



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 6 September 2026

Reflection for the week

Peace beyond understanding by Hilary Forbes

This week has had the same sort of feel to it as the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004, for those who remember it. The appalling devastation from the flooding in Nepal makes us feel helpless. Yet there have also been scenes of hope, with the account of the headteacher who led all the children out of the school to safety, and many other scenes of hope and rescue. How do we nourish our own spirit, while still able to respond in grief and then in prayer to these tragic events. The verse that has been in me all week is when Jesus says to his disciples:

"Peace, I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27).

This is the same peace the apostle Paul talks about when he writes to the Christians at Philippi: "... and the peace of God, which goes beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

This peace is beyond circumstantial, beyond emotion, beyond time and space. Elijah witnessed a terrifying storm which tore rocks in pieces, a devastating earthquake, and a frightening fire. He expected the Lord to be in them all, but the word of God clearly states, the Lord was not in any of those. The Lord was in the still, small voice, a sacred whisper. Elijah finally recognised the presence of God, and in His presence, Elijah found peace (1 Kings 19:11-13).

The Lord was not in the Nepal glacier! The Lord is in the grief, in the rescue operations, in the compassion of all who have been moved to help. Let's abide in the peace of God this week that goes beyond our understanding, and out of this peace we will be able to respond in compassion, hope and prayer for the people of Nepal, and for all those God puts on our hearts.

"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 6 September 2026

Our service on Sunday 6 September will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). The service will be led by Rev Sue Thompson and the speaker will be George Hill.

There will be no Sunday School this week but there will be a table at the back of the hall where children can amuse themselves with some craft activities. Sunday School will resume next week (13 September).

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 6 September 2026

- Sunday:** (After Church) Picnic and Stroll at Tittesworth Reservoir (see below)
- Monday:** Welcome Bap 10:00am-12:00noon 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-9:00pm 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

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 Gaelic Blessing for the week

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace to you.

News items

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](#)

From Churches Together in Sandbach: Christmas Day Lunch

The Christmas Day Lunch organised by Churches Together in Sandbach provides Christmas food and company for people in our community who would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone. Many people from our local churches have volunteered as drivers, servers and welcomers over the years. This year we are also looking for a group of volunteers to form an organising team to make this important event happen again in 2026.

If you would be interested in volunteering this year, especially as part of the organising team, please would you contact Rev'd Carolyn Lawrance - 1108revcarolyn@gmail.com - by Sunday 4 October. A date to meet will be organised soon after that.

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.