



Monthly Newsletter  
**markyate**  
baptist church

**May 2024**

**Reflections on being part of the  
Leadership Team at MBC**

When we become Christians, we set out on a journey with God and we don't know where it will lead us. When I was Baptised 42 years ago and started this journey, I was excited but also quite frightened. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to be faithful and constant, but God has made it possible for me. He has given me a desire to come to worship and a joy in attending church and has given me lots of opportunities to learn and develop my faith and my service.

I felt that God brought me to Markyate and to my amazement gave me a love of MBC even though, when I arrived the building was in a very bad and decrepit state of repair, no minister, only 7 members and a very small congregation, all older than me. I was 54 years old. As many of you know I thought I was going to be with the church as it died. But I loved being at MBC and always felt fed spiritually.

I have attended MBC for 28 years and for 13 of them I have been a member of the LT in 2 blocks of 6 & 7 years.

My service began first as correspondence secretary and then

when Dawn Brown arrived and formed a Leadership Team I was asked to join the Team. I felt this was only possible or needed because there were no other candidates and I would not have been asked in a larger church. I had never done this before, was very inexperienced, but fortunately the other Leaders were Pam and Alan Ruffhead, Graham Brown and Win Neal and all were experienced and they helped me. We all have to start somewhere, but we also need people to help, encourage and guide us. They did this for me.

These first 6yrs on the Leadership Team were very exciting and full of revival. MBC went from being a dying church to an alive, growing church with 50-70 people worshipping on a Sunday, many prayer initiatives, Alpha courses and people being baptised. The most memorable of these Baptisms, was of Sue Tobin, in the sea in Spain.

As new people arrived with different skills to offer, new initiatives were started that reached out to the village. There were One Pot Lunches, Holiday at Home and a big Noise Project every summer. Dawn and I prayed every week for the 15yrs she was here, praying for her equipping, for wisdom and I joined the Leadership Team again.

Sometimes we just have to step out in faith and God honours that stepping out into the unknown.

This next 7 year period of Leadership has been very different from the first 6 and it has been challenging in a completely different way. It has included 2 interregnums, choosing and working with 2 different Ministers and keeping the church functioning in the Covid epidemic. There have been changes of Ministers, Leaders, members and congregation and changes of emphasis and outreach. Coping and managing change is a challenge for all of us and also being part of a team trying to help a church family cope with change takes thought, prayer and care. Our church family is like any family, which has differences of opinion and can experience hurts and upset both outside the church and inside and we all struggle with expressing difference without relationships falling apart. The challenge for all Christians is to care for each other, be tolerant of each other and forgive each other. It is not easy, is it? We need God to help us to be gracious. However, there is a really strong sense of family at MBC, and I see so many acts of kindness and care shown by so many people. It is in these small acts of goodness that we see God's love demonstrated. And God has also blessed us in so many ways, bringing a variety of people with different skills, willing to offer their service and work together. Each person is so important in a small church. And having a supportive committed Leadership Team to

work with, has also been so important and valuable to me.

So, from 28<sup>th</sup> April I will no longer be a Deacon. I am really looking forward to the freedom from responsibility and more freedom to go away. I leave feeling very grateful that God has given me the experiences and opportunities that I have had in serving at MBC over these years. He has enabled me to do things I never thought possible such as leading services. I have also seen him at work in so many ways and in so many peoples' lives and I am looking forward to seeing where he leads MBC in the future.

The Leadership team will be made up of old and new members and I will be praying that God will help equip them so that they have time, energy and inspiration for the service to which they have been called. We all need to pray often for Nick and the Team.

I thank you all for the kindness, encouragement and support you have shown to me. I look forward to continuing to be part of the MBC Church family, sharing in worship, prayer, service and being together in our faith. As Dave Hewitson says "Doing Life together".

We are Blessed to be in God's hands as we continue journeying together. He is a God who loves us, cares for us and wants the best for each of us and for MBC.

**Rosemary Salmon—Deacon**



**Jack and Jill's**  
baby and toddler group  
@mbc

Twice a month—term time

**2nd & 4th Friday**

Church hall 10am—11.30am  
in the Church Hall

£2.50 per family

Lots of toys, tea, coffee, juice  
& biscuits. welcome.

**Minister:** Rev'd Nick Drury  
e: [nickdrury@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:nickdrury@markyatebaptist.org)  
t: 07952 785452

Usual days off are Mondays &  
Saturdays

**Administrator:** Tracy Cripps  
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Working days Tues & Thurs

**Deacons:**  
Jeremy Bottrill  
Ruth Kieran  
Chris Trew  
Heidi Trew  
Mark Buckley  
Rob Wills



**mbc café**  
COMMUNITY FOR ALL



Every Monday

10-12pm

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday  
each month

Everyone is welcome  
to our warm and relaxed  
community café

 **markyate**  
baptist church

Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God loving others & serving our community

## What's On—May 2024

### Friday 3rd

10-12pm MBC Cafe

All Welcome

### Saturday 4th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 5th

10.30am Communion Service

With Nick Drury

### Monday 6th

10-12pm MBC Cafe

All Welcome

### Friday 10th

10-11.30am Jack & Jills

Babies & pre schoolers, Mums,  
Dads, Grandparents or Carers

### Saturday 11th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 12th

10.30am Morning Service

With Nick Dury

### Monday 13th

10-12pm MBC Cafe

All Welcome

### Wednesday 15th

Pop up life group

MBC Friendship room 7.30pm

### Friday 17th

10-12pm MBC Café

All welcome

### Saturday 18th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 19th

11.15am United Service

At St Leonards Church Flamstead

### Monday 20th

10-12pm MBC Café

All welcome

### Friday 24th

10-11.30am Jack & Jills

Babies & pre schoolers, Mums,  
Dads, Grandparents or Carers

### Saturday 25th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 26th

10.30am All age Service

with Nick Drury

### Monday 27th

10-12pm MBC Café

All welcome