



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 21st January 24

Message from Alistair-

The so-called 'Lord's Prayer' was given by Jesus as a model of what genuine Christian prayer is like. According to Matthew, Jesus gave it as a pattern to copy [Matthew 6:9- 'This, then, is how you should pray:']. According to Luke, Jesus gave it as a form to use [Luke 11:2- 'When you pray, say:']. We are not obliged to choose, however, for we can use the prayer as it stands and also model our own praying upon it.

However, perhaps many of us have trouble relating to the part of the Lord's Prayer that says, 'Give us each day our daily bread'- Luke 11:3. Our supermarkets have plenty of food, our fridges, freezers and cupboards are generally well-stocked, and our bellies are usually full. Perhaps we're more likely to pray for self-control and ask God to help us with our diet or not to eat so much! In the western world, you'll find bookshops full of books about losing weight, but not so many about surviving starvation!

But that doesn't negate the importance of the prayer, however, just the opposite. Hopefully, at some point it will occur to us that someone is providing for our needs. And asking for our daily bread is an expression of ultimate dependence on God for everything. Martin Luther had the wisdom to see that 'bread' was a symbol for 'everything necessary for the preservation of this life, like food, a healthy body, good weather, house, home, wife, children, good government and peace.' Perhaps we should also add that by 'bread' Jesus meant the necessities of life rather than the luxuries.

It's good to acknowledge with David in the Old Testament, 'Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand'- 1Chronicles 29:14. You see, long before you knew you needed someone to provide for your needs, God already had.

Our Service- Sunday 21st January 24-

Our service on Sunday 21st January will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. It will be an all-age service led by Rev. Alistair Stewart. We are beginning a new series which will take us through the Lord's Prayer. On Sunday, we're looking at the first 2 lines of the Lord's Prayer- 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.' The Bible reading is Matthew 6:9-13.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 21st January 24-

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

Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis- Mark, Jo and Sue are on the rota.

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

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis. They will continue with the series 'Moses the Man and his Purpose.'

Wednesday- Wednesday Evening House Group- 7:45pm at Oasis. Net Zero meeting with other churches and Councillors at Oasis at 7:45pm. Please see Mark Thompson for further details.

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

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

Saturday- Saturday Prayer Gathering- 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis.

Saturday- TEK URA fundraising Winter Social Evening- 6:00pm-9:00pm at Oasis. [Please see the notice later in the newsletter].

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-

We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone. *Psalms 33:20-22.*

Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- God-shaped vacuum-

'There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.' *Blaise Pascal – 17th century French mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher, and Catholic writer.*

News for the Church Family-

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Messy Church and Alpha-

Messy Church- At our last church meeting, we talked about the possibility of doing 'Messy Church'. 'Messy Church' is a way of being church for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

Initially, we plan to organize a one-off 'Messy Church' event at some point during the year. However, these events need a significant number of people and a lot of time and effort to run effectively. Therefore, we have arranged a meeting on **Monday 29th January at 7:30pm at Oasis** for all those interested in being involved in a 'Messy Church' event. We really hope that lots of you will want to be involved and will be able to come along to the meeting.

Alpha- Our Alpha course will start on Thursday 1st February at 7:45pm by Zoom. It will then usually continue fortnightly. Everyone is very warmly invited to join us and the Zoom link and more details will be sent out nearer the time. The study guides have been delivered and will be available at church on Sunday. Or please contact Alistair if you would like one of the guides.

From George Hill - Bible Reading Week starting Sunday 4th February-

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
- One famous passage (probably a familiar one)
- 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 start of the Bible Reading Week on February 4th nearer the time. Please watch this space for more info!

From Christine and George Hill- Fund Raising Evening for Albania (Dan and Annie Dupree)-

Our TEK URA fundraising Winter Social Evening is at Oasis on Saturday 27th January from 6:00pm-9:00pm. We invite you to support any of the following:

- Bring 'n Buy- for your surplus Christmas presents (ones that could sell, please!).
- Cake Sale.
- Skills and Trades Auction - offer your skills or your DIY time (min. £10 per hour)
- Come and have fun on the night!
- Make donations directly to our Tek Ura Sandbach Baptist Church fundraising page.

At the end of 2023, the amount shown on our page (i.e., our donations towards our 2023 pledge of £2000) stood at a magnificent £2758 (£2921 with Gift Aid) - well beyond our pledge. We would like to reach our new pledge of £2500 during 2024. (NB - on the page as it stands that will show as £2500 on top of the 2023 figure.)

Our page is at <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/sandbachbaptisttekura>

Offers of food etc. to Christine Hill, please.

From Ian Parsons- Easter Eggs with a difference-

Every year SBC provides Eggs or Chocolate Bars from the Meaningful Chocolate Company to some of our Church Groups. The Easter Egg contains a 24 page Easter story/activity book and costs £4.50, and the Blessing Bar contains an image of the resurrection and words of a blessing and costs £3.00. Out of

the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, the Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter Story in a box.

In addition, if you would like to buy any of these items to give to family or friends (or for yourself!), please let me know by 29th January and I will include it in the order. {You only need to pay when the order is received}.

And finally....

The other day I yelled into a colander. I ended up straining my voice!

Contacts-

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