

**“Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike,
no hope could destroy, be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.”**

This hymn is a prayer, asking for God’s blessing throughout the day. The first verse is for “the break of the day”; the second for “the noon of the day”; the third for “the eve of the day” and finally “at the end of the day”. It appeared first in the 1931 book ‘Songs of Praise’ and is one of the first hymns to use the word ‘you’ instead of ‘thy’.

It was written by Jan Struther who died with cancer in 1953 at the early age of 52. This was a pen name which she coined by omitting four letters from her real name, Joyce Anstruther. During her first marriage she was Joyce Maxtone Graham, then she married again and became Joyce Placzek. She was a poet, essayist, hymn writer and humorist. She wrote articles for Punch, The Spectator, The New Statesman and The Times. She was asked to write a series of stories about ‘an ordinary woman like yourself’ for the London Times. These proved to be popular and became a book in 1939 called Mrs Miniver. In 1942 a film based on the book earned eight Oscars. When the book was published in America it became Book of the Month Club choice and she was invited to go to the States to promote it. It has been claimed that this book and film, published in the darkest days of WW2, were influential in bringing the United States into the conflict.

Jan Struther also wrote for children, including the hymn ‘When a knight won his spurs in the stories of old’. The hymn ‘Lord of all hopefulness’ is the best known of her hymns and still often sung; we have sung it three times in little over twelve months. It is a surprise to learn that such a hymn writer was not a committed Christian. She did attend church sometimes but was an agnostic.

The tune ‘Slane’ is an Irish traditional melody. Slane is the name of a hill in County Meath, said to be the place where St Patrick lit a Paschal (Easter) fire. The fire was a direct challenge to the pagan King Loegaire who had decreed that no fire should be lit before the royal fire. The Irish melody is harmonized in Singing the Faith by Erik Routley who was a Congregational minister, an author and a musician.

R.D.



**Church Stretton
Methodist Church**
In the Shropshire & Marches Circuit

A warm welcome
to you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
If you are visitors we trust that your holiday will bring
you joy and refreshment of spirit. Please join us for
coffee & fellowship in the hall following this service.

All are welcome

This Week at Church

 **SUNDAY SERVICES**

4th OCTOBER 2026
10.30 am Rev George Heinz
Holy Communion

11th OCTOBER 2026
Rev S MacNeill Cooper

TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2026
2.30 pm Church Study Group – in the church hall

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2026
10 am to 12.00 Baby & Toddler Group – in church hall
2.30 pm – 4.00 pm “Cuppa & Chat” – in church hall

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER 2026
10.15 am Saturday Morning Music – in the church

MINISTER
REV'D GEORGE HEINZ
Telephone: 07538480626

CHURCH WEBSITE
[www.churchstretton-
methodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk)

**WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY
FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE**

Julien & Ken H, Richard H, Paula & Andrew H,
Alison & Martin H, Trish & Darren H, Christine & David H,
Christine & Gerry R.
Those who come to our Babies & Toddler Group.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS MORNING

**As is our custom there will be a retiring collection following the
Communion Service for the benefit of our benevolent Fund.**

STUDYING PHILIPPIANS

Rev George Heinz is leading a four-week course which began on Tuesday 15th September. The last session is on Tuesday October 6th at 2.30pm in our church hall, using the Bible Month material on St Paul's letter to the Philippians. All are invited.

UNICEF STREET COLLECTION

The annual street collection for UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) will be on Saturday 10 October. Help would be much appreciated. If you are able to offer for one hour between 9am and noon please contact Pam or Ruth.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR UKRAINE

Can you help fill two shoeboxes from our church please?
One for a boy aged 6 - 8 years and one for a girl aged 6 - 8 years.
Suggestions for contents: socks, children's jewellery, hair accessories, soft toys, dolls, puzzles, card games, bubbles, stickers, coloured pencils, colouring pads, sweets etc. All items to be new please. No guns or sharp objects.
Please place your contributions into the box marked 'For Ukraine' by Sunday November 1st.
If we receive more items than can fill two boxes then we will fill more!!
Please speak to Sue H if there are any queries. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS to Christine and David H who celebrated their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary on Thursday, 1st October.

SATURDAY MORNING MUSIC

The Autumn season begins here at this church on Saturday 10th October at a starting time of 10.15 am. Edward Wadon and Elizabeth Jones with duos for cello and double base. As at previous concerts admission is free, there will be a retiring collection. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

BRITISH RED CROSS - Volunteering Appeal

Our Church Stretton Shop is desperately in need of volunteers in all areas. If you are able to offer even a little time, please look at the notice on the noticeboard in the hall or outside for details. Please take a flyer from the hall noticeboard if you know someone who might be interested.

Thank you.

DAVID AND STELLA

We went to see David and Stella on Wednesday. They wanted to know all the news from our church and how we all are. I don't think anyone was not mentioned by name! They send their love. They celebrate their platinum (70th) wedding anniversary on 6th October, next Tuesday. A card is being sent from the church members. They will celebrate the day with just the two of them having a special tea at a nearby "posh" hotel and then on Saturday 10th they are having a party for about 60 people. They have asked us to remember them as they celebrate - give thanks for the love they have shared and their family. **Ann and Jon.**

'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.

**Items for the Church Notices for 11th October 2026 to
cdgtorridon@aol.com or 01694 328319. Thank you**