Mansfield Baptist Church



Testimonies of God's Activities amongst us



Church Annual Report 2026

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Pastor's Report



First thank you all so much for your support, generous giving, serving and prayer that enables our church, to flourish and bring growth and life to those who are part of our church family, and to others outside of our church as the Gospel of hope and grace flows through us in witness. Both to those that come to and through the doors, out into our wider community and networks, and to our partner missions projects overseas.

We are so thankful to all of you who serve faithfully in so many roles, from many areas of the church including treasury, properties, pastoral care, gardening, leading bible studies, practical jobs, cooking, outreach, flowers, renew café, toddler group, recovery work, worship team, tech, cleaning, youth and children, young adults, and the Romanian community, all of whom play their part big or small ,in making the church an wonderful family to be part of.

I would especially like to thank the staff team who do so much behind the scenes.

Firstly, for Cathy Mumford, our administrator, who keeps things running efficiently, and is very organised and creative producing excellent flyers, newsletters, orders of services for weddings, funerals and other events. Cathy also works on all the minutes from all of our meetings and welcomes the many people who come through our doors during the week for various reasons. We are very blessed by her ministry in administration and other gifts she uses.

We would also like to again express our sincere thanks to Paula Skinner who is stepping down from her role as the Children, Youth and Families lead from the 22nd of May. The ministry has flourished under her leadership. Paula has served for 6 years with such a great love for Jesus, developing a team of gifted leaders, and a passion to see those under her care know and grow in Jesus. She has faithfully followed God's call all the way through and He has blessed this church with a growing work among families in this area of church life. Please do pray that the Lord will provide the next worker, as we advertise in the coming weeks. The work with Children, Youth and families is a vital part of the church's ministry and mission and the work that has been developed by Paula, Jenny , Katie and many others who serve together has been a key factor in the church's growth.

Please also do remember in prayer our cleaner Jacqui, who has been off work struggling with her health.

There is so much to be thankful for, as we look over the reports from the ministries around the church, Please take the time to read through them.

God is faithful and He is the one who adds and grows His church.

A Growing Family

We have been blessed this year with all the services and ministries continuing to grow and the church continues to be wonderfully diverse in age, background, and nationality.

Over this year we have begun to blend together more which is a reflection of unity and a glimpse of the Kingdom of God as it should be.

On Many Sundays, we continue to see new people, some of whom do stay.

The Baptist Union asks all Baptist churches to do a count on one particular Sunday each year. This year the number of children and young people was larger than it's been since Jane and myself started in 2017, also the number of working age adults aged 30-45's was larger than the 70's and over. The total who attended on that day was 180 adults, children and young people.

We know from patterns of church attendance that not everyone who comes to our church is present every week, but will come to at one least service per month so potentially people attending our church is higher.

We also have 30+ people who are part of the church but can't attend in person due to their circumstances.

We are so thankful to the Lord for his goodness and grace towards this church. We continue to have people come through the doors because they have felt led, are looking for meaning, hope, help and a variety of other reasons including transferring from other places. I network with other leaders around the town and there are similar stories of growth in at least 6 other churches in Mansfield.

One of the things we have been keen to see happen over this last year for the church is to reflect our diversity in all parts and areas of service, it has been great to see this begin to happen in all areas of church life.

We have been blessed again with 3 baptisms in January, 2 females and a young adult male and there are others considering baptism for the summer.

So we give thanks for this growth as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. So we give all glory to Him.

New Ministries during 25-26

This past year has been a year of preparation and development of new ministries. We are delighted to partner with Restore Ministry, a National Charity who provides a safe church environment and a place of love, healing, hope, in Jesus' name for those who have experience domestic violence. As you will know Melanie Young will be leading this ministry with a volunteer team. Do pray as this ministry begins that those the Lord brings will experience acceptance, love within our community, receive healing, transformation, and restoration of dignity. Isaiah 61v 1-4 describes this process wonderfully, may there be 'beauty for ashes' stories in many lives, garments of praise instead of despair and the oil of gladness instead of mourning. This is the work of Jesus in the divine exchange of our brokenness for His wholeness.

The recovery group are also starting a new deeper prayer ministry and continue to bring the Isaiah 61 ministry of transformation into people's lives. Please do pray for this ministry that seeks to bring freedom and life to specific areas of struggle.

We have also spent time discussing, praying together to develop a community hub at the heart of the Oaktree Lane estate where the team have been faithfully serving every week for the last 5 years, providing food bags, care, sharing the gospel, leading bible studies, and developing events to widen the reach. This would enable a more permanent and wider ministry to serve this community and continue to grow this tender church plant so the gospel can advance. This will be explored more later in the year.

The CYF team have developed a prayer meeting for all ages on the 4th Sunday of each month. This is in response to the call for more of the church to gather and pray for the church, the community and world. Gathering together as one church to pray together, seems to be a distinctive factor among growing churches. There are churches across the UK taking hold of this principle weekly with 100's gathering, pouring out their hearts seeking the LORD for their friends, families, and communities and beginning to see healings and salvations with some reports of a church in Ireland that grew 30% in a few months of starting this extraordinary level and intensity of prayer. This is an area of church life, we would love to see development further.

