



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 16 August 2026

A Reflection

His ways are higher than our ways by Hilary Forbes

A few years ago I decided to do a short walk along the towpath to visit my friends who lived in what locally we all knew as the Teapot House. I met them shortly after I moved here and we quickly became friends. They were part of the Boaters Christian Fellowship and provided tea and friendship to all who passed by their house either on foot or on the water.

It had been raining and I knew there would be one part of the towpath that would be extremely muddy, but I set off anyway in both ill-prepared footwear and unrealistic optimism, because I didn't want to go the long way around. You can guess what happened next - I ended up having to backtrack and go the long way around anyway!

It is often difficult to discern the difference between having faith and having unrealistic optimism. We need to ask the Lord for both wisdom and faith in equal measure! The Lord instructed Israel to take the long way around and through the wilderness of the Red Sea to Canaan rather than straight up the coast. This was to avoid the conflict with the Philistines (Exodus 13:17-18). When they arrived at the Red Sea with Pharaoh and his army closing in on them fast, there was no other way than utter and total dependence on God. He showed them - and us - that nothing was and is impossible with God. Israel's realization of their dependence on God was the key, whether trusting God to part the Red Sea, or providing manna in their long and arduous journey the long way around.

The long way around and the seemingly impossible often can turn out to be the Lord's mercy, love and kindness to us and His knowing us better than we know ourselves.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways."
says the Lord.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts"

Isaiah 55:8-9

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 16 August 2026

Our service on Sunday 16 August will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be an All Age Service led by Dave Murphy.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 16 August 2026

- Monday:** No Meeting of Welcome Bap this week. Next meeting will be on 24 August.
- Tuesday:** No Tots and Co meeting until September
Encounter with God 7:00pm-8:00pm at Oasis
- Wednesday:** No meeting of Ladies Fellowship until September
No meeting of the Bible Study Group until September
- Thursday:** No meeting of House Group until September
- Friday:** No meeting of Energize until September
- 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

'Whenever my busy thoughts were out of control,
the soothing comfort of your presence
calmed me down and overwhelmed me with delight'.

Psalms 94:19 (The Passion Translation)

News items

From Ian Parsons: **Important announcement** regarding the service on Sunday 30 August

Due to many people being away on **Sunday 30 August**, including our musicians and preachers, we have decided to have a shorter service **at Oasis**. It will be an informal sharing service and perhaps you could prayerfully consider whether you have anything to share with the fellowship during the service. It could be a poem, song, particular bible passage or anything at all that the Lord has laid on your heart.

Please let Ian know if you would like to contribute in any way to the service or speak to him if you have any questions

From the Shoebox Team: Love in a Box 2026!

We are now actively collecting all the gifts to put inside our Christmas shoeboxes, which will be distributed to children aged 3-14 in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. Items needed are:

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes large and small
Bars of Soap
Flannels/Sponges
Wash Bags

Woolly Hats/Gloves/Mittens

Pencil Cases
Notebooks/Small Exercise Books
Pencils/Crayons/Ball Point Pens

Small Soft Toys
Small Toys/Games

Combs/Hair Bobbles/Hair Slides
Small Packets of sweets/chocolate (dated best before no earlier than June 2027)

If you are able to donate any of these items please leave them at Oasis (if possible in the back office under the sign on the wall) or bring them along on any Sunday morning and leave them at the back of the hall clearly labelled.

For Information and Prayer

Please remember in your prayers Nefyn D Camp running 15-22 August for 9-11 year olds. There are a number of people from the fellowship/previously from the fellowship on either all or part of this camp.

Dates for your Diary

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
8 October	Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy Harvest Festival 7:30pm Yatehouse Farm Middlewich
10 October	Walk around Buxton (with fair)
11 October	Prisons Sunday
17 October	Messy Church for Harvest 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis
18 October	Harvest Service
7 November	Shoebox Packing Day
8 November	Remembrance Sunday
14 November	Slide Show of Galilee Fundraising Evening for Tek Ura
27 November	Decoration of Oasis for Christmas!
28 November	Messy Church for Christmas 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis
29 November	Advent Sunday
30 November	Annual Church Meeting

17 December	CTiS Carols on the Cobbles 6:00pm
20 December	All Age Carol Service 10:30am at the School

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.