



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 24**

## **Message from Alistair-**

In his essay entitled 'On Fairy Stories', J. R. R. Tolkien writes about the reasons people are drawn to such fairy tales. He suggests that such stories are at the opposite end of the emotional spectrum to the things we see on the news each day- wars, natural disasters, financial volatility, heartbreak etc. Instead, fairy tales offer happy endings that reflect the human heart. Tolkien suggests that at the root of these longings is an ache for Christ to set the world right- to unite all things, restore all things, and make all things new. I'm sure like me you long for God to fix it all. And you long for a happy ending.

Throughout his letters to the first-century churches, Paul recognised their hardships, sufferings, and struggles, and never downplayed them. But he also always reminded his readers that there would be a day when in the words of the song by Stuart Townend 'sufferings cease and sorrows die' and all our longings are satisfied. He encouraged them to keep their eyes on what was ultimate to help them deal with the immediate challenges.

What they need then is what we need right now. If we focus only on what we see in front of us and neglect to allow God's promise of restoration to enter our vision, we won't actually be able to deal with the issues we face. They will grow out of perspective. They will come to dominate. They will drain us of hope and happiness. No- whether the problems are global, national or personal, the best strategy is to keep our eyes on what God's Word says about God's plan. There will be a happy ending. There will be a time when all things are united under a perfect King. There will be a final scene with a happy endless ending. And that is no fairy story!

## **Our Service- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 24-**

Our service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. The Music Group will be leading the service and Rev. Jennie Wakefield will be preaching. The service will include communion.

We're sorry but we're not able to serve tea and coffee after the service.

## **Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 24-**

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

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

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

**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.

**Thursday-** Churches Together in Sandbach Business Meeting- 7:30pm St. Winefrides.

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

**Saturday-** Churches Together in Sandbach- Quiz Night- 7:00pm at St. Mary's Church Hall. [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-**

Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. *Nehemiah 9:5-6*

### **Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- Heaven-**

'Hearts on earth may say in the course of a joyful experience, "I don't want this ever to end." But invariably it does. The hearts of those in heaven say, "I want this to go on forever." And it will. There is no better news than this.' *Jim Packer- Anglican theologian and author.*

### **News for the Church Family-**

#### **From Ian Parsons- Advent Calendars-**

It's that time of year again when you can order Advent Calendars (containing a 24 page Christmas activity book) or Blessing Bars from the Meaningful Chocolate Company. These provide the opportunity to share the Christian joy of Christmas with friends and family. They are Fairtrade and plastic free.

- Advent calendar- £4.95 if in a case of 18, or single price £5.50.
- Christmas Blessing Bars carry a unique illustration and are available in milk or dark chocolate. Available as singles at £3.20 each and cases of 12 at £3.00 each.

If you would like to order any of these, please let me know by 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Many thanks. Ian

#### **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 Alistair and the Leadership Team- SBC Retreat- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> October-**

All are welcome to our Harvest Social Evening at Oasis, 6:00pm-9:00pm, with food at 6:30pm, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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- 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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- 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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	

### **And finally....**

What is made of leather, is a foot long and sounds like a sneeze? A shoe!

### **Contacts-**

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