



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 30 November 2025

Reflection for the week

Immanuel – God with us by Hilary Forbes

As we begin Advent, and reflect again on Immanuel, God with us, the birth of Jesus, the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah more than two thousand years ago, what is the first thing that comes to mind? The nativity scene? The star over Bethlehem? Shepherds and wise men perhaps? All these images and more, will saturate our hearts and minds over the next few weeks. Yet, the extraordinary thing is, none of these images were the first thing that Matthew wrote about as he took up his reed pen and papyrus scroll. Instead he wrote us a long list of names, beginning with Abraham. The Gospel according to Matthew begins with a declaration,

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.”

What an introduction to those first readers. Who was Matthew writing to here? Every first century Jewish reader would have been instantly drawn in by this opening statement. A long genealogy may not grab our interest in the same way, but to those first readers, this list was a headline grabber! Matthew was announcing that Jesus was the fulfilment of the promises to, and covenants with, Abraham and then David.

Matthew goes on to write his account of the birth of Jesus, his focus was not on the sweet baby Jesus in the crib, his focus was on how disruptive the event of this birth was, how this birth threatened the powers of Rome, the authority of the Jewish religious leaders, “...and all Jerusalem...” (Matthew 2:3). How ironic that it was the Magi, those who came from another country and culture, who came to worship Jesus, to bring gifts, and did not come to coo over him, but to bow before Him in reverence and awe.

As we begin this Advent season, let us consider how we perceive and present the event of Jesus’ birth to the world? This Jesus, who in some unfathomable way was God incarnate, God with us – Immanuel.

Our Service Sunday 30 November 2025

Our service on Sunday 30 November will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). Andrea Jones will be leading the service and Howard Jones will be preaching. This will be the first Sunday of advent and Howard's theme will be about 'Looking forward', using Isaiah 9:2,6-7.

Please also note that there will also be a Churches Together in Sandbach (CTiS) Advent Service at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 30 November 2025

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

Thursday: House Group 7:45pm by Zoom [Contact Ian Parsons for further details]

Friday: Energize Juniors Small Group at Oasis 6:15pm-7:45pm

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 Refrain for the Week

'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine'.

Isaiah 43:1b

News items for the Church Family

From George Hill: Phone numbers

Various people on the church address list have evidently had their landlines disconnected, and since they have not supplied their mobile phone numbers officially to me as Church Secretary, that means I may have no registered number for them in case of emergency.

If you are in this category and for that or any other reason wish me to put your mobile number on the church records, please give or send me a printed or email statement showing your number and asking me to add it to the church files. I will then preserve your message as a consent form, allowing us to contact you for church purposes.

Many thanks.

From Ian Parsons: Churches Together in Sandbach Christmas Day Lunch

CTiS will again be hosting a free Christmas Day Lunch this year in St Marys Church Hall at 12.15pm for folk who may be on their own and would like some company and a lovely meal.

If you would like to attend or know someone who may like to attend or can help in any of the following ways, please see Ian Parsons as soon as possible:

- Volunteers are required to transport some folk to and from St Mary's on Christmas Day.
- We always like to give a gift and this year we are asking the Churches to provide wrapped gifts of chocolates or biscuits up to a value of approx £5.00 - please note these will need to be with Ian by Sunday 14 December.

Many thanks.

From George Hill: Tek Ura 10th Anniversary Celebration 28 February 2026

Please speak to me if you would like to book a place at the **Tek Ura 10th Anniversary day at Whetstone Baptist Church in in Leicester on Saturday 28 February 2026**. As it is a fundraising event, the ticket cost is £25 per person. It will be a full day. It would be great to have a carload to go!

More information at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tek-ura-10th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-1530480130269?aff=ebdssbdest>

Dates for your diary

2025

18 December 6:00pm	CTiS Carols on the Cobbles
21 December 10:30am	All Age Carol Service at the School
25 December 10:30am	All Age Christmas Day Service at the School

2026

10 January	SBC Day of Prayer
22 January	CTiS AGM
24-25 January	TEK URA Albania focused social evening and weekend
1 February	Sunday Service guest speaker is from Healing Rooms
1-7 February	SBC Bible Reading Week
8 February	Sunday Service guest speaker is NWBA Regional Minister Rev Jane Henderson
22 February	Tearfund Hunger Lunch and Quiz
28 February	TEK URA 10 th Anniversary Celebration Whetstone Baptist Church, Leicester
1 March	Sunday Service guest speaker is Rev Steve Hodgkinson from New Life Congleton
6 March	World Day of Prayer

8 March	Sunday Service guest speaker is NWBA Transitional Minister Rev Neil Brighton
14 March	Messy Church
15 March	Mothering Sunday
22 March	Sunday Service guest speaker is from Open Doors
27-29 March	Energize Juniors House Party at Cae Canol
30 March	Quarterly Church Meeting

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 by 9am on Thursdays.