



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 16th March 2025

Message from Alistair-

The film *David* is set to be released this November. According to the publicity, the film is a "joyful animated musical about the life of the ancient prophet, poet and king. After one young shepherd boy is chosen to battle a giant, this chosen one goes on to inspire an entire nation of believers. Coming to the big screen, this underdog story full of adventure and hope is for every giant slayer out there."

God called David 'a man after my own heart'- Acts 13:22. If you read David's story in the Bible that may come as a bit of a surprise and you may wonder what God saw in him. He fell as often as he stood. He stared down Goliath but eyeballed Bathsheba. He could lead armies but couldn't manage his own family. Eight wives, one God. Vindictive David, violent David, bloodthirsty David, deceitful David, callous David. But a man after God's own heart? That God sees him as such gives hope to us all.

Perhaps we can suggest that David is a man after God's own heart because his life was marked by passionate devotion, deep repentance, and unwavering faith. His story is a powerful reminder that no matter how flawed we are, we can still be people after God's own heart if we seek Him with all our hearts.

And all of us need David's story. Giants are always just around the corner. Giants of rejection and failure. Giants of trials and tribulations. Giants of pain and suffering. We must all face them, but we need not face them alone. And so place your hope and trust in the Lord. When David did, giants fell. When David didn't, he fell! And so may we say with David, 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' Psalm 23:4.

The God who made a miracle out of David stands ready to make a miracle out of us.

Our Service- Sunday 16th March 25-

Our service on Sunday 16th March will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It is an all-age service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart. The Bible reading is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and the title is 'Decision Time.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 16th March 25-

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

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- 10:15am-11:45am at Oasis.

Wednesday- Messy Church Planning Meeting- 2:00pm at Oasis.

Wednesday- Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Lent Study- Mark's Gospel- Jesus' teaching about his impending death and resurrection and about a life of discipleship- Part 2 (Mark 9:30-10:52).

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-

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.' *Isaiah 41:10-11*

Father, thank you that you know us better than we know ourselves and you care for us through every step we take. You hear our cries for mercy and help. You share our struggles and burdens. You hear our thoughts, songs and shouts of praise. Please deliver us from every spiritual and physical enemy and give us the boldness to stand firm in our faith in you. In the name of Jesus I ask this. Amen.

News for the Church Family-

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Combined SBC Special and Ordinary Church Members' Meetings on Monday 24th March 2025-

There will be a brief Special Church Members' Meeting, followed immediately by our quarterly Ordinary Church Members' Meeting, on Monday 24th March at Oasis at 7:30pm. Non-members are very welcome to attend but may not vote.

The Special Church Meeting is necessary for us to approve a single resolution required for the purchase of 36 Green Street, asking the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd to act as Holding Trustee for the property and adopt the appropriate Trust Model. Ian will explain what this means at the meeting before the vote is taken and this is a standard procedure when Baptist Churches purchase buildings and manses.

Please note that the Special Church Members' Meeting vote requires a 75% approval of the Church Members present, entitled to vote and voting.

The Ordinary Church Members' meeting will include a secret ballot to elect those new Trustees who were nominated by Sunday 9th March. They are Chris Nash and Susie Warburton.

You should already have received the following papers:

1. The combined agenda.
2. The Ordinary Church Meeting financial statement.

Please attend if you can, because if this meeting is not quorate we would have to call another Special Church Meeting, which could hold up the purchase of 36 Green Street (Oasis). Thank you.

Yours warmly in Christ Jesus

From George Hill- Walk around Alderley Park-

On Sunday afternoon 23rd March, weather permitting, there will be a stroll of about 1.5 miles around the Alderley Park Estate, Radnor Mere and woods (near Nether Alderley).

No steep slopes. Binoculars useful. Good paths, no special footwear needed. Limited facilities and shelter, bring rain-proofs. Buggies possible, dogs allowed, but not wheelchairs, sorry- see the farm event and limited mobility events later in the summer that are more suitable.

Drivers will need directions so please contact me if you are interested. Cars will leave Sandbach at 1:45pm. No unaccompanied under-18s please, and everyone walks at their own personal risk. Thank you.

From Ian Parsons- Tear Fund Sunday-

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Tear Fund appeal and to those who contributed soup and bread for the hunger lunch.

We will be keeping the appeal open until Sunday 16th March and a box for any donations will be available in the foyer at the school.

And finally....

A friend of mine is a retired cricket umpire. He doesn't lift a finger now!

Contacts-

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