

In 2002 we were fortunate enough to have a holiday in Russia when the good relations between Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Gorbachev were still in evidence.

We flew to St. Petersburg and stayed a few days going north to visit Catherine the Great's magnificent palace and visiting the church of the Spilt Blood where Czar Alexander 2<sup>nd</sup> was assassinated in March 1881.

We visited the Hermitage which holds the largest collection of paintings in the world. We saw Rembrandt's largest painting, The Return of the Prodigal Son on display there.

Then we boarded a riverboat and sailed along the waterways of the Czars, to Moscow. The waterways are a series of lakes through silver birch forests joined by canals linking Moscow to the North Sea and built by Peter the Great. There is no shortage of water in Russia. On the way

we stopped at several villages and the people were very friendly and put on a feast for us even when they were obviously very poor and we didn't need the food. They loved singing and playing music and one day a band came on board with a man playing a saw by bending it and playing it with a bow, making music of a sort. They enjoyed telling jokes about themselves every morning.

One of the jokes was about their two newspapers, Pravda and Investia. They said, 'Pravda means truth in which there is no truth and Investia means news in which there is no news!'

When we got to Moscow, we visited the Kremlin where there are seven churches and at the time monks conducting services in them. The monks formed a choir and sang beautifully for us.

President Putin may be dangerous, but the ordinary people are just like us, just wanting to get on with their daily lives with family and friends.

Let us pray for the people of Russia and their leaders.

*Pam Ruffhead*

**Our Vision Statment:**

**Growing Together by loving God, loving others & serving our community**

# What's On—July 2026

## Friday 3rd

MBC Café—for Markyate &  
Flamstead Care  
Group  
10am—12pm



## Sunday 5th

10.30am Morning Service  
Hilary Taylor  
*Followed by a Fellowship lunch*

## Friday 10th

Jack & Jill's baby & toddler  
10am—11.30am

## Saturday 11th

9.30am Prayer meeting  
In Church

## Sunday 12th

10.30am Morning Service  
With Nathan Toseland  
*Followed by a Members meeting  
& Special Members Meeting*

## Monday 13th

MBC Café—open to all  
10.30am—12pm

## Tuesday 14th

Leadership team meeting  
7.30pm

## Friday 17th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

## Saturday 18th

9.30am Prayer meeting  
In Church

## Sunday 19th

10.30am Morning service  
With Kathy Williamson

## Monday 20th

MBC Café—open to all  
10.30am—12pm

## Sunday 26th

10.30am All Age service  
With Danny Smith

## Monday 27th

MBC Café—open to all  
10.30am—12pm

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