



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 21st April 24

Message from Alistair-

C S Lewis is always very quotable! Here is what he said about humility- 'Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.'

Paul put it like this in his Letter to the Philippians, 'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves' Phil.2:3. The words 'value others above yourselves' imply making a conscious judgement resting on carefully considered facts. However, Paul cannot mean [for example] that expert musicians should consider struggling learners better at music than themselves. But he does mean that they should not consider themselves as qualified to receive preferential treatment over and against learners, or as being better or more important people than them. Instead, they should treat them with appropriate respect and love.

Jesus is our example. Content to be known as a carpenter, happy to be mistaken for the gardener, he served his followers by washing their feet. If Jesus is so willing to honour us, can we not do the same for others? Can we not 'in humility value others above ourselves'?

The truly humble person submits to Christ. He or she is content to be a servant and to use what they are and have for the glory of God and the good of others. Here's a challenging prayer of the great 18th century evangelist George Whitfield-

'Let my name be forgotten, let me be trodden under the feet of all people, if Jesus may therefore be glorified.'

Our Service- Sunday 21st April 24-

Our service on Sunday 21st April will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It is an all-age service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart. We are continuing with our series which will take us through the Lord's Prayer. On Sunday, we're looking at 'Forgive us our sins.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 21st April 24-

Sunday- Messy Church- 3:30pm-5:00pm at Oasis. [See notice later in the newsletter].

Monday- Welcome Bap- 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. There will be a buffet lunch after Bap to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the meeting.

Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis. Sue, Alison and Chris F are on the rota.

Tuesday- Messy Church Planning Meeting- 1:30pm at Oasis.

Tuesday- Encounter with God- 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis.

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. A Study called 'The Holy Spirit - understanding and experiencing Him'.

Wednesday- Wednesday Evening House Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Continuing the Lent Studies.

Thursday- Knit 'n Natter meets at Oasis on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons of the month from 1:30pm-3:30pm.

Thursday- Alpha- 7:45 by Zoom- Session 6- Why and how should I read the Bible? [See notice later in the newsletter].

Saturday- Saturday Prayer Gathering- 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis.

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

Passion for Praise- Verses from Scripture that emphasise praise to our God-

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.
Psalm 47:6-8

Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- Humility-

'The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself or less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.' *Tim Keller- American Christian pastor*

News for the Church Family-

From the Messy Church Team- Our First Messy Church Event- 21st April-

We would really value your prayers for our first Messy Church Event. It will be at Oasis on 21st April from 3:30pm-5:00pm. [We will still have our morning service at the school as usual]. We have publicized Messy Church through Tots and Co, The Food Pantry, social media and the church website.

Messy Church is a way of being church for families and others.

It's Christ-centred. Messy Church helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

It's for all ages. Messy Church is for everyone. And every element aims to be relevant and accessible to all ages.

It's creative. Messy Church reflects the creativity of God through crafts, songs, videos, activities and food.

It's hospitable. Messy Church is outward-facing. And it welcomes everybody to enjoy the hospitality and unconditional love of God.

It's a celebration. Messy Church reflects the God of joy who wants people to have life in all its fullness. Please support us with your prayers.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Baptismal Service- 28th April-

We are very much looking forward to baptizing Sarah Carter in a service of believer's baptism at 10:30am on Sunday 28th April at Union Street Baptist Church, Crewe. Our friends at Union Street have kindly invited us to join them for worship. George Hill will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. There will of course be no service at Sandbach Primary Academy on that day.

Although there is some parking near the church, it is somewhat limited. You may wish to consider sharing lifts and, of course, offering lifts to those who need transport. There is a map showing the location and giving further details at: <https://www.usbccrewe.org.uk/>

The address of the church is- Union Street Baptist Church, Union Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 7DJ.

There is space for wheelchairs in the church at Union Street as follows:

- At the front of the sanctuary at the foot of the slope and in front of the first pew.
- At the rear of the sanctuary in the slight recess adjacent to the fire door on the right-hand side as viewed from the front.

Photography and GDPR- Union Street has advised us that they have quite a carefully worked out position for photography that includes their own folk, several of whom, for various reasons have not consented for photographs to be taken. At the same time, they want to allow for photos to be taken of the Baptism itself.

They say, 'For good reason, it's not appropriate to have people moving around, but if we would like to appoint a photographer, they could, if they wished, use the balcony as a good vantage point for photos, or take a position close to the Baptistery. Whilst 'backs of heads' are okay, no photos including faces of USBC folk can be used online, shared via social media, or published without their prior consent.'

Please continue to pray for Sarah on this special occasion.

From George Hill- British Wildlife slideshow for Tek Ura- Saturday 20th April-

Everyone is welcome to a fundraising PowerPoint show of (mainland) British wildlife, to raise money for Tek Ura. <https://tekura.squarespace.com/>

The evening will include a large number of my own images of all sorts of UK wildlife, starting with local ones and with many rare species (especially flowers), taken by me over some 40+ years!

We will finish with a wildlife picture QUIZ. Admission and drinks are free.

It will be at Oasis Community Centre, 36 Green Street, on Saturday 20th April at 7:00pm.

Please note the start time is now 7.00pm, not 7:00pm for 7:30pm as previously stated.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Prayer-

We would like to encourage you to continue to commit to praying for 3 specific things for our church in 2024. Please pray in your own devotions, at our prayer meetings and in our Sunday services-

1. For more families to join our church.
2. For God to raise up workers. [Jesus said, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field' Matthew 9:37-38].
3. For people to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and confess their faith in baptism.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Alpha-

Our Alpha course will continue on **Thursday 25th April at 7:45pm by Zoom**. It is Session 6- Why and how should I read the Bible?

Here is the Zoom link for Alpha, which will be the same for every session.

Ian Parsons is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Alpha Group

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9074373769?omn=83841564364>

Meeting ID: 907 437 3769

Dial by your location

- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 907 437 3769

If for any reason the link doesn't work, you can still join the meeting by downloading Zoom onto your device and entering the Meeting ID - there will be no further password.

And finally....

A friend of mine used to install kitchen work surfaces, but he was arrested for counter fitting!

Contacts-

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