



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 19 October 2025

Reflection for the week

Salt! – Andrea Jones

I was rummaging around in the kitchen cupboards the other day and was a bit horrified by the amount of salt packets I have managed to accumulate! I must admit I love salt! ... and I always have an emergency sachet in my handbag. Chips drenched in salt are my guilty pleasure for sure!

Jesus tells us that we are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). Of course salt is both a preserver and a seasoner so I guess he’s calling us to preserve and to season the message of Truth. The message of Truth is His and He is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8) ... so as salt of the earth we can help to protect His message of Truth and we can season it; bring it alive; and make it taste good.

Sometimes that can be hard and we are tempted to use our spiritual salt-pot sparingly because we don’t want to draw attention to the message or because we’re not sure where or how to sprinkle our salt. I think though that we just have to keep lightly sprinkling as we go about our daily life; our presence here; a word of truth and encouragement there; a small act of kindness; a show of concern; a voice of support ... and then leave it to Jesus to let the taste of His love permeate our world.

Let’s see if we can season our world with the love of Jesus this week!

If you would like to share a reflection in the newsletter, please do get in touch with Andrea.

Our Service Sunday 19 October 2025

Our service on Sunday 19 October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be the **Harvest All Age Service** led by the All Age Team.

You are invited to bring any harvest gifts to this service and this year they will be donated to the **Sandbach Food Bank** and the **Sandbach Pantry** (see below for details). If you have **MAF boxes**, please also bring these along with you.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 19 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 House Party at Cae Canol Friday 5pm-Sunday 6pm

Saturday: Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am 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

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:6

News for the Church Family

From George Hill: Harvest Social Saturday 18 October

Please do come along to our Harvest Social at Oasis Saturday 18 October 3.00pm-5.30pm, with food at 4.45pm. The afternoon will include a Beetle Drive and Quizzies! Please do invite your friends along.

All donations/proceeds will go to support the Angel Tree project which provides Christmas presents to children on behalf of their fathers or mothers in prison.

From the Leadership: Harvest Sunday 19 October Harvest Gifts and MAF Boxes

This year our harvest gifts will again be donated to the **Sandbach Food Bank** (which exists for people who have no means to buy food) and also the **Sandbach Pantry** (which is for people who have limited income to buy food at the normal retail rates). Both are very grateful for any harvest gifts you are able to donate. Please bring your gifts along to the Service on Sunday 19 October and there will be tables at the front of the hall where we will be making a harvest display.

These are the items which are most needed:

Tinned Meat and Meals
Tinned Tuna
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Potatoes
Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Soup
Tinned Baked Beans
Tinned Spaghetti Hoops
Pasta (any type)
Pasta Sauce
Long Grain Rice
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Custard
Tinned Rice Pudding
Biscuits
Tea Bags
Instant Coffee
UHT Milk
Long Life Fruit Juice
Shampoo
Shower Gel
Soap
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Sanitary Towels
Shopping Bags

We will also be "harvesting" the **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) money boxes** so please don't forget to bring along your MAF box if you have one you.

From Susie Warburton: Food Handling

If you cook or bake lovely, tasty goodies for church events, thank you! Please do come along to a short (10-15 minutes) briefing at Oasis on food handling. This is to help us to handle food safely, both in Oasis and when making food in our own kitchens to bring to social events.

Contact Susie Warburton for details and to arrange a time to get together.

From Mary King: Funeral and Celebration of Michael's Life Wednesday 29 October

Michael's Funeral and Celebration of Life will take place at Crewe Crematorium at 1.45pm on Wednesday 29 October and afterwards at Sandbach Rugby Club (where there is plenty of parking).

Michael's preferred dress code for his celebration is smart casual. NO BLACK please (except for trousers) and no black ties. The undertakers will be wearing blue ties, so blue would be good if you have one, but if not anything but black please. We both blamed Queen Victoria for the black tradition but neither of us like it! Your love and respect is shown by your presence and not what you wear!

From the Leadership Team: Shoebox Packing Day Saturday 1 November

Just a reminder that help packing the shoeboxes with all the wonderful donations you have made would be most welcome on **Saturday 1 November 10.00am – 12noon** at Oasis.

And in case you are still thinking of donating items, we are still short of:

- Sweets (small packets dated after June 2026)
- Washbags
- Boys' gloves

Thank you! Any queries speak to Chris Nash.

From Mark Thompson: Amnesty International Write for Rights

Every year around this time, people across the world write letters for those whose human rights are being attacked; people who've been harassed, threatened and unjustly jailed. Amnesty International has been running this campaign – called Write for Rights – for over twenty years now, and at SBC we take part by writing two kinds of letters; one to the authorities to ask them to change things; and one to the victims of human rights abuses to assure them of our concern and support.

This year we are meeting on **Monday 17 November** at **6.30pm** at **Oasis**. We will share a simple meal and then get down to work! All materials will be provided – information, addresses, sample letters so you don't have to be clever with words! Neat writing helps – or bring your laptop!

Does it work? ... Amnesty says "Yes! Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. People wrongfully imprisoned are released. Abusers are brought to justice. And people in prison are treated more humanely".

Please book the date and join us this year. Speak to Mark Thompson for more information.

Testimonies of God's Work

As mentioned over the last couple of weeks, 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 so this week we would like to share a testimony from the Healing Rooms:

"A lady who visited had been diagnosed with cancer and was told that she would need two operations, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. She received prayer, and despite the prognosis found herself frequently full of the Lord's joy after meditating on the scripture she had been given; 'May the God of hope fill you with all peace and joy as you trust in Him.' (Romans 15:13). She had the first operation, but when she returned for the second liver scan result, she was told that all signs of cancer in the liver had gone. The surgeon twice said, 'This is most unusual'. He was also puzzled that the cancer cells taken from the first operation biopsy 'had changed'. She was discharged free of cancer and with no more operations or chemotherapy required."

Brian Chamberlain notes that David Tee in his book *The Miraculous Workings of God* comments that “the power of seeing, and then sharing stories of God’s healing power and provision, lifts the expectancy amongst the people” so may this testimony be an encouragement to us all to be an expectant people.

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).

Church Contact:

Bernie Williams (Elder): 07966 202913 [Church mobile]

Please note that Bernie will be away Thursday 16 October – Sunday 19 October so Susie Warburton will be holding the Church Mobile in his absence.