



Sharing the love of
Jesus

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 9th May 2021

Message from Alistair

When Gabriel Hurles turned six a few years ago, he was so focused on eating his birthday cake, that he hardly noticed the giant package in the corner of the room. When another child pointed out the large gift, Gabriel ran over and began to tear off the wrapping. It wasn't a bicycle or any of the other items a six-year-old would want. It was his dad, Army Specialist Casey Hurles, home on leave from the war in Iraq. Gabriel and his father had been apart for seven months, so when Casey learned his leave would coincide with his son's birthday, he hatched a plan to offer him the surprise of his life.

The feelings of being surprised are very familiar. Mouth open, eyes like saucers, and a chill up the spine. Maybe there's also the thought that what's happening can't quite be real, or must be a dream. Surprises start parties, enhance birthdays and make anniversaries special. Sadly, surprises can also end relationships, bring bad news, and turn our lives upside down. Many of the ups and downs of our lives can be triggered by surprises. And within a few seconds we can become deliriously happy or desperately sad.

Have you ever thought about all the surprises in the Bible? There are almost too many to mention. But here are a few. When Abel thought he was just going for a walk in a field with his brother Cain. When Enoch's footprints suddenly stopped. When Noah's neighbours first realised that it wasn't just a shower. When Moses heard words from a bush that was on fire but didn't burn up. When Pharaoh's wife screamed, 'Our son is dead.' When manna rained down from heaven. When water first ran from a rock. When a young boy called David defeated an experienced warrior called Goliath. When a judge called Samson said yes instead of no. When a prophet called Jonah said no instead of yes. When the disciples discovered that Judas had betrayed their Master. When the only perfect one who had ever lived died on a criminal's cross. When Mary saw the risen Jesus on that first Easter morning. The sight, the sound and the strange fire on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came. When an angel turns up and releases Peter from prison. When Eutychus fell out of a window and died while Paul was preaching, only to be raised from the dead. And no doubt the list could go on and on!

In his gospel, Matthew tells us about something else that will surprise many people. And it's the biggest surprise of all. And it's the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew tells us that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be sudden and unexpected. It will be as sudden as a flash of lightning in the sky- Matthew 24:27. It will be as unexpected as the flood in the days of Noah- Matthew 24:37- though there will be signs for the discerning. It will come out of the blue upon a heedless world.

Matthew also tells us that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ will come at a time only known to God the Father- Matthew 24:36. The disciples did not know. The angels do not know. Preachers do not

know. And perhaps what surprises us even more is that Jesus himself did not share the secret. The only person who knows is the Father. Nothing could be more explicit.

And Matthew tells us that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be decisive. There will be no more chances to repent and no more opportunities to change- Matthew 24:37-39. It will herald the final breaking in of the kingdom of God. Until then, business as usual. After that, all shops close!

In the light of Matthew's teaching about Christ's return, speculation on dates is inappropriate even blasphemous- Matthew 24:36. Our priorities must be a steady endurance of hardships- Matthew 24:36, a balanced wisdom in seeking to read the signs of the times- Matthew 24:28-33, and a watchfulness so his return won't find us idle or abusing our privileges- Matthew 24:44-51.

Many people will be surprised when Jesus comes again, but nobody will be mistaken. In the words of the 4th century theologian Augustine of Hippo, 'He who loves the coming of the Lord is not he who affirms that it is far off, nor is it he who says it is near, but rather he who, whether it be far off or near, awaits it with sincere faith, steadfast hope, and fervent love.'

With my love and God bless

Alistair

Word for the Week

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. *Romans 8:28*

Sunday Service- 9th May

An audio recording of the service for Sunday 9th May, together with some songs, will be available to listen to on the SBC website. George Hill is leading and Rev. Alistair Stewart is preaching. The sermon is entitled 'Be filled with the Spirit'. The Bible reading is Ephesians 5:18-21.

This service will include a short act of communion. Please prepare bread and wine before you listen.

There is no Zoom coffee after the service.

Worship for the Week

From the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity-

You could be at work. Maybe you're looking after the kids. Or seeing friends (finally). But whatever sphere of society you're in, God can work through you to bring his kingdom there – as in heaven.

'We Seek Your Kingdom', a whole-life worship song to the tune of much-loved hymn 'Abide With Me', written by Noel Robinson, Andy Flanagan, and Graham Hunter, inspires us to see our daily tasks through God's eyes – and live out the prayer 'your kingdom come' in every part of life.

Commissioned by LICC and Thy Kingdom Come, it's an encouragement and a call to action – a declaration that each of us can join in God's kingdom work right where we are.

And a prayer that through ordinary Christians like you and me, God would transform, revive, and heal our society.

