



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 10th November 24

Message from Alistair-

Some years ago I remember watching a football match between Blackburn Rovers and Wimbledon. It was the last match of the season, both teams were safe and in no danger of relegation and it was a warm sunny day. And it was dire! It was painfully slow, played like it was just a friendly, and lacked any excitement and intensity. And it won't surprise you to learn that it finished 0v0!

I was struck by what happened at the end of the 20/21 football season. Manchester City became Premier League champions with 3 games to spare. It was their third title in 4 years. And in the final match of the season against Everton victory was secure. In a sense the final match didn't matter. Manchester City had already won the title, and the game had no bearing on their standing.

Christians occupy the same spot as Manchester City did back in 20/21. According to the Bible we have already won. According to prophecy victory is secure. According to the message of grace and the death of Christ on the cross, no one can snatch us from the Father's hand.

So how do we behave in the meantime? Well, unlike Blackburn Rovers and Wimbledon, Manchester City were a good example. Even though victory was secure, they were confident, played with commitment and intensity, and put everything into the final game. In fact they beat Everton 5v0!

Whatever is happening in your life, in the lives of those you love and indeed in our world in these turbulent times, through the death and resurrection of Christ victory is secure. Let's show up, live with commitment and intensity for him, 'and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him'- Colossians 3:17. After all, victory is secure!

Our Service- Sunday 10th November 24-

Our service on Sunday 10th November will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. George Hill will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. The Bible reading is 2 John 1-6 and the title is 'Walking in truth, and walking in love.' The service will include an act of remembrance and communion.

We're sorry but we're not able to serve tea and coffee after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 10th November 24-

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

Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis. Sue, Alison and Chris F are on the rota.

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

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. A Study called 'Portraits of Jesus.'

Wednesday- Wednesday Evening House Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Ray Bacon is leading a 2 week study called 'The Bible end to end'.

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-

'Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings.' *Daniel 2:20-21*

Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- God's Sovereignty-

'Nothing is a surprise to God; nothing is a setback to His plans; nothing can thwart His purposes; and nothing is beyond His control. His sovereignty is absolute. Everything that happens is uniquely ordained by God. Sovereignty is a weighty thing to ascribe to the nature and character of God. Yet if He were not sovereign, He would not be God. The Bible is clear that God is in control of everything that happens.' *Joni Eareckson Tada- American writer, speaker and Chief Executive of Joni and Friends International Disability Centre in the USA.*

News for the Church Family-

From George Hill- Forthcoming SBC Annual Church Meeting-

This is an advance notice that our church AGM will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 25th November at Oasis. The formal notice and papers will be sent out with and after next week's Newsletter.

From George Hill- Annual Group Reports-

Please send me your annual reports for SBC groups you are involved in by Monday 11th November.

From Mark Thompson- White Poppies for Peace-

Last year at this time I wrote this: "At a time of spiralling conflict, how can we stand for peace?" and referred to the many conflicts causing great suffering around the world. And this year it seems to be even worse – Gaza, Lebanon, Iran, Sudan, Ukraine...

Remembrance Day is a time to recognise the true human cost of war, and to try and stand up for peace. We can still buy our red poppies and support the work of the Royal British Legion. But we can also commit to the ongoing struggle for peace, and remember all victims of all wars, past and present.

The Peace Pledge Union promotes the wearing of white poppies in the lead up to Remembrance Day. In wearing a white poppy we can show that we stand for three things-

- Remembrance of all victims of war, military and civilian.
- A challenge to war and militarism as a normal way of solving problems.
- A commitment to peace and to seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict.

If you would like to wear a white poppy in this remembrance season, please ask me for one – I have a supply.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Retreat-

A couple of weeks ago, we had our church retreat at Olive Grove Conference Centre in Nantwich. Rev. Linda Hopkins led the day and the theme was 'The Beauty of Thy Peace.' There were three sessions exploring-

- The Beauty of God around us (God of creation)
- The Beauty of God in the everyday (God with us in the ordinary)
- The Beauty of Christ within us (the invitation to life in Christ)

You can visit the link to the SBC website below to see photos and read some people's personal reflections.

<https://www.sandbach-baptist.org.uk/newsanevents/retreat-day.php>

From Chris Nash- Christmas Shoeboxes-

A big thank you to everyone who contributed and helped with the shoeboxes this year. We were able to pack a grand total of 176 boxes which will soon be collected and sent on their way with our love.

From Jenny Tunley- Angel Tree-

The Angel Tree beetle drive raised £201.20 which I think is amazing! Thank you very much to everyone.

And finally....

I've got a friend who works in the repair section of the Swan Vesta factory. He's involved in match fixing!

Contacts-

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