



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

## **Message from Alistair-**

Up until now we have had a real mix of unsettled weather with five named storms. Storm Éowyn was one of the most exceptional storms of the decade according to the Met Office with 100mph (160km/h) winds recorded in Scotland. Strong winds and heavy rain continued soon afterwards as Storm Herminia rolled through.

I always feel sorry for the reporters who have to brave the storms and give us up-to-the minute reports on location, while we watch from the comfort of our living rooms. In the case of Storm Éowyn, when they were exposed to all the force of the wind and rain, some of the reporters had to cling to the only things that weren't moving, like a lamppost or telegraph pole!

In the same way, sometimes we're exposed to the raw force of the real world- the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and the trials and tribulations of life. And maybe at those times we feel overwhelmed with what we're going through.

When that happens we're driven to cling to the Lord more closely. And we learn the same lessons that the reporters learned facing Storm Éowyn. Find the best refuge, the firmest and most unshakeable defence and hold on with all your heart, remembering that the Lord will never let you go.

Maybe today there are no great Storm Éowyns in your life. Maybe the sun is shining, the clouds are small and puffy, and the breeze is gentle. But life is unpredictable. Winds of change gust suddenly, catching us unawares. Testing times can arrive when we thought a settled week lay ahead. In a world like this, it makes sense to say close to the shelter knowing that 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble'- Psalm 46:1.

## **Our Service- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 25-**

Our service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Bernie Williams 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 afterwards.

## **Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 25-**

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

**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.

**Wednesday-** Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Lent Study- Mark's Gospel- a general introduction to the Gospel and the Prologue (Mark 1 1-15).

**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-

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. *1 John 4:8*

Father, please will you pour your love into our hearts through your Holy Spirit that we might long to share your love with others. Amen.

### News for the Church Family-

#### From Alistair and the Leadership Team- 36 Green Street- Oasis and the 2 flats above- Update-

Following the unanimous decision at our recent Special Church Meeting to purchase 36 Green Street (comprising Oasis and the two flats above), we held our Pledge Sunday on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

We are thrilled to report that thanks to people's very generous response, we've been able to significantly reduce the amount we need to borrow to complete the purchase.

There are still quite a few folk who have either been away or have taken pledge forms to fill in and we will therefore keep the appeal going a little longer to give everyone time to prayerfully consider how to respond. If you haven't been able to pick up a form please have a word with Alistair or Ian.

Pledge forms can still be returned next Sunday or posted to Ian at 38 Adlington Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1DX.

We will then give a detailed update of the total raised in about a week's time.

Thank you again for your incredible generosity and support.

#### From George Hill - Bible Reading Week starting Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February-

This year we are again having a church Bible Reading Week. As Christians, all of us are encouraged to put our roots deep into God's Word, the Bible. If you have attended church for some years, you will hopefully have many Bible verses (probably more than you realise) treasured in your memory.

One verse that you may know is Acts chapter 17 verse 11. The apostle Paul had been telling the Good News of Jesus to the people of Thessalonica, until some troublemakers forced him to flee. As soon as it was night, Paul left for the neighbouring town of Berea, where again he started to share the Good News of Jesus. Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, records what happened next:

'Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.' [Acts 17:11].

During our Bible Reading Week, in the warm spirit of the Bereans, we will invite you to choose and read at least one passage from the list of six Bible passages we offer you daily. Thus, on each day you will be able to choose to read any (or all!) of:

One chapter from the Gospels

One chapter from elsewhere in the New Testament

One chapter from the Old Testament

One Psalm or chapter from Proverbs

Pot pourri! Perhaps a famous or familiar passage

One entire Bible book (usually a very short one) - to be read in one go.

We'll provide the list of Bible passages for the Bible Reading Week- February 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>- nearer the time. Please watch this space for more information!

I can also record some Bible chapter readings for folks who have difficulty reading print. Please ask me.

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

I used to have a friend who kept changing the sound that his alarm clock made. I wonder what he's getting up to now?!

Contacts-

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