We have also entered into formal arrangement with Biglife who are a Global Missionary Movement, whose vision is **Empowering believers worldwide to reach and disciple their own people for Jesus Christ.** Biglife have seen God work powerfully across many parts of the world to bring the Gospel to people outside of churches, and have been growing new work across Europe, where Christianity has been in decline.So approximately one day of my working week is to be a catalyst and trainer mostly in the East Midlands while continuing to develop and put the disciple making principles into our church as a central part of its purpose and vision.

Biglife principles
or biblical principles for all churches?

My role with Biglife is to come alongside other churches across the East Midlands and those individuals working outside of church structures to help encourage them, be refreshed and rediscover Jesus' missionary Heart, and to be a disciple making church (Disciple making is the combined activities of Evangelism, discipleship, and mentoring). It has been an amazing start, with God beginning to renew and refreshing His church across the region and in Mansfield to reach further to their communities and make disciples often in very innovative and creative ways.

What are the principles of Biglife? We train people and churches for disciple making ministry in a local church.

1. Teaching and training people to becoming disciples of Christ Loving God, loving others and participating in the great commission.

2. Teaching and training every disciple both young and old, to be able to share their story/testimony in a simple way as they go about life, in and outside church in creative ways.

3. Encouraging people to Abide in Christ first as without Him we can do nothing encouraging deeper personal devotion and prayer.

4. Helping everyone to read and interpret well the scripture for themselves.

5. Recruiting more leaders and mentoring well so everyone to have the confidence to come alongside those that are new believers or seekers and be a spiritual parent/mentor.

6. Teaching the truth, we must be willing to accept suffering, challenge, and being uncomfortable for the sake of the Gospel and righteousness.

There are others ways of doing these parts of ministry in a church, but very few that combine all the dimensions of church life of pastoral care, deeper relational connection with one and other, teaching and bible reading, prayer, mission and evangelism, mentoring leaders and growing smaller spiritual families as part of the bigger church.

The Blessings and Challenges of a Growing Church

Our church is growing, and we are having new people turning up fairly regularly, which is fantastic and very encouraging. We have grown together in our worship, when I've been part of the congregation it has been wonderful to join together with passion, joyfulness as we praise and worship Jesus, what a delight after church to see so many children and a growing number of young people and young adults, and many people all mixing together. However, if this continues, we will reach a ceiling in terms of number of people and it will be difficult to grow beyond that ceiling. There are three matters for your reflection, prayer and action:

1. **Our volunteer capacity to run the church well, is much less than the size of the church needs:** We feel this in many areas of the church life, as the demographics of age have changed, there are now less retired and active members than working age members. In the past it has been the retired members who have supported many of the ministries and particularly the midweek ones. Two clear examples of under capacity are:

a. **Leadership:** We have struggled to appoint deacons/trustees to adequately support the work of a growing church, one of particular concern is that for the last few years we have not had a trustee to oversee our finances, we are so grateful to Neil Meadows who has continued to keep our accounts, manage the budgets, pay staff, and much more as he did as a trustee. But if Neil were to move or reach a position of being unable to support the church that way, we would be in crisis and would not be able to function and therefore be non-compliant with the charity commission. We urgently need someone who is willing to support Neil for 5 hours per month to assist with data entry. If you can help us with that, at this point that would a great support. Please do pray and talk about this.

b. **Children's work on Sunday,** the two younger groups have to be combined into one group due to a lack of teachers/leaders. This means that the age range is 3-10 year olds together. This means this group is very close to its ceiling. The best way to resolve this would be to revert back to the original two age groups of 3-6 and 7-10. This would require at least 3 teacher/leaders and a minimum of 3-6 helpers.

2. **As the church grows, the relationships can be become shallower without a structure that is relational not just functional:** The church has been at this place twice before in our tenure, but both times it has receded. My reflection on why this happens is because of several factors. (This list is not exhaustive so please do think of others you see and let me know)

a. **Relationship Depth and Type:** We cannot easily deepen relationships without connecting with a smaller number of people inside and outside of the Sunday service. Some that come to our church find it difficult to connect more meaningfully other than just Sundays. With more people, and without an intentionality about follow-up and welcome, some people will be missed and never connect well into the church. Relationships will lean more towards being more functional, and transactional and Sunday or ministry related only.

b. **We have fewer smaller communities across the congregation where deeper relationships and discipleship grow.** Yet we have lots of wonderful examples where very gifted connectors who gather people together and around them, eat together, and are intentional about extended relationships. These people are essentially acting in a shepherding capacity. In addition, we have a number of WhatsApp groups which also serve this purpose of connecting people (Although in person gatherings/connections are always better).

c. **Discipleship and Spiritual growth** is best served in smaller communities who do life together, loving God and others, study the word together, living out what they hear God saying to them, and share their faith with others in word and action. Smaller communities are vital for church health in churches of any size above 30.

d. **Healthy ministry is where everyone is involved so all can flourish:** The need is for everyone who is part of the church to be committed to serve as needed in some way, to pray, to give **so the burden of service does not depend on the few but is carried by the many.** As growth increases without a deeper level of commitment people can be burnt out, which leads people to stop serving temporarily, even step back completely or leave the church which is not compatible with a healthy ministry.

