



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 10 May 2026

Reflection for the week

The great cloud of witnesses by Hilary Forbes

This week sees the peak of the 'Eta Aquariids' meteor shower. Peaking in the early hours of the morning of 7 May but continuing well into mid-May. It is so named because the meteors appear to come from an area of sky near to the brightest star 'Eta Aquarii' in the constellation of Aquarius. Meteors come from the dusty tail of comets which continue to orbit the sun long after the comet has passed by. As Earth passes through these cometary tails, Earth gets showered with pebble-sized to sand grain-sized particles. As they fall through our atmosphere the friction of air creates enough heat to cause a bright streak of light sixty or so miles above us. These are what we have come to know as shooting stars. This week's meteor shower is from Halley's Comet, which last visited our skies in 1986, and is due to visit again in 2061.

Many people pass through our lives, some stay our whole lives, others pass by, and of course some sadly pass on, and we grieve. Like shooting stars from a comet, many who have passed through our lives have lit up our own journeys by their burning bright faith. Those particles of their love and wisdom shine again in our memories and hearts as shooting stars, sudden bright flashes of inspiration from kind words or deeds remembered.

In Hebrews chapter eleven, the writer gives a long list of individuals whose faith bore the intense heat of their adverse circumstances and shone brightly as testimony to the faithfulness and love of God.

If you see a shooting star this week, let it be a reminder of all those who brighten and have brightened our lives with their love and faithfulness.

The writer of Hebrews says,

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 10 May 2026

Our service on Sunday 10 May will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be led by Brendan Bowles and the speaker will be Rev Sue Thompson. Sue's theme will be 'Go forth and tell ...' and her texts will be John 20:19-22 and Matthew 28:16-20.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 10 May 2026

Sunday – Saturday:	Christian Aid Week (see below for how you can get involved)
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 Bible Study Group 7:30pm at Oasis
Thursday:	No House Group this week
Friday:	No meeting of Energize this week
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

I love you, Lord and I lift my voice
To worship you, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what you hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Words from the chorus by Marantha! Praise Band

News items

From Mark Thompson: **Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2026**

What's going on?

The usual fundraising activities will be taking place this year at **81 Forge Fields**. Mark will be riding his bike every day in the French Pyrenees:

Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from 2:00pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00am.

Sue and Susie have been carefully nurturing bedding and tomato plants for your gardens, in exchange for donations, so please come and browse the stock!

Refreshments will be served on the drive. Come along and enjoy a cuppa as you cheer on the cyclist!

What's it for?

This year Christian Aid is appealing for funds to help people in Dagoretti, a settlement in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. There, many parents wake each morning knowing they must earn money that day and if they do not, their children may not eat that night. It's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face. Fridah Moraa is a recently widowed grandmother and the sole provider for her family. Rent, school costs, water and food all depend on what she can earn. The pressure is constant. You can read more about her story [here](#).

How can you give?

Donation envelopes will be available at church, and in Oasis. You can also give electronically, and online [here](#).

How can you help?

Sue would be grateful for a bit of help to serve drinks and biscuits during the week, and possibly to push envelopes and leaflets through the doors in Forge Fields on Saturday 9 May. Please let her know if you can be available.

From George Hill: Nature walk for friends of A Rocha and other friends Sunday 17 May

All are welcome on my next accompanied nature walk of the summer, exploring the Hamletts and Filter Bed Wood Trail.

Please meet at Sandbach Crosses at 2:30pm on Sunday 17 May, weather permitting. Please have reasonable footwear. Not suitable for buggies. No unaccompanied under 18s. All walkers join at their own personal risk.

From Andrea Jones: Newsletter for next week

Just to let you know that the Newsletter for next week will be another double one (because I'll be away on holiday – again!) to cover the week beginning 17 May and the week beginning 24 May. So if you have any items which need to be included, please let me have them by 9am on Thursday 14 May.

Many thanks.

Dates for your Diary

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 6.00-9.00pm 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>
2 August	Low mobility stroll and picnic in Crewe Park – after morning service
6 September	Picnic and walk at Tittesworth Reservoir – after morning service
19 September	Shoebox Transport Fundraising Event 10:00am-12:00noon at Oasis
28 September	Quarterly Church Meeting 7:30pm at Oasis

Church Contact:

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If you have any items for inclusion in the Newsletter please pass these to Andrea Jones by 9am on Thursdays.