



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 14 September 2025

Reflection for the week

Putting out the rubbish! - Andrea Jones

There was one week last month when our grey recycling bin failed to be emptied. It didn't disappear like Alistair's green bin - listen to his final sermon if you want to hear the story of his green bin!

<https://www.sandbach-baptist.org.uk/media> – and it was duly emptied the following week which was such a relief as it was, by then, VERY full!

But it made me think how much better I always feel once the rubbish and recycling has been collected. Jeff Lucas mentioned something similar in our daily bible notes a while back - that 'there's something liberating about getting rid of rubbish!'

And spiritually we can often feel the same. When we've cast our cares and burdens on God and confessed our sins to Him we feel so much better ... and yet so often we forget to do it. We forget to put our bin out and we let the worries and mishaps in our life build up until we feel crushed and overburdened by them.

But God never fails to empty our bin of worry and hurts and wrongs. He gladly takes the things we offer Him ... and in a sense He also recycles them because everything we experience in life can be used in some way! So not only does He leave us pure and free of the burden of sin and worry, but He uses our burdens and mishaps to refine and develop us, and to encourage and help others.

Nothing is wasted in God's kingdom so remember to put your spiritual bin out this week and give your concerns to God. His arms are waiting to receive them, and through them He can transform your life ... and maybe even someone else's.

Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11 28

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
1Peter 5:7

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Our Service this coming Sunday 14 September 2025

Our service on Sunday 14 September will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). Howard Jones will be leading the service and Rev Sue Thompson will be preaching. This service will include the celebration of communion.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 14 September 2025

Sunday: Walk at Tittesworth Reservoir after church. [See below]

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

Tuesday: Tots and Co 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis
Encounter with God 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis

Wednesday: Ladies Fellowship 10.15am-11.45am at Oasis
Wednesday Group 7:30-9.00pm at Oasis

Thursday: Thursday House Group 7.45pm by Zoom [See below]

Friday: No meeting of Energize this week

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

If you would like to join any of the midweek groups, please contact Bernie and he will put you in touch with the group leader.

A Prayer for the Week

Father help me to live this week to the full, being true to you in every way.
Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.
Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.

(Adapted from a prayer on Lectio 365)

News for the Church Family

From George Hill: Picnic and Walk at Tittesworth Reservoir near Leek Sunday 14 September

On Sunday 14 September (weather permitting – though not looking good just now), we will be leaving after church for a picnic and optional walk(s) at Tittesworth Reservoir in Staffordshire, postcode ST13 8SW. The drive is 18 miles, so offers of lifts would be welcomed. (And please don't go to Rudyard Lake by mistake!). We will aim to gather around 1:30pm to relax in company (bring butties, possibly a chair and blanket). The three adjacent car parks are about £3 for 2 hours or £5 for the day. (You may have to look for us depending on where there are spaces!). The Visitor Centre has full facilities including an

excellent restaurant open until 5:00pm and there is a fine playground. Binoculars for birdwatching will be handy. Paths are good and wheelchair friendly. Please help support walks for different abilities.

DIRECTIONS - Follow ST13 8SW, or ask George for details of a short route, or else:

- Go through Congleton town centre, follow the A54 (signposted Buxton) for 4 miles to the Bosley A523 traffic lights, at which turn right onto A523 towards Leek. (NB - speed cameras).
- In 3.5 miles, where the main road bends right, turn uphill slightly left at the Royal Oak pub. In a quarter of a mile at a crossroads turn left for Meerbrook.
- In one mile turn left and immediately right; then right again following Meerbrook signs. In two miles, continue through Meerbrook village then across the reservoir dam. Turn right into Visitor Centre.

Please email George Hill or phone or text him if you are planning to come or if the weather is very poor.

This is an informal event at personal risk. Under-18s must be supervised.

From the Thursday Evening House Group: Next Meeting 18 September

The next meeting of our Thursday Evening House Group will be on Thursday 18 September at 7:45pm by Zoom. We are using the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity Course: Growing on the Frontline. This week is Session 7 Turning inner growth into fruitful action. Everyone is very welcome to join us using the link in the email newsletter.

From George Hill: Coffee Rota Sunday 21 September

Tony and Christine are unable to do coffee on Sunday 21 September. If any two people can step in, please contact me.

And I expect several Sundays without coffee in October to December because the coffee team is too small. Again, help welcome. Thanks.

From George Hill: Advance warning of next Church Meeting 29 September

On Monday 29 September there will be an Ordinary Church Meeting at Oasis at 7.30pm. The formal Notice for it will be sent out next week. Please note in your diary and attend if you can, to hear an update on all matters concerning the interregnum and the search for a new minister.

From George Hill: Update on Tek Ura (Albania)

For our main SBC mission support project of Tek Ura (At the Bridge) in Albania, it was wonderful at the Council of Supporters meeting (which I attended on behalf of the church last week) to hear an update, with prayer invited from Dan and Annie Dupree and Miranda for the following points:

- The documents allowing the purchase of the piece of land in Durres have been completed (Praise God!) after 18 months of red tape. The purchase will cost about £50,000 in total and all the money is in hand apart from about £6,000 which has now been determined as the tax bill. Please pray this will be raised within the limit of one month.
- The summer camp for children with disabilities & their families (160 in all) was wonderful - with many of the youngsters experiencing their first ever swim! The next project in line for this group is called 'Sensory Bible Cells'.
- Tek Ura is now being supported by churches in all of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Please pray for still wider support.
- The paperwork applying to establish the UK arm of the charity, named 'At the Bridge', has twice been sent back for amendment by the UK Charity Commission and we now hope it will be accepted around December. Please pray for this to happen.

- The team's car in Albania was written off in an accident. Please pray for provision of a replacement because the team used it to travel between the centres at Tirane and Durrës.
- Please pray for a possible grant towards the work, of around £25,000, which may be available.
- There is a Tek Ura Whatsapp prayer group that anyone is free to join.
- The full 2024/2025 Impact Report of the work of Tek Ura can be read (via CTRL and click) using this link: https://issuu.com/tekuraalbania/docs/tek_ura_impact_report_2024_5

Our SBC church pledge of £2500 towards the work of Tek Ura (At the Bridge) for 2025 has nearly been met but we still need another £227.30. So I will be giving a Powerpoint slide show at Oasis on Saturday November 15th (late afternoon so no night driving necessary) to try and reach this. I will be revisiting the tour Christine and I took of the Holy Land in 2014 and will be showing our images of our time around Jerusalem and Bethlehem then. Since the Holy Land is currently impossible to visit, this might get you in the mood for Christmas!

We will also have a church Tek Ura themed weekend, probably in late January, to launch our 2026 support challenge.

Finally, for those wanting to hear more, a date for your diary might be 28th February 2026, when the tenth anniversary of Tek Ura is to be celebrated at Wheatstone near Leicester. In order not to cost the charity anything, this will cost around £25 per person. More details later.

From Ian Parsons: School Car Park

We have heard from the School that some damage was done to some railings in the overflow car park by a car accidentally reversing into them on Sunday 24 August after Church, which was confirmed by CCTV.

They were very good about it and completely understand that accidents happen but if we could ask that all drivers take care when reversing around the car parks and let one of the leadership team know if there are any problems.

Church Contact:

Bernie Williams (Elder): 07966 202913 [Church mobile]

If you have any items for inclusion in the Newsletter please pass these to Andrea Jones at by 9am on Thursdays.