



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 9th March 2025

Message from Alistair-

The Grand Canyon is a steep-sided canyon carved by the Colorado River in Arizona, USA. The Grand Canyon is 277 miles (446 km) long, up to 18 miles (29 km) wide and attains a depth of over a mile (6,093 feet or 1,857 metres).

Earth's geological history has been exposed as the Colorado River and its tributaries cut their channels through layer after layer of rock while the Colorado Plateau was uplifted. The Colorado River's rapid velocity and large volume, and the great amounts of mud, sand, and gravel it carries swiftly downstream account for the incredible cutting capacity of the river simultaneously deepening and widening the canyon.

But I guess it had quite a slow start. Maybe a few drips here and there. Slowly more and more water built up. Then thunderstorms and lightning- angry expressions from the sky spilling out in the raging Colorado River. A once gentle stream now full of power and purpose. As the years go by the canyon deepens and widens.

Our anger can build like the Colorado River. Slowly, small things drip, drip, drip down, irritating, annoying, frustrating, and finally enraging. *That was mine-* drip. *I wanted to do this-* drip. *You shouldn't have said that-* drip. *Why can't you see it my way?* – drip. *Don't tell me what to do-* drip. The pressure, stress, and emotion build up stirring up our anger, pouring out in our words, sweeping away our loved ones, our homes, our peace.

Don't wait until you have a rushing river. Go after the small drips. Address every little irritant with prayer, forgiveness and grace. And do it before your anger digs a canyon in your life.

Our Service- Sunday 9th March 25-

Our service on Sunday 9th March will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Rev. Jennie Wakefield will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. The Bible reading is Psalm 73 and the title is 'Why do the Wicked Prosper?' The service will include communion.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 9th March 25-

Sunday- World Day of Prayer- 6:00pm at St Mary's Church, Sandbach. {See notice later in the newsletter}.

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.

Wednesday- Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis. Lent Study- Mark's Gospel- Jesus' teaching about his impending death and resurrection and about a life of discipleship- Part 1 (Mark 8:22 – 9:29).

Thursday- Thursday Evening House Group- 7:45pm by Zoom- The Romans Course- Session 6: Hope- What has God promised? {See notice later in the newsletter}.

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-

'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' *Numbers 6:24-26*

Father, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. And your blessings are too many and too wonderful for us even to begin to comprehend. Please use me to speak your blessings over others this week. And please give me eyes to see and ears to hear so I can share your blessings with others. In the name of Jesus, your greatest blessing I pray. Amen.

News for the Church Family-

From George Hill- Nominations for Trustees-

Nominations are invited for new Trustees (elders and deacons) to join the SBC Leadership team. The closing date for nominations is Sunday 9th March, and nomination papers must be sent to me as church secretary, including the signatures of two supporting church members.

Elections will take place at the quarterly Ordinary Church Members' Meeting on Monday 24th March.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Notices of combined SBC Special Church Members' Meeting and Ordinary Church Members' Meeting on Monday 24th March 2025-

Dear SBC Member or Friend,

3rd March 2025

This comprises the Notices of two forthcoming meetings on the same evening. There will be a brief SBC Special Church Members' Meeting, followed immediately by our quarterly SBC Ordinary Church Members' Meeting, on **Monday 24th March at Oasis at 7:30pm**. Non-members are very welcome to attend but may not vote.

The Special Church Meeting is necessary for us to approve a single resolution required for the purchase of 36 Green Street, asking the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd to act as Holding Trustee for the property and adopt the appropriate Trust Model. Ian will explain what this means at the meeting before the vote is taken but is a standard procedure when Baptist Churches purchase Buildings and

Manses. Please note that the Special Church Members' Meeting vote requires a 75% approval of the Church Members present, entitled to vote and voting.

The Ordinary Church Members' meeting will include a secret ballot to elect those new Trustees who were nominated by Sunday 9th March. The following papers will then be sent in further emails, or will be delivered personally if necessary:

1. The combined Agenda, including the names of the candidates standing for election as Trustees.
2. The Ordinary Church Meeting financial statement.

There will be no minutes of previous meetings sent out or requiring approval, because the minutes of the Special Church Meeting in January were approved at the end of that meeting.

Please attend if you can, because if this meeting is not quorate we would have to call another Special Church Meeting, which could hold up the purchase of 36 Green Street (Oasis). Thank you.

Yours warmly in Christ Jesus

From Churches Together in Sandbach- World Day of Prayer- Friday 7th March and Sunday 9th March-

The 2025 service has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands with the theme 'I made you wonderful'. Everyone is invited to join the local services-

Friday 7th March- 2:00pm at St John the Evangelist Church, Sandbach Heath.
Sunday 9th March- 6:00pm at St Mary's Church, Sandbach.

From Ian Parsons- Tear Fund Sunday-

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Tear Fund appeal and to those who contributed soup and bread for the hunger lunch.

We will be keeping the appeal open until Sunday 16th March and a box for any donations will be available in the foyer at the school on 9th and 16th March.

From George Hill- Does your rota need you?-

Some folk in the church may not know that a detailed rota makes sure that there are people to do everything on Sundays. If you have never seen a copy of the rota, it's because it's only sent to those on it.....!!

In early March, I will be compiling the rota for Sunday services from April to June. We are enormously grateful to all those who put in their time and effort to assist our worship at the school each week. But it would be really lovely for folks who are not yet involved (or who have taken a well-deserved rest) to join in, so that everyone gets called on less.

Please speak to me if you might consider, or would like to know more about any of the following-
Coffee rota - at present we only have volunteers to run coffee on about half of the Sundays in the month. {This is because I'm not willing to ask any more of those who already do it}. If you miss your coffee....

Set-up rota - this is for the fit! More help is always welcome, as we set up from 9:30am-10:10am.

Stewarding rota - this role only begins at 10:10am and so does not require a particularly early arrival. And stewarding does not require both stewards to be fit: one of the pair can sit and greet people. Making people welcome in the Name of the Lord is a joyful ministry. Please note that stewarding is an essential safety role- which is why you may have stewards and no coffee!

Sunday school helper- this is not teaching: helpers are not required to prepare lessons or teach, but having a helper sitting in is essential for safeguarding reasons. (A DBS is required).

I will ask volunteers for their available Sundays in early March. Please be assured you will not be put on the rota for a Sunday that doesn't suit you. And if your plans change, I can tell you who you might most easily swap with.

[Spoiler alert! When Alistair retires, we will be looking for more volunteers!! We will be putting together 'Interregnum Mini-Teams' to handle various parts of church life, whilst we are without a minister- particularly the plethora of things Alistair previously did! Please start praying about whether you feel called to support this work].

PS- None of the above roles are only for church members.

From Alistair- Thursday Evening House Group-

The next meeting of our Thursday Evening House Group will be on Thursday 13th March at 7:45pm by Zoom. We are studying Paul's Letter to the Romans. This week is Session 6: Hope- What has God promised?

The small group resources section of the Bible Society website has the teaching videos and the testimony videos. You can access the participant's guide online using the following link:
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-romans-course/the-romans-course-home/small-group-resources/>

You do not need to pay to access the guide as the Church has made a donation. If you are struggling to download the guide, please let me know. The Zoom link is in the email newsletter.

And finally....

I saw a vegetable being delivered to Sandbach Library. That's a turnip for the books!

Contacts-

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