



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 12th May 24

Message from Alistair-

Ascension Day celebrates the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. It is generally observed on a Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter. And this year it falls on Thursday 9th May.

Saying goodbye is not always easy. In fact, facing grief and loss is one of the hardest things we must do in life. Jesus' disciples surely felt grief and sorrow as they watched him being taken up to heaven.

With the Apostles' Creed we say that Jesus "ascended into heaven." This happened forty days after his resurrection (see Acts 1:1-11). But this does not mean Jesus abandoned his disciples or us. No, Jesus went to heaven for us.

While the Bible doesn't tell us very much about where heaven is or what it looks like, it plainly teaches that heaven means being in the presence of God. In God's presence, Jesus serves as our advocate, continuously interceding with God the Father for all of our needs (Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2). Jesus' presence with God also assures us that one day we will be with him in God's presence as well (John 14:1-3). And from heaven Jesus sends his Holy Spirit- God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised, the Counsellor, the one who empowers us for witness, and a reminder that he is always with us (Matthew 28:20).

Knowing that Jesus is in heaven for us now gives us tremendous comfort and strength as we wait for his promised return. In the meantime, as he lives in our hearts through his Spirit, Jesus calls us to share his love with a world full of sorrow and grief.

Our Service- Sunday 12th May 24-

Our service on Sunday 12th May will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Howard Jones will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. The Bible reading is Acts 1:7-11 and the title is 'There's a time to look up and there's a time to look around.' This service will also include communion.

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

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 12th May 24-

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

Tuesday- Tots and Co- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis. Mark, Alison and Gill 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 'The Holy Spirit - understanding and experiencing Him'.

Wednesday- Net Zero Meeting- 7:30pm at Oasis.

Thursday- Knit 'n Natter will not be meeting for the time being.

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-

Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the highest heavens. You have done such wonderful things. Who can compare with you, O God? *Psalm 71:19*

Wisdom for the Week- Christian quotes to inspire and encourage- Ascension-

The ascension of Jesus Christ is much more than just a postscript to the resurrection; it is the return of the King to His rightful throne.' *Dr. Eric B. Watkins- American preacher and Theologian*

News for the Church Family-

From Mark Thompson- Christian Aid Week- 12th-18th May 2024- Sponsored Bike Ride-

Christian Aid week is this coming week, raising funds for work in Burundi. The bike ride, plant "sale" and refreshments will be running every day as follows:

Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from 2:00p.m – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

You are all welcome to come and support.

There is no sponsorship form this year, but envelopes will be on the table at the school and in Oasis. Please return them to church or direct to Mark.

If you would rather give online, you can use this link to his fundraising page where you will find more details. <https://bit.ly/3Q1QTP8>

From Unity Methodist Church- Christian Aid Events-

Unity Methodist Church has the following events organised to raise money for Christian Aid week. Please join us if you are able-

Monday 20th May at 10:00am- coffee morning at New Horizons, Wheelock.

Saturday 25th May- 10:00am-12noon- coffee morning in the Wesley Centre with bacon butties and a raffle.

Saturday 1st June at 7:00pm- music for a June evening. An evening of light musical entertainment in the Wesley Centre, with Rob Glassonbury, Lynne Ashmore and Karen Foster.
Instrumental pieces (on the piano, harp and flute) and songs.
Proceeds to be shared between Christian Aid and UMC.
Tickets are available from Rob and Karen, or you can pay on the door.

From Churches Together in Sandbach- Knitted Angels-

It was felt that it would be good to give out knitted angels again this year – probably at 'Carols on the Cobbles' in December. If you would like to knit angels, there is a knitting pattern available on the CTIS website- <http://sandbachchurches.org.uk/ChristmasAngel2021.pdf>.

From Churches Together in Sandbach- World Day of Prayer 2025-

Following the retirement of the person who has been organizing this event for a number of years, please let Alistair know if you would be interested in helping run the event next year. Thanks.

And finally....

'Someone's stolen the grass from my garden,' said the man, looking forlorn.

Contacts-

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