



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 17 May and Sunday 24 May 2026**

## **A Reflection**

### **"With all your heart" by Hilary Forbes**

Who invented the steam engine?

Clue: it was not James Watt.

It was a man called Thomas Newcomen. He was born in 1664. He was a Christian and a Baptist. He became the leader of a community of Christians at Dartmouth after 1710, and he opened part of his home as a meeting place for them. He was a man of great faith. Thomas built up his ironmonger's business in the mid 1680's and, along with his assistant John Calley – also a Christian and Baptist - set about designing a piston-steam engine able to raise water from the coal and ores mines much more efficiently than other methods were at the time. The deeper the mine shafts, the greater the risk of flooding from groundwater seeping in.

Up until his invention the draining of water from mines, so that working conditions were safe, was hard labour for both men and horses.

Thomas' work and invention cannot be separated from his faith. He was a deeply devout man who considered his work and business ventures from his Christian convictions and perspective.

Thomas Newcomen is one of the "great cloud of witnesses" in Hebrews 12:1. Thomas died in 1729, and is buried in an unmarked grave in Finsbury, London. He was a faithful servant of the Lord, encouraging many. While his invention and his name have slipped through the gaps of popular history, his invention enabled the further development of steam power, and this made possible the Industrial Revolution.

Thomas Newcomen is a wonderful reminder of Colossians 3:23-24:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Let us enter a new week with a fresh commitment to serve Jesus with all our heart.

Corfield, B. (2013) "Thomas Newcomen the Man," *The international journal for the history of engineering & technology*, 83(2), pp. 209–221.

## Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 17 May 2026

Our service on Sunday 17 May will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be at All Age Service led by Mark Thompson and the All Age Team. The theme will be *They don't see him, then they do!* and the text will be Luke 14:13-35.

## Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 17 May 2026

- Sunday:** Nature Walk for friends of A Rocha 2:30pm (see below)
- 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:** House Group 7:45pm by Zoom [Contact Ian Parsons for further details]
- Friday:** Energize Juniors Small Group 6:45-8:15pm at Oasis
- Saturday:** Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis

## Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 24 May 2026

Our service on Sunday 24 May (Pentecost Sunday) will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be led by George Hill and the speaker will be Rev Jennie Wakefield. Jennie's theme will be *Obedience – Reward – Effect. The coming of the Holy Spirit in Power.* The texts will be Acts 1:1-10 and Acts 2:1-13.

## Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 24 May 2026

- 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:** House Group 7:45pm by Zoom [Contact Ian Parsons for further details]
- Friday:** Energize Seniors Small Group 7:15-8:45pm at Oasis
- 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 these days**

'The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus'.

Philippians 4:5b-7

## **News items**

### **From Sue Thompson: Christian Aid plants**

On Sunday (17 May) I will have a car boot full of plants left from the Christian Aid bike ride week. They are bedding plants mainly, and perhaps some tomato plants. We'd love for people to take these off our hands! Please bring your own bags/boxes to put them in! Lots of petunias left at the moment, but plenty of other things too. Please can I have the pots back for next year when you have finished with them. Thank you!

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### **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.

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### **From George and Christine Hill: Thank you!!**

A very warm thank-you to all of you who dissembled so carefully, as you plotted with our children Joanna, Peter and Angela, to surprise us for our joint 70th birthdays at Oasis on Sunday last. We had no idea that so many of you were so hearteningly devious and extraordinarily kind, and we had a wonderful afternoon! And thank you to all who provided such delicious cakes.

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### **From Andrea Jones on behalf of the Leadership: 'Exploring the future'**

Following our three 'Exploring the future' sessions led by Rev Neil Brighton (on 14 February, 22 March and 20 April), interspersed with focused prayer meetings on 17 January, 8 February, 11 April and 9 May, members of the leadership team will now draw together the thoughts and findings from these gatherings. We will then draft a profile of SBC (the church it is and the church we want it to be), in preparation for our recruitment of a new Pastor. More information will follow at the next Church Meeting and draft(s) of the profile will be shared with the fellowship for comment. More focused prayer meetings will probably be held too as we naturally want the profile to be created in line with God's will for our future. Please keep this whole process in your personal prayers too.

## Dates for your Diary

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	<b>Messy Church for Summer 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis</b>
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>
5 July	Farm Service and Picnic
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
10 October	Walk around Buxton (with fair)
11 October	Prisons Sunday
17 October	<b>Messy Church for Harvest 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis</b>
17 October	Harvest Social Evening
18 October	Harvest Service
7 November	Shoebox Packing Day
8 November	Remembrance Sunday
14 November	Slide Show of Galilee Fundraising Evening for Tek Ura
28 November	<b>Messy Church for Christmas 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis</b>
30 November	Annual 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.

**Please note that this Newsletter covers two weeks.  
The next Newsletter will be circulated on Thursday 28 May.**