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere
We long for heaven's demonstration here
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see
Transform, revive, and heal society

Before all things, in him were all things made
Inspiring culture, media, and trade
May all our work serve your economy
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere
With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page
Make us again what we were made to be
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be
Selfless in service, loving constantly
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive, and heal society

You can watch and listen to the song here- <https://licc.org.uk/resources/we-seek-your-kingdom/>

Wisdom for the Week

'The immense step from the Babe at Bethlehem to the living, reigning triumphant Lord Jesus, returning to earth for his own people—that is the glorious truth proclaimed throughout Scripture. As the bells ring out the joys of Christmas, may we also be alert for the final trumpet that will announce his return, when we shall always be with him.' *Alan Redpath- 1907-1989- well-known British evangelist, pastor and author.*

News of the Church Family

Alistair and Lynn continue to try and keep in touch with you all week by week. Just to remind you too that they are always there for you. They are always available to pray with you over the phone where it is not possible to meet.

News for the Church Family

From Churches Together in Sandbach- Saturday 15th May at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. A family quiz to raise money for Christian Aid. This will be a team-based quiz, with teams going in to 'Zoom break out rooms'. All are welcome. Ask your friends and family from around the country or even the world to make up a team with you.

To join the fun please email karen.unitemc@gmail.com with your team 'name' and an email address for the team captain, for sending the Zoom link. If you prefer we can put you in to a team. Donations for Christian Aid.

From Mark Thompson- Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May 2021 - Sponsored bike ride

As part of the Sandbach Christian Aid Group's fundraising this year, Mark Thompson plans to do a virtual bike ride in his garage at 81 Forge Fields, Wheelock, CW11 3RD.

He will ride one classic French mountain climb each day, starting at 9:30 am. (2:30 pm on Tuesday 11th). Total distance 170 km, climbing 8581 metres.

Spectators will be welcome on his drive (suitably distanced!) and refreshments will be available.

To sponsor him, scan the QR code on the poster attached to the newsletter or [use this link](#) to his fundraising page, where you will find more details.

This year the collection will help communities tackle the effects of the climate crisis.

From Churches Together in Sandbach- The knitted angels will be making an appearance in Sandbach again this year. To this end a revised knitting pattern has been prepared. The pattern has already been circulated to SBC, and is also enclosed at the end of the newsletter.

More details on the collection, labelling and distribution will be issued closer to the time. But for now could you all please ensure your knitting groups and keen individuals, or anyone you might know who would like to join in gets knitting please.

From Alistair and the leadership team- NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (ACM)

The Annual Church meeting of Sandbach Baptist Church will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th May 2021.

You will be able to join on Zoom, using the link in the email newsletter.

If you have any questions, you can call Ian Parsons on 01270 759718 or 07711 995016, or Mark Thompson on 01270 750431 or 07522 628921.

SBC Recipe for May

From Chris Hill-

Granny (Barbara) Hill's TREACLE TOFFEE recipe

(This scale or double)

4 oz hard Margarine (Stork)

8 oz White Sugar

8 oz Dark Soft Brown Sugar (not demerara)

2 large tablespoonful's of Treacle

1 tablespoonful of Vinegar

Large pan; good draught; wooden spoon; 1 greased 12 x 8" metal tray.

Place the dark soft brown sugar in a bowl, and crush any lumps (with hands) to powder. Add the white sugar. Mix thoroughly.

Melt the margarine in a large pan. Turn heat off, then add the treacle and the vinegar. Mix thoroughly while still cool. Before it can set, add the sugar mix and, still without heating, mix hard with the wooden spoon to create a syrup.

Now heat fairly strongly, until you see the first proper boiling bubbles. Time it for 5 minutes from seeing these (7 minutes if the scale is doubled) - while adjusting the heat to simmer well without it boiling over, and stirring well with wooden spoon.

[I don't know if there is a particular final temperature it should be heated to. Near full time you can (if you wish) drip a sample from the wooden spoon into cold water, then immediately hold the globule under the cold tap to cool it to room temperature, and test how chewy it is.]

At 5 minutes (or 7 minutes if 2X), immediately pour evenly into the tray. Allow to cool for a few minutes, then mark into squares with a fast clean sharp knife as soon as the markings don't disappear. Break up when cold.

It should set chewy. It sets crumbly if not heated long enough (re-melting rarely works) or sets hard if heated too long. Store between greaseproof papers at room temperature; if stored in the fridge it will go crumbly as the sugar crystallises.

Granny (Barbara) Hill's GOLDEN TOFFEE recipe

As above, replacing the treacle with syrup, and using all white sugar. Include one small teaspoonful of vanilla essence. This always sets hard.

Church Groups- Week Beginning Saturday 8th May

Saturday- The Saturday Prayer Breakfast sends out a series of prayer points on the Friday of each week.

Tuesday- The Tuesday Morning House Group is studying in line with the sermons each week. Questions are sent out and people are encouraged to respond.

