



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 1 February 2026**

## **Reflection for the week**

### **Who am I? by Hilary Forbes**

I have three hearts, blue blood and can change colour in the literal blink of an eye. Who am I?

First Clue: not Doctor Who – he only has two hearts.

Second clue: not royalty - they don't really have blue blood.

Third clue: not a fictitious alien in a Star Wars film.

Give up? ... Well the answer is surprising - a cuttlefish! I've provided the link below if you would like to find out more about this amazing creature.

Our planet hosts an extraordinary diversity of life. New species and new varieties of life are still being discovered in the deepest parts of the ocean, in the most difficult almost inaccessible depths of the jungle, in what we might think is the uninhabitable desert, and at the peaks of the highest mountain.

Psalm 148 verses 7 & 10 are a joyful celebration of all the living beings He has created:

'Praise the Lord from the Earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths' (7)  
'wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds' (10)

And Psalm 150 verse 6:

'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord'

God has created each one of us, every person on Earth, past, present and future, to be unique. Being part of a fellowship of believers means being part of celebrating our rich diversity of who we all are. There are people in SBC of every age who may not yet realise how unique they are, or what gift or part they have in our fellowship. Let us encourage one another to celebrate our rich diversity of people. Let us be a place where we can encourage one another to explore the gifts, ministries, yet unrealised or undiscovered, and to be whom we have been uniquely created to be.

Ephesians 2 verse 10 reminds us:

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do'

[https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/marine-animals/cuttlefish-facts?utm\\_source=nautilus.beehiiv.com&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=this-animal-can-change-colors-in-0-2-seconds&\\_bhlid=92c755420b15cd2152b99eb5ac1de507f924103c](https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/marine-animals/cuttlefish-facts?utm_source=nautilus.beehiiv.com&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=this-animal-can-change-colors-in-0-2-seconds&_bhlid=92c755420b15cd2152b99eb5ac1de507f924103c)

## **Our Service Sunday 1 February 2026**

Our service on **Sunday 1 February** will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). The service will focus on the work of Healing Rooms and will be led by Brian Chamberlain. The speaker will be Rev Paul Entwistle and Paul's theme will be 'Pressing into God for what He has for you' using Mark 5:21-34.

## **Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 1 February 2026**

**Sunday:** Start of the Bible Reading Week.

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

**Tuesday:** Tots and Co 9:30am-11:30am 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:** House Group 7:45pm by Zoom [Contact Ian Parsons for further details]

**Friday:** Energize Games Night 6:45pm-8:45pm at the School

**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**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

## **News items**

### **From George Hill: Bible Reading Week 1-7 February 2026**

Our church Bible Reading Week starts this Sunday 1 February! As Christians, all of us are encouraged to put our roots deep into God's Word, the Bible, and so we are continuing the practice we started a couple of years ago, of devoting one week to more focused Bible reading.

Jesus told the Jews: 'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.' [John 6:39-40 (NIV)]. Let us search the Scriptures in a way the Jews did not, open to Christ's message and work in our lives. We invite you all to discover and hear for yourself what the Bible has to tell us today, by choosing each day one or more from the following selection:

- 1) One chapter from the Gospels.
- 2) One chapter from elsewhere in the New Testament.
- 3) One Old Testament chapter.
- 4) One Psalm or sometimes Proverbs chapter.
- 5) Pot Pourri! Perhaps a famous or familiar passage.
- 6) One entire short Bible book or part of a longer one - to be read all in one go.

A PDF version of the reading list for the Week will be sent out in an email today and I will have paper copies of it available at the service on Sunday for those who prefer that. Also, if anyone needs an audio MP3 version of a few chapters sent to them by Whatsapp instead, please ask me.

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### **From George Hill: BMS World Day of Prayer**

Many of you saw the map that I showed on Sunday morning with the locations of BMS's workers in Christian mission around the world. We are invited to pray for BMS **this weekend 31 January/1 February**, for the BMS World Day of Prayer.

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### **From George Hill: Alsager Book Emporium**

I need to change the details of our Church Family Events trip to the famous Alsager Book Emporium, which was advertised for **Saturday 7 February**, so if you wanted to go, please contact me.

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### **From Andrea Jones: 'Exploring the future'**

Just a reminder that, as mentioned in previous newsletters, we will be holding a series of 'Exploring the future' meetings, led Rev Neil Brighton (a Transitional Minister with the NWBA) to help us all think about where we are as a church and the things which will be important as we start the process to look for a new minister. These are the dates ... and there will be cake (☺) ... so please do put them on your calendar if you haven't already:

#### **Saturday 14 February 10:00am – 12:00noon at Oasis**

##### **Session One: How are we doing?**

Our first session together will reflect on how we are doing as a fellowship. A healthy church is one that reflects the character and mission of Christ in its worship, community and witness. Our session will explore how we live by faith, live as a community and look to draw others in.

