



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

## **Message from Alistair-**

Pacific Palisades is one of Los Angeles most expensive and exclusive suburbs, home to film stars and billionaires. The broad boulevards are framed by palm trees and gated mansions with swimming pools. But as you may have seen on the news, it's in the grip of a raging firestorm that's ripping through community after community, raging and unremitting, threatening to destroy what many who live there consider to be their slice of paradise. One of the residents said this, 'This is surreal, this is unbelievable. I've lived here all my life but this is like nothing I've seen before.'

I was very struck by his words- 'This is like nothing I've seen before.' And the reason I was struck by his words was because I'd also just read them in the Bible- Mark 2:12.

While Jesus was preaching in a house four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." And then he heals him. And the man jumps up, grabs his mat, and walks out through the stunned onlookers.

And so Jesus demonstrates his divine authority- he has authority to forgive sins, and authority over sickness. And at the end of the account we read that the people were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!" Mark 2:12.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could say the same thing this year- 'We have never seen anything like this before!' The sick healed, our loved ones coming to faith in Christ, our church growing spiritually and numerically, new opportunities for outreach and service, our own devotional lives deepening. The divine authority of Jesus means that all things are possible. And we too may be able to say, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

## **Our Service- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 25-**

Our service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Howard Jones will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. The Bible reading is Psalm 51 and the title is 'Knowing The Way Back.' This service will include communion.

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

Our Special Church Meeting will follow the service at 12:30pm- see notice later in the newsletter.

## **Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 25-**

**Sunday-** Special Church Meeting- 12:30pm at: Sandbach Primary Academy School Hall- see notice later in the newsletter.

**Monday-** Welcome Bap-10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. There will also be a meal together at lunch time.

**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-** Messy Church Planning Meeting- 2:00pm.

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

**Wednesday-** Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis.

**Wednesday-** Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis.

**Thursday-** Thursday Evening House Group- 7:45pm by Zoom- The Romans Course- Session 3: Salvation. What's so amazing about grace?

**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.

### **Wisdom for the Week-**

Be made new in the attitude of your minds. *Ephesians 4:23*

Father, I come to you asking for your grace to make me new in the way I look at things. Please help me to live each day of this coming year sharing your love, empowered by your Spirit and aware of your grace. Amen.

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

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

This is the combined Notice of our forthcoming Special Church Members' Meeting. Full details in the email newsletter.

**From Churches Together in Cheshire- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity-**

You are warmly invited to a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service' with Andy Flannagan on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Hoole CH2 3NT. The Service will take place at 3:00pm and will be followed by some refreshments. All are welcome! To find out more about Andy Flannagan please follow this link- <https://andyflan.com/>.

**From Alistair- Thursday Evening House Group-**

The next meeting of our Thursday Evening House Group will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7:45pm by Zoom. We are studying Paul's Letter to the Romans. This week is Session 3: Salvation. What's so amazing about grace?

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 in the email newsletter.

### **From Churches Together in Sandbach- World Day of Prayer- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 -**

There is a meeting to arrange the World Day of Prayer Service(es) at 10:15am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January in the Henshall Room at the Wesley Centre. It is hoped all churches can send a representative to this meeting.

*If anyone is able to attend on behalf of Sandbach Baptist Church, please let Alistair know.*

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

A friend has food dishes on his luxury yacht- Pyrex of the Caribbean!

#### **Contacts-**

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