

Church Matters

Church Matters

The Parish Magazine of the Strettons : June 2011

Growing together in Faith, Hope & Love; sharing the Good News of Jesus with all.

OUR NEW PARISH SECRETARY - JO AZE



Our family moved to Church Stretton four years ago from Shipley near Bradford, where we'd lived for 14 years. I am married to Steve, and we have three children. Our daughter is just about to take her A-levels at Ludlow College and our two boys are at Church Stretton School. Steve runs a software publishing company which, specialises in careers education software for schools, where I work part time in an administrative role. As we work from home we decided that home could be somewhere beautiful, so we chose to move to Church Stretton as this is somewhere we knew, having spent many holidays here. Life is busy with having two part time jobs, a family and a home to run, but any spare time is spent walking in the hills, pilates or badminton at the leisure centre or cycle rides. Steve

and I are both involved with the Open the Book assemblies at the primary school, where I am also a governor. I am enjoying the challenge of a new job and meeting new people. Do come and introduce yourself if we haven't yet met.

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THAT WAS CLOSE!

Well, that's another edition done. To be honest, this month I was wondering how much content there would be in Church Matters.

I'd be the first to admit that I am a 'last minute' kind of person, but with only a couple of days to go to the submissions deadline for this month I didn't have enough articles to fill even eight pages, let alone sixteen!

As it turned out I ended up with too much to fit in and have had to defer some content to next months edition.

Whilst, for obvious reasons, there has to be a final deadline for submissions, that doesn't mean you have to wait until as close to that date as possible before submitting content! If there is something you want in Church Matters, you can give it to me now, way before the deadline. Trust me, I won't mind.

Once again I'd like your suggestions for articles and/or series' you would like to see in Church Matters as it is my intention to try and have regular content. We have a book review this month; is this the sort of content you like or is there something else you'd like to see? Do you think the Fun and Games page should be included every month? I'd really appreciate your comments. Please let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Simon Cleaton

A THANK YOU FROM NANCY

Thank you so much for the very generous gift you presented to me on my retirement from the Parish Office. It had been my wish for a long time to own a Home Communion Set and I am delighted with the one given to me. It has already been 'christened'! I have not yet decided what to do with rest of your gift but I will put it towards something appropriate.

'Retirement' is suiting me very well and has given me much more freedom of choice in how I use my time. Although, I have to say, I seem to be very busy and am fast becoming one of those people who wonder how they ever had time to work. It is really good to be able to spend more time on ministry, attending interesting courses, going to the theatre and holidays – not necessarily in that order (!) although the ministry will always come top of the list.

So, once again, very many thanks for all your love and support.

Nancy Cleaton

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship Garden Party is being held on 1st June in the Rectory Garden. If it's wet it will be in the Parish Centre. Members are invited to bring a small flower arrangement for a light-hearted competition.

HOW CAN I RELATE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

I have been asked a number of questions about the Holy Spirit since I came here and welcome more because it shows people are hungry for more of God. I myself have sometimes found I need more advice on how to receive from God. I suppose my first impression was of a 'Holy Ghost', which conjured up pictures of a sheet over someone's head! It was some time after coming to faith that I realised that the Holy Spirit is a person and that when I invited Jesus into my life, He sent in the Holy Spirit – that is how He lives in people's hearts and lives.

And that is the nub of the matter: the reason why the Spirit is so important is that that is how Jesus works in our lives. It is through the Spirit that we receive forgiveness of our sins and all that Jesus won for us on the cross. And one reason why it is good for Christians to keep hearing the Gospel preached is that it reminds us that all God's gifts are just that – gifts! They cannot be earned! Therefore, any of us can receive, as long as we come to Jesus as our Lord and accept He died for us so we can receive.

Over the years I have found many have not received. They have believed as best they knew how, but nobody told them what the Spirit could do in their lives. So it was not their fault – they were never told!

Yet Jesus devoted the last night before He died to speaking about His death, and how it brought forgiveness, and then the Holy Spirit as the way He would be with them

“God has not changed!”

after He rose from the dead and then departed from them at the Ascension. It is impossible to read the Acts of the Apostles without realising the difference the Holy Spirit made to the earliest followers of Jesus.

God has not changed! We can receive Him in fullness today. All we need to do is affirm again that Jesus is our Lord and that we ask Him to fill every part of us. The Living Water can only fill what is not closed up! As Jesus said: “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” (John 7:37-38)

Do ask me or other leaders for prayer if you wish to receive all God has for you! I leak, as it were, so I regularly go for prayer to be refilled. (Eph. 5:18). We all need to help each other, to let this be an ongoing, life-giving experience!

May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all very powerfully this Pentecost!

Richard Hill

ROBERT'S PLACEMENT

As part of year two of my Lay Reader training course I have to undertake a placement at another church, and this explains my absence from St. Laurence's during May and June. I am at the River Community Church in Telford. This is an initiative launched by the Diocese of Lichfield in 2009 to reach out to people in the new Lawley and Lightmoor housing developments. Services are held in the local primary school. The aim is to build a church from scratch from within these communities. This raises the question "what should a church, whose primary aim is mission, look like?" So far, this has been a fascinating experience with many learning points.

