



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 4 October 2026

Reflection for the week

"The rainbow shall be in the cloud" by Hilary Forbes

One day last week during the evening just before sunset, I happened to notice a strange ethereal glow coming through one of the windows in my living room. Curious, I went to look more closely assuming perhaps my neighbours had introduced a new set of garden lights. I realised though that this was not the case, and so now I was intrigued. What kind of light was making such an other-worldly glow? The only thing for it was to go outside into my garden and look properly. As I stepped outside, I realised it was the sublime effect of the sun, low in the sky behind thin clouds which obscured the sun itself but could not hide its light, creating a cerise/violet glow across the western sky and through my window. As I turned around to come back inside, there, in the eastern sky was the most glorious rainbow!

The ancient promise of God to Noah, that "the rainbow shall be in the cloud" (Genesis 9:16) still stands for us today and is a reminder that in every cloud in our lives there will be a rainbow - the promise of our Lord that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

The curious thing with a rainbow is that even though we all see the same rainbow, and many saw the same rainbow that I did that evening, we each see our own individual rainbow. The light from the sun shines through different raindrops for each of us, and so every rainbow is both visible to everyone and yet also unique to each of us. We all worship and praise Our Lord, but we each have a unique relationship with Him. The rainbow in the cloud was a promise to us as a people of God, and yet also unique to each one of us. Jesus knows every cloud we walk through, and He is with each one of us (and with every living creature).

'And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you for perpetual generations"

(Genesis 9:12)

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 4 October 2026

Our service on Sunday 4 October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). It will be led by Brendan Bowles and the speaker will be Ian Parsons. Ian's theme will be "... but he had leprosy" and his text will be 2 Kings 5:1-14.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 4 October 2026

Monday:	Welcome Bap 10:00am-12:00noon 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-9:00pm at Oasis
Thursday:	House Group 7:45pm by Zoom [Contact Ian Parsons for further details]
Friday:	Energize Juniors Small Group at Oasis 6:45pm–8:15pm
Saturday:	Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis Church Family Picnic and Walk in Buxton 11.00am departure

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

I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of his calling – that is, the wealth of God's glorious inheritances that he finds in us, his holy ones!

Ephesians 1: 18 (The Passion Translation)

News items

From Howard Jones: Energize Weekend House Party at Cae Canol 2-4 October 2026

George, Chris, Howard and Andrea will be taking a party of Energize youngsters to the Cae Canol Centre in Snowdonia this weekend 2-4 October for a weekend House Party. The speaker will be Rob Cross from Brierley Green Church in Whalley Bridge and some of his youth group will also be joining the party. Please pray for safety, fruitful discussions and fun times!

From the Messy Church Team: The October Messy Church needs you

Our next **Messy Church** is only two weeks away! 'Let's Get Ready... for Harvest' will be on Saturday 17 October 2026 10:30am-12:00 Noon at Oasis ... **and we are asking for donations of:**

Socks – in good condition (so new or nearly new) all colours, shapes and sizes - to make hand puppets.

Empty Jam Jars - or anything that comes in a jar such as pasta (ideally with lids) - to make "Joy Jars".

Please bring along any items this Sunday morning or Sunday 11 October and hand to either Judith, Lynn, Susie, Bernie, Ian, Melanie or Laura.

Please **also pray** for a wonderful morning of fun and fellowship! As usual there will be lots of fun stuff happening, making hand-puppets (out of your donated socks!), "Joy Jars", garlands and leaf animals ... and some of the things we will be making can go in the shoeboxes to send to vulnerable children in Eastern Europe. We will then watch a Bible story and have some food together. Bring along your friends and family and introduce them to your church family and to Jesus. Admission is free and everyone is very welcome, regardless of age and ability.

From George Hill: Church Family picnic and walk at Buxton Saturday 10 October

If anyone is interested in the Church Family picnic and walk around Buxton on Saturday 10 October, please contact me. There is no Fair in Buxton this year, so we will leave Sandbach around 11am, weather permitting. After a picnic in the park, we will walk up the steep hill to the viewpoint and return for a bit of shopping.

From Lynn Mynett: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Boxes

As you bring your Harvest Gifts of non-perishable items to the Harvest Service on **Sunday 18 October**, please could all who donate to MAF through the little boxes, please bring them along as well so that they can be part of our Harvest Offering. Thank you!

