



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 6th July 2025

Message from Alistair-

There's a restaurant in Oxford Street, Manchester called 'Refuge'. And the promotional material for the restaurant invites us to come as we are. It adds, 'From eclectic small plates to hearty Sunday roasts, head down for a weekly catch-up, a gathering of your nearest and dearest or a night out on the town. Sleeves up, dig in!'

'Refuge' is a lovely word. The Oxford Dictionary defines 'refuge' as- 'the state of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or difficulty.' 'Refuge' was a favourite word of David's. A quick glance through the Psalms, many of which were written by David, reveals that the word 'refuge' appears over 40 times. One particularly poignant place where David uses the word 'refuge' is in Psalm 57.

The title of the Psalm sets the context- 'a Psalm of David when he fled from Saul into the cave.' Lost in the darkness of the shadows and the depths of his thoughts, David has no escape and nowhere to turn. Go home and he endangers his family. Go to the tabernacle and he endangers the priests. Saul will kill him and anyone else connected with him. Here David sits, all alone, feeling like 'he's in the midst of lions and lying among ravenous beasts'- verse 4.

But then he remembers he's not on his own. And somewhere in the back of that cave he cries out to God, 'Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed'- Psalm 57:1.

Make God your refuge. Let him be the foundation on which you stand!

Our Service- Sunday 6th July 25-

Our service on Sunday 6th July will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Howard Jones will be leading the service and Rev. Jennie Wakefield will be preaching.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 6th July 25-

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

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

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

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

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship- 10:15am-11:45am at Oasis.

Wednesday- Messy Church Planning Meeting- 2:00pm at Oasis.

Wednesday- Wednesday Group- 7:30pm at Oasis- Eschatology- Host /Leader- Ray.

Thursday- Thursday Evening House Group- 7:45pm by Zoom. London Institute of Contemporary Christianity Course- Growing on the Frontline. Session 5- Maturing in Every Season. [There are more details 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-

Because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'- *Hebrews 13:5*.

Father, thank you for all your great promises. Thank you that you are a faithful God who keeps his promises. And thank you that we can entrust our future to you knowing that you are always with us and will bring us into your presence with victory and great joy. Thank you for our sure and steadfast hope. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

News for the Church Family-

From Mark Thompson- Christian Aid Week-

Mark would like to thank everyone for all their support and generosity through the week. A special thanks for all the gardening by Susie and Sue (for a full year!), and also to those who helped out with serving refreshments during Sue's incapacity!

The figures are:

Bike- 234 km, 4160 metres climbing, 14 hours 40 mins riding time.

Plants- hundreds, it seemed, and gallons of water!

Funds raised- £1713.27 - which is a brilliant result, and we pray will make a big difference to people in Guatemala.

From George Hill- Friends of A Rocha and other friends nature walk- Sunday 6th July-

All are welcome on our next nature walk of the summer, around Hamletts, Filter Bed Wood and Offley Wood.

Please meet at Sandbach Crosses at 2:30pm on Sunday 6th July, weather permitting.

Please have reasonable footwear. Not suitable for buggies. No unaccompanied under-18s and all walkers at personal risk.

From Alistair- Thursday Evening House Group-

The next meeting of our Thursday Evening House Group will be on Thursday 10th July at 7:45pm by Zoom. We are using the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity Course- Growing on the Frontline. This week is Session 5- Maturing in Every Season. Everyone is very welcome to join us using the link below-

To join, see details in the email newsletter.

And finally....

I went to dinner with the animals at Chester Zoo the other day. Unfortunately, they didn't all bring their wallets. I ended up paying the lion's share!

Contacts-

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