	U	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	G	K	T
P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	S	Y	R	S	C	S	I
T	N	E	L	J	U	F	C	F	D	I	O	R	H	O
Z	E	V	E	J	F	A	I	T	H	X	J	P	I	N
Q	P	S	G	A	I	G	J	R	U	O	I	V	A	S
Q	U	Z	A	C	A	L	V	A	R	Y	R	Y	N	I
S	A	B	B	A	R	A	B	F	L	H	U	H	U	N

Angel
Christ
Faith
Judas
Mary
Resurrection
Sin

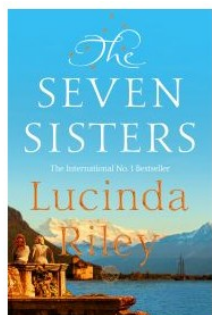
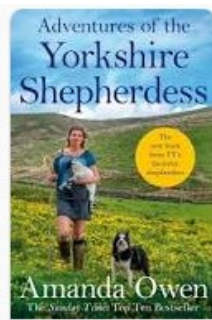
Barabbas
Cross
Good Friday
Lent
Passover
Risen
Sunday

Calvary
Easter
Jesus
Magdalene
Pilate
Saviour
Tomb

Books I have enjoyed—Susan Bye

I always like to have a “book on the go” and during this last year have read more than usual. Have you? Have you any recommendations? Do tell us....

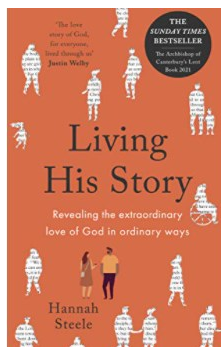
After holidaying in North Yorkshire last summer and walking in beautiful Swaledale, I saw Amanda Owen’s books advertised everywhere in shop windows. I chose one called *Adventures of the Yorkshire Shepherdess* which I found fascinating, especially as living in a remote farmhouse, with a husband and 9 children, tending to sheep, horses and dogs is way out of my area of life experience. It was a good read with often humorous anecdotes of her family life and its challenges.



I’ve also enjoyed a series of books by Lucinda Riley, the first being *The Seven Sisters*, which sets the scene for the following 5! The sisters were adopted at birth by a wealthy businessman and brought up in a privileged life near Geneva. Once their adopted father dies he leaves clues to enable the women to delve into their pasts. Each story is linked to some time in history. One sister was born in Brazil and has family links to the designer and sculptor of the Christ statue in Rio, one sister was born in the UK and has links to Beatrix Potter, one hails from Norway and has links to Grieg and Ibsen of Peer Gynt fame. I do

like stories which link in with history so I learn something at the same time as enjoying the fiction.

On a more spiritual note—a book I read during Lent was *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele. Advertised as the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent Book 2021, it really could be read anytime during the year as its focus is on introducing a new perspective on “evangelism”. The book recognises that we are now living in a world which has largely forgotten the gospel of Jesus Christ. Hannah writes with warmth and encouragement, and the book will “change the way you think about evangelism, show how ideally suited it is for the world we live in and fill you with confidence in sharing God’s love with the people around you.”



Last June, Dave Mangan recommended *How to Pray* by Pete Greig. After reading that I have followed the offshoot, *Lectio365*—a free App for my phone—to access a short daily devotional with a reflection on a bible passage. I recommend you try this App if you have a phone or tablet with the facility to do so.

DIARY FOR APRIL

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

It is now anticipated that services will be resuming in the buildings from **Sunday 2nd May**. Pre-recorded services will continue alongside.

Sundays at 3pm - **Young Disciples**—(No meeting on Sunday 11th April)
(This is a Zoom Session with Meeting ID 7032705653 and password mrbc)

Maundy Thursday Communion—

Thursday 1st April at 7pm

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

Please have available a piece of bread or hot cross bun and a drink which we will share together.



Good Friday – Friday 2nd April

A pre-recorded service will be available from early Friday morning on the church website.

CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING

Wednesday 14th April at 7.30pm

This will be done through WhatsApp as previously

FUTURE DATES

It is expected that by the 2nd May all the work going on through April with the new heating system, the replacement emergency lighting and the complete refurbishment of the lift will be completed.

