



**Sharing the love  
of Jesus**

# **Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 31 May 2026**

## **Reflection for the week**

### **Swords into ploughshares by Hilary Forbes**

#### **"... according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20)**

This last week, the night before Pentecost Sunday, Ukraine suffered its worst night since the start of the Russian invasion. The attack involved at least ninety missiles and six hundred drones. The terror experienced every night wondering if it is their last, the sheer relentlessness of it all that is now over four long years, must bring a desperation and a hopelessness to so many people.

It brings home the words of the disciples in the middle of the brutal Roman occupied territory of Israel, after Jesus' resurrection, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). How they must have longed for freedom and for peace in their land.

Jesus' response, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in his own hands, but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the Earth." (Acts 1:7) must have felt like a crushing blow for them with a simultaneous glimmer of light. So they did what he told them to do. They waited in faith and prayed with one accord.

Pentecost, the birth of the church, was the giving of the Holy Spirit, the same Person, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead given to us, to dwell in us! (Romans 8:11)

Let us not lose hope for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Iran and all the war-torn places on Earth, including the innocent civilians of the attacking countries who are also suffering and afraid. We must instead, be resolute and constant in prayer, and where we are able, in action. Let us hold fast to these hope-filled words of Isaiah,

"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4).

<https://baptistworld.org/pray-for-peace-in-eastern-europe/>

## Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 31 May 2026

Our service on Sunday 31 May will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be led by Steph Radcliffe and the speaker will be Rev Neil Brighton. Neil will be speaking about the Trinity and his main text will be Romans 8:12-17.

## Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 31 May 2026

<b>Monday:</b>	Welcome Bap 10:00am-12:00 Noon at Oasis
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Tots and Co 9:30am-11:30am at Oasis Encounter with God 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Ladies Fellowship 10:30am-12:00noon at Oasis Wednesday Bible Study Group 7:30pm at Oasis
<b>Thursday:</b>	No House Group this week
<b>Friday:</b>	Energize Games Night 6:45-8:45pm at the School
<b>Saturday:</b>	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

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'

Hebrews 12:29

## News items

### From Mark Thompson: Christian Aid Week 2026

The plant and bike team are pleased to report that the amount raised for Christian Aid this year has reached £1586 including Gift Aid. Thanks to all for your support.

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### From Christine and George Hill: Fund Raising Social Evening for Tek Ura, Albania

Our next Tek Ura fundraising Social Evening is on **Saturday 6 June from 6:00pm-9:00pm at Oasis**. Sadly Dan and Annie cannot be with us for this but will be leading the service next day.

This is the third of our 2026 fundraising events for Tek Ura. There is no admission fee. Donations are invited. There will be snack food at 6:30pm - offers of food to Christine Hill please. Plus: Party games, Quizzes, etc!

As in previous years, please make donations (now or anytime in the year) to our dedicated SBC Stewardship page for Tek Ura (or contact George Hill). Our page is at:

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/sandbachbaptisttekura>. We are doing well toward our 2026 pledge. Just a short distance left to go.

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### From Susie Warburton: **Messy Church!**

Our next **Messy Church** event is fast approaching! 'Let's Get Ready ... for Summer' will be on **Saturday 20 June 2026 10:30am-12:00noon at Oasis** and there will be lots of fun to be had! We will be making a pretty seascape, painting shells, having boat races, making kaleidoscopes, watching a Bible story, hunting for pirate treasure and having hotdogs and ice creams together.

Bring along your friends and family and introduce them to our church family and to Jesus. Admission is free. Everyone is very welcome. Activities are for all ages and abilities. **We would also really value your prayers for this event.**

### Dates for your Diary

6-7 June	Visit of Dan & Annie Dupree from TEK URA
20 June	<b>Messy Church for Summer 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis</b>
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
10 October	Walk around Buxton (with fair)
11 October	Prisons Sunday
17 October	<b>Messy Church for Harvest 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis</b>
17 October	Harvest Social Evening
18 October	Harvest Service
7 November	Shoebox Packing Day
8 November	Remembrance Sunday
14 November	Slide Show of Galilee Fundraising Evening for Tek Ura
28 November	<b>Messy Church for Christmas 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis</b>
30 November	Annual 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.