



Sharing the love of  
Jesus

# Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Message from Alistair

One of my favourite phrases that appears time and time again in the Bible is the little phrase '**but God**'. In fact, it's really encouraging to look up the phrase in a concordance and see the number of times God intervenes in people's lives and situations.

I think of Noah in the ark, bobbing around in the sea, the waters continuing to rise, surrounded by all kinds of animals. In fact we're told that the waters flooded the earth for 150 days. I wonder if Noah grew discouraged? I wonder if he lost hope? I wonder if he thought how long is this going to last? Genesis 8:1 tells us, '**But God** remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.'

I think of Joseph. Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers and had ended up in Egypt. And yet God was with him in times of betrayal, imprisonment and suffering. And through God's gracious work in his life and circumstances, Joseph is elevated to a position of power in Egypt- in charge of Pharaoh's palace and second-in-command to Pharaoh himself.

When a famine came and Joseph's brothers learn there's grain in Egypt they go down to Egypt to buy some grain. And they end up standing before Joseph himself. After an emotional reunion, Joseph is able to say to them, 'You intended to harm me, **but God** intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.' Genesis 50:20.

I think of David being pursued by Saul in the wilderness. 'And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, **but God** did not give him into his hand.' 1 Samuel 23:14

I think of the story of our salvation. Once we were lost. Once we were without hope. Once we were without Christ. '**But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved.' Ephesians 2:4-5.

The lives of Noah, Joseph, David, and indeed our own lives remind us that 'with God all things are possible' Matthew 19:26. Maybe, like them, you're in a place where the only way out is God. You can be sure of this: God is bigger than your problem. And God will always have the last word. And so always look out for those '**but God**' moments.

With my love and God bless

Alistair

## Word for the Week

God loves a cheerful giver. *2 Corinthians 9:7*

## Sunday Service- 14<sup>th</sup> November

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November, our service will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. George Hill is leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart is preaching. The Bible reading is Judges 16:1-7 and the title is, 'Why, why, why Delilah? And why Samson?'

This service will also include communion. The sermon contains some adult themes.

Further information about the practical arrangements for the service and the recommended Do's and Don'ts that the Leadership team is asking you to honour appear later in the newsletter.

## Worship for the Week

'Prayers for a Fragile World' is a book compiled by Carol Watson and published by Lion (originally available through Traidcraft). There is a good selection of prayers written by and for children to voice their concerns in an ever-changing world. It includes subjects such as friends and families, feelings and attitudes, war and peace. Below are some examples of children's prayers from the book of particular relevance in the context of Remembrance Sunday.

Father, how can you bear it?  
What must you think when you see....  
the anger  
the hatred  
the killing  
and the endless wars?  
What must you feel when you see....  
the bombs,  
the guns,  
the tanks  
and the missiles?  
Can you forgive us for the cruelty we inflict on one another?  
We are sorry, Lord. We are not worthy of your love. Amen.

Dear heavenly Father, wars have been raging between countries for years, and many lives have been lost for no reason at all. People are vain and greedy and want more power and money. Please help us to be happy with what we've got. Amen.

Father, forgive the tension, frustration, anger, jealousy and spite.... that is in our lives. Help us to love our enemies, forgive those who harm us and try to understand each other's problems. Amen.

Hello God. Can you hear me above all the noise? It's us fighting one another. Please help us to stop all our wars. Amen

## Wisdom for the Week

'Christ alone can bring lasting peace- peace with God, peace among people and nations, and peace within our hearts.' *Billy Graham*

## News of the Church Family

Harold Jinks was admitted to Leighton Hospital last week and is currently receiving care on Ward 13. Unfortunately, visiting isn't currently allowed.

Margaret Thomson had a scan this week which revealed she has a large gall stone and will require surgery. Please pray that things will proceed quickly, she'll soon receive a date for the operation and the surgery will be a success.

## News for the Church Family

### From The Shoebox Team-

The Shoebox Team would like to thank everyone for their generosity for all the donations received and for their time spent sewing and knitting for the shoeboxes. Thank you to all those who came on Saturday for the packing. With your help we managed to pack all 114 boxes which will be on their way to Romania, Belarus and Ukraine very soon.

### From Sue Thompson- Chance Changing Lives.

After taking the Harvest gifts to Chance Changing Lives in Crewe, some of us thought it would be good to take some Christmas goodies too! Chance Changing Lives would be very happy to receive festive food (but not too many Christmas puddings, please!) If you would like to make a donation, I'll bring a box to church next Sunday and the one after for your gifts. Then we'll take them over at the end of November, in good time for Christmas. Sue, Mark, Ann and Moira

### From George Hill-

#### 1. Group reports-

George Hill would like to receive from all SBC groups their written reports for the Annual Church Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

The reports will be circulated as a set before the Meeting. They will not be read out at the meeting, but there will be an opportunity at the ACM to highlight any special points that folks particularly wish to mention.

They can cover just the period since the last ACM in May, or they can describe the whole year, as you choose.

