



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 11th May 2025

Message from Alistair-

Maybe when you were at school you were bullied. Sadly, that's the experience of countless numbers of children and young people in our schools today. One aspect of bullying is often name-calling. Many schools have a policy about bullying and name-calling. For instance, one primary school reminds the children that name calling is a bullying behaviour. And it has this statement,

'It is verbal abuse. It is not acceptable behaviour. Children who name call have not learnt a simple and very important rule about living as part of a large school family: everybody has a right to be treated with kindness and respect.'

The Lord Jesus Christ was accused of many things. And he was the subject of name-calling. But one thing he was never accused of being was a misery, a grumpy old man, or a sourpuss. People didn't groan when Jesus turned up. They didn't suddenly make themselves scarce when he entered a room. They didn't cross the road when they spotted him in the distance. He called them by name. He listened to their stories. He visited their sick relatives and helped their sick friends. He fished with fishermen; he spent time with tax collectors and other undesirables; he ate lunch with the little guy and spoke resounding words of affirmation. In fact, he went to so many parties and social gatherings that he was criticised for hanging out with dodgy people and questionable crowds.

People were drawn to Jesus. Thousands came to hear him, hundreds chose to follow him. They shut down their businesses and walked away from their jobs to be with him. His mission statement included these words, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' John 10:10. Jesus was great to be around. And he wants us to follow him- and to be like him.

Our Service- Sunday 11th May 25-

Our service on Sunday 11th May will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Bernie Williams will be leading the service and Rev. Sue Thompson will be preaching. The theme for the sermon is "Back to normal?". This service will include communion.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 11th May 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. In a change to the published programme we are looking at Paul's letter to Philemon.

Thursday- Thursday Evening House Group- 7:45pm by Zoom. London Institute of Contemporary Christianity Course- Growing on the Frontline. Session 1- Growing Wherever We Are. [There are more details in the email newsletter].

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-

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you- *James 1:5*.

Father, I need your wisdom to help me make the right decisions in the challenges and choices that will confront me this week. Please pour your wisdom into my heart so that my actions, words and choices will please you and bless those around me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

News for the Church Family-

From Alistair- Thursday Evening House Group-

The next meeting of our Thursday Evening House Group will be on Thursday 15th May at 7:45pm by Zoom. We will be using the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity Course- Growing on the Frontline. This week is Session 1- Growing Wherever We Are. Everyone is very welcome to join us using the link in the email newsletter.

From Mark Thompson- Christian Aid Week- 11th-17th May 2025- Sponsored bike ride and plant "sale", with refreshments-

This year Christian Aid is appealing for funds to help people in Guatemala. There, a lot of poverty is caused by climate change, which means that they have both droughts and floods. One slogan is "Dying crops means food stops". Christian Aid is working to help them grow crops which are better suited to the new conditions.

The usual fundraising activities will be taking place this year at 81 Forge Fields, Wheelock. The spectator sport, the bike ride, will take place physically at 81 Forge Fields, and virtually in the hills of Wales and Cumbria. 200 kilometres (that's 125 miles – ish), and a lot of hills, all without moving from the spot!

Mark will be riding every day of Christian Aid Week: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from 2:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 a.m.

Each session will be 2-3 hours depending on how fit he is.

Sue and Susie have been working for the last year to nurture plants to add to your gardens, in exchange for donations. And there will be refreshments.

Mark's sponsorship form will be in the foyer at church with some envelopes. He will be happy to accept cash, but you will also be able to give online, and we hope, electronically. More on that next week!

From George Hill- Prom Praise 2025 Wonder-

Anyone who likes a mix of new worship music, classical music, poetry and science, might care to know that Christine and I have thoroughly enjoyed the YouTube recording of "Prom Praise 2025: Wonder".

This is the praise concert that was led by the orchestra of All Souls Langham Place, London at the Royal Albert Hall last Sunday.

I was pointed to it by someone I know who took part. It's really inspiring. It is sponsored by Mercy Ships.

To watch it for free, just Google the phrase 'Prom Praise 2025: Wonder Livestream,' open the first YouTube recording listed (the 3 hour long one), and then skip past the brief advertisement. (If your signal is weak, try at a quiet time of day).

It's long, but you can dip into it at any point to find things that appeal to you. It includes:

- new worship songs from Elle Limebear
- one of Holst's The Planets and other classical pieces celebrating the wonder of creation.
- lots of astronomy, interviews with top scientists, even Apollo 8
- street hymns rap from Mitchell West, and a Big Brother finalist
- great traditional hymns
- quite stunning poetry from Glen Scrivener
- hymn-writer-singer Andrew Peterson
- testimony from Butch Willmore, the astronaut recently trapped on the International Space Station for 9 months, etc. etc. Enjoy!

From George Hill- Tek Ura ('At The Bridge') update-

Thanks again for further donations of £40 to our Tek Ura Albania support! At the supporters' Zoom meeting on Tuesday, I heard about the following that will interest you and help our prayers for the Lord's work in Tiranë and Durres, Albania.

1. Visitors from seven UK churches travelled to Tek Ura last week. They visited some of the vulnerable people being helped. One lady whom they met lives in a shack built entirely from discarded doors!
2. 'Sensory Bible Cells' is a project creating a cell group for families and children with complex needs.
3. The embassies of four countries (UK, Slovenia, Slovakia, and China) have approached Tek Ura about recycling their cans and bottles - perhaps leading to a new social enterprise and/or income stream in Tiranë?
4. Income for 2025 is ahead of actual expenses at this point, but short of what Tek Ura hoped to budget for. The staff (mostly physiotherapists) have taken no inflation wage increase this year.
5. Tek Ura is also thinking about how they could help churches in the UK to connect with Albanians who live in the UK.
6. We give thanks that the land purchase to expand the project in Durres now has all the right paperwork, but it is still held up by legal delays and an election about to happen.
7. The UK branch of the Tek Ura charity, 'At The Bridge' (which is what Tek Ura means) is now waiting for Charity Commission registration approval.
8. The 10th anniversary event of Tek Ura will be on 28th February 2026. Venue (somewhere central) to be decided. Perhaps we could send a carload?

From Unity Methodist Church, Sandbach- Christian Aid-

Unity Methodist Church has the following activities to raise money for Christian Aid:

Saturday 10th May- Coffee Morning in the Wesley Centre, 10:00am-12:00 Noon, with bacon sandwiches, a raffle and the usual home-made cakes.

Monday 19th May- Coffee Morning at New Horizons, Wheelock, 10:00-12:00 Noon.

Saturday 14th June- Evening Concert with Rob Glassonbury (Piano and Baritone), Lynne Ashmore (flute and Alto) and Karen Foster (harp and soprano), at 7:00pm. This will be a mix of light classical, folk and easy listening jazz/swing, instrumental and vocal items.

And finally....

I got a new job as a Traffic Warden. I've completed the basic training. Thought to myself, 'That's just the ticket!'

Contacts-

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