



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 7th July 24

Message from Alistair-

In the world of academics, business and sport, sometimes less gifted people go further than those with greater abilities due to one trait- effort.

But if we're honest with ourselves, this same diligence is sometimes lacking in our spiritual lives. If you and I are to counter spiritual laziness, we're in need of an assessment of sorts.

When we reflect on this year, have we made any progress in our Christian lives? How are we doing in our times of personal prayer and Bible reading? When asked to serve in the church in some way, how do we respond? What about in hearing the word of God as it's preached, when it hits home with power and impact and we know that it demands application and change? Do we take action as doers of the word and not as hearers only- James 1:22? Does laziness cause us to do what is easy rather than what is best?

Our answers to questions like these can help us to press on and avoid the slow drip-drip of spiritual laziness. But there's always the danger that started plans and good intentions, and the many words of repentance and petitions for help gradually wither and die.

Do you want to be useful to God? Do you long to make a difference and reach people in all their trouble and emptiness and be part of the means by which God builds his church? Do not neglect your souls by giving room to spiritual laziness. Without diligence in your relationship with God, there will be no spiritual fruit in your life. 'Tomorrow' is the devil's favourite word. As the apostle Paul reminds us, 'Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation' [2 Corinthians 6:2]. Be useful to God *now!*

Our Service- Sunday 7th July 24-

Our service on Sunday 7th July will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Heather Carter will be leading the service and sharing about her visit to Tek Ura in Albania. Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching beginning a new series on the life of Jonah. The Bible reading is 2 Kings 14:23-25 and Jonah 1:1-3, and the title is 'All in the Past.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 7th July 24-

Monday- Welcome Bap- 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis.

Monday- Leaders Meeting- 7:30pm by Zoom.

Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis. Mark, Jo and Gill are on the rota.

Tuesday- Messy Church Meeting- 1:30pm at Oasis.

Tuesday- Encounter with God- 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis.

Tuesday- All-Age Planning Meeting- 8:45pm by Zoom.

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- Meeting at Sally's Café for coffee.

Wednesday- Wednesday Evening House Group- 7:30pm at Oasis.

Wednesday- Churches Together in Sandbach Meeting- 7:30pm at the Wesley Centre.

Saturday- Saturday Prayer Gathering- 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis.

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

Passion for Praise- Verses from Scripture that emphasise praise to our God-

The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? *Psalms 27:1*

Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- Laziness-

'Do not be lazy. Run each day's race with all your might, so that at the end you will receive the victory wreath from God. Keep on running even when you have had a fall. The victory wreath is won by him who does not stay down, but always gets up again, grasps the banner of faith and keeps on running in the assurance that Jesus is Victor.' *Basilea Schlink- Lutheran German religious leader and writer.*

News for the Church Family-

From Chris Nash- Shoebox Appeal 2024-

Well, here we are again! It's suddenly become that time of year again when we start thinking about the Christmas Shoeboxes. As before, they will be distributed by Teams4U through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages to children in need in Romania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Georgia. Donations can be brought to the church or to Oasis and, of course, cash donations are very welcome.

The usual items are:

- Toothpaste, soap, flannels/sponges, wash bags
- Toothbrushes- mainly small ones
- Woolly hats, gloves/mittens, scarves
- Notebooks (no bigger than A5), ball point pens, colouring pencils, small rulers, wax crayons, rubbers, pencil sharpeners
- Tennis balls/small balls
- Small toys/games for all ages from 3-14.
- Small soft toys – (can be bought from charity shops but please wash them first).
- Combs/hair slides/hair bobbles

- Small packets of sweets- if dated no earlier than June 2025.

Be on the lookout for brilliant bargains!!

From Mark Thompson- Christian Aid Week-

A big thank you from Mark and the Christian Aid Week Team for your company during the week - and for all your contributions! The total donated came to £1679.24, including Gift Aid. This will already be helping local projects and people through training in agricultural and other skills, loans to help set up businesses, and advocacy and support to engage with official bodies. All this will improve people's livelihoods and standards of living.

From George Hill- Nature Walk Cancelled-

Apologies but for family reasons I will not now be leading a nature walk on the afternoon of Sunday July 14th.

From George Hill- Farm Picnic and Open-Air Service- Sunday July 21st-

We have again been kindly invited, weather permitting, to hold a summer OUTDOOR service at the farm of Janet and Mike Wright in Nantwich. We will meet for a picnic at the farm, any time from 12:30pm onward, on Sunday 21st July (i.e., leaving after our morning service). Please offer lifts to those without transport. Please bring a chair if this is easy for you. Please bring your own lunch. The afternoon will then be for relaxing and chatting, with an optional country walk (with appropriate footwear, as there may be stiles).

There will be a short open-air service at approx. 3:30pm, led by Lynn. She would appreciate support!

From the Baptist Union- Post-Election Day Prayer-

God of all nations, we lift up to you our newly elected leaders and government officials. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and a spirit of service as they undertake their duties. May they be guided by a commitment to the common good, justice, and the welfare of all citizens. May they govern with compassion, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility towards the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society. In Jesus' name, Amen.

And finally....

I didn't realise my uncle had a false tooth until it came out in conversation!

Contacts-

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