



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 22nd December 24

Message from Alistair-

As we celebrate Advent, 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 22nd December: Week 4, Mary-

Reading- Isaiah 7:14-

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Comment-

In the fourth week of Advent, we remember the faith of Mary, who when she was confronted with the great call you made on her life said, 'May your word to me be fulfilled.'

Prayer-

Father, please give us the courage to be a people who say 'yes' to you, at this Christmas time and in the coming year. Amen.

Christmas Day-

Reading- John 1:1-5-

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Prayer-

Father, on this Christmas morning, we thank you again that you keep all your promises. We thank you that you came, just like you said you would! We thank you that the coming of the tiny, fragile baby Jesus means not just the birth of one more child, but the birth of your new kingdom of salvation, eternal life and a renewed creation. Amen.

Our Service- Sunday 22nd December 24-

Our service on Sunday 22nd December will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It will be an all-age Christmas Carol Service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart. The Bible reading is Luke 2:1-14 and the title is 'Christmas Crackers.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

We should also be able to park on the school playground as before.

Our Service- Wednesday 25th December 24-

Our service on Christmas Day will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It will be an all-age service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart. The Bible reading is Luke 2:1-12 and the title is 'Christmas Sweets.'

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 22nd December 24-

Monday- Welcome Bap resumes from 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis on Monday 6th January 25.

Tuesday- Tots and Co resumes from 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis on Tuesday 7th January 25. Sue, Alison, and Chris F are on the rota.

Tuesday- Encounter with God resumes from 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis on Tuesday 7th January 25.

Wednesday- All-Age Service for Christmas day- 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy.

Wednesday- Churches Together in Sandbach Christmas Lunch- 12:30pm at St Mary's Church Hall- see notice later in the newsletter.

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship resumes from 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis on Wednesday 8th January 25.

Wednesday- Wednesday Group resumes at 7:30pm at Oasis on Wednesday 8th January 25. The theme is "God, visible in creation".

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- 4th Sunday of Advent: Love-

And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good

things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors.' *Luke 1:46-55*

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

'See here [in the Incarnation], as in a glass, the infinite love of God the Father; that when we had lost ourselves by sin, God, in the riches of his grace, sent forth his Son, made of a woman, to redeem us.

And behold the infinite love of Christ, in that he was willing thus to condescend to take our flesh. Surely the angels would have disdained to have taken our flesh; it would have been a disparagement to them. What king would be willing to wear sackcloth over his cloth of gold? But Christ did not disdain to take our flesh. Oh the love of Christ! Had not Christ been made flesh, we had been made a curse.'

Thomas Watson- 17th century Puritan preacher

News for the Church Family-

From the Leadership Team- Notices of SBC Special Church Member's Meetings on Sunday 12th January 25, OR if unavoidably delayed by weather, on Sunday 19th January 25-

Details in the email Newsletter

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.

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!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

Contacts-

Rev Alistair Stewart (Pastor): 01270 753663 - [home] 07966 202913 - [Church mobile phone]

Bernie Williams (Elder): 01270 764986