



Sharing the love of
Jesus

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 1st August 2021

Message from Alistair

It seems to me that the lives of people today are often overshadowed by fear.

There are the common fears that have always plagued humankind- fear of sickness, bereavement, growing old, death, the future, the unknown.

There is what we might call 21st century fears- cyber security and internet safety fears, civil society fears, eco and environmental fears, economic fears, political fears.

As the coronavirus pandemic rapidly swept across the world, it induced a considerable degree of fear, worry and concern in the population at large and among certain groups in particular, such as older adults, care providers and people with underlying health conditions.

There are irrational fears, and it is extraordinary how many educated people entertain superstitious fears. They touch wood, cross fingers, carry charms, and rely on horoscopes, etc.

I don't know whether you had an older brother or sister who you relied on for protection. I remember reading about a little boy who was playing in his street with a new toy- a pair of cap guns. He was wearing his holster and his cap guns and he felt pretty tough. After a while a couple of older boys came up to him and started pushing him around. Even worse, they took his cap guns off him and started laughing at him. With empty holsters he went home crying. Then he told his big brother what happened and asked him to help him get his guns back. His brother was 5 years older than him and a lot bigger!

So they went back and found the boys with his guns. And feeling full of courage, the young boy demanded they give his cap guns back. His newfound boldness, however, didn't come from who he was, but because of who was with him.

I remember a lady at my previous church telling me what her favourite Bible verse was. She said it was, 'He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.' Psalm 91:4. I wasn't very familiar with it, but I thought, 'What a beautiful verse!'

God will put his wings around us. He will protect us. And because of this, the writer of Psalm 91 is saying, we don't have to be afraid. Why? Because He's with us.

As we look at a frightening world, we can have courage- not because of who we are, but because God is with us.

With my love and God bless

Alistair

Word for the Week

I am the Lord; those who hope in me shall not be disappointed. *Isaiah 49:23*

Sunday Service- 1st August

On Sunday 1st August, our service will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Rev. Alistair Stewart is leading and preaching. The Bible reading is Ephesians 6:13-17 and the title is 'Know your Armour'.

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.

A recording of the service will be uploaded to the church website by early Sunday afternoon.

Worship for the Week

Baptist Minister Nick Fawcett is a devotional and reflective writer. He has posted regular prayers on his website relating to the Coronavirus pandemic, and in 2020 published a free eBook 'For such a time as this- prayers in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.' Here is another of his prayers-

Seeking God's Peace

Breathe your peace within me, Lord. Peace such as only you can give.
When I fret about tomorrow,
When I worry about my loved ones,
When I question whether I can cope,
When my stomach feels knotted and panic rises within me-
Help me to hear your still small voice,
Rebuking the wind and waves,
Stilling the storm,
Calming the rolling waves.
And in place of turmoil bring tranquillity,
In place of chaos, quietness,
In place of a troubled, anxious spirit,
Rest for my soul. Amen.

Wisdom for the Week

'The Christian has put on the whole armour of God, he is filled with the strength and the power, and he has fought the battle in the evil day.

Then having done all, he is tempted to take off his armour. 'I have gained the victory,' he says, 'all is well.' Then, taking off his armour, he lies down on his bed.

'No,' says the apostle, having done all—to stand!' Go on standing. You are always on duty in the Christian life, you can never relax. There is no such thing as a holiday in the spiritual realm.' *Martyn Lloyd-Jones – for almost 30 years, the minister of Westminster Chapel in London.*

News of the Church Family

Following an angiogram, it was confirmed that Moira Craven had suffered a heart attack which affected the smaller vessels. This can only be treated through medication and staying calm. Moira came home from hospital on Sunday evening and felt better after a decent night's sleep in her own bed! However, she remains far from well and is very grateful for all our prayers.

Judith McKenna's nephews Zach and Michael, who both have COVID, are now much improved. Judith is very grateful for all our prayers.

Congratulations to Laura and H McLachlan and all the family on the birth of a baby boy. Cameron was born at 11:11am on Monday and weighed 9lbs 4oz- a brother for Heidi. Laura was able to come home from hospital the same day.

News for the Church Family

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- We feel that it is right to exercise continuing caution when we worship together at Sandbach Primary Academy on Sunday mornings. Good ventilation, diligence in hygiene, wearing a mask in enclosed and crowded spaces, and limiting contact with those we do not live with, are all noted as beneficial behaviours.