From the Deacons/Elders: Church Profile

As discussed at the Quarterly Church Meeting on Monday 28 September we have arranged two meetings to consider the Church Profile:

A Special Prayer Meeting on **Saturday 24 October** 9:30-11:00am at Oasis

A Special Church Meeting on **Tuesday 3 November** 7:30pm at Oasis (in place of Encounter)

We would love to see as many people as possible (including non-members) at these meetings.

From Susie Warburton: Christmas Chocolate!

The Meaningful Chocolate Company is once again offering Fairtrade Advent Calendars and other goodies! The church will be putting an order in and if you wish to buy any items for your friends and family, I can pop them on our order and save you postage costs.

The **Advent Calendar** has a 24 page story-activity book, newly designed for this year, and 25 Fairtrade festive chocolate shapes (£5.95 each).

The **Blessings Bar** features a nativity scene on the front. On the back it says 'May God bless you this Christmas and fill you with joy' (£3.20 each or £36 for 12).

If you want more info, you can visit the website <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>

Please get back to me by **Sunday 18 October** so that I can order them in good time.

From Andrea Jones: Oasis Christmas Window

I'm wondering if our Christmas Window display at Oasis this year could be a host of little knitted angels!

Not wanting to distract from the knitting of hats and mitts for the shoeboxes as they are needed for 7 November ... but if any knitters out there would like to move on to angels once they have finished their hats and mitts ... it would be lovely to gather a huge host of knitted angels (as many as we can manage) so that we can fill the window and have some spare to distribute to people in the street so we can share the joy and glory of Christmas.

We will be decorating the window for Christmas on 27 November so we would need them in time for then. If we don't get enough we'll just save them and do it next year instead but it would be nice to be able to do it this year.

It's the little angels we used to make for CTiS distribution I'm thinking of so let me know if you would like to do some knitting and if you need the pattern (thanks to Susie Stewart for digging it out!)

From George and Christine Hill: Update on Tek Ura (At the Bridge) in Albania

Our church's 2026 support pledge to Tek Ura has nearly been met (we are only £88 short)! And George will hold his final fundraising slideshow (slides from our 2014 Galilee trip), on Saturday 14 November.

We also have a new invitation. The only person from SBC who has actually visited Tek Ura in Albania before was Heather Carter, who we were delighted to support when she bravely went alone a couple of years back. So it was a great pleasure for Christine and me to be hosted by the team in Tirane last Wednesday afternoon, when we drove down to there for a few hours, through Albania, while on holiday. (George will add a few pictures from this brief excursion to his November show.)

While we were there, we asked if there was any special need we could contribute to. Their inspiring social worker Roxhers (pronounced Rogers!) told us that he helps about thirty 9- to 14-year-old lads from the poor and Roma communities who play football (on their rented pitch) - but have no proper sports shoes. Some play barefoot or in socks, as they often have only one pair of footwear. Proper sports shoes would be 15-20 euros a pair. Roxhers has a vision for the lads to be able to play in the national stadium, say in a youth tournament.

So Chris and I will be making a personal donation toward this, and as mentioned at Monday's church meeting we may add something from the SBC Energize youth group funds. And we would be delighted to add any other gifts. (And thanks for what has already been promised!) Please let me or Ian know if interested (I am away at Cae Canol this weekend).

There is also a new prayer guide for the autumn, for Tek Ura's work. If anyone would like to receive a PDF version please ask George. Sadly, it's too big to print (at 26 pages!) but it can be found at https://us.list-manage.com/ZzNeyymP_v8?e=bf4ee695db&c2id=f40c2d6c1063169d98ee44f05b89ca41

Alternatively, if anyone would like to be added to the Tek Ura Whatsapp prayer group, I can arrange that.

For Information

Next week's Newsletter will be a combined one - for the weeks beginning 11 and 18 October.

Dates for your Diary

8 October	Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy Harvest Festival 7:30pm Yatehouse Farm Middlewich
10 October	Picnic and Walk around Buxton
17 October	Messy Church for Harvest 10:30am-12.00noon at Oasis
18 October	All Age Harvest Service 10:30am at the School
24 October	Special Prayer Meeting for our Church Profile 9:30-11:00am Oasis
3 November	Special Church Meeting to discuss the Church Profile 7:30pm at Oasis
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	All Age Advent Service 10:30am at the School
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
25 December	Christmas Day Service 10:30am at the School

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.