



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 1 March 2026**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

## **Reflection for the week**

### **Lent Week 2: People and Penguins**

What is the largest desert in the world? The answer - amazingly – is Antarctica! It covers the entire continent of the Antarctic. Deserts are defined as areas of land which have ten inches or less of rain, or some sort of precipitation per year. There are hot and cold deserts. Most of us cannot imagine trying to live and survive in such an inhospitable environment where temperatures can drop to minus sixty degrees Celsius. Six months of the Sun not rising in winter at the South Pole must create a strange other-worldly experience. Yet there are around forty million penguins who thrive there, living on the ice sheets, as well as about a hundred million birds who live in and around the Antarctic coast. For them the Antarctic desert is home.

It is worth considering that where we thrive, may be where another person experiences a wilderness. What may feel deeply alien to us may be another person's place of growth. This is a healthy aspect of our diverse community of church and church life. Sometimes the Lord asks us to visit the desert for a while to make a stranger feel welcome. He sends us into an unfamiliar place for a short time, whether geographical or otherwise, because He wants to do a new thing. We will not witness His rivers in a desert unless we are in that desert! (Isaiah 43:19). When the angel instructed the apostle Philip to go to the desert, Philip acted on this seemingly strange request (Acts 8:26–39), and the treasurer of Ethiopia became a follower of Jesus and was baptised.

What new things is the Lord preparing us for, as individuals and as a church? When the Holy Spirit puts a new thing in our heart it comes with a new joy, and a lightness in our spirit.

“Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.”

(Isaiah 42:9)

## **Our Service Sunday 1 March 2026**

Our service on **Sunday 1 March** will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). The service will be led by Rev Jennie Wakefield and the speaker will be Rev Steve Hodgkinson from New Life Church Congleton. Steve's theme will be 'Church Vision and Witnessing'.

## Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 1 March 2026

**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:** No House Group this week.

**Friday:** Energize Games Night at the School 6.45-8.45pm

**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

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

## News items

### From the Leadership: World Day of Prayer Friday 6 March

Just a reminder that 6 March is World Day of Prayer. This year the theme is 'I will give you rest, come' and the material has been put together by Christian women from Nigeria.

There will be a service at **Oasis at 2pm Friday 6 March**, and also a further one at **St Mary's at 6pm on Sunday 8 March**.

Please do join us for one or both of these services as we unite with Christians across our town and across the globe! We'd be particularly thrilled to see as many people as possible at the one SBC is hosting.

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### From George Hill: Spring Stroll around Astbury Mere Sunday 8 March

All are welcome to join a Church Family Spring Stroll around Astbury Mere on Sunday 8 March. Lifts will be available from Sandbach about 2:10pm, to arrive and walk around the mere at 2:30pm. There is a small pay and display charge in the car park. Please let me know if you plan to come.

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## From the Leadership: Tearfund Hunger Lunch Donations

Thank you to all who attended the Tearfund Hunger Lunch last Sunday 22 February. Donations are still coming in so we will leave the donations box open for another couple of weeks and announce the final total raised after that.

### Dates for your 2026 Diary

14 March	Messy Church
15 March	Mothering Sunday
22 March	Sunday Service guest speaker is Nick Gerrard from Open Doors
22 March	Exploring the Future Session 2 2:30pm-4:30pm
27-29 March	Energize Juniors House Party at Cae Canol
30 March	Quarterly Church Meeting
2 April	Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm at Oasis
5 April	SBC Easter Day Service 10:30am at the School
11 April	SBC Prayer Walk 9:30-11:30am
18 April	TEK URA Fundraising Slideshow with George Hill
19 April	<i>A Rocha Fine Trees Circuit Walk around the town centre 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>
20 April	Exploring the Future Session 3 7:00pm-9:00pm
9 May	SBC Prayer Session 2:00-4:00pm at Oasis
10 May	Christian Aid Sunday
17 May	<i>A Rocha Filter Bed Wood Trail Nature Stroll 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>
24 May	Pentecost Sunday
6 June	Summer Social Evening Fundraising for TEK URA 6-9pm at Oasis
6-7 June	Visit of Dan & Annie Dupree from TEK URA
20 June	Messy Church
21 June	Father's Day
22 June	Quarterly Church Meeting
28 June	<i>A Rocha St Mary's Dell, Dingle Wood and Park Nature Stroll 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>

### Church Contact:

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