



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 30th March 2025

Message from Alistair-

This Sunday is Mother's Day. And Mother's Day can be a day of mixed emotions for many of us which is perfectly understandable. I was reading about a couple whose son had just been sentenced to five years in prison. The father was deeply disappointed. He felt that in his eyes his son was a lost cause who couldn't sink much lower. The mother wept. She felt her son was a good boy who had made a mistake. She hoped that he wasn't a lost cause and still had a future.

There is often a tenderness in a mother's love that is sometimes missing from a father's. As the people of Israel were experiencing terrible suffering in exile, they needed to know that God's love has a tender side. They thought God had forsaken them. God responded by using the image of a mother nursing her infant. 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!' [Isaiah 49:15]. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.' [Isaiah 66:13].

It is unthinkable to imagine a loving mother forgetting her own newborn child. It is even more unthinkable to imagine a loving God forgetting his own children.

In fact, Isaiah also reminds us of another wonderful truth- The Lord says, 'See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.' We are engraved onto God's hands, unforgettable, always before his eyes. What a powerful reminder of God's incredible love for us, more tender than even a mother's love for her nursing baby.

Our Service- Sunday 30th March 25-

Our service on Sunday 30th March will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. The Music Group will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. The Bible reading is John 12:1-11 and the title is 'The Dinner Party- Part 1'.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 30th March 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- 10:15am-11:45am at Oasis.

Wednesday- Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Lent Study- Mark's Gospel- Jesus teaches about the Temple's destruction and the coming of the Son of Man (Mark 13:1-37).

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-

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. *Proverbs 31:28*

Heavenly Father, I pray for every mother around the world. I give you praise for the gift of motherhood and I pray that each mother would feel your love and grace as they look after their children and families. Father for all those who long to become a mother, please answer them and give them their hearts' desire. Thank you for all you do and for the love you have towards women and mothers. Amen.

News for the Church Family-

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Additional SBC Ordinary Church Members' Meeting- Sandbach Primary Academy- Sunday 6th April 2025 at 11:45am-

Due to a legal issue that has unexpectedly arisen, we need to hold a short Church Meeting at Sandbach Primary Academy after the morning service on Sunday 6th April at 11:45 am.

SBC church members have been sent the formal Notice of the Meeting and the reasons we need to hold it in a separate email, and are requested to attend if they possibly can, especially since a few people are away. Non-members are welcome to attend but may not vote.

The meeting will include a secret ballot to re-elect Ian Parsons as SBC Church Treasurer and Trustee. Please speak to Alistair if you have any questions.

From Alistair [and Eunice and Susie]- Retirement-

The Retired Baptist Minister's Housing Association has bought a house in Ettiley Heath on our behalf. The purchase was completed and contracts were exchanged a couple of weeks ago.

As far as the adaptations to the house are concerned, Social Services are due to assess Susie at the house on Friday 28th March. However, they've already said that the waiting time for a ramp is 6-12 months, and the waiting time for a wet room is 12-18 months.

And so this means unfortunately we'll have to pay for all the adaptations ourselves. Otherwise we won't be able to physically move in for up to 2 years and the house will just remain empty.

I had a long video meeting with the Housing Association on Monday. They have great links with a contractor who they use all the time to get work done on all their properties. And their contractor will be able to carry out most of the work that needs to be done- not just the adaptations like- ramps, wet rooms, grab rails etc, but also kitchen, bathroom, flooring, decorating etc.

A site meeting with the Housing Association, contractor and us has been arranged for Friday 4th April. And then when we've sorted out what needs to be done they'll carry out all the work.

The Housing Association is fairly optimistic that the contractor will be able to complete the work in a couple of months. And then we'll be able to move in. This means that as far as I'm able to say at the moment, I'll aim to retire sometime over the summer.

It goes without saying that we really value everyone's prayers as we try to get everything sorted out. Thank you very much.

From Ian Parsons and Christine Hill - Tear Fund Sunday-

We are very pleased to announce that £336.00 was raised at the Tear Fund Service, Hunger Lunch and Quiz. Many thanks to everyone who donated.

From Ian Parsons- Pledges for the purchase of 36 Green Street-

As I mentioned at the Church Meeting last Monday, we are now starting to collect the pledges made in connection with the purchase of 36 Green Street. The timing may be particularly important for those of you who have said the Church can collect Gift Aid as the current tax year ends on 5th April and depending on your tax situation you may want to include your donation in the current tax year.

Payment of your pledge can be made in one of the following ways:

Electronic Bank Transfer-

Name: Sandbach Baptist Church (However, please note if you are making a payment for the first time, you may need to enter the name Sandbach Evangelical Church - this is a throwback to our previous Church name and is still recognised as such in some of the online banking systems).

Sorting Code: 16-31-13

Account Number: 11713855

Reference: 36 Green Street

Cheque-

Cheques can be made out to 'Sandbach Baptist Church' and handed to me or posted to me at 38 Adlington Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1DX

Cash-

Cash should be placed in an envelope marked "Green Street Purchase" and either handed to me or put in the Sunday morning offering bags. Please note if you have agreed to Gift Aid your cash donation, I will need to know your name so I can claim accordingly. If you do not wish to Gift Aid your donation, the envelope can remain anonymous.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to see me or give me a ring on 07711 995016.

Finally, this note only relates to pledges of donations rather than interest free loans. If you have very kindly offered an interest free loan, I will speak to you separately about the timing for that.

Thank you again to everyone for your incredible generosity and sacrificial giving.

And finally....

I wrote a story once about a broken window. I've saved it in my drafts!

Contacts-

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