

SINGING THE FAITH..... 401

**"Come, sinners, to the gospel feast, let every soul be Jesu's guest;
You need not one be left behind, for God has called all humankind.
Sent by my Lord, on you I call, the invitation is for all;
come, all the world and witness how all things in Christ are ready now."**

That line is an example of how the language has been modernised in some hymns; 'all mankind' has become 'all humankind'. Originally it had been "Come all the world; come sinner thou". In this case 'thou' and 'ye' have been changed to 'you'; to maintain the rhyme other changes were necessary. The compilers of Singing the Faith have not treated all Charles Wesley's hymns in this way. For instance, "My God! I know, I feel thee mine" has been printed in 18th century English.

It was good to welcome Rev Shalome back after a long illness. She chose two hymns for Holy Communion that were new to most of us but began with a golden oldie "Come, let us sing of a wonderful love". The other old hymn she chose is 401, from the pen of Charles Wesley. We seldom sing this hymn, possibly because preachers are reluctant to look at the congregation and call out "Come, sinners". Like many Wesley hymns, 401 is based on scripture. Jesus told a story about a great feast (Luke 14;16-24). The invited guests were too busy to accept the invitation so the prepared banquet was offered to the destitute, the poor and anyone who knew they needed help. This is the thought behind the lines "the invitation is for all" and "you need not one be left behind for God has called all humankind".

These words have long been sung to Fulda which in Singing the Faith is only set to 401 and 418 "We have a gospel to proclaim", although it appeared four times in Hymns & Psalms. It is too good a tune to be allowed to slip from memory. It was written by William Gardiner who was born when Charles Wesley was in his early sixties.

R.D.

**Items for the Church Notices for 16th August 2026 to
cdgtorridon@aol.com or 01694 328319. Thank you**



The Methodist Church

Church Stretton

IN THE SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES CIRCUIT



MINISTER

REV'D GEORGE HEINZ

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Church Website

[www.churchstretton-
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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.

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY 9th AUGUST 2026

10.30 am John Langridge

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2026

10.30 am Dr John Woolley

WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2026

10.00 am to 12.00 Baby & Toddler Group – NO MEETING

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

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

Ann & Jon C, Simon C, Barbara & Paul C,
Ruth D, Janet E, Chris & Brian F, Sally & Chris F,
Christine & Gerry R.

THANK YOU !!

My very sincere thanks to everyone who cares for and/or supports members of our Church Family. You support in so many ways- visiting, accompanying to events and medical appointments, transport, shopping, helping in homes and gardens, sending letters and cards, telephoning and much more. Thank you so much.

Sally W (Pastoral Co-ordinator)

PRAYER TIME

I shall soon be ordering the Prayer Handbook for the year September 2026 to August 2027. The theme for the year is Sorrow & Joy, referring to words of Jesus "You will have sorrow but your sorrow will be turned to joy" John 16:20.

Near the door there is a list of names of people who usually order the Handbook. If you no longer want, or would like to change to large print, please make a note by your name. If you have not previously ordered and would like to try it for a year, please add your name to the list.

Ruth D

DAVID HEDGES

'Thanks for all the kind thoughts & prayers in my recent problems with a mini stroke, & I have so many tablets to take I rattle walking!'

David H

'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.

SOLAR ECLIPSE- NEXT WEDNESDAY

On the evening of 12th August, Western Europe will experience a solar eclipse the likes of which won't be seen again until 2090.

It is a moment when millions of people of all faiths and none will be caught in a shared experience of awe, wonder and transcendence. The Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, blocking sunlight for over two minutes. If you are able to do so, use this time as an opportunity to gently but intentionally point to the creator who makes it possible.

Starts: Around 6:10 PM to 6:20 PM

Maximum Peak: Around 7:10 PM to 7:15 PM

Ends: Around 8:00 PM to 8:10 PM

THERE IS A PATTERN.....

There is a pattern in the way that planets move,
the heavens are governed by laws and physics.
We can count on the sun rising, the moon waxing and waning,
the stars shining and comets marking their course.

There is reassurance in the ordering of the universe,
yet still we look on in wonder.

The prophets and wise travellers have for millennia
sought direction from the stars.

Poets continue to wax lyrical about starlight
and celestial symmetry paints constellations
in which we mere human beings

find or seek meaning beyond science.

The reliability (at least for a few more million years),
of the ordered heavens,

sits in sharp contrast to the chaos of earthly
conflict, climate crisis and profound inequality.

This eclipse reminds us of the reliability of God,
reassures us that light will follow darkness and,
even when it seems not to, God sees, knows and loves
all people, even us, just as we are in all our chaos.

Written by Assistant Secretary of the Conference Revd Michaela Youngson



SHROPSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION

OPEN DAY ON ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2026, 10am to 4pm

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH AND HALL,
WATLING STREET SOUTH, CHURCH STRETTON SY6 7BG
(close to the railway station)

Shropshire Climate Action are delighted to invite you to this day.

THE AIM: To inform households from across Shropshire how to

- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINT

by installing energy saving measures and efficient heating systems in their homes.

THE PROGRAMME will include

- Presentations by Marches Energy Advice and Stretton Climate Care on
 - Home Energy Surveys
 - Finding local installers
 - Plug-in solar panels
 - Grants and loans
- Time to
 - Meet with suppliers, installers and advisors
 - Visit a number of homes in Church Stretton which have been retrofitted for the Net Zero Carbon future.

Admission free – donations welcomed.

Bring your own lunch – drinks provided.



For further information contact:
contact@shropshireclimateaction.org