3. My final observation from the last few years about the challenges of a growing church is that our transfer growth (Christians moving into the area or coming from other churches) is far greater than our conversion growth. Whilst this has been a tremendous blessing and has brought fresh life, vibrance, gifts and experience to the church there are two challenges to pray into.

a. If the church continues to grow with the ratio of transfer growth to its conversion growth and it hits its ceiling of physical space, and both resources and its current structure, that would mean it becomes more difficult to grow through adding new believers, either just turning up as we see at the moment, or coming because they are been reached through our ministries both in and outside the church. If we add to that an aspiration of every person that comes to be active in sharing faith in their day-to-day life and through their social networks what would you do if you can't invite them to church as it is full? What would we do with them? My heart and scripture are telling me that our conversion growth does need to increase. But to be able to do that our structure needs to be different from Sunday only.

b. If this is a trend across Mansfield churches perhaps measured by the number of baptisms per year (Our total this year is 3) then this means that our surrounding population is largely unreached. I came across a statistic that 52% of Christians in the UK have not heard about the great commission, another 23% know what it is but either don't understand it or see it as relevant to them. That means 25% know it and understand it, but how many are living it? A challenging question for our time.

I've prayed deeply about this and my conclusion is that to continue to grow beyond where we are now and wider(New conversion growth as detailed above), we must grow deeper first and the best way forward can only be relationally and for this we will need to reorganise ourselves to serve that purpose. This is going to need the whole church to express a unity and commitment to one another, its leadership, and that will much greater than we have done before, so we are all going in the same direction.

There are so many amazing aspects to our church so this would be a reshaping of what is good and working for growth and a deeper impact on those who do not know Jesus, whilst continuing to grow more deeply relationally and spiritually with those that do know Him as Lord and Saviour.

I have some thoughts on how this can be achieved so our structure is more organic and can grow, but this is a task for the coming year to have these conversations and shape something together that will set the church up well for the future and to continue to grow, but with a significantly higher ratio of conversion growth to transfer growth drawing from our community. To increase conversion growth, we need to prioritise the equipping and training to give every believer confidence to be able to share, and sow the seeds of the Gospel in more people both in and outside the church and more people equipped to disciple and connect into deep relationship with them.

In summary

1. Give God thanks for where He has brought us and the people who are with us

2. Be more deeply committed to one another and to fulfilling His purposes and plans

3. Serve where needed.

4. Grow in deeper unity together

5. Be more intentionally relational together

6. Sow the Gospel more widely, boldly, and frequently

7. Pray, Pray, Pray that the LORD will show us His way.

At the beginning of the year, I set the theme of the year from Isaiah 60 v1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you". This is a powerful call to rise up to reflect God's light, love, power through the Gospel into the world. It acts as an invitation to join with God and take action and live out day by day His extraordinary and glorious, purposes in our time. Let's continue to aim higher to be the church that Jesus wants us to be and grow into.

Thanks to you all for being on this journey with us.

Much Love and prayers.

Mark & Jane



Church Administrator



A Joy and Privilege

It continues to be a joy and privilege to serve as Church Administrator at MBC and, as always, no two days are ever quite the same!

What I have been doing

This past year has once again been very busy and varied, from the weekly newsletter, website, designing of flyers, communications, to meetings, events, weddings and funerals, prayer requests and the many practical and organisational things that happen throughout church life week by week.

Trustee & Administrator

You may be wondering how things have worked this year with me now also serving as a trustee alongside being Church Administrator! It has certainly been a year of adjustment at times, learning how the two roles work alongside one another and managing the different responsibilities that come with both. However, it has also given me a wider insight into church life and leadership, and a greater understanding of how administration, communication and the wider life of the church all connect together.

Website & Wayside Pulpit

One thing I continue to appreciate is that church administration is about far more than simply office work. It is about serving people, supporting church life and helping things run well behind the scenes in ways that often go unseen. I continue to see this role as a real calling and privilege, and I'm thankful to God for the opportunity to serve the church in this way.

UCAN - Learning & Encouragement

Over the past year I have continued developing and managing the church website, and I'm pleased that the Wayside Pulpit updates mentioned in last year's report have now been completed.

I have also continued to value being part of UCAN (UK Church Administrators Network), including attending the national conference last summer and helping host gatherings here at MBC. It has been encouraging to connect with administrators from other churches, share ideas and support one another.

Looking ahead

I'm excited to explore fresh ways we can continue improving communication and connection across church life, particularly online and through the different ways we share news, events and information as a church family. I'm also hoping to spend a little more time this year developing and re-engaging some of our online community spaces, including the church Facebook group, helping people stay connected and informed throughout the week.

Stay Connected

If you currently don't receive the church newsletter by email and would like to be added to ChurchSuite (our church database), please fill out a welcome card and hand it in to me, or use the QR code below.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and patience throughout another busy year.

God bless,
Cathy



CHILDREN, FAMILIES & YOUTH

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
Psalm 150:6 (NIV)

What a faithful God we serve. I can't write this Children, Youth and Families report without first giving God all the glory, for the past six and a half years. He has sustained me during which can only be described as an amazing roller coaster ride. There have been highs and lows and more times than I could have possibly thought where I was completely out of my comfort zone but it's a place where I've learnt God turns up and works through my weakness.



Next it's a massive thank you to all those who have walked with me on this journey. Some have been there from the very beginning, some have popped in and out but all have turned up when needed and have always been ready and willing to help and support this work. There are too many to mention but you have all served a God who knows every minute of the precious time you have given up to serve the wonderful children, youth and families that have walked into our church.

