



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 15 February 2026

Reflection for the week

'Jesus - Our Great Hope' by Hilary Forbes

As part of the maths curriculum, students learn about how to work out the probability of an event happening, such as the probability of rolling a six on a dice; whether it might snow on Christmas Day; or the chance of picking a red counter out of a bag with three red counters and five blue ones. There is a probability scale which begins at one end with 'impossible', and finishes at the other end with 'certain', with '50/50' halfway along this scale.

Every year I would ask the question to the students, "what is an event that you think is certain to happen tomorrow?"

The answers were always interesting and one of them was always "the Sun will rise" ... and then there would always be one or two students who would say "but is it absolutely certain the Sun will rise?" ... and there would then be a discussion as to what might prevent it, which usually included various cosmic phenomena as well as alien invasions! It was interesting that in the minds of these young people, even though it was extremely likely that the Sun *would* rise the next day, there was, in their minds, the possibility it might not. Young people are deep thinkers, with many questions and uncertainties that they don't always know who to trust to talk with about.

Hebrews 13:8 gives us the reassuring message that,

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever'

In a world of uncertainties, let us hold onto this great truth, not only in times when we have storms and difficult times in our lives, but equally when our circumstances are easier, and our lives are relatively comfortable. Not one of us knows what is around the corner, and situations can change in an instant, but, if we remember to cling to the truth that, as the writer in Hebrews reminds us in Chapter 13 verse 5,

"... He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you",

then we can face each day rooted in the love and grace and living hope that our wonderful Friend and Saviour longs for us to know the depth of. Let us also be ready to give a reason for this great hope within us to all the people in our lives; family, friends, and those whom we encounter as we go about our days.

Our Service Sunday 15 February 2026

Our service on **Sunday 15 February** will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). The service will be an All Age Service and the theme will be 'A light bulb moment' Matthew 17:1-9.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 15 February 2026

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

Tuesday: Tots and Co closed this week for half term
Funeral of Harold Jinks 12:15pm at Crewe Crematorium
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: 'Loved' by Jon Swales

Loved
Extravagantly,
Unconditionally,
Irrevocably.

You have always been loved,
You are loved right now,
And you always will be.

A love that will not let you go,
Self-giving,
Sacrificial,
A love that looks like Jesus.

A love entwined with kindness,
A love enveloped in mercy,
A love that brings forth healing.

Loved
Extravagantly,
Unconditionally,
Irrevocably.

News items

From the Leadership: 'Exploring the future'

Our first 'Exploring the future' meeting is happening **Saturday 14 February!** This is the first of three meetings which Rev Neil Brighton (a Transitional Minister with the NWBA) is leading for us. These will 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. Here is a bit more detail about the first meeting:

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

Session One: How are we doing?

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." Hebrews 10:24

The purpose of this first session is to reflect together on *how we're doing as a church community* using Robert Warren's **Seven Marks of a Healthy Church**. A healthy church isn't simply one that's busy or well-attended; it's one that reflects the character and mission of Christ in its worship, relationships, and witness.

Warren's prompts are not about evaluation alone - they are about vision, discernment, and encouragement. Working through them will help us to grow in spiritual vitality and missional clarity; to develop fresh insight, renewed purpose, and gently name areas where God may be calling us to grow.

Everyone is welcome to come along (you don't have to be a church member or a long-time member) ... and **there will be cake!**

The next sessions will be held on:

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 20 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.

From George Hill and Ian Parsons: Tearfund Hunger Lunch and QUIZ Sunday 22 February

On Sunday 22 February, there will be no tea or coffee served after the service. Instead, we will be holding our annual **Tearfund Hunger Lunch at Oasis at about 1:00pm**. ALSO again this year, during and after the lunch, we have a special attraction, as Ian will again be running the **Tearfund Big QUIZ** for us! You will receive a lunch of soup and bread rolls, so that you can donate the money you would otherwise have spent on Sunday dinner to Tearfund.

We would be very grateful if promises to make soup and provide bread could be given to Christine Hill before the day, as it is difficult when people only tell us what they are bringing at the last minute. Thank you.

Dates for your 2026 Diary

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| 28 February | TEK URA 10 th 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 | Exploring the Future Session 2 2:30pm-4:30pm |
| 27-29 March | Energize Juniors House Party at Cae Canol |
| 30 March | Quarterly Church Meeting |
| 2 April | Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm at Oasis |
| 5 April | SBC Easter Day Service 10:30am at the School |
| 11 April | SBC Prayer Walk 9:30-11:30am |
| 18 April | TEK URA Fundraising Slideshow with George Hill |
| 20 April | Exploring the Future Session 3 7:00pm-9:00pm |
| 9 May | SBC Prayer Session 2:00-4:00pm at Oasis |
| 10 May | Christian Aid Sunday |
| 24 May | Pentecost |
| 6-7 June | Visit of Dan & Annie Dupree from TEK URA |
| 20 June | Messy Church |
| 21 June | Father's Day |
| 22 June | Quarterly Church Meeting |

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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.