



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 26 April and Sunday 3 May 2026

A Reflection

"For by grace you have been saved through faith..." (Ephesians 2:8-9) by Hilary Forbes

A few minutes' drive from my house is the timber-framed Tudor manor house, Little Moreton Hall. To walk into the grounds and house, is to be transported back five hundred years. Visiting there always leads me to think about all that was happening in our land back then, which the Moreton family would have known about and lived through.

Just over five hundred years ago William Tyndale, a protestant reformer, was translating the New Testament into English around the time that Little Moreton Hall was being built. He had a passion and a determination to enable everyone to read the Bible in their own language. This was forbidden by both government and church. In 1526, Tyndale's first English New Testaments were printed in Europe, and smuggled into England in bales of cloth. Eventually in 1536 William Tyndale was captured, executed, then burnt on a wooden stake in the shape of a cross. By that time, there were about eighteen thousand English New Testaments in circulation in England. People could finally read, that it was 'by grace they were saved' and not by giving money to their deceitful oppressors for forgiveness of sins. The Church Reformation was a tumultuous time in England and Europe, as new gatherings of believers began to meet regularly, declaring themselves churches, free from the shackles of the state control.

Compared with William Tyndale, we have great freedom today to distribute the Bible and share the Gospel in our land. In what ways do we need Tyndale's passion and courage today?

The shackles that burden and trap many people today may be of a different type to those in Tyndale's time, but the same Holy Spirit breathes through the same scriptures today just as five hundred years ago with the first English Bibles, declaring the indestructible love of Jesus, setting people free of their burdens of sin, of oppression and of injustice.

Elizabeth Moreton's (1821-1912) own Bible is on display in the chapel at Little Moreton Hall, three hundred years after Tyndale's English New Testament was smuggled into England.

Thank you Lord for William Tyndale!

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 26 April 2026

Our service on Sunday 26 April will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be led by Rev Sue Thompson and the speaker will be Rev Alasdair Nicoll. Alasdair's theme will be 'The Power of Jesus' and his text will be Mark 4:35-41.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 26 April 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 Bible Study Group 7:30pm at Oasis
- Thursday:** No House Group this week
- 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.

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 3 May 2026

Our service on Sunday 3 May will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be led by Sandra Murphy and the speaker will be Dave Murphy. Dave's theme will be 'Grace under pressure' and his texts will be Ephesians 4:1-7 and 2 Samuel 16:5-12.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 3 May 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 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 these days

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

News items

From Andrea Jones: Prayer Session Saturday 9 May 2:00-4:00pm at Oasis

This is the last of our focused prayer sessions wrapped around the 'Exploring the future' meetings, and this one will follow a similar pattern to the first one we held in January. So it will be a mix of quiet personal prayer interspersed with shared prayer slots every half hour or so, along with a short time of sung praise - all as the Spirit leads of course. Bernie will lead the session.

From Mark Thompson: Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2026

What's going on?

The usual fundraising activities will be taking place this year at **81 Forge Fields**. Mark will be riding his bike every day in the French Pyrenees:

Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from 2:00pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00am.

Sue and Susie have been carefully nurturing bedding and tomato plants for your gardens, in exchange for donations, so please come and browse the stock!

Refreshments will be served on the drive. Come along and enjoy a cuppa as you cheer on the cyclist!

What's it for?

This year Christian Aid is appealing for funds to help people in Dagoretti, a settlement in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. There, many parents wake each morning knowing they must earn money that day and if they do not, their children may not eat that night. It's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face. Fridah Moraa is a recently widowed grandmother and the sole provider for her family. Rent, school costs, water and food all depend on what she can earn. The pressure is constant. You can read more about her story [here](#).

How can you give?

Donation envelopes will be available at church, and in Oasis. You can also give electronically, and online [here](#).

How can you help?

Sue would be grateful for a bit of help to serve drinks and biscuits during the week, and possibly to push envelopes and leaflets through the doors in Forge Fields on Saturday 9 May. Please let her know if you can be available.

From George Hill: Tek Ura Donations

The donations from my wildlife slideshow on 18 April (including gift aid and online contributions) has reached £454.01. An excellent total! Thank you all for your generosity!

Dates for your Diary

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:

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.

**Please note that this Newsletter covers two weeks.
The next Newsletter will be circulated on Thursday 7 May.**