



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 6th October 24

Message from Alistair-

The apostle Paul planted a church in Ephesus probably around AD52 on his second missionary journey. After a short visit, Paul left and travelled from place to place giving help and encouragement to the Christians he met.

Although he'd left the church at Ephesus behind, he still carried it in his heart, eagerly listening to reports as to how they were doing, thanking God for them and remembering them in his prayers. The church in Ephesus still had a home in his heart, and his prayers for them weren't a simple 'Bless all the people in the church Lord', but rather they show us how much he was thinking about them, loving them and wrestling for them in prayer.

How much room is there in our hearts for other people? When we think about them, is it with just a brief thought that flashes through our minds, or do we make time and space to thank God for them and pray with passion and precision into their lives?

The prayer of Paul for the church at Ephesus in Ephesians 1:15-20 is a wonderful example for us. As Paul made room in his heart for those he served, he prayed that they would make room in their hearts for the fullness of God's presence, wisdom, hope, light and power.

Sometimes we can be so preoccupied with our own concerns that we have little room in our hearts for others. May God create a hospitable space for people in our hearts, even when they're not physically present with us. And may he help us to pray for them as Paul prayed for the Ephesians.

Our Service- Sunday 6th October 24-

Our service on Sunday 6th October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Jenny Tunley and others will be leading the service and Arthur Chapman will be preaching. This will be our service for Prisons Sunday to encourage prayer and awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prisons staff and all those who care.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

You may wish to use the Prisons Week Prayer during the week-

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 6th October 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 'Portraits of Jesus.'

Wednesday- Wednesday Evening House Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Studies in the Gospel of John.

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

Saturday- Harvest Social- 6:00pm-9:00pm at Oasis. [See notice later in the newsletter].

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-

O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. May the glory of the Lord continue forever! The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made! *Psalms 104:24, 31*

Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- Praying for Others-

'If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer: Intercession is a way of loving others.' *Richard Foster- American theologian and author.*

News for the Church Family-

From Chris Nash- Shoeboxes-

Just a note to say that thanks to all the generous donations, we are doing really well on the shoebox items. Not counting the things that are in the pipeline, we just need:

- Gloves/mittens
- Sweets
- Soap
- A few hats

From George Hill- Church Family Event - Shrewsbury town picnic and walk- Saturday 5th October-

This Saturday [5th], our usual October town outing will be to Shrewsbury. The suggestion is to

travel there by train. A suitable one leaves Sandbach at 09:51, arriving at Crewe at 09:58, changing there to the 10:10 which arrives in Shrewsbury at 10:40.

A return ticket (without a railcard, and booked in advance), is £14.90. Please let George Hill know if you plan to do that. George and Chris have to visit family en route and can't join the train, so a volunteer to be the lead contact on the train would be helpful.

In any case, we will aim to meet at Shrewsbury Railway Station at 10.40 to walk through and around the town along the River Severn. Please tell George if you are going.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- SBC Retreat- Saturday 26th October-

We are very much looking forward to our church retreat in a few weeks' time. It will be at Olive Grove Conference Centre, Regents Park, London Rd, Nantwich CW5 6LW from 10:00am-3:00pm on Saturday 26th October.

As last time, it will be led by Rev. Linda Hopkins. The general theme of the day is 'A time for personal spiritual refreshment.' Linda will conclude the day by leading us in communion.

We are asking for a donation of £10 per person towards the cost of the event, which will be subsidised by the Church to cover hire of the building, lunch, tea and coffee and our speaker. The £10 donation should be put in an envelope marked 'Retreat' and given to Lynn Mynett or Ian Parsons, or paid directly into the Church Bank Account.

Sheets are available in the foyer at the school to sign up for the event. These also cover things like transport and dietary requirements.

We are keen for as many as possible to come on the day, and so if the cost of £10 is prohibitive, please speak confidentially to Alistair.

From George Hill- Harvest Social to support Angel Tree, Saturday 12th October-

Please get ready to support and to invite your friends to our Harvest Social Evening at Oasis, 6:00pm-9:00pm, with food at 6:30pm, on Saturday 12th October.

The evening will include a Beetle Drive! All donations/proceeds will go to support the Angel Tree project which provides Christmas presents to children on behalf of their fathers or mothers in prison, and will be featured in our service on Sunday.

Offers of finger/buffet style food to Christine Hill, please.

From Churches Together in Sandbach- Quiz Night- 19th October-

Following the successful Christmas Day Lunch last year for people who would have been on their own on this special day, we are again planning to repeat the event this Christmas in St Mary's Church Hall.

To raise money for the event, we are holding a quiz evening in St Mary's Hall on Saturday 19th October at 7:00pm. The cost will be £5.00 per person payable on the door and we will also have tea, coffee and a raffle!

Please keep the date free and come along on the night for a fun evening. If you are unable to come to the quiz, but would still like to make a donation of either money or a prize for the raffle, please speak to Ian Parsons.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Harvest- 20th October-

Each year our church supports the work of BMS World Mission from our Mission budget. At our Harvest Service, we always like to share with you how BMS uses the money that we give each year.

Our Harvest Service will be on 20th October. We will hear how BMS is bringing hope to impoverished communities in Bangladesh.

There will also be an opportunity to support the work of Sandbach Food Bank and Sandbach Pantry.

As the cost of living shows no sign of going down, the number of referrals to the Food Bank is at an all-time high and shows no sign of reducing (currently between 6 and 10 referrals a week).

Similarly, the number of members using the Pantry is also at its highest level since opening (total active members is 89). At the same time the amount of donations being received has reduced dramatically and applications for funding are now required in order to stay afloat.

Therefore, the harvest donations are very important and it would be great if we could support the work of the Food Bank and Pantry as generously as possible. Here is a list of the items that are needed-

Tinned meat and meals	Tinned tuna	Tinned vegetables
Tinned potatoes	Tinned tomatoes	Tinned soup
Tinned baked beans	Tinned spaghetti hoops	Pasta sauce
Long grain rice	Tinned fruit	Tinned custard
Tinned rice pudding	Biscuits	Tea bags
Instant coffee	UHT milk	Long life fruit juice
Shampoo	Shower gel	Soap
Toothpaste	Toothbrushes	

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 this year. 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.

And finally....

I'd tell you a joke about herbs and fish, but this isn't the thyme or the plaice!

Contacts-

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