



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 25 October 2026

Reflection for the week

A heritage as a witness to Christ by Hilary Forbes

"And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to the heaven and see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, and you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage." (Deuteronomy 4:19).



As Autumn progresses, the majestic and bright apparent grouping of stars known as Orion, begins to dominate the evening sky. In the middle of this constellation is Orion's belt, three bright stars appearing in a straight line in the middle of the constellation. The light from the middle one of these stars, began its journey to us around the time of when Jesus walked the Earth, perhaps even at the time he was crucified, when he defeated death, and sin and all the powers of evil, and then rose from the dead! When we gaze at the night sky, we are looking back at our own history. The light from Orion's brightest star, Betelgeuse (top left and quite orangey/red), set out around the time John Wycliffe might have been sitting at his desk, with a reed pen, translating the New Testament into English perhaps by candlelight.

The immensity and majesty of the Universe, in so many ways, leads us always back to Jesus, for gratitude for all those who came before us and who lived lives of thanksgiving to our creator and Saviour and encourage us to do the same.

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

(Photo of Orion taken from my garden on the evening of 10 February 2021)

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 25 October 2026

Our service on Sunday 25 October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). The service will be led by the Steph Radcliffe and the speaker will be Rev Neil Brighton. Neil will be looking at God's faithfulness to us and our faithfulness to God, and his key text will be Romans 1:1-17.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 25 October 2026

- Monday:** Welcome Bap 10:00am-12:00noon at Oasis
- Tuesday:** No Tots and Co. this week
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:** No House Group this week
- Friday:** Energize Seniors Small Group 7:15pm – 8:45pm at Oasis
- Saturday:** Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis
Special Prayer Meeting for the Church Profile 9:30am-11:00am at Oasis
Visit to Alsager Book Emporium 2:00pm (See below)

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

Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.
Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created,
and he established them for ever and ever – he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Psalm 148:1-6

News items

From George Hill: Alsager Book Emporium Visit Saturday 24 October 2pm

This Saturday 24 October, leaving Sandbach a little after 2pm, we are at last making our delayed promised excursion to the wonderful Alsager Book Emporium.

If anyone wants more details of it, the biggest second-hand book collection in North West England (includes lots of Christian books and music), please contact me. Lifts maybe available. It closes at 4pm.

From Susie Warburton: **Messy Church Harvest Time!**

We had lots of fun last Saturday making Joy Jars, puzzles (some of which will go in the shoeboxes to send to vulnerable children in Eastern Europe), leaf animals, confetti leaves and testing our skills firing pompom arrows at cuddly toys (no soft toy was hurt in the activity!). We then watched a little movie of the parable of the sower and ate hotdogs and sparklers (breadsticks dipped in chocolate sauce and 100's and 1000's!).



Thanks to all who came along and joined in the fun! **Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 28 November 2026 10:30am – 12:00noon** when we will be getting ready for Christmas, so do bring along your friends!

From the SBC Diaconate: **Special Church Members' Meeting Tuesday 3 November 7:30pm**

Just a reminder of our forthcoming Special Church Members' Meeting on Tuesday 3 November at 7:30pm at Oasis Community Centre, Green Street, Sandbach.

The business of the meeting is to examine the draft Church Profile that the Diaconate proposes be used to advertise for a new Minister.

A separate agenda will not be circulated for this meeting, but the agenda items will be: opening worship; apologies and matters arising; examination of the Profile; any informal votes needed; and closing prayers.

Any changes to the draft as recommended by the meeting will be put to a show of hands and, if approved informally by 75% of members present, these will be incorporated following the meeting. Non-members are very welcome to attend but may not vote.

Prayer is invited both before and after the SCM (the morning of prayer is on Saturday 24 October).

A formal vote to approve the revised text will then be held at our Annual Church Meeting on Monday 30 November, after which it will be proceeded with the Baptist Union.

Please contact George Hill for any further information.

From Susie Warburton: Love in a box - Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2026 - Packing Day!

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated items, money or who has knitted and sewn lovely things for the shoebox appeal. The time to pack all those goodies into shoeboxes is nearly upon us as this will be **Saturday morning 7 November 2026 10:00am – 12:00noon.**

Please do come along and pack a box or two! It's a lovely event to bring a friend along to; there will be refreshments and an area for you to sit and chat as you write your Christmas card for your shoebox.

From Ian Parsons: Help needed for CTiS Carols on the Cobbles Thursday 17 December 6pm

CTiS is looking for people to help with 'Carols on the Cobbles' so that we can make this a really special evening for the town. Help is needed with:

Band: For more details about the band please contact Alex on 07793 059938. There will be some band practices at St Peters Church on 28 October, 4 November and 2 December 7.30pm.

Choir: For more details about the choir contact Paul on 07999 897283. There will be a choir practice on 11 November at 7.30pm at a venue still to be decided.

Stewarding: This mainly involves handing out carol sheets. Please let me know if you would like to help with this.

For your prayers

Gill Bell is due to have surgery on her foot this week so would appreciate prayers for a smooth operation and recovery. May you be cushioned in love and peace Gill!

Dates for your Diary

3 November	Special Church Meeting to discuss the Church Profile 7:30pm at Oasis
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
25 December	Christmas Day 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.