



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 22 March 2026**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

## **Reflection for the week**

### **Lent Week 5: 'Earth – a different view' by Hilary Forbes**

In a month or so, for the first time since 1972, a crew of four astronauts will be launched towards the Moon for a ten-day journey. The mission is called Artemis II (Artemis was the sister of Apollo in Greek mythology). They will orbit the Moon several times but not land (that is planned for Artemis III in 2028). The first astronauts to orbit the Moon was in 1968. On Christmas Eve that year the Apollo 8 crew read the first ten verses of Genesis chapter one to the listening world. This was broadcast as part of their Christmas message along with the images of the Earth rising over the horizon of the Moon. This view so profoundly impacted the astronauts, that later, astronaut Bill Anders reflected, "We came all this way to explore the Moon, and the most important thing is, that we discovered the Earth." (Bill Anders, Apollo 8, 1968).

The Moon is the most distant desolate place that any human being has ever been to. Yet every astronaut has testified that their eyes were constantly drawn to gaze at our beautiful planet Earth. They came back with a deep awareness of its fragility, this, our 'home', an oasis in a vast unknown universe of countless numbers of stars and galaxies.

This new shift in our perspective of Earth, directly influenced the founding of many organisations, including 'Greenpeace' (1971), 'Friends of the Earth' (1969) and the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972).

As we encounter our own wildernesses, including those we have been reflecting on over the last few weeks, let us ask the Lord to refresh our spirits and emerge as Jesus did in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14). Let our perspective be changed, let us experience a deeper awareness of his presence, and let us pray for new ways of being good stewards of our beautiful and sacred home planet – Earth.

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it"  
(Psalm 24:1)

## Our Service Sunday 22 March 2026

Our service on Sunday 22 March will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). The service will be led by Bernie Williams and the speaker will be Nick Gerrard from Open Doors, who will be talking about Open Doors' ministry to those suffering persecution in the underground church.

## Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 22 March 2026

**Sunday:** 'Exploring the Future' Session 2: 2.30pm-4:30pm at Oasis

**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:** No meeting of Energize

**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

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord.  
'As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts'.

Isaiah 55:8-9

## News of the Church Family

A reminder that the funeral of George Bayliss will take place at 2pm on Monday 30 March at St Peter's Church, Elworth. Afterwards there will be a reception at Oasis.

## News items

### **From Andrea Jones: 'Exploring the Future' Sunday 22 March 2:30-4:30pm at Oasis**

This will be the second of the three sessions being led by Rev Neil Brighton (Transitional Minister with the NWBA), to help us on the path of appointing a new minister. The focus of this one will be 'What are our values?' and so we will be looking at the things we value as a church, including 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.

Anyone in the fellowship is welcome to come along - you don't need to be a member. The sessions are very relaxed, sat around tables with tea and cake, and we would love as many people as possible to join with us.

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### **From George Hill: SBC Quarterly Ordinary Church Members' Meeting Monday 30 March 2026**

Date of Notice: 19 March 2026

Dear SBC Member or Friend,

This is the Notice of our quarterly SBC Ordinary Church Members' Meeting on Monday 30th March at Oasis at 7:30pm. Non-members are very welcome to attend but may not vote.

The following papers will be sent in a further email, or will be delivered personally if necessary:

1. The Agenda.
2. The Ordinary Church Meeting financial statement.
3. The minutes of previous meetings to be approved.

Yours warmly in Christ Jesus

George Hill  
Church Secretary

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### **From Rev Sue Thompson: Maundy Thursday Service 2 April 7:30pm at Oasis**

In the Maundy Thursday service this year, we will remember the story of the Passover night, during which Jesus ate his final supper with the disciples. We will read and reflect on the events of that night and then play our own part in the story as we share bread and wine around his table. There will be music and singing, readings, prayers and reflection time.

Please come and join us for this gentle service of remembrance.

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## Dates for your Diary

30 March	Quarterly Church Meeting 7:30pm at Oasis
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 meeting at Oasis
18 April	TEK URA Fundraising Slideshow with George Hill
19 April	<i>A Rocha Fine Trees Circuit Walk around the town centre 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>
20 April	Exploring the Future Session 3 7:00pm-9:00pm at Oasis
9 May	SBC Prayer Session 2:00-4:00pm at Oasis
10 May	Christian Aid Sunday
17 May	<i>A Rocha Filter Bed Wood Trail Nature Stroll 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>
24 May	Pentecost Sunday
6 June	Summer Social Evening Fundraising for TEK URA 6-9pm at Oasis
6-7 June	Visit of Dan & Annie Dupree from TEK URA
20 June	Messy Church 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis
21 June	Father's Day
22 June	Quarterly Church Meeting 7:30pm at Oasis
28 June	<i>A Rocha St Mary's Dell, Dingle Wood and Park Nature Stroll 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>
26 July	<i>A Rocha Brook Wood to Wheelock Nature Stroll 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>

## 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.