



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 12 October 2025

Reflection for the week

Beginnings – Hilary Forbes

What is your favourite first line of a novel you have read? Mine is most definitely this one,

"When Mr Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventy-first birthday with a party of special magificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton."

I was eighteen when I first read Lord of the Rings, and as soon as I read that first sentence I was hooked. Any novel which described a hundred and eleventh as "eleventy-first" told me that I would enjoy the rest of the book. It told me something about the writer, their humour and willingness to step out of the normal ways of describing things.

There is nothing like a good beginning is there!

However, I am pretty certain that the best first line ever is this one,

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth."

It is rather like sitting in a theatre or cinema waiting for the greatest opening act of all time and space to begin. There is total darkness. Suddenly light cascades onto the huge velvet curtains, and they slowly part, as the narration begins, with an image of our beautiful world set among the dark canopy of space. It is dramatic, majestic and it tells us something of who God is. This beginning tells us He is the Creator, and He enjoys what He has created. At the end of day one, He calls His creation "Good".

We are created in His image, and part of that is within each of us the desire, and the ability to forge new paths, to do and make something new, something unique. When my brother was a child, he looked at the freshly fallen snow of winter and as he began to walk in it declared, with a kind of wonder,

"I'm the first to make these footsteps - no one else has walked on this snow".

Let us ask the Lord to give us a fresh vision for something new that will bless God, and one another. He is the God who creates something from nothing. It may be as simple as asking for a fresh joy and compassion in our days as we encourage one another knowing we are loved by the One who holds us in the palm of His hand.

Our Service Sunday 12 October 2025

Our service on Sunday 12 October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). It is Prisons Sunday so Jenny Tunley will be leading the service and Rev Vanda Perrett will be preaching. Vanda is the Chaplain at HMYOI Werrington. The service will include communion.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 12 October 2025

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

Tuesday: Tots and Co 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis
Corporate Prayer 6:30pm-7:00pm at Oasis
Encounter with God 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis

Wednesday: Ladies Fellowship 10:30am-12:00noon at Oasis
Wednesday Group 7:30pm-9:00pm at Oasis

Thursday: No House Group this week

Friday: Energize Games Night at SPA 6:15pm-8:15pm

Saturday: Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis
Harvest Social 3:00pm-5:30pm 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 Refrain for the Week

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

News for the Church Family

From George Hill: Harvest Social Saturday 18 October

Please get ready to support and to invite your friends to our Harvest Social at Oasis **Saturday 18 October 3.00pm-5.30pm**, with food at 4.45pm. The afternoon will include a Beetle Drive.

All donations/proceeds will go to support the **Angel Tree project** which provides Christmas presents to children on behalf of their fathers or mothers in prison.

From the Leadership: Harvest Sunday 19 October - Harvest Gifts and MAF Boxes

This year our harvest gifts will again be donated to the **Sandbach Food Bank** (which exists for people who have no means to buy food) and also the **Sandbach Pantry** (which is for people who have limited

income to buy food at the normal retail rates). Both are very grateful for any harvest gifts you are able to donate. Please bring your gifts along to the **Harvest Service on Sunday 19 October** and there will be tables at the front of the hall where we will be making a harvest display.

These are the items which are most needed:

Tinned Meat and Meals
Tinned Tuna
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Potatoes
Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Soup
Tinned Baked Beans
Tinned Spaghetti Hoops

Pasta (any type)
Pasta Sauce
Long Grain Rice
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Custard
Tinned Rice Pudding
Biscuits
Tea Bags
Instant Coffee
UHT Milk
Long Life Fruit Juice

Shampoo
Shower Gel
Soap
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Sanitary Towels
Shopping Bags

We will also be "harvesting" the **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) money boxes** so please don't forget to bring along your MAF box if you have one you.

From Ian Parsons: Warm clothes for refugees at the Chimney House

There are currently a lot of refugee families at the Chimney House so we are looking for donations of **coats, jackets, scarves, hats, gloves** for all sexes and ages, including children, so that we can help prepare them for the winter.

A big thank you to everyone who has donated items already! If you are able to donate any items (coats, jackets, scarves, hats, gloves) please bring them along to Church **this Sunday (12 October)** and hand them to Ian Parsons or Mark Thompson who will then arrange delivery.

This appeal has gone out to all Churches in Sandbach.

From the Leadership Team: Corporate Prayer

As announced at the Church Meeting last week, all are invited to join in a corporate prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings, specifically to pray for God's guidance in our current situation, including the conclusion of the purchase of Oasis; who we are as a church; and the future process of God's leading in the search for a new Minister.

Every Tuesday Oasis will be open from 6.30pm, to facilitate this, before proceeding with the usual "Encounter with God" meeting at 7.00pm. Those attending are, as always, very welcome to remain, or leave, as you wish, at this point. We always include a time of silent listening, followed by a time of sharing, which we find very valuable and encouraging. Please consider joining us, as we seek God's will for our future.

From the Leadership Team: Testimonies

It has been suggested that we might all find it encouraging to share some testimonies of how God has been at work in people's lives, both in the fellowship and further afield. Over the years a number of people have shared instances of how God has impacted their life and we have all found it very powerful. If you would like to share a testimony of how God has worked in your life, in however large or small a way, please let Andrea know and we can include it in the newsletter (or if you prefer you can speak about it at the front of church on a Sunday morning).

From the Leadership Team: Shoebox Packing Day Saturday 1 November

Just a reminder that we would welcome your help packing the shoeboxes with all the wonderful donations you have made. This will be on **Saturday 1 November 10.00am – 12noon** at Oasis.

And in case you are still thinking of donating items, we are still short of:

- Sweets (small packets dated after June 2026)
- Washbags
- Boys' gloves

Thank you! Any queries speak to Chris Nash.

From Mark Thompson: Amnesty International Write for Rights

Every year around this time, people across the world write letters for those whose human rights are being attacked; people who've been harassed, threatened and unjustly jailed. Amnesty International has been running this campaign – called Write for Rights – for over twenty years now, and at SBC we take part by

writing two kinds of letters; one to the authorities to ask them to change things; and one to the victims of human rights abuses to assure them of our concern and support.

This year we are meeting on **Monday 17th November** at **6.30pm** at **Oasis**. Please note this is an update from the previous date of 10th given in the minutes of the last church meeting. We will share a simple meal and then get down to work! All materials will be provided – information, addresses, sample letters so you don't have to be clever with words! Neat writing helps – or bring your laptop!

Does it work? ... Amnesty says "Yes! Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. People wrongfully imprisoned are released. Abusers are brought to justice. And people in prison are treated more humanely".

Please book the date and join us this year. Speak to Mark Thompson for more information.

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 andrea.jones200@gmail.com by 9am on Thursdays.