The Deacons at their meeting in March have made the following changes:

Wednesday 16th June at 7.30pm will now be a Deacons Meeting in the church buildings.

Wednesday 21st July at 7.30pm will now be the Church AGM in the church buildings.



Jean Taylor is currently Acting Secretary of our church. She introduces herself to us:

Brothers and sisters let me serve you. I as an individual truly believe that God has a plan for each and every one of us. And I'm trusting in his plans for me.

Church life was a major part of my youth whilst growing up. My grandmother, who raised me, was a major influence in my growth and my love for Jesus Christ. And reading the bible and daily prayer are a major part of my life.

My church life at MRBC began in 2014 when my friend and sister in the Lord, Ivy Anderson, invited me to attend Sunday service. I had attended services at MRBC over many years before that visit but on that occasion my heart and soul were ready to commit and serve the Lord more fully.

I was baptised on Easter Sunday 2015 by our minister Rev Andy Wilson and our family friend and sister in church, Loretta Lewis, who was aiding Andy with my baptism on that glorious day. Joyce Rose, whom I have known since being a young girl and was a friend of my mother, also sang in church for the occasion.

During my time in MRBC I have been involved in many roles, from the café, setting of the communion table, offering the collection bags, leading the prayers of intercession, the reading of the scripture during Sunday service, being on duty in the welcome hall to also having the funeral ministry as one of my duties. I have also been a Deacon since 2018.

Before retirement in 2012 I spent 25 years in Public House management where myself and my husband ran 3 successful pubs and before that I worked in the civil service for 11 years. In January 2021 we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and our family consists of our son and 3 grandchildren. I have a love of music and I've studied Salsa and Latin dance plus I enjoy walking with friends for exercise. Holidays have been a blessing and I've been fortunate to have visited many countries.

I truly believe that there is a season in our lives for all things under God and I'm putting my faith and trust in the Lord and pray for his guidance to help and support me in this position trusting in his holy power and love each step of the way.

Thank you for sharing, Jean. We all wish you well in your new role.

A Bad Hair Day—reflection from Paul Heppleston

Have you ever noticed how cats and dogs (and probably other mammals) will look you *straight in the eye*? Of course you have, but have you ever thought how amazing it really is?

Why is it that we look into another's eyes when we communicate with them? Why don't our eyes wander around their face and body or even to the view around? Why is it that when we converse with someone there is a deep need for eye-to-eye contact. It's as if the deeps of our communication psyche are to found somewhere behind the pupil, that the essence of what we are saying and the wells from within which it springs have to be viewed in order that communication be effective. It's as if it's through the eyes that the real 'me' is to be seen, my identity being revealed by looking eyeball to eyeball.

Several years ago I had my head shaved. Not that I'm a middle-aged hippy you understand ("peace brother"). No it's more personal than that. I wanted to stand beside my daughter in solidarity as she lost her own hair through chemotherapy. So I had my Grade 1 (of course you'll all know about that....) and then a total shave down to skin level. Now the curious thing was what happened after that.

To most folks I was just another Wayne Rooney or a Tibetan monk - plenty around our cities these days; yes, I'm in fashion! But there were many who were gazing at my head like nothing and I began to see, especially from those who know me well, that my identity was bound up with my hair – or lack of it. Removing my hair seemed to change me in many people's eyes and when I looked at myself in the mirror, even I myself saw the differences going further than hair-deep. So what is it that makes us what we are?

Well, toddlers know. They too look you straight in the eye. Ignoring totally any dramatic change of hair-style, they accept you just as they always did. When looking into someone's eyes you are looking straight into their deepest being – it's a window into the soul. My grandchildren, when very young, remind me of something important. It is that our face is all, our smile is all, our eyes hold all. Without hair we are forced to use our facial muscles more to get people to see you for the real person that you are. Hair should not interfere with our personality. Those who are bald know this from personal experience; the problem comes when a haired person becomes hairless. Hair may reflect that personality by the style we adopt, but we should be able to convey our true nature by other means.

Meanwhile as my hair grew back through Grade 1 and 2 towards my usual blanket I couldn't escape the final conclusion : yes, the eyes have it.