



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 9 November 2025

Reflection for the week

The Unknown Warrior – Andrea Jones

The grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey contains the remains of an unidentified British serviceman.

The story goes that on 7 November 1920, in the strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. One of the bodies was randomly selected and the other three were reburied.

The body which had been selected was placed in a specially designed oak coffin and taken by horse-drawn carriage to the quayside at Boulogne, to the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls, and from there, on the HMS Verdun, to Dover. On arrival at Dover the Unknown Warrior was given a nineteen-gun salute before a special train conveyed the coffin to London, and on the morning of 11 November 1920 it was taken to Westminster Abbey. Its final resting place.

The idea was attributed to Padre David Railton who had served on the front line during the First World War. It was his intention that the relatives of the warriors whose bodies had never been identified (who numbered over half a million) could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their relative; their lost husband, son, brother, father.

As time has gone by, and more conflicts have happened, the grave has become a symbol of remembrance for all those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts, and a symbol of gratitude and humility for their sacrifice. To this day anyone proceeding along the central aisle at Westminster Abbey has to walk around the grave so that this reminder of sacrifice is never forgotten.

May it also be a reminder that we must never cease our endeavours to spread peace and reconciliation.

Our Service Sunday 9 November 2025

Our service on Sunday 9 November will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be a remembrance day service led by Rev Jennie Wakefield. The preacher will be George Hill who will be continuing with our theme of Old Testament characters, and this week he will be looking at Jacob. Genesis 32: 3-12 and 22-32. The service will include Communion.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 9 November 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 7:30-9.00pm at Oasis

Thursday: No House Group this week

Friday: No Energize meeting this week

Saturday: Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis
Jerusalem and Bethlehem Slide Show 3:00pm at Oasis [See below]

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

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Extract from 'For the Fallen' Laurence Binyon, 1914

News for the Church Family

From George Hill: Jerusalem & Bethlehem Slides fundraising for Albania Saturday 15 November

All are welcome to a slideshow by George Hill, who is revisiting the images from his tour of the Holy Land in 2014.

The show is free and donations will be invited towards the TEK URA ('At The Bridge') mission project in Albania, supported by Sandbach Baptist Church and directed by Dan and Annie Dupree, formerly of BMS. More on TEK URA can be found via Google or <https://tekura.squarespace.com/en/who-we-are>.

The slideshow will follow George and Christine's five days there, travelling through the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane; Mount Zion, Ein Karem and Emmaus; the Old City, the Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the Shepherd's Fields and the Church of the Nativity; Siloam, the Western Wall and the original Temple Mount steps; the Garden Tomb; Qumran, Masada and the Dead Sea; Bethany and Jericho. (NB - future instalment: Galilee...).

There is not and perhaps never will be a 'good' time to go to the Holy Land. George and Christine arrived only three weeks after the rockets stopped falling in the Second Intifada. Go if you can! But if not, this might be a good way to gain an early flavour of Christmas ...

The Slideshow will be held at the **Oasis** starting at **3.00pm on Saturday 15th November** (to allow a return home near dusk). No need to book - unless you plan to bring a party!

There will be some finger buffet refreshments. Offers of more contributions to Christine, please. Contact: George Hill or Christine Hill. Or email corresp.sbc@gmail.com.

From the Leadership Team: Notices of combined SBC Special Church Members' Meeting and Annual Church Members' Meeting on the same evening Monday 24 November 2025

Dear SBC Member or Friend

This comprises the Notices of two forthcoming meetings on the same evening.

On Monday 24 November at Oasis, 36 Green Street, there will be a brief SBC Special Church Members' Meeting at 7:30pm, followed immediately by our SBC Annual Church Members' Meeting at approx. 7:45pm. Non-members are very welcome to attend but may not vote.

The Special Church Meeting is necessary for us to approve the letting of the manse during the pastoral vacancy.

The Annual Church Members' Meeting will include a secret ballot to elect or re-elect any new Trustees who were nominated by Sunday 9 November.

The following papers for the ACM will be sent by email, or will be delivered personally if necessary:

1. Combined Agenda, including the names of the candidate or candidates for election.
2. Annual Church Meeting financial statement.
3. Minutes for approval of the Ordinary Church Meeting on Monday 29th September.
4. Safeguarding Policy statement that will be read at the church AGM.
5. Written Group Reports for the year from the church's various groups and activities.

Please attend if you can, because if this meeting is not quorate we would have to call another Special Church Meeting, which would reduce potential income from letting the manse. Thank you.

Yours warmly in Christ Jesus

The Church Leadership Team

From Ian Parsons: Appeal for winter clothes for asylum seekers

Thank you to everyone who has donated winter clothes for the asylum seekers at the Chimney House. We have already taken over 35 bags of clothes, which have been greatly appreciated. Also we are so grateful to our friends Keith and Mavis Watkinson who read about the appeal in the Newsletter and have donated a considerable amount of children's clothes from their local baby bank together with a couple of Buggy's and Moses Baskets. The appeal has now closed.

Testimonies

From the Derby Healing Rooms at Costa, October 2025:

'We prayed for a lady back in November, whose sister lives in Florida. After being sole carer for her dad she was looking forward to her future and the exciting plans she had, only to be diagnosed two days after he died with advanced lung cancer and then subsequently a brain tumour. She did not have the funds for the treatment so the future looked bleak. Her sister [in England] came to us in desperation for a breakthrough. We prayed ... and stood with her for healing for her sister. She came tonight with the wonderful news that after we prayed, firstly the funds came in for initial treatment, but secondly, after a progress scan shortly afterwards, the brain tumour had completely gone and there was just left a dead mass in the lungs that had shrivelled. Total and complete healing. She is now living life to the full! Thank you Jesus for your healing power ... nothing is ever beyond His healing power. The prayer team were celebrating tonight.'

If you have a testimony you would like to share, please let Andrea know.

Church Contact:

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

If you have any items for inclusion in the Newsletter please pass these to Andrea Jones at andrea.jones200@gmail.com by 9am on Thursdays.