



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 24th August 2025

Message from Alistair-

Sometimes when you read the Bible, a verse or a passage really hits home. The other day I was reading the Letter of James. And James writes this, 'We all make many mistakes' – James 3:2. James, a younger brother of Jesus, the respected leader of the church in Jerusalem, the author of the letter in the Bible that bears his name, admits to making mistakes! Not just the occasional mistake, but many mistakes!

Now of course that doesn't mean James made mistakes when he was writing his letter, because he was being guided by the Holy Spirit. But what James is talking about is his normal everyday life. And in his normal life everyday life he made mistakes. Sin takes many forms. Among them, as every self-aware believer will admit, and the context of these verses in James makes clear, sins of speech are prominent. The hasty word, untruthful statement, sly suggestion, harmful gossip, innuendo, impurity, exaggeration, to name but a few.

So if you are a bit like me, and prone to get discouraged by your mistakes, perhaps it would help to remember that even James, who wrote a book of the Bible, made many mistakes in things he said to people. God forgave him and didn't write him off, and He won't write you and me off either.

Verse 2 goes on to say, 'For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.'

Lovely though that would be, neither you nor I are perfect, nor are we likely to become perfect any time soon.

And the same applies to that other person – the person who offended you or hurt your feelings by something they said. Can you allow that person to make mistakes too? Why not let it go and forgive them, as God has forgiven you?

Our Service- Sunday 24th August 25-

Our service on Sunday 24th August will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy. Rev. Sue Thompson will be leading the service and Rev. Alistair Stewart will be preaching. The Bible reading is John 11:17-27, 32-37, and the title is, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.'

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities- Week beginning Sunday 24th August 25-

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

Tuesday- Tots and Co has broken up for the summer. It will resume on Tuesday 9th September- 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis.

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

Wednesday- Ladies Fellowship is not meeting over the summer. It will resume on Wednesday 3rd September- 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis.

Wednesday- Wednesday Group is not meeting over the summer. It will resume on Wednesday 3rd September- 7:30pm at Oasis.

Thursday- Thursday House Group is not meeting over the summer. It will resume on Thursday 4th September- 7:45pm by Zoom.

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

Saturday- Alistair's retirement party- 10:00am-12 Noon at the home (and lovely garden) of Susie and Stu Warburton. [See 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.

Wisdom for the Week-

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. *Isaiah 40:29*

Father, I'm tired. I feel weak and unsure of what to do next. Please give me the strength to keep going. Help me trust You when I don't have the answers. Remind me that You are with me at all times. In Jesus name. Amen.

News for the Church Family-

From Chris Nash- Ian Higginbotham- Visit to Sandbach on Monday 8th September-

Just a reminder to those who knew Ian and Val.

This September, it will be 12 months since Val went to be with the Lord. Ian is making September a month of pilgrimage to meet up with people and visit places that were very special to them.

Ian is coming to Oasis on Monday 8th September. We will have lunch from around 1:00 pm when those who knew Ian and Val can share together and remember Val- a happy time with laughter and celebration.

I believe I have already invited everyone who knew them, but if I have missed anyone, please do let me know. Thank you.

From Ian Parsons- Alistair's Retirement Party-

This is a reminder that Alistair's retirement party will take place on Saturday 30th August from 10:00am-12 Noon at the home (and lovely garden) of Susie and Stu Warburton. This will be an informal gathering with drinks, cakes and nibbles served, and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to make it to thank Alistair for his wonderful leadership and wish him, Eunice and Susie well in the next chapter of their lives.

Alistair's final service at SBC will be on Sunday 31st August at 10:30am. George Hill will be leading the service and Alistair will be preaching.

From Alistair and the Leadership Team- Newsletter-

Andrea Jones has kindly offered to pick up the co-ordination and production of the church newsletter from 1st September, after Alistair's retirement. Please send any items for the newsletter to Andrea at andrea.jones200@gmail.com . Thank you.

From George Hill- Visiting Speaker: Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)-

On Sunday 7th September, we would love to see a good attendance to greet our first visiting speaker from MAF, a cause many of you have donated to. Alasdair Ness is a working airline pilot who works in his spare time for MAF.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is the world's largest humanitarian air operator, flying medical supplies, doctors, and nurses to places no one else can reach.

Their aeroplanes are the only way many people living in remote jungles, deserts, and mountains have access to life-giving necessities and the love of Christ.

And finally....

I asked my boss if I could leave work early on Friday. She said, 'Yes, as long as you make up the time.' I said, 'Sure, it's twenty past fourteen!'

Contacts-

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