



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 1st December 24

Message from Alistair-

As we celebrate Advent, over the next few weeks I'll be sharing a series of short devotionals to help us explore biblical prophecies and their fulfilment through the coming of Jesus the Messiah.

Sunday 1st December: Week 1, The Patriarchs-

Reading- Genesis 12:1-3-

The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'

Comment-

In the first week of Advent, we think of all the promises of God, spoken over thousands of years, including promises to Abraham and Sarah and all the patriarchs.

Prayer-

Father, thank you that you keep your promises. Please help us to keep waiting on them, even when like Abraham and Sarah we find it hard to see how they might come true. Thank you that you always want to bless, and for the greatest blessing we will celebrate soon, the coming of Jesus. Amen.

Our Service- Sunday 1st December 24-

Our service on Sunday 1st December will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Sandra Murphy will be leading the service and Dave Murphy will be preaching. The text is Isaiah 54:10 and the title is 'When you're lost in the darkness'.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 1st December 24-

Sunday- Churches Together in Sandbach Advent Service- 6:30pm at The Wesley Centre

Monday- Welcome Bap- 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. The Christmas buffet will follow the meeting.

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

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

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. Advent Study- 'The Unexpected Jesus.'

Wednesday- Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Advent Study- "Images of the invisible". Images of God based on a series of daily Bible readings.

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- 1st Sunday of Advent: Hope-

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:2-6*

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

'Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come.' *J I Packer- Anglican theologian.*

News for the Church Family-

From Alistair [and Eunice and Susie]- Retirement-

I'm due to reach a very significant milestone next year- the age of retirement- and so I wanted to share with you that it is my intention to retire at some point during 2025...

It goes without saying that we really value everyone's prayers.

From Churches Together in Sandbach- Christmas Lunch-

As in previous years, a free Christmas Lunch is being arranged by Churches Together in Sandbach, particularly for those who will be on their own. The details are as follows-

25th December 2024- 12:30pm- 3:00pm, St Mary's Church Hall, High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AL.

If you, or someone you know, would like to go to the lunch, please let Alistair or Ian know with details of names, addresses, telephone numbers, any allergies, and if a lift is required.

If you are able to help as a driver, please let Ian know.

We also like to arrange for each person who attends to receive a small Christmas gift. If you are able to provide a gift to the value of about £5.00, please let Alistair know. And please mark the gift 'male/female' as appropriate. Thank you.

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....

Here is a joke from a selection of the best [and perhaps worst] Christmas cracker jokes that you can use after polishing off your Christmas dinner!

Why don't you ever see Father Christmas in hospital? Because he has private elf care!

Contacts-

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