

METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE NOW AVAILABLE !!

“CONNEXION” is the free magazine that carries inspiring stories of the Methodist Church, mainly in this country but also from around the world. The spring issue is now available. Take, read and pass on a copy from the table by the church entrance. Or read it on line at methodist.org.uk/theconnexion

REFLECTION..... on “who moved the stone”?

A large and heavy stone had been rolled against the entrance to the tomb where the body of Jesus lay.

This was the concern of the women as they made their way to anoint the body of Jesus, in the early hours of darkness. Who would move the stone? This heavy stone blocked the entrance to the tomb.

In the growing light of the morning, the women saw, to their surprise, that the stone had already been rolled to one side. As they approached, they saw someone, they knew not who, standing at the entrance to the tomb. The person said to them, “He is not here. He is risen, as he told you. He will meet with you in Galilee”. The women thought that this was an apparition and feared to mention it on their return to their homes. As Mark writes in his Gospel, “they said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid”. (Mk.16.8)

It was Mary Magdalene who also went alone to the tomb. Finding it empty she returned to tell Peter and John. Peter and John ran to the tomb, John being younger, reached the tomb first but hesitated to enter. Peter arrived after John, but without hesitation went in. The burial clothes were there, but no Jesus. (John 20.1)

It was a time of fear and wonder. The account of Jesus’s resurrection was at first only dimly understood, but like the best of news, it has warmed the hearts of those who have believed, ever since. Faith has prevailed over unbelief. We can confidently claim and sing,

“I know that my Redeemer lives,
what joy the blest assurance gives,
He lives, He lives, who once was dead,
He lives, my everlasting Head”. (STF 303).

Tony Hearle

The Methodist Church

Church Stretton

IN THE SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES CIRCUIT



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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

EASTER SUNDAY 20th APRIL 2025

10.30 am Rev George Heinz – Holy Communion

SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2025

10.30 am Kathryn Lewis

WEDNESDAY 23rd APRIL 2025

10.00 am to 12.00 Baby & Toddler Group – No Meeting
2.00 pm Pastoral Visitors’ Meeting – in the vestry
2.30 pm – 4.00 pm “Cuppa & Chat” – in church hall.

CHURCH STRETTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD 2025

Congratulations are due to **Jon Cooke** who has received this award for his services to Climate Care since 2008. It is very well-deserved.

“SPRING INTO MAYFAIR” 10th May 2025

As you may have read in Focus, Mayfair is planning another “Spring into Mayfair” in the Health and Wellbeing Centre on Saturday morning, 10th May to coincide with a plant stall outside. There will be all sorts of fundraising activities, including a beautiful selection of handmade craft items produced by the Mayfair Crafty Ladies and Mayfair produce such as cakes and preserves. There will be other fun activities for all ages including a tombola and other games. The coffee shop will also be open. I am running the tombola stall and am hoping that some of you may be able to donate some prizes, so please have a look to see if you have anything suitable. Every little helps! The event is to raise much needed funds for Mayfair.

Christine Richardson 722677

COMMUNION CLOTH

The cloth that usually covers the bread and wine at the 10.30 am service is beginning to wear rather thin in parts and I see it has developed a miniscule hole. The situation isn't desperate, because we have another suitable cloth, but that one is much plainer than the pretty lace edged one normally in use. I wondered if anybody has a pretty white cloth they don't use and would like to donate to the Church? The current one measures approximately 131 x 125 cm (52x 49 inches). I don't know how many years it has presided over Communion in our Church – it was in use when I became a Communion steward. If it could talk, I wonder what it would say. It has had the chalice knocked over underneath it on several occasions to my knowledge, once by me. If anyone has a suitable replacement, please let me know.

Christine Richardson 722677

EASTER OFFERING

Easter Offering envelopes are available. Please give generously and put in the collection plate on any of the next few Sundays. The theme for this year is “Education for All: Hope for All”. The money is distributed through the World Mission Fund to partner churches and organisations in some of the most needy parts of the world.

The Easter Offering dedication service for the area will be in our church on Wednesday 21 May at 2.30pm. As we are the hosts please make a note in your diary and do your best to attend if possible. **Ruth Davies**

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Our Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday 4th May following the morning service.

After the meeting we will enjoy a shared lunch together.

We hope as many of you will be able to attend as possible, it is for all members of our congregation.

PASTORAL VISITORS' MEETING

The next meeting for Pastoral Visitors will be on Wednesday, 23rd April at 2p.m. in the Vestry.

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Sally Williams (Pastoral Co-ordinator)

STRETTON FOODBANK UPDATE as at 13.4.2025

A busy session this week, with more people coming than we have seen for a while, which means we need more this week to replenish the stock.

Thank you to everyone that donated food or money last week. For next Friday we need your help to restock our shelves with: Pasta Sauce (jars), Tinned Lentils, Cooking oil, Honey, Peanut butter, Small bags of sugar, Squash. Of course, if you wish to donate something else, we are grateful for everything we receive.

Food donations can be left in the baskets at the Coop or at the Mayfair Centre. Each week we also have to buy a substantial amount of food. This is funded by donations. To help us financially, the easiest way to donate money is by using this link to make a payment. <https://tinyurl.com/SFBgive>

