



**Sharing the love
of Jesus**

Sandbach Baptist Church Newsletter

Sunday 11 and 18 October 2026

Reflection for these weeks

"It shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it!" by Hilary Forbes

It is that time of year when the nights begin to draw in, and the first thoughts of turning the heating on come to mind. There is also something about the Autumnal night sky that always leads me to think of the Magi. While Advent for us is still nearly two months away, it is worth pausing to wonder at those astronomer-priests who were from the East, because their story begins much further back than the start of Advent.

The Magi's story began at least six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, when King Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel to be the chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon (Daniel 2:48). Many of the descendants of the captives of Judah (Daniel 2:25) would have been living in Babylon and perhaps also spread out further towards Persia, throughout the hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. They did not all leave after the exile (Ezra 1:5-6). Their hope in and prophecies about the coming Messiah of Israel, would have gradually become part of the knowledge of the Babylonian and Persian astronomer-priests after Babylon became part of the Persian Empire. Only Matthew recorded this account of these Magi from the East seeing an unusual star that they could only attribute to aligning with the prophecies of the coming of the Messiah of YAHWEH, the God of Israel.

The Lord used the exiled captives of Judah, ultimately, to spread the Good News of His kingdom. There may be times when we feel exiled and isolated among people who do not appear to take the reality of Jesus and His Kingdom at any level of seriousness. We may feel exiled at work, in our families or in the politics of our country which seems increasingly at odds with our faith ... but let us never lose heart! Something will be stirring, as it was six hundred years before the birth of Christ.

"So shall my word be that goes from my mouth. It shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

(Isaiah 55:11)

Our Service for the week beginning Sunday 11 October 2026

Our service on Sunday 11 October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). The service will be led by the Music Group and the speaker will be George Hill. George's theme will be 'What holds us?' and his key text will be Romans 6:6.

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 11 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:** No House Group this week
- Friday:** No meeting of Energize this week
- Saturday:** Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis
Messy Church 10:30am-12:00noon 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 18 October 2026

Our service on Sunday 18 October will be at 10:30am at Sandbach Primary Academy (SPA). This will be an All-Age Harvest Service led by Dave Murphy. We will as usual be collecting **harvest produce** to donate to the Sandbach Foodbank and the Pantry so please bring your donations along to the service and there will be a table to display them. Please also bring your **MAF boxes** if you have them (see below).

Our Activities for the week beginning Sunday 18 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 Games Night 6:45pm-8:45pm at the School
- Saturday:** Morning Prayer Gathering 8:30am-9:15am at Oasis
Special Prayer Meeting for the Church Profile 9:30-11:00am at Oasis

A Prayer for each day

I arise today
Through a mighty strength:
God's power to guide me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's eyes to watch over me;
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to give me speech,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to shelter me,
God's host to secure me.

Bridgid of Gael

News items

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

Thanks for your prayers for the Energize House Party at the Cae Canol Centre in Beddgelert last weekend. We took a group of ten young people – six from Sandbach and four from Whaley Bridge where our speaker, Rob Cross worships. We had a great weekend with thought-provoking talks from Rob looking at how we can get to know Jesus and realign our lives to follow him (Road to Emmaus, Parable of the Rich Young Man). And in-between talks we slept (a bit!) and soaked up the beauty of the area in wonderful weather; we swam at Porthmadog Swimming Pool; had a picnic and played games on Black Rock Sands Beach; climbed the first part of the Watkin path up Snowdon to see the waterfalls; and had a mooch around Beddgelert village.

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

Our next **Messy Church** '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 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, "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 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 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: Footballs boots for on Tek Ura!

It was a great pleasure for Christine and me to be hosted by the Tek Ura team in Tirane one afternoon a couple of weeks ago, when we drove down there, 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 the church meeting last month, 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 George or Ian know if you are interested in contributing.

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 the SBC Diaconate: Notice of SBC Special Church Members' Meeting on 3 November

Date: 8 October 2026

Dear SBC Member or Friend

This is the Notice of our forthcoming Special Church Members' Meeting on **Tuesday 3 November 2026** at 7:30pm at Oasis Community Centre, Green Street, Sandbach.

The business of the meeting is to examine the draft Church Profile that the Diaconate proposes be used to advertise for a new Minister.

A separate agenda will not be circulated for this meeting, but the agenda items will be: opening worship; apologies and matters arising; examination of the Profile; any informal votes needed; and closing prayers.

Any changes to the draft as recommended by the meeting will be put to a show of hands and, if approved informally by 75% of members present, these will be incorporated following the meeting. Non-members are very welcome to attend but may not vote.

Prayer is invited both before and after the SCM (the morning of prayer is on Saturday 24 October).

A formal vote to approve the revised text will then be held at our Annual Church Meeting on Monday 30 November, after which it will be proceeded with the Baptist Union.

Please contact George Hill for any further information.

From Chris Nash: Operation Mobilisation: Logos Hope Ship

The OM Ship Logos Hope will be coming to Liverpool Cruise Port **from 23 October to 5 November 2026** as part of the 'Waves of Hope' UK tour.

You can join one of the many special on-board events; take a one-hour tour; or you can just browse the 6000 titles in the bookfair, and visit the souvenir shop and international café.

Cost is £1 entrance to the ship. The one-hour tour costs £5 for adults and £2 for children. It's best to book tours in advance though individuals can usually be slotted in.

For opening times and more information about all the special events see their website by control + click on the link below:

<https://www.uk.om.org/waves-of-hope-liverpool>

For your prayers

Daphne has been particularly unwell recently and is awaiting surgery in the near future so we continue to cover her with the Lord's love and healing.

Gill is due to have surgery on her foot in a couple of weeks' time so would appreciate prayers for a smooth operation and recovery.

We join with Mana in giving thanks to the Lord for her recent scans which came back showing she is clear of cancer. Praise the Lord!

Dates for your Diary

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): 01270 764986 [home] or 07966 202913 [Church mobile]

If you have any items for inclusion in the Newsletter please pass these to Andrea Jones at andrea.jones200@gmail.com by 9am on Thursdays.