



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 28th July 24

Message from Alistair-

After Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, he didn't have anywhere to go. When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! And so Paul needed someone to encourage him, to lead him, and to introduce him to the church. For this task, God chose an ordinary man whom he had been forming all along. This man was from Cyprus with a great religious background. And he had been given a new name by those who knew him: Barnabas, which means 'son of encouragement'- Acts 4:36.

It was this characteristic of Barnabas- his encouraging nature- which made him influential in Paul's life. The Bible doesn't tell us that Barnabas directed Paul anywhere, drew him a map, or suggested someone he might talk to. No, it simply gives us 4 wonderful words: 'But Barnabas took him.' Acts 9:27. When you take somebody where they need to go, it involves time, effort, and a rearrangement of plans.

Barnabas would become Paul's companion on his first great missionary journey. Not just the start of Paul's Christian life but the start of his witness to the Gentiles owed much to this largely unsung hero.

We need people with the spirit of Barnabas in all our churches- a son/daughter of encouragement. People who are full of compassion, are sensitive to the needs of others and who will give time and effort to reach out and help those who are new or struggling. The church is sustained every single week as a result of people who recognise there are no inconsequential moments in their days. There are no chance encounters. There are no irrelevant people. There are no insignificant tasks. Every church needs people who are like Barnabas- the son of encouragement.

Our Service- Sunday 28th July 24-

Our service on Sunday 28th July will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Andrea Jones will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. The Bible reading is Jonah 1, and the title is, 'The Castaway.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 28th July 24-

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

Tuesday- Tots and Co is closed for the summer. It will re-open on 3rd September.

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

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am at Oasis- Studies in the life of Jonah.

Wednesday- Wednesday Evening House Group- Social Gathering at the home of Susie and Stuart Warburton- 7:30pm

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

Thursday- All-Age Planning Meeting- 7:30pm by Zoom.

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-

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen. *Romans 11:33-36*

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

'Encouragement is awesome. It can actually change the course of another person's day, week, or life.' *Chuck Swindoll- American Christian Pastor and Author*

News for the Church Family-

From Stu and Susie Warburton- Garden Party- Saturday 17th August 24-

Stu and Susie are inviting you all to pop round to their garden on Saturday 17th August- 10:00am- 12 Noon- for drinks and cake as a general celebration of everyone's birthdays this year (and especially those reaching significant milestones).

Drinks will be provided; offers of cake would be appreciated please.

And finally....

A friend of mine brought me a watch that has stopped working. I haven't told them yet. It's never the right time.

Contacts-

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