

EV'D GEORGE HEINZ..... VISIT TO RWANDA

From 15th to the 23rd February I will be part of a district delegation travelling to visit partners in the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda. While I am away Rev'd Denise Hargreaves has kindly agreed to provide cover should there be any pastoral emergencies. She can be contacted on - 07503 212449.

While visiting Rwanda we will be visiting a number of organisations & projects which have been supported by the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District. They include -

The Free Methodist Church of Rwanda - *Rwandan government laws regarding building regulations have seen many church buildings closed. The church are hoping that they can begin reopening soon.*

PHARP (Peace-building, healing and reconciliation programme) www.pharp.org - *Founded in Kenya in 1994, PHARP is active in a number of countries including Rwanda, Uganda & South Sudan. Much of PHARP's work in Rwanda involves working with survivors of the 1994 genocide. As well as training lay and ordained people on issues around reconciliation, some projects focus on teaching practical skills such as sewing in order to help people make a living.*

Kibagora Hospital - *Run by the Free Methodist Church, Kibagora hospital provides a range of healthcare services for a population of around 250,000 people in south east Rwanda. It's ministry is particularly important given the prevalence of diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. The Rwandan government states that at present there is only one doctor for every 20,000 people and that only 40% of Rwanda's population has access to adequate healthcare*

Kibagora Polytechnic www.kp.ac.rw - *Also run by the Free Methodist Church, for whom education is a priority, Kibagora is the first university level institution to be based in the west of Rwanda and offers a range of courses. The church is also responsible for a number of primary and secondary schools.*

I would greatly appreciate your prayers for these projects, the country of Rwanda in general, and the five of us travelling there to represent our district.

George Heinz



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

SUNDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2025

10.30 am Own Arrangement

SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2025

10.30 am Mrs Joy Forrest

WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2025

10.00 am to 12.00

Baby & Toddler Group – in church hall

2.30 pm – 4.00 pm

“Cuppa & Chat” – in church hall.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

'March Melodies' - Saturday 1st March 7.30pm.

We will be hosting a concert here by "The Garden Singers" who will be joined by talented harpist Emma Lewis.

They will be singing a range of music from popular to folk and some Welsh especially for St David's day!

Tickets are £8 and all proceeds are for our church funds so please support this event.

For more information please ask Sally, George A. or myself, we are all members.

Thank you..... **Barbara Cotton**

"ENGAGING ISSUES" Tuesday 18th February 2025

The US Election result – What it means for USA , UK and the world !!

When the dust settles George Conyne an American with a PhD in Anglo – American Diplomatic History from Cambridge will look what has happened and consider what happens next. 7.30 pm at URC Church Stretton.

HOW ETHICAL IS YOUR BATHROOM ?

This time last year we thought we had heard the last of Traidcraft. Now we learn that Transform Trade (previously part of Traidcraft) has partnered with Serious Tissues to provide "the most ethical toilet paper you'll find". The recycled paper rolls are made in the Midlands; they are carbon neutral, there is no plastic packaging and no bleach used. From every sale a donation is made to Transform Trade's work, helping producer collectives and social enterprises to thrive. I thought "What's not to like?" so I ordered a box of 42 rolls, at a cost of 95 pence each. This is more expensive than supermarket prices but apparently more sheets per roll (I haven't counted).

If you haven't got room for a box of 42 rolls I am happy to sell at the price I paid. The good news is that a standing order costs less, e.g. 42 rolls every 4 months would cost 85 pence per roll.

Ruth Davies

REFLECTION..... on "Our Hurried World".

A rather unkempt character used to visit me years ago. In our conversations he would complain about some people being too eager to enjoy themselves without being committed to their work. Quoting a verse by Matthew Arnold, he said,

"They see all sights from pole to pole,
and glance and nod and bustle by,
and never once possess their souls,
before they die".

They simply look for enjoyment. That was not the way of Jesus. There was no passing nod in his approach to people. Despite the demands of the crowd, he gave everyone his full attention, remaining calm and unperturbed. It was this calm which he sought even more when he went alone into the hills, to be reassured for himself of the purposes of his Heavenly Father. There he gained the strength to face the inevitable Cross of suffering. He was, as my visitor implied, in complete possession of his soul.

Whatever the future may hold for us, we may face it with a calm which marked the unperturbed strength of Jesus as he faced the Cross. We may believe and be confident in believing that we are as he is, in the care of a loving Father.

Tony Hearle

STRETTON FOODBANK UPDATE as at 9.2.2025

Friday was the first day that long term clients needed to have a referral to visit the Foodbank. We gave notice of this change in early December. As a result, it was quieter than usual.

New clients can still self-refer for up to their first four visits, after this, referrals from agencies in a position to help resolve their underlying issues are needed. Thank you to everyone that donated food or money last week. For next Friday we need your help to restock our shelves with: UHT milk . Orange juice , Orange squash , Instant coffee , Bars of soap , Toilet rolls .

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.

Please turnover.....

