



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 19 July 2026**

## **A Reflection**

### **'Gideon - mighty man of valour!' by Hilary Forbes**

Continuing our theme of the Lord loves the underdog. Let's go back a couple of hundred years before David faced Goliath, to Gideon.

"Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said to him "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valour!" (Judges 6:12)

That's quite a greeting! Gideon's answer should challenge us all. He begins with "If the Lord is with us, why have all these things happened to us ..." Gideon has not accepted that the Lord can be with him alone, while apparently not with Israel.

It is not enough for the Lord to be with each of us personally, we want what Gideon wanted, for the Lord to be with the people we are an integral part of, and with all the people of God (even the people we disagree with!).

Gideon had a heart to help his people, but he didn't feel at all like a mighty man of valour. He had questions, doubts and fears, yet the Lord continued to give Gideon what he asked for – multiple reassurances of His presence with him.

Gideon is often perceived as being reluctant to obey. Yet, reading the passage slowly, reveals that he did not once refuse to obey; he simply needed more assurance that the Lord would be present with him. Gradually his trust in the Lord deepened and he grew into that "mighty man of valour," rescuing Israel from the Midianites.

Sometimes honesty and wisdom look like reluctance. Gideon's wisdom was his honesty with the Lord. Jesus would rather we come to Him with our honest questions, our doubts and fears, than berate ourselves for not having enough faith.

As we enter another week let's pray for one another and adopt the slow wisdom of Gideon in seeking the reassuring presence of the Lord for us all as we continue to pray for guidance and clarity as a church over the next few months.

"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" (Ephesians 6:18).

## Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 19 July 2026

Our service on Sunday 19 July will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be an All Age Service led by Ian Parsons and the theme will be 'The upside-down Kingdom'.

## Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 19 July 2026

- Monday:** Welcome Bap 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis
- Tuesday:** No Tots and Co meeting until September  
Encounter with God 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis
- Wednesday:** No meeting of Ladies Fellowship until September  
Wednesday Bible Study Group 7:30pm at Oasis
- Thursday:** No meeting of the House Group this week
- Friday:** No meeting of Energize until September
- Saturday:** Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis

## A Refrain for the week

'When I said, 'My foot is slipping,' your unfailing love, Lord, supported me.  
When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.'

Psalms 94:18-19

## News items

### From George Hill: Nature walk for friends of A Rocha and other friends Sunday 26 July

All are welcome on my next accompanied nature walk of the summer. This one will follow Brook Wood down towards Wheelock.

Please meet at Sandbach Crosses at **2:30pm** on **Sunday 26 July**, weather permitting. Please have reasonable footwear. Not suitable for buggies. No unaccompanied under 18s. All walkers join at their own personal risk.

## For Information

The Nefyn Camps field is being assembled this weekend ready for the usual five weeks of summer camps for children aged 9-18 years, and a number of the fellowship are over there helping out.

Please hold these camps in your prayers; for the work this weekend (including the installation of the electricity supply) and for all the campers and leaders and speakers who will be joining a camp. They start on Saturday 25 July and end on Saturday 29 August and we give thanks to the Lord for the 180 children who have booked and the 90 leaders who will be giving their time to help. Some of the children from our Energize group will be on a camp and a number of our fellowship will be helping out at camps.

## Dates for your Diary

|              |                                                                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                           |
| 8 October    | Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy Harvest Festival 7:30pm Yatehouse Farm Middlewich |
| 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>                         |
| 18 October   | Harvest Service                                                                    |
| 7 November   | Shoebox Packing Day                                                                |
| 8 November   | Remembrance Sunday                                                                 |
| 14 November  | Slide Show of Galilee Fundraising Evening for Tek Ura                              |
| 27 November  | Decoration of Oasis for Christmas!                                                 |
| 28 November  | <b>Messy Church for Christmas 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis</b>                       |
| 29 November  | Advent Sunday                                                                      |
| 30 November  | Annual Church Meeting                                                              |
| 17 December  | CTiS Carols on the Cobbles 6:00pm                                                  |
| 20 December  | All Age Carol Service 10:30am at the School                                        |

## 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.