



Sharing the love of
Jesus

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 21st February

Message from Alistair

You've probably noticed that these days a lot of people are interested in discovering their family history. And you can get started with a few simple steps. You order your complete kit with easy-to-follow instructions. Return a small saliva sample in a prepaid envelope. Your DNA will then be analysed at more than 700,000 genetic markers. And within 6-8 weeks, you can expect an email with a link to your online results. And then you may be able to connect with relatives you never knew you had. Apparently, 10's of millions of people have taken an at-home ancestry test which tells me that we're very interested to discover our roots.

I must admit that I don't really know too much about our family background. I know that Eunice is related by marriage to the well-known mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington, and my grandad once told me that I'm related to someone who scored the winning goal for Dumbarton in the Scottish Cup Final of 1883!

When people research their family tree, they sometimes find that they're descended from some notable people. However, they may also discover that they're descended from some rather more dubious characters. And they may have some heroes, but they may also have some zeros!

You might be surprised to know that this is also the case with the family tree of Jesus. You can read the family tree of Jesus in the gospels of Matthew [chapter 1] and Luke [chapter 3]. Sometimes we can be tempted to skip over the long list of names, but they always have something to say to us. And in the family tree of Jesus there are some notable people of faith. But there are also a few rogues in the gallery. I'm talking about prostitutes, liars, adulterers, and even a murderer!

I suspect we all have a few relatives who embarrass us at times. And maybe you can remember those Christmas visits. And whilst there were always relatives who you were really pleased to meet up with, there were others who you wished you didn't have to see!

However, one of the messages of the genealogy of Jesus is that God can change your story. In the genealogy of Jesus, some of the names remind us of sad and shameful histories. Some of the names are of people who are never mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. But at the end of the list comes the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And though he is the eternal God, he humbled himself to become a man, in order to provide salvation for sinners. As the apostle Paul puts it, 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.' 2 Corinthians 8:9.

We should always read the genealogy of Jesus with thankful hearts. Because we see here that no-one is beyond the reach of Christ's sympathy and compassion. Our sins may have been as terrible as some of the people mentioned in Jesus' family tree. But they cannot shut us out of heaven if we

repent and believe the good news of the gospel. God can change your story. And even if you've made a mess of your life, he can redeem it.

Jesus' story is not about God helping perfect people. It's about God saving lost people. Jesus came to heal broken lives and restore shattered hopes. He came to save us from our sin.

With my love and God bless

Alistair

Word for the Week

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. *Psalms 119:105*

Sunday Service- 21st February

This Sunday it's the all-age service. Alistair is leading the service and there will be contributions from people from the church. You will be able to watch the service on YouTube.

There will be two links on the website, one to take you to the YouTube service, and one to take you to the audio version. It's the same service on both, but on the audio version you won't be able to see the video. The theme of the service is 'The Bible'. The Bible reading is Nehemiah 8:1-12.

Please have a pencil and paper ready for the service.

The words for the two songs included in the YouTube service are available at the end of the newsletter in case you want to sing along!

There is Zoom coffee after the service. Details later in the newsletter.

Worship for the Week

Thanksgiving for the Bible- J. Meirion Lloyd, who served as a Welsh Presbyterian missionary in Mizoram, India- adapted.

Let us give thanks to God.

For the majesty of the Law, for the power of the Prophets, for the wisdom of the Proverbs and the beauty of the Psalms, and above all for the grace of the Gospel, we lift up our hearts in praise.

For the Bible in our own language, for those who long ago gave us translations, for those who down the years improved them, enabling the scriptures to penetrate deeply into our national life, we lift up our hearts in praise.

For the continuing work of revision to match our changing language, for all that the Bible means to Christians throughout the world, we lift up our hearts in praise.

For those who interpret, publish and distribute the scriptures in every tongue, so that all people may come to the knowledge of salvation, we lift up our hearts in praise.

To you, O gracious Father, with the Living Word, through the one eternal Spirit, be glory now and forever. Amen.

Wisdom for the Week

'Ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are merely playing at Bible study; and therefore ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are merely weaklings when they might be giants.' *R A Torrey American evangelist and pastor.*

News of the Church Family

Please pray for-

Laurel Northam's dad Jimmy. Jimmy remains in Leighton Hospital. However, he has made good progress and is sitting up, eating and is coherent. He'll be going through rehab with a view to coming home.