I praise God that this role has grown beyond anything I could have imagined. Yes, we have an abundance of families on a Sunday, nearly 30 youth attending between Tuesday and Sunday groups and a thriving toddler group but more importantly there has been lots of spiritual growth of the individual children and youth.





Due to Jen and Katie's incredible hard work on Tuesday evenings and the camp weekend, many of the youth are taking on their own faith. There has been lots of fun alongside digging into the Bible and asking questions. The highlight for me this year was the camp weekend where watching the youth worship together was an emotional experience in itself. Obviously I can't talk about youth without mentioning the pantomime. This was a roaring success but more importantly by the end of it they became a group of friends rather than individuals that came together put on a pantomime.

Toddler Group has changed over the many years it has been running (I brought my own children to it 30 years ago) but is still a lively welcoming group where faith is shared while chatting and praying for parents/carers as they navigate life. Once again, Jenny Clark worked hard and secured First Steps a £1,000 grant from the local MPs which has been a blessing. This has allowed us to keep subs to £1, buy new toys and provide books to give away at Easter and Christmas.



Pastoral care is the bit you don't hear about but probably one of the most important and powerful parts of this ministry. Coming alongside families has been a privilege. From a message in the early hours of a morning saying a baby has been born to holding someone when bad news has been delivered. Sometimes a quick visit, message or a small gift, other times many hours of comfort and prayer over many months. Thank you to all those who have let me share in their lives.

Lastly the unsung heroes, my family, especially my husband. They have put up with me missing family occasions, changing plans at the last minute and arriving home with nothing left to give. Throughout my time in this role my husband has always been there, kept me going often with a home cooked meal and enabled me to do this role by juggling lots of other things in our lives. We are looking forward to the next chapter and to the joy of looking after our granddaughter for a few days a week.

I will still be worshipping at Mansfield Baptist Church so please keep in touch, share your news with me and come and have a chat.



I ask that you continue to pray for and support the children, youth and their families. Lastly please pray for a new CYF worker to take on this new chapter.

Love and Blessings
Paula x

Financial Report

You will see a detailed presentation of our accounts at our AGM, after they have been checked by our auditor Patrick Henderson.

This year has seen us end the year with a ‘general fund’ deficit of £8,294. Our general fund has decreased in the last 12 months from £33,537 to £25,243. We originally forecasted a significant deficit of over £14,600 at the beginning of the financial year. So, this outcome is encouraging.

The overwhelming reason why we outperformed our original budget deficit is because of increased giving from within our faithful and generous fellowship. With giving up over £13,800 from the giving anticipated. Topping over £100,000 for the first time and with nearly £18,600 more claimed in Gift Aid from HMRC. A big thank you to Elizabeth Cooper for processing the claims on our behalf, through HMRC.

Conversely, there was significant overspend relating to the maintenance of our Church building, most notably due to a new CCTV and updated Alarm System, along with two new Heaters. Whilst these did incur significant expense, they are an investment in the longer-term security of our building and keeping those who use our building
safe and warm.

Our financial target must of course, always be to break even, as this will ensure the long-term stability of our Church finances. This financial year 2026/27 we anticipate that all things being equal this target will be met. We are now receiving over £8,000 per year from Big Life related to our Pastor’s day release. This will play a large part in offsetting our annual deficit going forward. We must remember that our capital is barely over £25,000. Whilst this may sound a lot of money it is less than 2 months of our annual expenditure.



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Our general fund income this year was £145,918. Our expenditure £154,212. With a general fund deficit of £8,294.



Once again this year our fellowship continues to raise additional funds for the Church and for other causes. We have had 5 new Heaters these last 12 months. Two were paid for out of the general fund (Church Maintenance Budget). But three were paid for, out of the Heating Fund that raised over £16,000 in total. There remains £6,500 in the fund to cover further breakdown and replacement of some of the other older heaters that currently continue to function effectively. Praise God!!!



In addition, Leprosy Mission raised over £800. Donations overseas for our Uganda Fund was over £800 and the BMS Birthday Fund £675. Bags Of Hope and Outreach Food supporting people in our local community in great need continues to be funded by voluntary donations. With over £3,000 spent these last 12 months. Thank you to everyone who gives so generously, or has helped in the raising of these funds to ensure our Church can bless so many people and show the love of Christ to those who are in the greatest need.



It is worth noting that donations from those within our fellowship, including funds raised from the Youth Panto was able to fully fund our young people going to Youth Camp for the weekend in March.

From our Mansfield Baptist Church general fund we also contributed £12,800 last year towards mission work locally, across the country and worldwide supporting ALL who are in need, wherever they may be.



Thank you everyone for your support and prayers as we all continue to pray for a new Treasurer.

Neil Meadows

Properties



MANSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH PROPERTY AGM REPORT
I want to say a big shout out to men and women who have been in charge of the maintenance of Mansfield Baptist Church properties in over fifty (50) years of the church life. If there is anything they deserve it is our thunderous applause. The church structure is a testimony of their sacrifice and excellent work over the years. “Your sacrifice of love shall not be in vain in name. Amen.” They are indeed stars.

