



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**

## **Message from Alistair-**

If you have children or grandchildren at pre-school, you'll know that their days are filled with colouring, music, and running around the playground. At one nursery I know, children can access a wide range of activities inside and outside. The children take part in various group activities such as music and dance in the school hall, bug hunts, trim trail and using the parachute.

At first glance, the Golden Rule might sound extremely basic, like something we might learn in pre-school- "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you"- Mathew 7:12.

Sounds fairly straightforward doesn't it? Simple enough that, on the surface, even a preschooler can understand it. But while it may be easy to understand, it isn't easy to live out!

Here's what makes the Golden Rule so challenging: The goal isn't simply not to do people any harm- most of us can do that. And so notice that Jesus says, "Do this" as opposed to "Don't do this." By stating the Golden Rule in a positive way, Jesus raises the bar considerably. He emphasizes what He wants His followers to actually do.

Keeping the Golden Rule is far more than passively refraining from being selfish, unkind or inconsiderate. It's actively displaying Christ-like goodness.

Essentially, we are called to treat people the way Jesus treats us. And how does Jesus treat us? With love, patience, grace, kindness, and forgiveness, to name but a few. Compelled by the incredible love and mercy we've received from Jesus, we must seek to show that love to others. (1 John 4:19). This is what it means to follow the Golden Rule. It's not sounding so easy anymore, is it? In fact, it's far easier to write about the Golden Rule than to put it into practice! Ask Jesus for the power to do to others what you would have them do to you.

## **Our Service- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 25-**

Our service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Steph Radcliffe will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. We are continuing our series called 'Praying the Psalms.' This week it is Psalm 42 and the title is 'Dry, Drowning and Disheartened!'

## **Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 25-**

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

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

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

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

**Wednesday-** Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis.

**Wednesday-** Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis.

**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.

### Wisdom for the Week-

But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.  
*2 Corinthians 12:9*

Father, please help us to serve you faithfully as we depend upon your grace in our weakness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### News for the Church Family-

#### **From Alistair and the Leadership Team- 36 Green Street- Oasis and the 2 flats above- Update-**

Following the unanimous decision at our recent Special Church Meeting to purchase 36 Green Street (comprising Oasis and the two flats above), we held our Pledge Sunday on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

We are thrilled to report that thanks to people's very generous response, we've been able to significantly reduce the amount we need to borrow to complete the purchase.

There are still quite a few folk who have either been away or have taken pledge forms to fill in and we will therefore keep the appeal going a little longer to give everyone time to prayerfully consider how to respond. If you haven't been able to pick up a form please have a word with Alistair or Ian.

Pledge forms can be returned on the next two Sundays or posted to Ian at 38 Adlington Drive, Sandbach, CW11 1DX.

We will then give a detailed update of the total raised in about two weeks' time.

Thank you again for your incredible generosity and support.

We have engaged a firm of solicitors to carry out the conveyancing. They specialise in Baptist Churches so are very familiar with charity law considerations and trust implications for Baptist churches.

We have received suggestions from the North Western Baptist Association [NWBA] about where we might be able to apply for grants.

We arranged for a full structural survey and homebuyers valuation report survey of 36 Green Street to be carried out this afternoon- [Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January]- and this has been completed.

#### **From Christine and George Hill- Fund Raising for TEK URA, Albania (Dan and Annie Dupree)-**

People have been asking where to send money to support the work of Tek Ura. One of the ways gifts can be made is at our Stewardship Page at-

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/sandbachbaptisttekura>.

If there are any problems, please have a word with George or Ian when they return from being away. Alternatively, George is happy to receive cash donations when he gets back. He will then put them on the Stewardship Page.

### **From George Hill - Bible Reading Week starting Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February-**

This year we are again having a church Bible Reading Week. As Christians, all of us are encouraged to put our roots deep into God's Word, the Bible. If you have attended church for some years, you will hopefully have many Bible verses (probably more than you realise) treasured in your memory.

One verse that you may know is Acts chapter 17 verse 11. The apostle Paul had been telling the Good News of Jesus to the people of Thessalonica, until some troublemakers forced him to flee. As soon as it was night, Paul left for the neighbouring town of Berea, where again he started to share the Good News of Jesus. Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, records what happened next:

'Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.' [Acts 17:11].

During our Bible Reading Week, in the warm spirit of the Bereans, we will invite you to choose and read at least one passage from the list of six Bible passages we offer you daily. Thus, on each day you will be able to choose to read any (or all!) of:

One chapter from the Gospels

One chapter from elsewhere in the New Testament

One chapter from the Old Testament

One Psalm or chapter from Proverbs

Pot pourri! Perhaps a famous or familiar passage

One entire Bible book (usually a very short one) - to be read in one go.

We'll provide the list of Bible passages for the Bible Reading Week- February 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>- nearer the time. Please watch this space for more information!

I can also record some Bible chapter readings for folks who have difficulty reading print. Please ask me.

### **From Cheshire South Methodist Circuit- Service of Taize prayers and music- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 25-**

You are invited to a service of Taize prayers and music at Nantwich Methodist Church, Hospital Street, Nantwich, CW5 5RP on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 3:00pm.

*Taize is a community in France which has been gathering Christians from many different backgrounds and churches since the 1940's to share together in Bible reflections, prayer and worship.*

*Using simple songs and times of silent reflection it aims to help Christians go deeper into prayer and grow closer to God.*

### **And finally....**

A clown held the door open for me the other day. I thought... 'What a nice jester!'

Contacts-

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