

REFLECTION ON THE PRIORY CHURCH, LEOMINSTER .

We were visiting the Church of the Priory in Leominster. Children were playing in the Church, having left their bicycles in the porch. The caretaker was arranging hymn books in readiness for the next service of worship, with no objection to the children. My son suggested that we go to the sanctuary, but I preferred to sit on my walker at the back of the church. The caretaker came over to speak to us. He clearly enjoyed his responsibilities and spoke of his love for the Church.

Another person joined us. He was unkempt and looked as though he belonged to the roads. He left us. The caretaker said that he was the church organist and had come to select music for the following Sunday.

As I sat, of a sudden I heard him playing a Passion Chorale. It had been harmonised by Johann Sebastian Bach set to the words of the hymn,

"O sacred head sore wounded with grief and pain weighed down,
how scornfully surrounded with thorns, thy only crown.

How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn.

How does that visage languish which once were bright as morn".

The music together with the words of the hymn, telling of the suffering love of God, so moved me that my eyes filled with tears. The church of the Priory resounded with glorious music.

The last verse of the hymn was
"be near me Lord when dying,
oh show thy cross to me".

The organist played quietly and then, broke out into a paean of praise for the one who had overcome death and is risen!

Tony Hearle



The Methodist Church

Church Stretton

IN THE SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES CIRCUIT

MINISTER

REV'D GEORGE HEINZ

Telephone: 07538480626

Church Website : www.churchstretton-methodistchurch.org.uk

*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.*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Please join us for coffee & fellowship in the hall following these services

SUNDAY APRIL 21st 2024

10.30 am Neville Stephens

SUNDAY APRIL 28th 2024

10.30 am Mr Wesley Morris

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY 24th April 2024

10.00 am to 12 Noon Babies & Toddlers – meet in the church hall

2.30 pm – 4.00 pm "Cuppa & Chat" – in the church hall - all welcome

Items for the church notices for Sunday April 28th
to Trish Howard Email: davidandrish@hotmail.co.uk
or Telephone: 722904

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.... TODAY

Our Annual Church Meeting will be held in the hall **TODAY** after the Sunday service. There will be refreshments at the start of the meeting and we will then enjoy a shared lunch together afterwards.

All members of our congregation are warmly invited to this occasion.

Trish Howard

SANDFORD SERVICE - Tuesday 23rd April

Our next service at the Sandford Nursing Home will be on Tuesday 23rd April at 11am approximately. All are welcome to join us but if you are unable to attend please pray for the residents and staff at this time.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday May 5th.

On Sunday May 5th both Craven Arms and ourselves have an Own Arrangement Service so it has been decided we will share the service at Craven Arms Methodist Church at 11am. If you need transport to Craven Arms please arrange with a "friend" or talk to a steward. **Ann Cooke**

PASTORAL VISITORS

Our next meeting will be on April 24th at 2pm in the Vestry. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting on our Church's calendar.

Sally Williams (Pastoral Co-Ordinator)

STRETTON FOODBANK UPDATE

A quiet day on Friday, good to see clients not needing food every week. Thanks to everyone who contributed food and money last week.

This week we need your help with:

Fray Bentos Pies

Jam

CornflakesTea

Small bags of sugar

Chocolate digestive biscuits

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>

Please remember that we are here to help anyone who is struggling and needs support. Don't feel bad about coming to the Foodbank, we are here to help and open each Friday at the Parish Centre in Church Street from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Our contact email is strettonfoodbank@strettonparish.org.uk if you want to get in touch, or simply just come and see us on Friday.