No team is said to be a winning team by virtue of the captain of the team but by the collective efforts of men and women who populate it. The Church property team had been doing incredibly well before I joined the team and I have enjoyed their support and cooperation while learning. On joining the team, one of the ongoing projects was the revitalisation of the church heating system which was anchored by Jenny Clark. Jenny saw to the revitalisation of the heating units within the church and the installation of new ones. Many thanks to all who contributed to the heating fund and made this possible. May the blessing of our Lord be upon you all. Amen.

Moreso, this period witnessed a fire incident to the bin and this necessitated the revamping of the CCTV cameras and additional cameras to cover the church building, towards the bin area and on the Chesterfield Road side of the church. This has helped to provide another level of security to the church building and the church in general. Also, the church property team has introduced a book where any property issue can be reported by anyone that notices anything that needs the attention of the team. For the benefits of those who may not be aware of this, the book is above the welcoming table by the kitchen door.

During the past year the team has attended to different issues at different times, ranging from clearing drains and the toilet manhole, changing the boiler in the toilet, some repairs in the kitchen, improving the electrics, cleaning the long windows in the church, as well as sorting out minor repairs and tidying the car park, cutting the grass and tidying the flower beds.

A NEED FOR THE TEAM
If there is anything we need as a team, we need men and women like Belzelel and Oholiab (Exodus 31: 1-11) to join us, to sustain the good work of the last 50 years by noble men and women. If God has laid it in your heart to join any group in the Church, don't look to the left or to the right, the door of the property team is wide open for you and you will be extremely welcome.



Thanks for your time and may the Almighty bless you all. Amen

Olaoye Oladele. (Church Property Trustee)

Worship



1 Chronicles 16:29:
Give the Lord the glory due His name;
bring an offering and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 95 v 6
Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

Romans 12 v 1
Take your everyday ordinary life, your sleeping, eating ,going to work,
walking around life and place it before God.
as an offering [Message bible]

Reflecting on God's Love, Grace, and Forgiveness

As I begin this report and reflect on the picture, I am reminded of God's remarkable love, grace, and forgiveness. The lyrics of "The Heart of Worship" encourage us to return to the essence of worship, reminding us that it is all about Jesus. Amidst the distractions of life, the central thing remains we must bring a genuine heart filled with love and gratitude to our heavenly Father.
This is made possible through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Essence of Worship

Worship is about offering God the love and thankfulness from our lives and hearts, for He alone is worthy of worship and praise. God is holy, and it is important for us to fall before Him in adoration, acknowledging His holiness and majesty.
Worship is not just about the music or our favourite songs, because the music and songs are only a small part and will fade. It's about our hearts and coming before God and offering something meaningful that blesses His heart.



Valuing Our Team and Inviting New Members
Working Together: Valuing Our Team

Working alongside this dedicated team is a genuine privilege. Each member brings their own unique strengths and unwavering commitment, which enables us to serve the church, leading them into worship and encountering the presence of God. Worshipping with them and witnessing their devotion to the Lord Jesus, from the eldest to the youngest, is truly astonishing. I'm grateful to work with such wonderful people.

We warmly welcome anyone interested in joining us, and we are currently seeking additional support, particularly in the Tech, Media, and Camera areas. The existing team members consistently demonstrate remarkable dedication week after week.

If you have any thoughts, ideas or comments you'd like to share about the worship songs or tech and media, please feel free to approach me directly. Alternatively, you may email me janeyjampots@yahoo.co.uk if you are unable to find me or if I am not around. Please remember after the service, we all look forward to a cup of coffee and some time to relax, especially after an early set-up and practice session.

If you would like to suggest a song (contemporary / traditional), you would like to be in the worship and praise time- please again let me know.

We are committed to ensuring that all new members receive thorough training and ongoing support, so that everyone feels both confident and valued as part of the team. We have welcomed a number of young people to join us and hope more will come forward. I know the media, tech and camera may look daunting, but I hope to reassure you I have been able to learn the camera and tech so far and all it takes is an interest and a bit of courage.

So, if you are interested in the tech/media or being a vocalist or musician, either young or older please contact me so we can meet for coffee and discuss your ideas, your faith, and why you would like to join us.



My vsion is that

My vision is that everyone would come to worship God wholeheartedly, allowing their hearts to be opened through the worship and praise that they personally offer. The worship and media team are not the focus, but rather, we are simply vessels—used by God's grace—to help create an environment where He is glorified.

- I intend to hopefully encourage 30 minutes before practices for group prayer and unplugged worship.
- Fun and fellowship activities suitable for all ages within the team.
- Events that maybe held in the Summer / Autumn months - as an outreach to our communities
- To developing further, the Christmas and Easter Praise events.
- My vision for all these events … is to lift the name of Jesus over our town, be a witness and hopefully evangelise to the lost.

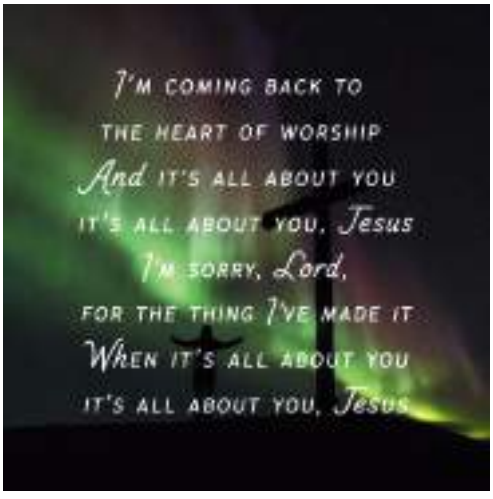
Please pray for the Worship / Media team and our families as we need the protection that prayer offers as we serve our heavenly Father.





