SINGING THE FAITH…… 610

Best of all is God is with us,
God will hold and never fail.
Keep that truth when storms are raging,
God remains though faith is frail.

This hymn was written by Andrew Pratt who was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1978, after a number of years as a teacher in Essex, Wrexham and Liverpool. From 2004 to 2015 he was on the staff of Hartley Victoria College in Manchester, teaching and inspiring a new generation of Methodist ministers. He started writing poetry early and at 31 years old he published his first hymn collection 'Blinded by the Dazzle'. Nine of his hymns are in Singing the Faith. He claims to have written over 700 hymns as well as books on hymns, their meanings and origins. He has conducted workshops in Britain, USA and Germany and lectured in Poland – a busy and highly talented man!

Each verse of this hymn begins 'Best of all is God is with us'. These are believed to be the final words of John Wesley. He wanted to give comfort and encouragement to his family and friends gathered round his death bed in March 1791. His last recorded written words were to William Wilberforce, invoking God's blessing on the anti-slavery trade, demonstrating John's practical, social outreach. To the very end his first thought was for others. The idea of God who is ever present runs through the whole of the Bible and was reiterated by Jesus - his final order to his disciples was followed by the words "I am with you always". Over the centuries this has brought comfort and strength to believers.

We sing this hymn to the tune 'All for Jesus' from John Stainer's cantata 'The Crucifixion'. Stainer played church organs from the age of 14 and was the organist of St Paul's Cathedral for some 16 years, only resigning when his eyesight began to fail. **R.D.**



25th OCTOBER 2026 **1st NOVEMBER 2026**

Kester Dean **Rev Kim Stilwell – Holy Communion**

SERVICES COMMENCE AT 10.30 am

TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2026

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

WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2026

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

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

MINISTER
REV'D GEORGE HEINZ
Telephone: 07538480626

CHURCH WEBSITE
www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk

WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY
FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

Linda R, Pam R, Frances & Peter S, Brian W,
Sally & Peter W, Sheila W, Sally W Christine & Gerry R.
All groups who meet on our premises.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR UKRAINE

A big thank you for all your contributions for the shoeboxes for Ukraine. We have managed to fill almost five boxes, two for girls 6-8 years and three for boys 6-8 years. If you have not yet contributed and wish to do so there is still space in the boy's boxes for hats, socks or soft toys. Appropriate aged toothbrushes and toothpaste would also be welcome. Thank you.

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

PLEASE NOTE !!

Items for the Church Notices for next Sunday 1st November to **Trish Howard** please. Tel: 01694 722904 or Email: davidandtrish@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The Amnesty Ceilidh is scheduled for **Friday 30th October**, 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. at the Silvester Horne Institute.
Once again, we are pleased to welcome the Whiffeldy Band to lead us through the dances with their excellent music.
Tickets are £15 (children £5) and this includes a hot supper and soft drinks (bring your own wine and beer) Tickets are available from Reuben's Books, or from David and Trish Howard (01694 72290

"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.

SANDFORD SERVICE

This month's service at the Sandford Nursing Home is next Tuesday, 27th October at approximately 11am. You may join us if you wish (unless you are not well). Please remember this service in your prayers**.**

'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.