



Sharing the love of
Jesus

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 15th August 2021

Message from Alistair

Some people have an opinion about everything. And they can be very quick to share it! And they will give their opinion about sport, politics, religion, celebrities and so on.

Many times the opinions of other people can be quite helpful. If I'm going on holiday abroad, I like to read what people have said about the resort, and especially the hotel. However, at times this can be quite frustrating! Because for every person who says that the hotel was absolutely wonderful and they can't wait for a return visit, there are others who say it's the worst hotel they've ever stayed in and are never going to return! Having said all that, generally speaking a recommendation carries weight, doesn't it?

Now let's take that idea and apply it to sharing the good news of the gospel. What if we were to say to someone something like this, 'My faith in Jesus Christ has been such a help to me in difficult times. The best thing anyone can ever do for life and eternity is to believe in him.' We're willing to talk about so many other things, but are we willing to talk about Jesus?

The other day, I was challenged by the suggestion that to not share the gospel can be a sin because there are sins of commission and sins of omission. Sins of commission are sins we take action to commit, whether in thought, word, or deed. Sins of omission are those in which we knew we should have done something good, but refused. The Bible says, 'Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.' James 4:17.

So how could failing to share our faith ever be a sin? Well, imagine that you were in a house that catches fire. You get out of the house as quickly as possible to save your own life. But you know there are other people inside the house who can't get out. But you don't do anything to help them. You don't even phone 999 and call the fire brigade. You just walk away as if nothing had happened. Is that wrong? Yes it is. In fact, it might even be a criminal act.

So how much worse is it for us to know the way of salvation, to know the way to heaven, to know the way for people to find forgiveness of their sins and meaning and purpose in their lives, but not to tell them? We need to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

With my love and God bless

Alistair

Word for the Week

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. *Matthew 6:10*

Sunday Service- 15th August

On Sunday 15th August, our service will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It will be an all-age service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart.

The Bible reading is Matthew 6:9-13 and the title is 'The Lord's Prayer- Part 2.'

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

Dave Hopwood is an author and speaker who loves communicating the Bible using contemporary media, humour, illustrations and stories. This is one of his poems based on Galatians 5. It reminds us of the rich grace of God, and how we cannot work to earn our salvation.

Discovery

We have discovered something,
a liberating, burden-lifting, life-releasing secret:
we are accepted and welcomed by God.
Not because of our working hard, doing good deeds,
not because we agonise in prayer,
or try to obey every last little rule.

No.

We have discovered something,
a liberating, burden-lifting, life-releasing secret:
we are accepted and welcomed by God.
Because of the free gift of Jesus,
his life, his work, his sacrifice,
his death and resurrection.

And,

we have discovered something,
a liberating, burden-lifting, life-releasing secret:
that when we forget this,
and try to earn our acceptance and welcome
through hard work, agonising and rule keeping,
he reminds us again -
we are acceptable to God,
because of his unique, extraordinary Son.

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Wisdom for the Week

'Little of the Word with little prayer is death to the spiritual life. Much of the Word with little prayer gives a sickly life. Much prayer with little of the Word gives more life, but without steadfastness. A full measure of the Word and prayer each day gives healthy and powerful life.' *Andrew Murray- South African writer, teacher and Christian pastor.*

News of the Church Family

Please pray for Kate Broad and all the family. Kate's grandad passed away very peacefully in hospital last Friday morning- 6th August. Grandad's funeral will be on 27th August. Please especially remember Kate's nan, mum and uncle in your prayers.

News for the Church Family

From Alistair and the Leadership team- Our next Leaders Meeting is on Monday 16th August. During this meeting we will be reviewing our COVID protocols for the school on Sunday mornings and Oasis during the week. We would value your prayers and support please, bearing in mind the very difficult decisions we have to make.

From the Saturday Prayer Breakfast- The Saturday Prayer Breakfast have resumed their meetings. They meet on Saturdays at Oasis [for prayer without breakfast!] from about 8:30am-9:15pm. All are very welcome to attend.

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. The church 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!

Saturday 14th August - tents all have to be moved! ("mid-guard") - SBC folks will probably be helping.

Sunday to Wednesday 15th – 18th August - Camp 5 (13s to 14s, leaders Dave & Lizzie Atkins)
From SBC: Carol Griffiths (head cook) and Suzie and Stu Warburton

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.

Church Groups- Week Beginning Saturday 14th August

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

Tuesday- The Tuesday Morning House Group has broken up for the summer. They will discuss the possibility of meeting again in September.

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.....

'I changed my password to "incorrect," so whenever I forget what it is the computer will say 'Your password is incorrect.'

Contacts

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Lynn Mynett (Elder): 01270 765330 [home]

DO's and DON'Ts for the congregation for SBC services from 25th July

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[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).