SINGING THE FAITH 473

'Moses, I know you're the man,' the Lord said
'You're going to work out my plan,' the Lord said.
'Lead all the Israelites out of slavery,
And I shall make them a wandering race called the People of God'.
So, every day, we're on our way, for we're a travelling, wandering race, we're the People of God.

Estelle White wrote both words and tune. She was born in 1925 into a musical family where she learned to play guitar, saxophone and piano; composing and conducting a choir came later. She served in WW2 as a saxophonist in the ATS Staff Military Band. After the war she was a physiotherapist at a school for spastic children in Canada. During those years she became a Roman Catholic. Returning home in 1982 she took temporary vows as a Carmelite nun, writing under the name of Sister Estelle. She left the convent to teach in Catholic schools in the north of England. As a mature student, she studied Hebrew and Greek for a Masters' degree. Her final years were as a freelance composer and lecturer.

Calling the church 'The people of God' echoed the Second Vatican Council of 1965. The story of Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery is used as an allegory of the development of the Church. For all the light-hearted nature of the words, this hymn is bedded in scripture. When God commissioned Moses to lead the people, he felt ill-prepared until God promised to go with him (Exodus 3:10-12). In verse 2 the line "Don't get too set in your ways" is a wake-up call for her church which has historically been slow to move but has, in recent years, changed at least as fast as the rest of Christendom. "I'll go before you and this shall be a sign" refers to the pillar of smoke by day and of fire at night which were a constant reminder that God had not abandoned them (Exodus 13:21) - reassuring for people of the Old Testament and for the People of God in every generation. Verse 5 quotes the words of Jesus (Matthew 8:20) "Foxes have holes, birds have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere".

Estelle wrote 170 hymns, as well as masses and theatre music. Many hymns were written with children in mind and became favourites in schools. She wrote in a characteristically unsentimental and un-churchy style. This hymn appears in some books with the instruction "Bounce this off the tongue" – she really wanted her hymns to be enjoyed! **R.D.**



1st NOVEMBER 2026 **8th NOVEMBER 2026**

Rev Kim Stilwell – Holy Communion **Rev Sheila Macinally**

SERVICES COMMENCE AT 10.30 am

TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2026

11am **Sandford Service – at the home**

WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2026

10 am to 12.00 **Baby & Toddler Group** – in church hall

2.30 pm – 4.00 pm "Cuppa & Chat" – in church hall

MINISTER	CHURCH WEBSITE
REV'D GEORGE HEINZ	www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk
Telephone: 07538480626	

WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY
FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

Joy Wi, Caroline W, Philip & Helen W,
George A, Michael B, Linda B, Norma C,
Christine & Gerry R.
Residents and Staff of Sandford Nursing Home

SANDFORD SERVICE

Last week's cancelled service has been rescheduled to next Tuesday, 3rd November at approximately 11am. You may join us if you wish (unless you are not well). Please remember this service in your prayers**.**

"ENGAGING ISSUES"

Rivers – The nation's arteries or the nation's sewers……

Two speakers will bring their complimentary perspectives on the state of the nation's rivers. **Aison Caffyn** is a researcher into the impacts upon our waterways from intensive agriculture. **Alison Biddulph** is a passionate wild swimmer and campaigner for cleaner rivers. 7.30 pm URC Tuesday 3rd November.

PRESERVES & A REQUEST

As the season changes, so must my recipes for jams etc. I will be bringing the new selection as usual on Communion weekend, 1 November.
There are new jams and more chutney flavours to choose from. I am also trialling mini pots. So, if you are unsure of a flavour, try a mini jar first.
There is now a plastic box in the kitchen ready to receive returned jars on weeks when I'm not there. I really do need my jars back when empty please, especially the smaller six-sided ones, which are expensive to buy.
Thank you so much for supporting this endeavour for church funds. I am always ready to hear feedback, even negative. 😄
Thank you**,** Linda

THANK YOU

Your generous donations on Sunday mornings and at Cuppa and Chat have contributed £1,348.00 to Church Funds this financial year.
Thank you all so much.
Sally W

PLEASE NOTE

Items for the Church Notices for next Sunday 8th November to **Trish** please.
Tel: 01694 722904 or Email: davidandtrish@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you

'Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.'

When this tune is played before our preacher of the day leads us in worship, please take this time to be still and quiet and reflect. Thank you. It could be a time to turn in "Singing the Faith" to number 20 or to ponder the three aspects mentioned in the hymn - the presence of the Lord, the glory of the Lord and the power of the Lord.