



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 18th May 2025

Message from Alistair-

Most of us have had dealings with HMRC at some point or another. According to their website, 'HMRC has a vital purpose: they collect the money that pays for the UK's public services, and help families and individuals with targeted financial support. They do this by being impartial and increasingly effective and efficient in their administration. They help the honest majority to get their tax right and make it hard for the dishonest minority to cheat the system.'

Collecting taxes in the first century was different. Matthew was a tax collector. And like many others at the time, he was probably as crooked as a corkscrew. The system of taxation lent itself to corruption and tax collectors were proverbially rich and fanatically hated. Not only did they fleece you, they worked for the hated oppressors the Romans. Everyone kept their distance from Matthew. Everyone that is except Jesus.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him- Matthew 9:9.

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners- Matthew 9:10. And during the evening the door opens, and an icy breeze blows in. Enter the Pharisees- the legal experts, the religious police, the disapproving faultfinders. They asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill'- Matthew 9:11-12.

The Pharisees were unhealthy and self-righteous. But since they did not think they were sick, they saw no need for Jesus. Matthew and his friends, on the other hand, made room for Jesus. As a result, Jesus made room for them.

Our Service- Sunday 18th May 25-

Our service on Sunday 18th May will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It is an all-age service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart. The Bible readings are Luke 24:36-49 and Acts 3:12-19 and the theme of the service is 'What we believe'.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 18th May 25-

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

Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis. Sue, Alison and Chris F 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. A series of short one-off studies- for information about a particular week please contact Mark Thompson.

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-

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it- *Psalms 24:1*.

Father, the whole earth is Yours, and everything in it! The world and all its people belong to You- including the people of Sandbach. May they understand the depth of Your love for them today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

News for the Church Family-

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 have been taking place this year at 81 Forge Fields, Wheelock. The spectator sport, the bike ride, has taken 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 has been riding every day of Christian Aid Week and has two further sessions- Friday from 10:00am and Saturday from 2:00 pm.

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.

From Sue Thompson- Christian Aid week-

Just a quick note to say that I will have plants as part of the fundraising activities for Christian Aid week available in the school car park after the service this Sunday. Thank you.

From Unity Methodist Church, Sandbach- Christian Aid-

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

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 left my phone under my pillow last night. When I woke up it was gone and there was a pound coin there. I think it was the Bluetooth Fairy!

Contacts-

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