



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 28th April 24

Message from Alistair-

There's an old saying that reminds us that time flies when you're having fun! But what about in times of difficulty, heartache and suffering? Perhaps we find ourselves thinking, 'I don't know how much longer I can go on.'

Psalm 13 [a Psalm of David] contains a recurring question, 'How long, O Lord?' David's circumstances aren't described in the Psalm, but clearly he feels forgotten and forsaken. And that sentiment is shared by many of God's people throughout scripture- and of course by many of God's people across the centuries.

Yet in David's discouragement, we discover that his perception [as is often the case with our own] does not reflect reality. And David has the spiritual maturity to acknowledge that what he *feels* is true does not align with what he *knows* is true. So he reminds himself of God's steadfast love, His salvation, and His goodness- and resolves to rejoice in these things even as he struggles and suffers- 'But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.' Psalm 13:5-6.

This is the hope-filled tension of the Christian life. We ask 'How long, O Lord? Where are you God?' even as we remind our own hearts that God hasn't stopped loving us, delivering us or working in us.

Do not believe the lie that God has abandoned you. Rest in God's comforting promise to his forgetful people: 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.' Isaiah 49:15-16

Will you trust in God's faithfulness today? When you are next feeling abandoned, know that God looks at his hands, engraved with each and every one of his children's names, and says, 'You are loved! I have not forgotten you.'

Our Service- Sunday 28th April 24-

Our service on Sunday 28th April will be at 10:30am **at Union Street Baptist Church, Crewe.** We are very much looking forward to baptizing Sarah Carter in a service of believer's baptism. 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. The Bible reading is Matthew 7:24-29 and the title is 'The Wise and Foolish Builders.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

There will of course be no service at Sandbach Primary Academy on that day.

There is more information about the practical arrangements for attending the service at Union Street later in the newsletter.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 28th April 24-

Monday- Welcome Bap- 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis.

Monday- Leaders Meeting- 7:30pm by Zoom.

Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis. Mark, Jo and Gill are on the rota.

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

Tuesday- All Age Planning Meeting- 8:45pm by Zoom.

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.

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-

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, 'The Lord is great!' *Psalm 40:16*

Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- God's faithfulness-

'I know of nothing which so stimulates my faith in my Heavenly Father as to look back and reflect on His faithfulness to me in every crisis and every chilling circumstance of life. Over and over He has proved His care and concern for my welfare. Again and again I have been conscious of the Good Shepherd's guidance through dark days and deep valleys.' *Phillip Keller (1920-1997) wrote more than thirty-five books on Christian subjects, including his most popular book 'A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23.'*

News for the Church Family-

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 Baptistry. 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- Tek Ura Fundraising Slideshow-

A warm thank-you to everyone who supported my wildlife slideshow last Saturday. A total has been raised for Albania of £175 in cash, plus £89 online, giving £264 to date! Thank you everyone! George.

And finally....

I'm planning to start a jewelry business. If you can help, please give me a ring!

Contacts-

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