

Singing the Faith Plus meeting your needs

Singing the Faith Plus (www.singingthefaitplus.org.uk) is the web-based resource designed to complement and support the new hymn book of the Methodist Church in Britain, Singing the Faith. It was established in order to provide a platform for new hymns, songs and contemporary worship resources as well as offering a single point of access for information on Methodists hymns and worship.

Designed for musicians and leaders of worship, Singing the Faith Plus (StF+) includes unique search and index facilities, together with suggestions and articles to assist in choosing the right hymns and songs for local needs. It is also a place to share new hymns and songs, words and opinions, and to explore new materials for Methodist worship.

Promoting hymn writers

Hymn writers are at the heart of the articles and information already being included on StF+. Well-known and less familiar writers were among the first contributors to the site – among them, Clare Stainsby, Alan Hinton, Andrew Pratt, John Bell and (from further afield) Brian Wren, Dan Damon and Norman Goreham. We have included their articles, together with notes on individual hymns. We hope that that the flexible nature of StF+ will allow us to complement the great work already being done by the websites of the British and United States/Canada Hymn Societies in providing a space for new materials, together with comments on existing texts and tunes.

Answering your questions

StF+ is evolving as more people use the site and write in with specific notes and queries. We've added a new menu section, "About StF" (http://www.singingthefaitplus.org.uk/?page_id=293), with pages devoted to the new hymn book itself, other editions and "Frequently asked questions". We've also created a central space for leaving questions and comments.

Lectionary suggestions

Already, the "Hymns for Sunday worship" calendar on StF+ is being well used. Here you can find suggestions for which hymns in Singing the Faith you might use to accompany the readings of the Lectionary. Even if Singing the Faith is not available to you on a regular basis, there will still be ideas and suggestions that you can take up through other sources. We are working three months ahead – which means you can already start planning for Ash Wednesday if you feel like it!

An online hymn companion?

StF+ has begun to compile background notes and ideas for singing to accompany each hymn entry on the site. There's a long way to go but, in the run-up to Christmas, we posted information about Singing the Faith's three new Advent candle hymns (StF 165, 166 & 174), as well as Marjorie Dobson's "Jesus the carpenter" (StF 275), Geoffrey Ainger's "Born in the night" (StF 193) and Bernadette Farrell's popular "Longing for light" (StF 706). If you have comments or information you'd like to pass on about any of the hymns in Singing the Faith, we'd love to hear from you.

Do take time to explore Singing the Faith Plus and let us know what you think. You can get in touch with me by emailing stfplus@methodistchurch.org.uk, using the feedback page of the website, or posting your thoughts to “Editor, Singing the Faith Plus” at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

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