



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 9 August 2026

A Reflection

Jonathan by Hilary Forbes

Jonathan is 194 years old this year. He lives in Saint Helena and is now officially a Guinness World Records ICON. He is the oldest known land animal and was born around 1832. He is of course, if you have not already guessed – a tortoise. To be in the presence of a living creature who was born nearly two hundred years ago must be an extraordinary experience. When I was a child, we had three tortoises - Homer, Aristotle, and Plato, as they were very wise (named by my dad). So wise they once dug their way under the garden fence, into our neighbours' greenhouse and ate as much as they could before returning to our garden. They were thwarted from further greenhouse adventures by a more robust fence.

Many types of tortoises hibernate in winter until the Spring, and I am sure I am not alone in sometimes wanting to do the same!

The shell of a tortoise is a great protection for them but, it is also part of their nervous system, and it is highly sensitive to being touched. Tortoises can feel even the lightest of touches and extreme pain if damaged in any way.

One of the great promises of God is in the psalmist's declaration,

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble..." (Psalm 46: 1)

What a glorious promise! What a message we have the privilege of proclaiming and living! Yet, from within our great refuge, just like the tortoise, we can still feel the light touches, and the pain, of the immediate needs of our neighbours, and of those further afield in war ravaged places, which we can respond to in both prayer and action, from a place of deep assurance that God is our "ever-present help in trouble."

"Be still and know that I am God,
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the Earth"
(Psalm 46:10)

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 9 August 2026

Our service on Sunday 9 August will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). There has been a change to the schedule so the service will now be led by various members of the fellowship and it will include Communion.

Please note that during August there will be no Sunday School but there will be a table at the back of the hall where younger members can amuse themselves with their own activities. NB Parents - please can you bring activities with you as there may not be anything provided on the day.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 9 August 2026

Monday: No Meeting of Welcome Bap this week. Next meeting will be on 24 August.

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
No meeting of the Bible Study Group until September

Thursday: No meeting of House Group until September

Friday: Shoebox Board Game Workshop 10:00am-12:00noon at Oasis (see below)
No meeting of Energize until September

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

What can I give back to God
for the blessings he's poured out on me?
I'll lift high the cup of salvation – a toast to God!
I'll pray in the name of God;
I'll complete what I promised God I'd do,
and I'll do it together with his people.

Psalms 116:12-14 The Message

News items

From the Shoebox Team: Love in a Box 2026!

Momentum on the Christmas shoeboxes is gathering and we are now actively collecting all the gifts to put inside our boxes, which will be distributed to children aged 3-14 in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

Items needed are:

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes large and small
Bars of Soap
Flannels/Sponges
Wash Bags

Woolly Hats/Gloves/Mittens

Pencil Cases
Notebooks/Small Exercise Books
Pencils/Crayons/Ball Point Pens

Small Soft Toys
Small Toys/Games

Combs/Hair Bobbles/Hair Slides
Small Packets of sweets/chocolate (dated best before no earlier than June 2027)

If you are able to donate any of these items please leave them at Oasis (if possible in the back office under the sign on the wall) or bring them along on any Sunday morning and leave them at the back of the hall clearly labelled.

Susie Warburton is also running a workshop on **Friday 14 August 10:00am-12:00noon at Oasis** to make board games to include in the older children's boxes. All are welcome to come along even if you haven't done it before. Instructions will be given on what to do. **Please let Susie know you are coming though**, so she has sufficient equipment available. Feel free to bring your own cutting board and scissors/ craft knife if you have them.

From Ian Parsons: Important announcement regarding the service on Sunday 30 August

Due to many people being away on **Sunday 30 August**, including our musicians and preachers, we have decided to have a shorter service **at Oasis**. It will be an informal sharing service and perhaps you could prayerfully consider whether you have anything to share with the fellowship during the service. It could be a poem, song, particular bible passage or anything at all that the Lord has laid on your heart.

Please let Ian know if you would like to contribute in any way to the service or speak to him if you have any questions

For Information and Prayer

Please remember in your prayers Nefyn C Camp running 8-15 August for 13-15 year olds. No-one from the fellowship is on this camp but it's still good to lift it up to the Lord.

Unity Methodist are running their usual summer Holiday Club at New Horizons Methodist Church in Wheelock, Monday 17 August to Friday 21 August, from 10am to 12noon. It's for primary school age children and there will be Bible stories, songs, games, sports and snacks. If anyone would like to

volunteer their help for any of these days please contact Jayne Bunn for more information. Our prayers for this work would also be appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

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	Messy Church for Harvest 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis
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	Messy Church for Christmas 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis
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:

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.