



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 30 August 2026

A Reflection

'Home' is knowing Jesus by Hilary Forbes

A few weeks ago a new film adaption of Homer's ancient Greek epic 'The Odyssey' was released in cinemas everywhere. The ancient story is long, there are adventures, mythical monsters, and many twists and turns. The central figure is the artful Odysseus, and throughout the entire epic his focus is on the long journey home from the Trojan war. Christopher Nolan's new film version has mixed reviews. Reading these reviews made me think about other stories about the journey home. There are many, even the film E.T was about a cute alien who longed for his home planet.

One of the most well-known stories is the return home of the prodigal son. The story gives us a picture of how our father in heaven longs for everyone he has created to come home. The prodigal son's father ran towards his son and greeted him without judgement and even threw a welcome party.

There must be a longing in every human heart on the face of the Earth for 'Home,' even if for many people they don't know exactly what this longing is, and even if they vehemently deny it. As Dave reminded us a few Sundays ago, when he read the words of Ecclesiastes 3:11, God has put eternity into people's hearts. God created every human being who ever lived, who lives now, and whoever will live, and that he placed eternity into all hearts is a universal truth.

We have been given the most enormous privilege of being signposts for those who have lost their way home, who have spiritual amnesia or who have become so disillusioned they've given up searching.

Jesus is calling everyone 'Home' to Him, because eternal life is knowing him.

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John 17:3).

Let's pray to be a signpost this week for anyone who is looking for their way back home to Jesus.

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 30 August 2026

Our service on Sunday 30 August will be at 10:30am at **OASIS**. This will be a slightly different service, sharing the things the Lord has put on people's hearts. See below for more details. Ian Parsons will lead the service.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 30 August 2026

- Monday:** No meeting of the Welcome Bap this week
- Tuesday:** Tots and Co 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis
Encounter with God 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis
- Wednesday:** No meeting of Ladies Fellowship until 9 September
Bible Study Group Summer Social at Howard and Andreas 7:00pm
- Thursday:** No meeting of House Group this week
- Friday:** Energize Games Night 6:45-8:45pm at the School
- Saturday:** No Morning Prayer Gathering this week. NWBA Safeguarding Course 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

'Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a pure heart.'
Psalm 24:3-4

News items

From Ian Parsons: Information about the service on Sunday 30 August

Due to many people being away on **Sunday 30 August**, we will have a slightly different 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

From Andrea Jones: Saturday 5 September

Please note that on Saturday 5 September we will be hosting two NWBA Safeguarding Courses at Oasis so the usual **morning prayer gathering** at Oasis will **not be happening** that day. ... But please don't let that stop you praying at home at the same time. ☺

From George Hill: Picnic and Stroll at Tittesworth Reservoir Sunday 6 September

On Sunday 6 September, after church, all are welcome to join our (cafe) picnic and stroll at Tittesworth Reservoir at Meerbrook near Leek, ST13 8SW. The options will be to enjoy the cafe, visitor centre, views and playground or to add a short walk and birdwatch.

The drive is approx 18 miles by the shortest route. There is a pay and display car park, but first look for us around the various car parks. Please ask me if you need directions. Please offer a lift if you can.

Please let me know if you plan to come. Don't go to Rudyard Lake by mistake!

From: Susie Warburton: Coffee Morning Love in a Box Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2026

Once again we will be filling shoeboxes with lovely things for children (aged 3-14) in need in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. Of course, to do this we need lovely things to put in them! So please do get knitting, sewing and buying so that we can pack the boxes with lots of goodies.

There will be a **fund-raising coffee morning on Saturday 19 September 2026 10:00 – 12:00** at Oasis to raise money to buy the boxes, pay the transport costs and buy any extra goodies needed. Please do come along and support this wonderful project. There will be a bring and buy table, so please do bring goodies for that as well.

To help you donate items for the shoeboxes, we have made a list of the lovely things we need (and copies of this list are available in the foyer on Sundays):

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes large and small
Bars of Soap
Flannels/Sponges
Wash Bags
Woolly Hats (small)/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)

NB You can find more information about this project on the church [website](#)

For Information and Prayer

Please remember in your prayers Nefyn Rear Guard which will happen this weekend 29-30 August. This is the big dismantle of the camp and a number of the fellowship will be going over to assist. Fine weather and strength for the task would be much appreciated! We also give thanks to God for all the kingdom work which has happened over the 5 weeks' of camps and remember those from our own fellowship (and particularly our Energize youngsters) who have been on camp and been touched by all they have heard and experienced.

Dates for your Diary

20 September	All Age Service 10:30am at the School
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	All Age Harvest Service 10:30am at the School
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	All Age Advent Service 10:30am at the School
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.