#### **Sunday 22 March 2:30pm – 4:30pm at Oasis**

##### **Session Two: What are our values?**

Our second session will look at the things we value as a church. Those things which give our church its character and vibe. As part of the discussion we will try and identify some key priorities for the future.

## **Monday 30 April 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Oasis**

### **Session Three: What sort of ministry?**

Our third session will dig into the question of what sort of minister(s) might the church need for the future? Partly to identify the core strengths a future minister will need, but also to ask questions about how we balance the need for a pastor, with our desire to reach the community and grow our work with young people.

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### **From Andrea Jones: Prayer Days to support our 'Exploring the future'**

As you know, we are planning to wrap the 'Exploring the future' meetings with a season of focused prayer sessions to fully seek God's direction for us. We held the first one at Oasis on 17 January, and the theme which emerged from that one was that we were a 'building site' and not a 'museum' – a church which had a heart to keep moving forward with God. A couple of us saw the church as a (moving) circle which was a gathering of God's people for worship and communion with Jesus, so that we could then radiate the love of Jesus outwards to the community. It was a lovely time and we would encourage everyone to try to join one of the sessions if you are able. The next one will be on 8 February, and we have now added two more which will be on 11 April and 9 May:

### **Saturday 11 April 9.30-11.30am (ish) Prayer Walk**

This will be an opportunity to pray more broadly for our place in the town (physically and spiritually). We will gather at Oasis after the usual morning prayer gathering, and then we will spend an hour walking (in 1's or 2's) around the streets surrounding Oasis (as we each feel led) praying silently for the areas we pass, the people who live and work there, the town generally etc. We will then reassemble at Oasis around 10:30am for some refreshments and to share anything which we feel has been revealed to us.

### **Saturday 9 May 2:00-4:00pm Time of Quiet and Shared Prayer at Oasis**

This will be a meditative style of prayer at Oasis which will be a further chance to reflect and pray about our future. This will be a mix of quiet personal prayer interspersed with shared prayer slots every half hour, much as we did on 17 January.

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### **From George Hill: TEK URA (Annie and Dan Dupree, Albania)**

Please consider prayerfully whether you can join Christine and me travelling to Leicester on **Saturday 28 February** for the 10th Anniversary celebration day for TEK URA. We have car spaces available. As a fundraising event it costs £25 and will be a long day ... but a number of the Tek Ura staff have travelled over from Albania, which is much further!

And thank you all so much for the generous donations to TEK URA, which have given a good start to our 2026 campaign to fulfil our pledge to our church's main charitable support. More donations can be given directly to me, but if you can Gift Aid, it is better to use our church Stewardship page direct to TEK URA, which is at:

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/sandbachbaptisttekura>

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### **From the Leadership: International World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer this year has been put together by the women of Nigeria and their theme is 'I will give you rest, come'. There will be two services in Sandbach:

### **Friday 6 March 2pm at Oasis and Sunday 8 March 6pm at St Mary's Church**

Please do join us for one or both of these services as we unite with Christians across the globe! We'd be particularly thrilled to see as many people as possible at the one SBC is hosting on the Friday! 😊

### From Christine and George Hill: Energize youth work

We are in serious need of a lady helper for our growing 9's to 13's Junior group at Energize. Please pray if you feel this might be possible for you. It would mean helping out at our Games Nights in the School Hall ONLY once every four weeks, on Friday evening dates that can be agreed, for a time slot from about 6:20pm to 8.30pm.

Fit helpers who are happy to join in games are good, but we welcome anyone. You would not be required to prepare Bible studies but there is opportunity to join in.

### Dates for your 2026 Diary

8 February	Sunday Service guest speaker is NWBA Regional Minister Rev Jane Henderson
8 February	<a href="#">SBC Prayer Session on Zoom 2:00-3:00pm</a>
14 February	<a href="#">Exploring the Future Session 1 10:00am-12:00noon</a>
22 February	Tearfund Hunger Lunch and Quiz
28 February	TEK URA 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Whetstone Baptist Church, Leicester
1 March	Sunday Service guest speaker is Rev Steve Hodgkinson from New Life Congleton
6 March	World Day of Prayer 2pm at Oasis
8 March	Sunday Service guest speaker is NWBA Transitional Minister Rev Neil Brighton
8 March	World Day of Prayer 6pm at St Mary's
14 March	Messy Church
15 March	Mothering Sunday
22 March	Sunday Service guest speaker is Nick Gerrard from Open Doors
22 March	<a href="#">Exploring the Future Session 2 2:30pm-4:30pm</a>
27-29 March	Energize Juniors House Party at Cae Canol
30 March	Quarterly Church Meeting
11 April	<a href="#">SBC Prayer Walk 9:30-11:30am</a>
20 April	<a href="#">Exploring the Future Session 3 7:00pm-9:00pm</a>
9 May	<a href="#">SBC Prayer Session 2:00-4:00pm at Oasis</a>
22 June	Quarterly Church Meeting

### 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 by 9am on Thursdays.