



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 5 October 2025

Reflection for the week

The wisdom of cats – Hilary Forbes

Did you know there is an International Cat Day? This year it was on the 8th August apparently. A day to celebrate cats. There are many cats in my neighbourhood, all much loved and well looked after, and well known to each other. Two of these cats claim the ownership rights to my garden. On International Cat Day around 9am I heard their loud 'discussion' commence. Eventually, after half an hour or so, I decided to go and intervene. There they were, sitting about a couple of feet from one another each having their say. The interesting thing was that they took turns to 'speak' (well perhaps long drawn-out howls might be a better description).

Whatever the real narrative in their verbal exchange, three things stood out to me. One was that they took turns to have their say; the second was that they not once made any aggressive move toward each other; and the third thing was that they were not in a hurry.

Those three aspects of real discussions are so helpful aren't they; taking turns to listen; speaking with compassion in acknowledging one another's views; and taking the time to do so.

As we begin to think and discuss the many decisions that need to be made in the future weeks and months, let's pray for the wisdom of listening, and for not being in a hurry to make decisions but to be prepared to wait, and perhaps adopt a little of the wisdom of cats.

(The cats eventually agreed to share my garden by the way, with my one rule ... that they do not chase my garden birds).

Our Service Sunday 5 October 2025

Our service on Sunday 5 October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). George Hill will be leading the service and guest speaker Joe Jones will be preaching. Joe's theme will be the 'Community of God' Ephesians 3:9-11.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 5 October 2025

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

Tuesday: Tots and Co 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis
Corporate Prayer 6:30pm-7:00pm at Oasis
Encounter with God 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis

Wednesday: Ladies Fellowship 10:30am-12:00noon at Oasis
Wednesday Group 7:30pm-9:00pm at Oasis

Thursday: No House Group this week

Friday: Energize Seniors Small Group 6:45pm-8:15pm at Oasis

Saturday: Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis
Messy Church 'Let's Get Ready... For Harvest Time' 10:30am-12:00noon at Oasis

If you would like to join any of the midweek groups, please contact Bernie and he will put you in touch with the group leader.

A Refrain for the Week

'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.'

Psalm 32:8

News for the Church Family

From the Leadership Team: Corporate Prayer

As announced at the Church Meeting on Monday, all are invited to join in a corporate prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings, specifically to pray for God's guidance in our current situation, including the conclusion of the purchase of Oasis; who we are as a church; and the future process of God's leading in the search for a new Minister.

From Tuesday 7 October, Oasis will be open from 6.30pm, to facilitate this, before proceeding with the usual "Encounter with God" meeting at 7.00pm. Those attending are, as always, very welcome to remain, or leave, as you wish, at this point. We always include a time of silent listening, followed by a time of sharing, which we find very valuable and encouraging. Please consider joining us, as we seek God's will for our future.

From Susie Warburton: **Messy Church** Saturday 11 October

Our next Messy Church Event is 'Let's Get Ready... For Harvest Time' on Saturday 11 October 2025 10:30am-12:00noon at Oasis. We will be having more fun in this Messy Church session, celebrating God's

abundant provision at harvest time. We will be painting, making streamer mobiles and bird food garlands, watching a Bible story video and having snacks together. Please bring along your friends and family; this is a great opportunity to introduce them to God. Admission is free. Everyone is very welcome. Activities are for all ages and abilities. We would also really value your prayers for this event.

From Lynn Mynett: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and Harvest Sunday 19 October

There are just two more weeks until our **Harvest Service** on **Sunday 19 October**, which is when we "harvest" in the MAF boxes. So just a reminder, please to **bring those boxes back at the Harvest service** along with your harvest items, which this year are items for **Sandbach Food Bank** (which exists for people who have no means to buy food) and also for **Sandbach Pantry** (which is for people who have limited income to buy food at the normal retail rates). These are some of the items which are needed:

Sandbach Food Bank

Canned beans (chickpeas, black beans, kidney beans); Canned Tuna; Peanut Butter; Pasta; Pasta sauce; Rice; Oats; Barley; Hearty soup; Stew; Chilli; Small snack items (granola bars, fruit cups, apple sauce); Toiletries (feminine hygiene products, baby diapers). The Food bank is also in need of spare carrier bags.

Sandbach Pantry

The Pantry is currently low on toiletries and is requesting donations of sanitary pads, tampons, shampoo, toothpaste and soap. Also other non-perishable food items such as pasta, sauces, tinned fish and meat, cereal, tinned vegetables, tinned desserts including custard. Tea and Coffee, and toilet rolls.

From Ian Parsons: Warm clothes for refugees

We have been asked if we can help support the refugees at the Chimney House with warm clothes ready for winter. There are currently a lot of families at the Chimney House so we are looking for items (including coats, jackets, scarves, hats and gloves) for all sexes and ages including children.

If you are able to help in any way, please bring along any items to Church on the **next two Sundays** and hand to Ian Parsons or Mark Thompson and we will arrange delivery. This appeal has gone out to all Churches in Sandbach.

From the Leadership Team: Testimonies

It has been suggested that we might all find it encouraging to share some testimonies of how God has been at work in people's lives, both in the fellowship and further afield. Over the years a number of people have shared instances of how God has impacted their life and we have all found it very powerful. If you would like to share a testimony of how God has worked in your life, in however large or small a way, please let Andrea know and we can include it in the newsletter (or if you prefer you can speak about it at the front of church on a Sunday morning).

For information

Dan and Annie Dupree (Tek Ura ministry) have an article in the featured stories section of the Baptist Union of Great Britain's (BUGB) 'Faith and Society Update' for October called *'From Albania to*

Bedfordshire: how global mission is shaping local church growth. You can read it on the BUGB website at this [link](#).

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If you have any items for inclusion in the Newsletter please pass these to Andrea Jones by 9am on Thursdays.