Alison Le'Clere's sister Lorna. Lorna continues to receive treatment in hospital and is very weak and in a lot of pain. Hopefully, she'll be able to have physio to help with her mobility.

Alistair and Lynn continue to try and keep in touch with you all week by week. Just to remind you too that they are always there for you. They are always available to pray with you over the phone where it is not possible to meet.

News for the Church Family

From Churches Together in Sandbach- World Day of Prayer- Friday 5th March 2021 - "Build on a Strong Foundation". This year's World Day of Prayer Service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu. We are not having a church service on 5th March due to the pandemic. However, we want to share with Christians around the world as we pray with the women of Vanuatu. There will be online worship with a "Zoom" service at 2pm. All attending will need a small pebble/stone. Zoom can be accessed from your pc/laptop/tablet/smartphone, but if you do not have online access, the service can be heard on the telephone. The code for the Zoom access can be obtained from Jayne Bunn at Unity Methodist Church, Sandbach.

You can contact Jayne at jayne.unitemc@gmail.com. by 1st March at the latest please. The service booklet will be delivered to those who register with a postal address. Please indicate if you need a large print copy.

Please check www.wwdp.ork.uk for more information about Vanuatu including a visual presentation, which gives a lovely introduction to this tropical country.

From Mavis Watkinson- UPDATE ON OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN, FEB 2021

In Burkina Faso, **Sidoine** is able to attend project activities in small groups.

In Ethiopia, **Rahema** is able to attend project activities in small groups.

In Ethiopia, **Achan** is not able to attend the project because of local restrictions, but is taking part in activities by distance learning.

In Indonesia, **Key** is able to attend project activities as normal, with no restrictions.

In Peru, **Willian** is not able to attend the project because of local restrictions, but is taking part in activities by distance learning.

From Alistair- The church phone still isn't able to run WhatsApp. Please communicate via text, email or phone for the time being. Thank you!

From Alistair and the leadership team- There will be a Special Church Members' Meeting of Sandbach Baptist Church at 12 noon on Sunday 7th March 2021 to approve changes to our Constitution, etc. [The changes are nothing to be concerned about; they are administrative changes to allow us to hold church members' meetings electronically, if circumstances require.]

This SCM will take place during the Sunday morning 'coffee Zoom' on that date, which begins at 11.30am. Full details about the meeting have been circulated separately.

From Alistair and the leadership team-

Zoom Coffee - another chance to have a coffee and a chat together online

Sunday 21st February 11.30 am

You are invited to join us at Zoom coffee for 45 minutes of fellowship, both all together and in smaller breakout groups. This Sunday, Zoom Coffee will take place after our all age service on YouTube and you can usually join from 11.20am. We really hope you can join us.

The link is in the email newsletter.

If you have any questions, you can call Ian Parsons on 01270 759718 or 07711 995016, or Mark Thompson on 01270 750431 or 07522 628921

Church Groups- Week Beginning Saturday 13th February

Saturday- The Saturday Prayer Breakfast sends out a series of prayer points on the Friday of each week.

Tuesday- The Tuesday Morning House Group is studying in line with the sermons each week. Questions are sent out and people are encouraged to respond.

Wednesday- The Wednesday Morning Ladies' Fellowship meets by Zoom at 10.30am. Each week during Lent, they will 'walk with Jesus towards His Cross', using the words of Scripture supported by a picture.

Wednesday- The Wednesday Evening Study Group meets by Zoom at 7.30pm. They are using a study resource from the Bible Society called 'Jesus the Jew.' The study enables Christians to renew their relationship with Jesus, and to appreciate Jesus in his own context.

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 used to think I was indecisive. But now I'm not so sure!

Contacts

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

Lynn Mynett (Elder): 01270 765330 [home]

"Cornerstone"

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all
He is Lord, Lord of all
Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all, yeah
Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all
Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all
Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

"Ancient Words"

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the ancient words impart

Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope

In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us home

[Chorus:]

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
Oh, let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart
Oh let the ancient words impart

[Chorus x4:]

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
Oh, let the ancient words impart

We have come with open hearts
Oh, let the ancient words impart