I sincerely thank my team for their love, patience and support, to everyone who joins us weekly in church or from home.

Thank you all for your prayers for MBC, and that above all, our focus remains on Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.



I would like to end as I began with the focus being....

It's all about you Jesus

Thanks Jane x

Women’s Ministry

We are a small group of ladies that meet together every wed eve 7pm till 9pm at church. We study the word of God together and we have done many different studies and topics. Being accountable to each other in our obedience to God, loving and supporting each other in life and praying with each other together with friendship with one another.

We celebrate our friendship with meals out, movies, and creative prayer activities. We encourage each other to lead in the studies enabling growth in our abilities and understanding, faith and fellowship together is very important to us. If you are a lady looking for a life group to be a part of then, please come and chat with me or speak to the leadership team for my contact number. ...Jeanette Denton

This is a new Ministry on the oaktree estate, which we launched in December 2025. It is held in the community room @ Oaktree leisure centre, and we meet on the first friday of every month from 7.30pm till 9.30pm.

We have a wonderful team that support and own this ministry and the role they have in it, a massive thank you to the team for all you do. We aim to do lots of different events each month ranging from arts and crafts, movie nights, games nights, cake decorating, themed 80s disco nights (fancy dress optional), flower arranging, to name just a few!

This is a wonderful opportunity to build good relationships between the residents of oaktree and our church, with the aim of walking alongside these ladies and helping them know the love of God and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So far, there have been two ladies from room to bloom ministry that has joined our women’s bible study group at church. Its a privilege to be a part of this growing ministry, seeing lives changed and transformed by the love of Jesus. .....Jeanette Denton

Spark is a women’s group which stands for ‘Space for Authentic Relationships & Koinonia’. It was set up last year to build friendships through simple get togethers such as meals out or any other ideas which come up. It’s simply a relaxed way to get to know other women from church and enjoy spending time together. People come wherever they are free, and there is no expectation to attend every time and not everyone does!). We’ve had several lovely meals out in different restaurants, and If you would like to join us at our next one, please speak to me.. Cathy Mumford

For those who may not know, this is a long-running WhatsApp group for women at MBC. It’s a space for support, encouragement, prayer, and sharing everyday faith—a place to walk alongside one another in our relationship with God and in daily life. If you would like to join, just speak to Mel Lambley or Cathy Mumford—we’d love to add you to the group.

Pastoral



As a fellowship we all have a role to play in Pastoral Care, seeking to deliver help and support to those of our brothers and sisters in need. The core Pastoral Care team meet on a regular basis to identify and coordinate care, they are supported by pastoral visitors who maintain contact with those unable to attend Church, in person or by phone.

Contact is determined by need, which may change with time so there is constant review. Three times a year (Christmas, Easter and Harvest) bags are taken to those of our fellowship who for whatever reason cannot come to Church or would benefit from a visit. The bags contain a small gift (chocolate egg at Easter), a prayer booklet or leaflet, a letter from Mark and Jane, a greeting card and a handmade card from children of the Church. The bags are always much appreciated, particularly the cards from the children. Spending time with the recipients is an important part of delivering the bags.





If you are able to help with visiting or delivering a bag, please speak to a member of the care team. Please also speak to a member of the team if you are aware of anyone in need of a visit or support.

We are saddened by the loss of Jean Durrant, a valued member of our team.

We give thanks to the Lord that we are able to show his love to others by this ministry.

Pastoral Care Core Team: Pastor Mark Herd, Clive Butcher, Jenny Clark, Margaret Seley, Dorcas Burnett, Joyce Bowskill.



Mission



Rooted has been and is a wonderful opportunity to come alongside with the residents and community of Oaktree. This is our 5th year of Ministry and sharing the Gospel and good news of Jesus Christ. We've had many give their lives to Jesus and lives have been transformed,we have seen baptisms come from this.

Many are in Biglife groups and this is continuing to grow and flourish, with more people growing in their faith,and in their journey with Jesus Christ.This is a wonderful community that has bonded together with so much love,support, fellowship,and friendship is really evident within this group.
It is an absolute honour and privilege to be part of- seeing so many individuals lives changed for the better and transformed as they walk with Christ.

Jeanette Denton



As you heard from Mark at the special meeting this outreach work at Oaktree has been going on for some years and blessing people and changing the lives of people it blesses.

We all know the cost of living has risen a lot, so the four things each week in the blessing bags saves them money and helps them with some basics.

The Christmas bags are always well received with staples and some little treats too, like some chocolate treats and fancy biscuits.

The bags of hope have been in demand again this year but a few families have been blessed with a full week's shopping. This is breakfast, lunch and dinner with fruit and vegetables and some treats in too.

Thank you all for your prayers for this ongoing ministry. I thank Yvonne for stepping in each time I am unable to do the shopping or I'm on holiday.

This is one off the behind-the-scenes things our church does which God has continued to bless and grow.
You can help with

- Prayer
- Donations
- Or pop up to Oaktree one Friday and see what's happening.