#### 2. Nominations for the SBC Leadership Team-

Nominations are invited for anyone wishing to stand for election as a Charity Trustee on the Leadership Team of SBC, at the Annual Church Meeting, which is to be held via Zoom on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

All nominations must be made in writing. A form is available from the Church Secretary, George Hill, in paper form or electronically for printing.

In addition to the nominee's details and consent, the completed form must contain the details and signature of two other current Church Members.

Nominations must be received by the Church Secretary not later than Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. George Hill may be contacted at any of:

hillsintheway@btinternet.com

07843 742512

2 Marriott Road, Wheelock, Sandbach, CW11 3LU.

After the 14<sup>th</sup> November, the deadline for nominations, we will conduct a secret postal ballot. Further details will then be sent to all church members together with ballot forms.

### **3. Traidcraft Stall-**

Karen Downard will be bringing her stall of Traidcraft items for sale at church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Please come ready to purchase some of her lovely selection of Christmas and other gifts and cards, to support communities and workers across the developing world!

### **From Ian Parsons-**

Unfortunately I will not be able to host the Tear Fund Big Quiz on 20<sup>th</sup> November, as originally planned. If you are interested, you can still take part online on the evening at 7.30pm as Tear Fund will be running the quiz online for anyone not taking part in a church-hosted event. I will distribute the email link, before the 20th November.

### **From Lynn Mynett- Life's First Cry-**

It is now a year since we again started putting our donations into our BMS World Mission boxes for the continuing support and education of parents in the rugged mountainous areas of Afghanistan.

This program has been so successful that through the ongoing work many of those babies who previously would not have lived to celebrate their 1<sup>st</sup> birthdays and beyond, are now 3 and 4 years old- hallelujah! We celebrate their robust hold on life and pray that in the Lord's time they may celebrate new and eternal life.

Thank you so much for continuing to donate to this beautifully worthwhile cause. Please kindly bring your boxes to church, or give donations in a marked envelope marked "Life's First Cry", to Lynn Mynett by 21<sup>st</sup> November, so that BMS can receive our gift before Christmas. Thank you. Yours in Christ, Lynn.

P.S. Be sure to let me know if you would like a box- I have a plentiful supply!

## **Church Groups- Week Beginning Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

**Saturday-** The Saturday Prayer Breakfast meets at Oasis [for prayer without breakfast!] from 8:30am-9:15pm.

**Wednesday-** The Wednesday Morning Ladies' Fellowship meets by Zoom at 10:30am.

**Wednesday-** The Wednesday Evening Study Group meets at Oasis at 7.30pm.

If you would like to join any one of the midweek groups, please contact Alistair and he'll put you in touch with the group leader.

## **And finally.....**

'I got a new job installing mirrors. It was something I could always see myself doing!'

## **Contacts**

Rev Alistair Stewart (Pastor): 01270 753663 - [home] 07966 202913 - [Church mobile phone]

Lynn Mynett (Elder): 01270 765330 [home]

## DO's and DON'Ts **for the congregation** for SBC services from 25<sup>th</sup> July v3

*[These requests are based on Baptist Union recommendations]*

### Please DO:

- Bring your own **Bible** if you can, or a phone with a Bible app. Sadly, we can't give out the church Bibles.
- Bring your own **bottle of water** if possible. A water urn will be available, but is mainly for emergencies.
- Bring a **mask**; and wear it while you're in the school.
- Please give your **name** to the steward at the door (**visitors** must also give contact details) and confirm that you're free from any symptoms of COVID. Please note that we will photograph the congregation so we have a record of where people were seated. These records will be destroyed after 21 days unless required by NHS Test & Trace.
- **Sanitise** your hands on entry and departure. Read any COVID posters or **notices**.
- Follow any **instructions** from the "COVID Usher" who will help you to stay safe while inside the hall.
- Follow any **one-way** system in place (exit = fire door). Do not enter any area marked out of bounds.
- Keep **socially distanced** from anyone not in your "bubble", for your own safety. Seats will be spaced.
- If you wish to **sing** the songs during the services, please sing quietly behind your masks.
- Make **donations** electronically if possible. There will not be a collection, but boxes will be available by the exit for donations to support the work of the church and our sponsored children.
- **Sanitise** the toilet after you or your child use it, using material provided.
- Ensure that **children** try to follow good COVID practice.
- Take home with you any **waste**. There will not be any waste bins available for us to use in the school.
- Be kind to anyone who is being cautious—it may be because they are protecting someone!

### Please DON'T:

- Come if you are showing any **symptoms** to the service. Instead let us know, so that we can pray for you and keep in touch.
- Bring anything likely to be biologically **contaminated** into the building (except children!!).
- Seek to enter if the stewards report the building is nearing full **capacity**.
- Touch any **surfaces**, e.g., handles, unnecessarily, or share pens or any other objects or microphones.
- Move **seating** around from its set positions.
- Forget to socially distance if you pause to **chat**.
- Gather into obvious **groups** outside on school premises (because we feel that might hurt the school's reputation).