



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 24**

## **Message from Alistair-**

When our loved ones return home after spending some time away, we are always glad to see them. And perhaps the measure of our joy is in proportion to the length of time they've been away- a few hours, a day, many days, weeks...or longer. The longer we wait for someone to arrive, the more excited we are to see them and the greater our joy in their return. That was true on the first Palm Sunday. The people got to see Jesus.

There was a joyful atmosphere among the people of Israel when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people had waited a long time for their King, the promised Messiah. But this King did not look as they would have expected.

Kings rode on horses. This King rode on a donkey.

Kings were adorned in royal robes. This King wore the clothes of an ordinary man.

Kings were accompanied by a battalion of soldiers. This King rode alone, followed only by a few friends.

Kings had many servants. This King served many people.

Kings ruled over the people. This King ministered to the people.

Kings feasted on sumptuous food prepared for them. This King multiplied loaves and fish to feed other people.

Kings wore crowns of gold and precious gems. This King would soon wear a crown of thorns.

Kings made loud proclamations and the people were silent. This King was silent when the people yelled, "Crucify Him."

Kings were protected at all costs. This King would soon lay down His life paying the cost of all sin.

He might not have been the King they wanted; but He was the King they, and indeed us, needed!

## **Our Service- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 24-**

Our service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 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 Luke 19:28-44 and the title is 'Cheers and Tears'.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

## **Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 24-**

**Sunday-** 'The Passion' at St Mary's Church, Sandbach at 6:00pm. [See notice later in the newsletter].

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

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

**Tuesday-** Tots and Co is open on 26 March, and then closed during the Easter holidays. It will re-open on 16<sup>th</sup> April 24.

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

**Wednesday-** Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. A Lent Study called 'Fleeting Shadows' by Malcolm Duncan. The study helps us reflect on the Cross and the power of Christ in our own lives as we walk through the trials and tribulations of life.

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

**Thursday-** Knit 'n Natter meets at Oasis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday afternoons of the month from 1:30pm-3:30pm.

**Thursday-** Maundy Thursday Communion service- 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.

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

I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken. *Psalms 62:1-2*

### **Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- Palm Sunday-**

'Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on the paradox of Jesus' kingship, which is revealed not in power and splendour, but in humility and sacrifice.' *Tim Keller- American preacher and theologian.*

### **News for the Church Family-**

#### **From Moira Craven- Stamps for The Leprosy Mission-**

In recent years, we have collected stamps to support the work of The Leprosy Mission. We have recently received this letter from them-

*We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has collected stamps to raise funds for people affected by leprosy. We know that so many of you have spent precious time collecting, cutting and trimming with great care. Over the years you have raised thousands of pounds and transformed lives across Africa and Asia - all with stamps! It's been a joy to receive bags and parcels at the office, all packed and posted with love.*

*Good stewardship of funds and resources is at the forefront of everything we do, so that we can send as much money as possible to help those with leprosy. In the last couple of years, the value of stamps has greatly reduced. Now that bar-coded stamps have been introduced, stamp value has been*

*further decreased. Sadly, we have now reached the point where used stamps no longer raise the money they did in years gone by.*

*It is with regret that we have made the tough decision to stop taking donations of stamps and collectables.*

We are currently exploring the possibility of supporting an alternative organisation with our stamps. We will let you know more details in due course. Thank you.

### **From Ian Parsons and Churches Together in Sandbach- Easter Passion Play is coming to Sandbach-**

Just a final reminder that The Christian Theatre Company: 'Lamps Collective' is coming to Sandbach and will be presenting 'The Passion' at St Mary's Church at 6:00pm on Palm Sunday- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The presentation lasts for approx. 75 minutes with no interval.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite people along to a moving and memorable retelling of the Easter story through the eyes of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman Centurion called Marcus. Please note that the recommended minimum age is 12+.

Tickets are £5.00, which are now also PAYABLE ON THE DOOR. So if you are still undecided, it is OK to turn up on the night and pay on entry. If you are unable to come but would still like to make a donation, please see me.

We are all very excited to be able to bring the Easter Story to our Town in a fresh and new way and hope you will be able to support the event through prayer and by coming along on the night.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

### **From Chris Nash- Oasis Work Party- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March-**

We invite helpers for a work party at Oasis, starting at 9:30am (after the prayer meeting) on Saturday morning- 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Likely tasks include:

- 1) covering the untiled floor with carpet tiles
- 2) clearing out old and unwanted items from the back rooms
- 3) any small necessary repairs
- 4) any necessary equipment maintenance
- 5) possibly fitting display lighting

If anyone could lend a hand with any of these tasks it would be much appreciated (and there will be refreshments and cake!!).

It would be helpful if you could let me know if you are able to come please.

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

Never trust ladders. They're always up to something!

### **Contacts-**

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