Elaine Harrison



BMS Church Partners



Claire Bedford. Claire Bedford serves as a pharmacist and a member of the management team with BMS World Mission at the Guinebor 2 Hospital, N'Djamena, Chad.

In a recent prayer letter, Claire reports that the work in the pharmacy continues well, although there is a situation with infusion fluids. Stock is really hard to find in Chad. One of the suppliers has found an avenue to get some but, due to the fact it is difficult to find, the price has gone up. This means a slight increase in cost to the patients. Please pray for an increase of pharmaceutical supplies.

The doctors in the government hospitals took part in a series of on / off strikes until the middle of January. This meant that the last quarter of 2025 was extremely busy. For example, the average number of births at Guinebor 2 Hospital during 2025 was 240 per month, but the midwives at the hospital delivered over 300 per month in the last three months of last year and in January this year. Please pray for energy and wisdom for the staff as they work in an increasingly busy hospital.



Benjamin and Gillian Francis. Ben Francis is supported by BMS World Mission and works with Biglife as an evangelist in the northern states of India. In a recent prayer letter Ben reports that, despite challenges, the Lord has opened new villages to hear the Gospel as a result of which the response has been amazing. God is at work transforming lives through outreaches and discipleship trainings.

Though Christmas feels heavy and heart breaking in some states in India, Christmas outreaches were done in some persecuted areas where faith is dangerous and hope is fragile. Celebrations were quiet and personal, fear constant, and every act of Christ's love carries high risk of persecution. It is devastating what these families endure, but this is exactly where the light of Christmas matters most. Hundreds of people accepted Christ during the Christmas season and are being followed up by leaders to teach them more about the love of Christ



Philip and Rose Lotimong. Philip Lotimong is senior pastor of Heart of Love Ministries based in Mbale, Uganda. His connection with our church comes through working alongside me (David Ardron) during my many visits to Uganda. I count Philip among my closest friends.

Philip reports that Uganda went through the January elections relatively peacefully for which they thank God. They believe God preserved their communities and granted stability during a sensitive national season.

The focus on Karamoja continues to remain strong. They are trusting God for deeper impact in the region through: strengthening discipleship efforts, supporting vulnerable families, encouraging church growth initiatives and laying groundwork for sustainable ministry expansion.

Karamoja remains a mission field that requires consistent prayer, strategic partnership, and practical support. There is a hunger for the Gospel.

February has been a month of gratitude, progress, and renewed vision. We thank God for peace in the nation and the continued advancement of ministry in Karamoja.

It is being planned for a small team to visit Uganda to take the Biglife Disciple Making teaching. We have the vision, we are now working on the process. Please pray with us as we make our plans, under God's guidance. 'Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.' (Proverbs 16:3 NIV)

David Ardron

BMS world mission

Recovery



Recovery helps people towards healing and a greater freedom which God has promised for us all. People joining the Recovery group are starting a journey that helps to heal past hurts and wounds. Feelings of unworthiness, anxiety and inferiority are reduced, and blockages are removed to allow a closer, healthier relationship with God and others to develop. This leads to a much healthier self-image, a greater understanding of God's love for each individual, and – best of all – a much closer relationship with Him.

Recovery is for everyone. It is difficult to go through life without facing some negative experiences in our childhood or adulthood, or possibly suffering traumatic incidents. These can make us vulnerable to hurts, habits or hang-ups. Recovery is a powerful process for overcoming these vulnerabilities. It allows God to heal memories and the resulting damaged emotions. It can help break through barriers – large or small – that have prevented us from going deeper with Him.

God is at the centre of all that happens and, as He knows us intimately, the Recovery team is totally reliant on what He is wanting to do with each person. The team listen and follow His leading.

A supportive atmosphere is created where confidentiality, a non-judgemental attitude and unconditional love are upheld and valued. It's an environment where respect for each other and each others' views is essential, making a safe place for people to feel able to share and where leaders listen, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We let God be God, creating a place for His loving healing purposes.

An adapted, Christian-based Twelve Steps Programme is used, accompanied by one-to-one prayer where needed.

To summarise the benefits of Recovery:

- Healing and freedom from past hurts, habits and hang-ups.
- Improving mental health by reducing feelings of anxiety and inferiority, and bringing peace and feelings of worthiness.
- Learning how to forgive, effecting positive changes in relationships, and realising and taking responsibility for hurts we may have caused in others.
- A closer relationship with God and a greater understanding and acceptance of His love.

Here is how one recoveree felt on recently completing the course:

THE RECOVERY COURSE

"I'm grateful to have completed a 12-step recovery journey with a wonderful group of church ladies. Through this time God has truly opened my spiritual eyes, ears and heart. It has been a place of honesty, healing, and freedom from guilt and struggles I carried for a long time.

What touched me most was the love and patience within the group – no judgement, only listening, understanding and support. I'm deeply thankful for the lovely leaders who gave their time and care so faithfully.

I'm not ashamed of being part of a recovery group. On the contrary, I'm grateful and proud that God led me there. It has been a blessing I will always treasure, and I pray that others who may need help will find the courage to seek it too".

[Quote used with permission]



Deeper Prayer is a developing area of church life. A number of individuals have been helped over last two years and the Deeper Prayer Team aims to develop the ministry further over the coming year.

