

**'Forgive our sins as we forgive,' you taught us, Lord to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.'**

Last Sunday's lectionary was about forgiveness so Rosamond Herklots' hymn was appropriate. Rosamond was born in 1905 to missionary parents when they worked in North India but most of her life was spent in the UK. She had a BA in French and taught for a short while in Palestine in the early nineteen thirties. Then she trained as a secretary and for 30 years worked with a specialist in Spina Bifida. During WW2 she helped to entertain children in the air-raid shelters in London. She became known for her amazing memory and her 'gentle old-fashioned humour'.

Rosamond wrote this hymn in 1966, after struggling to free her nephew's garden of deep-rooted weeds. She thought that the weeds were hampering the growth of the flowers in the garden just as bitterness and resentment can prevent a Christian's growth in grace. In the second verse she wonders how God's forgiveness can be accessed by 'the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart'.

What the records don't mention is her connection with Church Stretton. Many years ago, Ward and I attended a Christian Aid event at Shrewsbury Abbey. During the picnic lunch we got into conversation with a lady who had spent holidays in a house in the Wenlock Edge area owned for many years by the Herklots family; I think it had once been a Methodist chapel. Her name was Herklots and she told us that her brother, an Anglican minister, was about to retire to a house in Church Street. We soon got to know her brother John and his wife. John was a keen ecumenist and was saddened if people at his church were slow to join with "Churches Together in the Strettons." He also joined in community projects such as Traidcraft and United Nations Association. Sadly, Mrs Herklots became ill, so they moved away to be nearer to family. My memory is that Rosamond was his auntie. I wonder was it John's garden that inspired this hymn, or did it belong to another nephew?

The tune is St Bernard. It is based on a German tune Tochter Sion from 1741. It was included in Easy Hymn Tunes for Catholic Schools (1851) then in Hymns for School and Church in 1964.

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

20th SEPTEMBER 2026
HARVEST FESTIVAL & LUNCH
10.30 am Joyce Evans

27th SEPTEMBER 2026
Rev Jeremy Dare

TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2026
2.30 pm Church Study Group – in the vestry

WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2026
10 am to 12.00 Baby & Toddler Group – in church hall
2.30 pm – 4.00 pm "Cuppa & Chat" – in church hall
7.30 pm Churches Together Open Forum – in church hall

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**

Doreen C, Maureen C, Carole C, Ann & John C,
Simon C, Barbara & Paul Co, Ruth D,
All groups who meet on our premises,
Christine & Gerry R.

CHURCHES TOGETHER OPEN FORUM

Wednesday 23rd September 7.30pm

In our church hall. **All very welcome.**

STUDYING PHILIPPIANS

Rev George Heinz is leading a four-week course which began last week on Tuesday 15th September. The next session is next Tuesday September 22nd at 2 30pm in our church vestry, using the Bible Month material on St Paul's letter to the Philippians. All are invited to attend any of the sessions.

PLEASE NOTE the study group will be meeting in the vestry this coming Tuesday as there is a letting in the hall.

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.

SANDFORD SERVICE

This month's service will take place at approximately 11am on Tuesday, 29th September.

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. (Under the table by the church front door)

If we receive more items than can fill two boxes then we will fill more!!

Please speak to Sue if there are any queries.

Thank you.

**Items for the Church Notices for 27th September 2026 to
cdgtorridon@aol.com or 01694 328319. 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.