Wednesday- The Wednesday Morning Ladies' Fellowship meets by Zoom at 10:30am.

Wednesday- The Wednesday Evening Study Group meets by Zoom at 7:30pm.

Thursday- The Thursday Evening House Group meets by Zoom at 7:30pm. They are in a series looking at the Psalms. This week it is Psalm 3.

If you would like to join any one of the midweek groups, please contact Alistair and he'll put you in touch with the group leader.

And finally.....

My calculator broke again, but I'm not surprised. In fact, I was counting on it!

Contacts

Rev Alistair Stewart (Pastor): 01270 753663 - [home] 07966 202913 - [Church mobile phone]

Lynn Mynett (Elder): 01270 765330 [home]



Sponsored bike ride

10th - 16th May 2021

Mark Thompson plans to do a virtual bike ride in his garage at
81 Forge Fields CW11 3RD

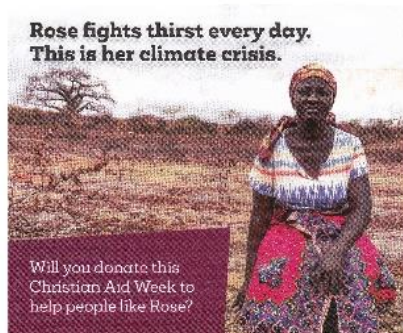
He will ride one classic French mountain climb each day,
starting at 9.30 am. (2.30 pm on Tuesday 11th).

Total distance 170 km, climbing 8581 m

**** Spectators welcome - refreshments served! ****

To sponsor him use the QR code or this link

<https://cutt.ly/NvnRByp>



Rose walks 6 hours every day
to collect water.
What's a a little bike ride?

This year the collection will help communities tackle the
effects of the climate crisis.

Christmas Angel

What you will need...

Some wool – any yarn – any colour

Knitting needles- between size 10 – 8 / 3.25mm – 4mm

(I used 4mm needles and DK wool)

Darning needle / large sewing needle

Small amount of stuffing for head

The Pattern for head and body

Cast on 48 stitches (sts)

Row 1 knit

Row 2 purl

Row 3 (k2 tog, k10) repeat to end of row – 44sts

Row 4 purl

Row 5 knit

Row 6 * (p9, p2 tog) repeat to end of row – 40 sts

Row 7 knit

Row 8 purl

Row 9 (k2 tog, k8) repeat to end of row – 36sts

Row 10 purl

Row 11 knit

Row 12 * (p7, p2 tog) repeat to end of row – 32sts

Row 13 knit

Row 14 purl

Row 15 (k2 tog, k6) repeat to end of row – 28sts

Row 16 purl

Row 17 knit

Row 18 * (p5, p2 tog) repeat to end of row – 24sts

Row 19 knit

Row 20 purl

Row 21 (k2tog, k4) repeat to end of row – 20sts

Rows 22 - 27 (purl 1 row, knit 1 row) repeat 3 times

At this point you can change your colour to create the face if you want.

Row 28 purl

Rows 29 - 34 (knit 1 row, purl 1 row) repeat 3 times

Row 35 (k2tog) repeat to end of row – 10sts

Row 36 purl

Row 37 knit

Row 38 (p2tog) repeat to end of row – 5 sts.

Cut thread allowing enough to sew seam of the angel.

Patterns for wings

Option 1 All rows are knit

Cast on 27 sts

Knit 1 row

Knit 1 row

Decrease (k2tog) at each end – 25sts

Knit 1 row

Knit 12 rows, K2tog at both ends of row

Cast off last stitch

Option 2 All rows are knit

The wings are knitted in short rows, with the yarn wrapped around the last stitch in the middle of each ridge.

To work w&t = wrap and turn

To complete this you need to bring your yarn forward, slip the next stitch purl-wise, take the yarn back again, replace the slipped stitch, bring the yarn forward again and turn the work.

To work wings...

Cast on 9 sts. and knit 1 row

Row 1 k8, w&t, k8

Row 2 k6, w&t, k6

Row 3 k4, w&t, k4

Row 4 k2, w&t, k2

Row 5 k4, w&t, k4

Row 6 k6, w&t, k6

Repeat these 6 rows 5 times,

then repeat row 1 once more.

Cast off 9 sts.

Sew to body along centre back seam

Thread yarn through the last 5 stitches and tighten to create the top of the head..

Sew up the head and body of the angel.

Take a small amount of stuffing and place at the top of the head, then thread some yarn between stitches (on row 27) and pull up to form the neck.

Add a loop of thread to the top of the angel so it can be hung up.

* slight adjustments made so that all the decrease stitches line up

(I prefer the 2nd option for the wings. Once the method of w&t is “cracked”, it gives a better result.)