Therefore, we will for now be keeping these and other precautions to keep everyone safe, even though legal restrictions have been removed. As a simple guide, at the end of the newsletter there is a list of recommended Do's and Don'ts that the Leadership team is asking the congregation to honour. Please read this carefully.

Also, in addition to our regular service stewards at each service, one extra person will act as a 'COVID Usher' inside the school hall. They will encourage you to follow our recommendations. Please support the COVID Usher by respecting any advice that they give you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to address them to George Hill, Alistair or any member of the Leadership team.

From Alistair and Lynn- Now that we are able to worship physically at the school again, we are relaxing the amount of times we contact you all to keep in touch. We will still try and keep in regular contact with those who aren't yet able to join us for worship at the school. However, we are of course always here for all of you. We are always available to pray with you over the phone where it is not possible to meet.

From George Hill- "Nefyn on Tour" mini-camps

Prayer is keenly invited for the seven Urban Saints three-day youth mini-camps that are being run in place of the usual Nefyn ones during August.

The stricter Welsh COVID rules prevent camping at Nefyn, so the camps are moving temporarily to central Lancashire where we have been shown great kindness by a C of E church in Wrightington, just off the M6, who are letting us camp in their field and use their church hall with (newly refurbished!) kitchen and nice toilets, but alas no showers.

Camp leaders are busy planning a great time filled with activities whilst hearing the good news of Jesus. Please pray for several SBC church members who are helping, as will be shown in the coming weeks. And it's not too late to book or volunteer!

Sunday to Wednesday 1st – 4th August - Camp 1 (9s to 12s, leaders Johnny & Rachel Read)
- from SBC: Janet Wright (head cook), Jo Cockram, George & Chris Hill

Wednesday to Saturday 4th – 7th August - Camp 2 (9s to 12s, leaders Johnny & Rachel Read)

- from SBC: Janet Wright (head cook), Jo Cockram, George & Chris Hill

Further information about the camps will be included in the newsletter each week.

From George Hill- SBC Low Mobility Picnic & Potter

Calling any of you who are unable to walk far, are wheelchair users, or have children in prams or buggies!

You are warmly invited to join our "low mobility picnic & potter" at Crewe Park (Queen's Park) on Sunday 15th August.

We will leave Sandbach Primary Academy after the all-age morning service, to arrive for a picnic about 12:30pm – 1:00pm, so please bring butties. There is not much shelter except for trees!

Please park in the main car park (by the Park side entrance near the children's' play area). The seating in the Park is rather spread out and may be busy, so we may have to split up at first.

Then we will gather to set out from the playground, to stroll or roll together around the lovely park, lake and cafe. (Ice cream!)

Please email or contact George Hill on 07843 742512 if you need directions or a lift, or can offer lifts.

Transport will be well-ventilated (please wear a mask), but may be with others. Front seats will be limited.

SBC Recipe for August

CREAMY VEG PASTA

From Chris Hill

Ingredients-

2 cloves of garlic chopped small

Half an onion

Pesto sauce

1 Carrot

Half a courgette

Handful of mangetout or green beans

8 tbs cooked pasta

Mixed herbs (fresh or dried)

Half carton low fat soft cheese (cottage cheese or Philadelphia etc)

Method

Cut veg to desired size

Steam veg for ten minutes

Put pasta on to boil

Fry garlic and onion in oil

Drain cooked pasta and add veg

Stir in pesto and cheese [quantity as desired]

Add herbs to taste

Church Groups- Week Beginning Saturday 31st July

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 has broken up for the summer. The meetings will resume on Wednesday 8th September.

Wednesday- The Wednesday Evening Study Group has broken up for the summer. The meetings will resume in September.

Thursday- The Thursday Evening House Group has broken up for the summer. The meetings will resume in September.

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.....

'If I was an Olympic athlete, I'd rather come in last than win the silver medal. You win the gold, you feel good. You win the bronze, you think, 'at least I got something.' But you win that silver, that's like, 'Congratulations, you almost won! Of all the losers, you came in first! You're the number one loser! No one lost ahead of you!'" – Jerry Seinfeld

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 25th 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.
- **Read** the words of the songs (or hum them without singing). Only the music group will be playing and singing the songs for the time being.
- 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).