



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 19 April 2026

Reflection for the week

"Our citizenship is in Heaven" by Hilary Forbes

The Artemis II astronauts have returned to Earth safely, after being the first astronauts to reach the Moon and return to Earth since 1972. Their mission was to reach the Moon, go around it, and return safely. Yet, throughout the whole mission, the astronauts' focus was Earth! As soon as they were away from Earth, they longed to be back home. Basically they were homesick! Reid Wiseman the mission commander said, "when you're out there, you just want to get back to your families and your friends."

The apostle Paul wrote,

"Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ"
(Philippians 3:20)

The scientists who made the Orion space capsule created a mini-Earth environment for the four astronauts, for the ten days they would be in their campervan-sized space capsule. They lived in a breathable atmosphere, ate food, and drank tea and coffee. They had an exercise machine, work and leisure time, and a sleep schedule. They had smartphones and laptops so they could communicate with their families. They had everything they needed to survive. Outside the capsule was a hostile environment. The capsule protected them from that.

The astronauts created a community in their spacecraft, learning to live and work together, to fulfil their mission. They learned how to live together in peace and to look for joy each day.

In our time here on Earth, Jesus is our true home. The more we know him, and the depth of his unbreakable, unconditional love, the more we will be able to create mini communities of heaven on Earth; places where Jesus' grace and love prevail, providing safety and peace for one another and for the communities around us.

As the great hymn says,

"Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light."¹

¹ Adapted by Eleanor Hull from a translation by Mary Byrne, based on the sixth-century poem by Dallan Forgaill

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 19 April 2026

Our service on Sunday 19 April will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be an all age service led by Ian Parsons and the theme will be 'Running towards Jesus'.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 19 April 2026

- Sunday** A Rocha and Friends Nature Walk 2:30pm [see below for details]
- Monday:** Welcome Bap 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis
Exploring the Future Session Three 7:00-9:00pm 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 Bible Study Group 7:30pm at Oasis
- Thursday:** House Group 7:45pm by Zoom [Contact Ian Parsons for further details]
- Friday:** Energize Games Night 6:45-8:45pm at the School
- 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

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

[Lamentations 3: 21-23]

News items

From George Hill: Nature walk for friends of A Rocha and other friends Sunday 19 April

All are welcome on my first accompanied nature walk of the summer, following part of the Sandbach Fine Trees Trail around the town area and cemetery.

Please meet at Sandbach Crosses at 2:30pm on Sunday 19 April, weather permitting. Please have reasonable footwear. Not suitable for buggies. No unaccompanied under 18s. All walkers join at their own personal risk.

From Andrea Jones: 'Exploring the Future Session Three – What sort of Ministry?'

Our next 'Exploring the Future' meeting will be on **Monday 20 April 7:00–9:00pm at Oasis**.

This will be the third and final session being led by Rev Neil Brighton (Transitional Minister with the NWBA), to help us on the path of appointing a new minister. The focus of this one will be what sort of ministry we want to be involved with, so it will dig into the question of what sort of minister(s) might the church need for the future? Partly to identify the core strengths a future minister will need, but also to ask questions about how we balance the need for a pastor with our desire to reach the community and grow our work with young people.

Everyone in the fellowship is welcome to come along - you don't need to be a church member and you don't need to have attended the previous two sessions. The sessions are very relaxed, sat around tables with **tea and cake**, and we would love as many people as possible to join with us.

From Andrea Jones: Newsletter for next week

Just to let you know that the Newsletter for next week will be a double one (because I'll be away on holiday) to cover the week beginning 26 April and the week beginning 3 May. So if you have any items which need to be included, please let me have them by 9am on Thursday 23 April.

Many thanks.

Dates for your Diary

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 6.00-9.00pm at Oasis
6-7 June	Visit of Dan & Annie Dupree from TEK URA
20 June	Messy Church 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis
21 June	Father's Day
22 June	Quarterly Church Meeting 7:30pm at Oasis
28 June	<i>A Rocha St Mary's Dell, Dingle Wood and Park Nature Stroll 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>
26 July	<i>A Rocha Brook Wood to Wheelock Nature Stroll 2.30pm at the Crosses</i>
2 August	Low mobility stroll and picnic in Crewe Park – after morning service
6 September	Picnic and walk at Tittesworth Reservoir – after morning service
19 September	Shoebox Transport Fundraising Event 10:00am-12:00noon at Oasis
28 September	Quarterly Church Meeting 7:30pm at Oasis

Church Contact:

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