Deeper Prayer helps people with issues in their lives that are causing ongoing or repeating hurt and damage. It aims to bring healing and freedom from those problems. Usually, one to three sessions are needed to allow the person to talk and be listened to about the issues, and to receive prayer. God is at the centre of all that happens and the Deeper Prayer Team follow what the Holy Spirit is wanting to do for each individual.

If you'd like to know more please contact Bron Surgey or Sue Sproston.

Renew Wellbeing

Our Renew Wellbeing space is one of over 250 across the Country (there are even four in Australia).

We meet from 10.00am until around 1.30pm on Thursdays in the hall with breaks at Christmas, Easter and during August. Thanks are again due to Derek and Brenda for bringing Renew to Mansfield Baptist Church. Sadly, we have now lost Derek but give thanks for his life, his influence continues to be felt by all who knew him.

Renew spaces are described as 'Quiet shared spaces where it's
OK to not be OK'. They are based on 5 Ways to Wellbeing working on three simple principles:

Being Present, Being Prayerful and Being in Partnership.



Our numbers vary but there are usually over 20 guests. Various activities are available such as water colour painting, jigsaws, puzzle books, rock painting and colouring books. There is the opportunity for conversation or simply to enjoy a quiet time in company.

Coffee and tea are provided with a simple meal to end the morning (for a small charge).



Prayer is an important part of Renew, each week before the session begins the volunteers meet to consider a Psalm aided by a reflection by Ruth Rice, founder of Renew. At the moment we have reached Psalm 120. This is followed by prayer time based on the opening verses of Psalm 103. During the morning there is a quiet room available for prayer. Before the meal a short prayer time is held for all who want to attend based on the Lord's Prayer.

Our small group of volunteers help to set up and put away what is needed, spend time listening and talking to our guests and serving the drinks and meals. More volunteers will always be welcome!

For many who come to Renew it is a highlight of their week, a chance to be with others in a safe environment.



We remain grateful to Sue Kemp and her team for the excellent meals they provide.

Blessings, the Renew Team

Feeding with the Word Men's Breakfast



As we reach the end of another year of “Feeding with the Word” Men’s Breakfast, we look back over a year of shared scripture from the Old Testament, New Testament and the Psalms. What an amazing book our bible is, God breathed and as relevant today as in the times it was written.

The conversations, life events and testimonies that stir in people’s hearts as we share the word are so often Spirit led during our times of fellowship. Shared knowledge, experience and questions asked, all lead to growth together in Christ.

We are a small group, anywhere between 12 to 17 and not everyone who attends is from our church. We want to grow in number and welcome all who want to deepen their faith in Christ. Everyone is welcome as a brother and friend.

Together as men, it is a chance to learn in faith regardless of how long you have been a Christian, even if you are just beginning your journey and want to know more.

Life is full of challenges and at times we all live in sin and weakness. Our group is a safe place where we support one another. Jesus died for our sins and we offer our praise to him to guide us through a journey of fellowship and scripture on what is often a difficult and challenging road.



We share food together and are blessed with support in the kitchen from Sue and Craig, who do an amazing job, working in the background while we dedicate our time to “Feeding with the Word” before eating. Fellowship is a huge part of our time together, to develop friendships and chat freely: we talk sports, interests and hobbies too as we eat together, with the sound of Christian music playing gently in the background.

We meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9.00am in the MBC main hall and all are welcome. Leaflets are available with all the information and dates in the main MBC entrance. Details are also available on the MBC website. There is no need to book, just turn up, and why not bring a friend?

We have a WhatsApp group, called “Brothers in Belief” where we share ministry and scripture supporting each other in times of hardship and celebrating the good news of answered prayer, and the odd bit of humour too.

1 John 5:14
“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

So please do come and join us, all are welcome, feel free to ask me for more information. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Tim



The Family and Community Group is one of the small groups within MBC and is coordinated by the trustee, Samuel. The group meets in the church prayer room. We have adopted the Biglife 3/3 Group Meeting format, which follows three key stages: Look Back, Look Up, and Look Forward. These tools guide our gatherings as we study the Word, worship together, and encourage obedience in daily life.

Vision

To remind the group why we meet: to grow in faith and to be stirred into action, as the Lord leads us to put His Word into practice.

Objectives and Goals

- To build spiritual families where we intentionally invest in relationships, cultivating a loving and joyful community. Within this environment, disciple-making practices are deeply embedded so that members live them out in everyday life. As a result, everyone is being trained to:



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  - organise and lead a simple Bible study,
  - obey and apply God’s Word,
  - share personal testimonies, and
  - communicate the gospel with others.

- Building a strong spiritual family requires spending more time together. Therefore, the group has agreed to meet twice a month, and where possible, to gather with both adults and children, encouraging active participation from everyone.

- We are currently planning to incorporate additional elements into our gatherings, including eating together, fun and inclusive games, Bible study, and worship. These additions may extend our usual meeting time slightly but are intended to strengthen fellowship and engagement.

- To build confidence and develop leadership, we are applying the Model, Assist, Watch, and Leave (MAWL) approach. At different times, some members who are ready have stepped forward to lead the Look Up section using the four questions, while guidance and observation are provided.

Thanks

Samuel


Rooted in Christ,
Growing in Faith
& Flowing in Mission