



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

## **Message from Alistair-**

There was an article in 'Country Living' magazine about gratitude. And it said, 'Being grateful helps us feel positive emotions, relive happy memories, and improve our overall mental health. Even on bad days, we can find a way to dig deeper and discover something for which to be thankful.' The article also included some quotes about gratitude. For instance this one from A.A. Milne's "Winnie-the-Pooh"-

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude!"

God notices a grateful heart. And the phrase "Give thanks to the Lord" is a common call to worship and gratitude found throughout the Bible, particularly in the Psalms. And perhaps when we fail to give thanks it can affect us more than we might think.

But what about the days when we feel that everything is falling apart and the nights when we can't sleep? Are we still grateful then?

The familiar words from the Bible we often use at communion remind us that Jesus was. Paul writes, 'On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you." 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.

It's not often you see the words *betrayed* and *thanks* in the same sentence, much less in the same heart. In the midst of the darkest night of the human soul, Jesus found a time and a way to give thanks. Anyone can thank God in the light; Jesus teaches us to thank God in the night. And bear in mind that it's one thing to be grateful, but it's another thing to give thanks. Gratitude is what you feel. Thanksgiving is what you do.

## **Our Service- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 25-**

Our service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 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 9:1-12 and the sermon title is "I am the Light of the World".

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

## **Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 25-**

**Sunday-** Farm Picnic and Open-Air Service at the farm of Janet and Mike Wright in Nantwich- 12:30pm onwards, with a service led by George Hill. [See notice later in the newsletter].

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

**Tuesday-** Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis. Alison, Chris F and Jo 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 Psalm- Host Howard.

**Thursday-** Churches Together in Sandbach Quarterly Meeting- 7:30pm at The Wesley Centre

**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-**

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth- *1 John 3:18*.

Father, please forgive me when I've allowed my love for others to remain just a matter of words. Please give me the opportunity this week to bless others with a kind deed, a gracious action or in loving service. And help me to demonstrate my love for others in the same way my Saviour did. Amen.

### **News for the Church Family-**

#### **From George Hill- Farm Picnic and Open-Air Service- Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>-**

We have again been kindly invited, weather permitting, to hold a summer OUTDOOR service at the farm of Janet and Mike Wright in Nantwich.

We will meet for a picnic at the farm, any time from 12:30pm onward, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June (i.e., leaving after our morning service).

Please offer lifts to those without transport.

Please bring a chair if this is easy for you. The afternoon will then be for relaxing and chatting, with an optional country walk (with appropriate footwear, as there may be stiles).

There will be a short open-air service at approx. 3:30pm.

Please bring your own lunch.

After the service, Janet will be providing hot pork and turkey baps and a veggie option for tea, and she says can a few people (not too many) bring some kind of sweet please.

Directions are in the email newsletter.

#### **From George Hill- Friends of A Rocha and other friends nature walk- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July-**

All are welcome on our next nature walk of the summer, around Hamletts, Filter Bed Wood and Offley Wood.

Please meet at Sandbach Crosses at 2:30pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, weather permitting.

Please have reasonable footwear. Not suitable for buggies. No unaccompanied under-18s and all walkers at personal risk.

#### **From George Hill- Messages for the Newsletter-**

When Alistair leaves at the end of August, we expect to continue producing the familiar Newsletter (it may or may not be weekly).

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels they could write one or more short devotional messages of around 300 words [like the ones Alistair has always composed] for inclusion in a future edition of the newsletter. It would be helpful to have a few of these messages readily available.

Even if you feel you're not as active as you once were and can't serve in the ways you used to, this may be something you feel you could do. And I'd love to hear from you because you may well have a wealth of spiritual wisdom that can bless and encourage us.

This request may seem early, but I suspect you may like time to reflect and pray before starting to put words down.

I will edit contributions purely for consistency, and they can be emailed or handwritten. I can include your name with your message, or leave it off if that is what you prefer.

Please let me know if you would like to take part or want any further information.

### **From Laurie Northam- a Poem-**

At the moment we are looking at the 'I am' sayings of Jesus on Sunday mornings. Here is a poem I wrote about them-

I Am- Gospel of John

'I am the bread of life', Christ said,  
To feed you every day.  
You'll never go hungry with this meal  
Of "The Word" and all I say.

'I am the light of the world', Christ said,  
I will always light your way.  
No more will you stumble in darkness  
My light's there come what may.

'I am the good shepherd', said Christ,  
My sheep they know my voice.  
As I know my Father and he knows me  
To be mine is your own choice.

'I am the gate for the sheep', Christ said,  
All who go through have my care.  
You'll have my protection and pasture  
Eternal life for you will be there.

'I am the vine', Christ said,  
The branches are what you are.  
God prunes away the dead wood  
So your yield gets better each year.

'I am the resurrection and the life', Christ said,  
You don't have to wait for the End.  
Believe in me, though you die, you will live  
On my word, you can depend.

'I am the way, truth and life', Christ said,  
Only way to the Father's through me.

He crafts the words that I teach you  
And the divine acts that you see.

Christ has gone to his Father's house,  
To prepare a place for us.  
Believe in Him and all that He says  
And do it without a fuss.

The only way to our heavenly Father  
Is through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Until he returns to take us Home  
We have his Spirit and God's sacred word.

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

A friend of mine told me he's set up a business washing mice. I thought it was dodgy at first, but then I realised it was squeaky clean!

### **Contacts-**

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