



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 17th November 24

Message from Alistair-

After Jesus had ascended into heaven, the apostles walked back to Jerusalem. Luke then tells us how they spent the next 10 days before Pentecost. In his gospel he says, 'They stayed continually at the temple, praising God'- Luke 24:53. And in the Acts he says, 'They all joined together constantly in prayer' in the room where they were lodging- Acts 1:14. It was a healthy combination: continuous praise in the temple, and continuous prayer in the home.

And so the apostles, the women, the mother and brothers of Jesus and the rest who made the number up to 120 joined together constantly in prayer. 'Joined together' suggests they prayed with one mind or purpose. 'Constantly' suggests they were busy and persistent in prayer. Jesus had promised to send them the Holy Spirit soon. He had commanded them to wait for him to come and then to begin their witness. And that promise gave them the incentive to pray and the confidence that he will hear and answer their prayers.

10 days of prayer, plus a few minutes of preaching led to three thousand souls saved! Perhaps we are tempted to invert the numbers. And we're prone to pray for 10 minutes and then preach for 10 days! Not the apostles and the early believers. They lingered in the presence of Jesus. They never left the place of prayer.

Are you wondering, 'My situation at work is dire, my family are struggling, my bills need paying, my health is failing, my future is uncertain? How can I stay in one place of prayer?' Perhaps we need to think of it less as an activity *for* God and more as an awareness *of* God. And so ask him to help you acknowledge his presence everywhere you go.

Our Service- Sunday 17th November 24-

Our service on Sunday 17th November will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It is an all age service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart. The Bible reading is John 18:37, 8:44 and 14:6 and the title is 'Guide me in your truth.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 17th November 24-

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

Monday- Amnesty Write for Rights- 7:15pm at Oasis. [See notice later in the newsletter].

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.

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. A Study called 'Portraits of Jesus.'

Wednesday- Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Ray Bacon is leading a 2 week study called 'The Bible end to end'.

Thursday- Thursday Evening House Group- 7:45pm by Zoom- The Romans Course- Session 1: Gospel. How can we become confident in our faith? [See notice later in the newsletter].

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

Saturday- Messy Church- 10:30am-12:00 Noon 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-

'He alone is your God, the only one who is worthy of your praise, the one who has done these mighty miracles that you have seen with your own eyes.' *Deuteronomy 10:21*

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

'We don't drift into spiritual life; we do not drift into disciplined prayer. We do not grow in prayer unless we plan to pray. That means we must set aside time to do nothing but pray. What we actually do reflects our highest priorities. That means that we can proclaim our commitment to prayer until the cows come home, but unless we actually pray, our actions disown our words.' *Don Carson- American theologian.*

News for the Church Family-

From the SBC Leadership Team- Notice of SBC Annual Church Member's Meeting on Monday 25th November-

Dear SBC Member or Friend,

14th November 2024

This is the Notice of our forthcoming Annual Church Members' Meeting, which will take place on **Monday 25th November 2024 at 7:30pm**, in person (not Zoom) at: **Oasis Community Centre**, 36 Green Street (Ground Floor), Sandbach, CW11 1GX.

Non-members are very welcome to attend but may not vote.

The following papers will be sent in two further emails that follow this Newsletter, or will be delivered personally if necessary:

1. the Agenda
2. the minutes from the last Ordinary Church Meetings on 10/6/2024 and 30/9/2024.
3. the safeguarding policy statement that will be read at the church AGM

4. written Group Reports for the period from the church's various groups and activities

and separately:

5. the finance report

There is no election at this meeting.

Yours warmly in Christ Jesus

The Church Leadership Team

From Alistair- Thursday Evening House Group-

The next meeting of our Thursday Evening House Group will be on Thursday 21st November at 7:45pm by Zoom. We will be studying Paul's Letter to the Romans using a ten-session course produced by the Bible Society. The course tackles ten big themes found in the book of Romans, which are key to understanding the Christian faith. This week is Session 1: Gospel. How can we become confident in our faith?

The small group resources section of the Bible Society website has the teaching videos, and the testimony videos. You can access the participant's guide online using the following link:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-romans-course/the-romans-course-home/small-group-resources/>

You do not need to pay to access the guide as the Church has made a donation. If you are struggling to download the guide, please let me know.

The Zoom link for the Thursday Evening House Group is available from Ian Parsons.

From the Messy Church Team- Our next Messy Church Event- Saturday 23rd November-

We would really value your prayers for our next Messy Church Event. It will be at Oasis on Saturday 23rd November from 10:30am-12:00 Noon. The theme is 'Let's Get Ready For....Christmas'. We have publicized Messy Church through Tots and Co, The Food Pantry, Sandbach Nub News, social media, other local venues 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 Mark Thompson- Amnesty Write for Rights 2024-

On Monday 18th November from 7:15 pm, some of us will get together at Oasis in order to write letters or cards of support to human rights sufferers, and appeals for mercy or justice to the authorities of their countries. This year there are nine highlighted cases, from Angola to Türkiye. All the information and resources we need are supplied. Just bring your favourite pen!

If you can't make it, but would like to write a letter or greeting, speak to Mark Thompson.

From Unity Methodist Church- Afternoon Christmas Concert-

There will be an afternoon Christmas concert with Lynne Ashmore – Flute / Alto, Karen Foster – Harp / Soprano and Rob Glassonbury – Piano / Bass on Saturday 30th November at 3:00pm at The Wesley Centre, Sandbach, CW11 1DG.

Tickets £6 in advance or on the door. All proceeds for church funds. Raffle and refreshments.

And finally....

Winter is definitely here! I had to scrape ice off my car windscreen this morning. I used my supermarket loyalty card- only got 10% off!

Contacts-

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