

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2026

Thank you to all who distributed envelopes and contributed to Christian Aid this year. The total raised was £3438.42

"SINGING THE FAITH"20

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.**

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

David Evans wrote both the words and the music of this hymn which has been repeatedly voted amongst the most favourite hymns in Britain. With the unusual metre it can only be sung to the tune written specially for it.

Since we bought Singing the Faith there has been only one year when we haven't sung this hymn and during this connexional year (from 1st September 2025) we have sung it three times and listened to the tune every week as part of our preparation for worship.

David Evans was born in Dartford, Kent in 1957 but has spent most of his life in Winchester and Southampton. He has a PhD from Southampton University on the cognitive psychology of music. He is a composer and music researcher but his main occupation is teaching piano students. Having struggled himself to improve his style he has now formulated a new system which has helped many people to become accomplished pianists.

David was sorry that some modern hymns and worship songs seemed to him to be too glib and tended to trivialise sacred values. He wanted to write something to restore a sense of reverence and awe. 'Be still' has been translated into many languages and sung in many lands. He wrote the hymn, words and music about an hour, during his private 'quiet time' in 1985.

When this tune is played before the service begins it's a sign to stop chatting so that all who wish to do so can prepare for worship in silence. It could be a time to turn to number 20 in Singing the Faith 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.

R.D.

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 12th JULY 2026

10.30 am Kathryn Lewis

SUNDAY 19th JULY 2026

10.30 am Rev George Heinz

MONDAY 13th JULY 2026

7.00 pm Church Council Meeting – in church

WEDNESDAY 15th JULY 2026

10.00 am to 12.00 Baby & Toddler Group – in church hall

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

WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

Hilary & Paul, Wendy, Linda & David,
Geoff, Gillian, Hazel, Tim,
Christine & Gerry.

ECO CHURCH NEWS

July is “**Cut down on Plastic**” month. On the Eco Church News notice board in the church hall is ***an opportunity to tell what steps you are taking to reduce your use of plastic.*** Plastic is such useful stuff but a scourge to the world, often difficult to recycle and littering the land and our oceans

EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE

All are invited

Friday 17th July at 2.30pm at Bayston Hill Methodist Church
Dedication Service followed by a strawberry tea
If you would like to attend please let Sue know asap (to assist with catering arrangements). **Thank you.**

VENEZUELAN EARTHQUAKE

The Disaster Emergency Committee have set up an appeal for Venezuela following the devastating earthquakes. If you wish to help the appeal there are baskets for your donation at the rear of the church again this week. You are invited to reflect and pray using this poem written by Revd Leonardo E. Paredes, Vice President of the Methodist Christian Community of Venezuela:

**In the face of such fragility, love comes into view,
hatred hides, differences grow transparent...
Lies are uncovered, hope rises again from another cardinal direction.
Plans disappear—and new ones emerge...
The word “God” feels closer: in the rubble, in the orphan, in the tears, in
the pain,
in the one who risks their life to find life.
And it no longer matters whether life lasts 80 years or 40—
when a single minute is enough to give the very best we have...**

AS WE ARE GATHERED JESUS IS HERE

One with each other, Jesus is here
Joined by the Spirit, washed in the blood
Part of the body, the church of God
As we are gathered Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The rearranged Church Council meeting will be on Monday 13th July at 7pm in the church.

As always members of the congregation are welcome to attend as observers. **Trish Church Council Secretary**

SUMMER FETES

We have connections with both Field House and the Sandford residential homes. They are both holding their summer fete over the next two weeks and it would be good if some of us could support these activities. Next Saturday, 18th July, from 2,30 to 4,30pm **Field House** is holding a Summer Fair and Dog Show (see poster on hall notice board) and on Saturday, 25th July from 1 to 4pm the **Sandford** will be holding their Fete. Anyone can attend these events so spread the word. **Ann**

**Items for the Church Notices for 19TH July 2026 to cdgtorridon@aol.com
or 01694 328319. Thank you**

As 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord' is played a few minutes before our preacher of the day leads us in worship, please take this time to be still and quiet and reflect. Thank you.

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago
One day, I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store"
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care"
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry; you could come back next day for more.
First, I got some **PATIENCE**; **LOVE** was in the same row.
Further down was **UNDERSTANDING**; you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of **WISDOM**, a bag or two of **FAITH**.
I couldn't miss the **HOLY GHOST** for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some **STRENGTH** and **COURAGE**
to help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered **GRACE**.
I didn't forget **SALVATION** for **SALVATION** is free,
So, I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw **PRAYER** and I just had to put that in,
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right in to sin.
PEACE and JOY were plentiful; they were on the last shelf.
SONGS and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel "Now, how much do I owe? "
He just smiled and said, "Take them everywhere you go "
Again, I said, "How much do I really owe "
He smiled gain and said "**MY CHILD JESUS PAID YOUR BILL**
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO "

Thanks to George A.