The main focus of River church at present is an Alpha Course which I was able to join at the outset. I would value your prayers for the 20 people attending and for the sessions when I will be speaking.

Robert Rayner

PHOTO-VOLTAIC PANELS

The dull winter months brought little excitement to people monitoring the electricity production from the Photo-Voltaic panels (or Solar Panels to the layman) on the Parish Centre, which were installed in January. But the sunny weather in

April and May has boosted production.

The church benefits by 33 pence for every kilowatt hour we produce, plus an additional 3 pence for all the electricity we export rather than use in the Parish Centre (which is most of it except during winter months). In addition, we benefit by an overall reduction of 50% on our electricity



bills from NPower. Over time this will add up to very good economic sense, plus substantially reducing the church's carbon footprint. A few church members have already followed suit. If you are interested in finding out more, then the Low Carbon Open Homes Day on 9th July provides a great opportunity. See page 9 for more information.

Isabel Carter

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

EXPERIENCE THE PHILIPPINES. Come, see and hear more about THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS; Sunday 10 July at 4pm. (Details later)

June 2011

OUR NEW CURATE - SUZAN WILLIAMS

My name is Suzan and I am due to be Ordained on the 3rd of July this year. Darren and I have four children: Alex, 19, Hannah, 17, Sophie, 13, and Hollie, 11.



We are very excited about embarking on our new adventure and look forward to moving to Church Stretton on the 17th of June in preparation for my Ordination. I begin my curacy on the 3rd of July. I have lived in Shropshire for nearly eight years and have trained non-residentially with Wemtec, being based in Ludlow for three years. Two of the things I look forward to most on being ordained are getting to know as many of the congregation as I can at St Laurence's and becoming involved in the worshipping community and the exciting things that God is doing in the area.

I'm not so good at remembering people's names and so hope that people will be patient with me and not be too offended when I get them wrong or forget!

Our move is going to involve quite a lot of planning as we have a

menagerie of animals to move too, including a dog, two cats, a rabbit and a guinea pig as well as fish too!

I look forward to being with you all soon.

Suzan Williams

ORDINATION

Suzan is being ordained on 3rd July in Hereford Cathedral. She and her husband Darren and their four children will be moving in to 26 Churchill Road on 17th June. We are going to present them with a hamper. Please bring any items to the office.

FATHER'S DAY

Appropriately, Father's Day (June 19th) is Trinity Sunday, when we remember that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus taught (Matt. 29:19-20) but also the only way the early Christians and Christians ever since have been able to make sense of their experience of God. Services will be as usual, except that there is expected to be a special video at 11:05.

Richard Hill

BORDER PRAYER ROOM PROJECT

This was a very special time with a real feeling of God's presence and direction. There will be more details and a full article in next months Church Matters. If you want to find out more before then speak to either Valerie McCalla or Sally Cooke.

time and age-appropriate teaching/activities.

We are now into our final term of the school year and God is working in wonderful ways with our young people.

YOUTHZONE – Sunday mornings during the 11:05 service. We have gained some 'new recruits' up from Kidzone so dynamics have changed, but it's lovely to have swelled numbers a little.

Prayer Point: That the young people will develop and own their faith. That they will unite as a group and will start to network with each other.

XZONE – The Wednesday lunchtime group in Church Stretton School is still as popular. Time is limited but we do manage to get something of the Gospel over each week.

Prayer Point: From September the school timetable is changing. The lunch break will be reduced – not sure how this will affect our group so please pray that we will find a way around the changes; that it will open more doors; and that the young people will begin to have a relationship with Jesus.

ELEV8 – Friday evenings during term time. Numbers have increased over the last 6 months. As from September, we will be dividing them into two age groups – Years 7-9 (age 11-14) & Years 10+. We will have to reduce the times for each group but will be able to have more 'quality'

Prayer Point: That the transition into the two groups will go smoothly and will be well received. The relationships between the young people will be supportive and encouraging. They will be able to seriously think of how they can make good moral choices and develop into wise and compassionate adults, ultimately to have Jesus threaded through their lives. More helpers would come forward.

Further things that may be of interest in the future:

- Ladies Evening (Young & not so young) 18th June 2011 (see separate advert)
- Fun day - Russell's Meadow, 17th July 2011
- Soul Survivor, 14+ years (Christian Youth Camp in Somerset) 9-14th August 2011
- Fort Rocky, 11-14 years, Cleobury Mortimer 7-9th October 2011

Thank you to those of you that supported our Cream Tea/Coffee Morning and for buying our Easter Simnel cakes – hope you enjoyed them – we raised over £200 which will help towards youth funds.

Anything else you would like to know about the youth work ministry please ask me – or more importantly ask our young people.

Sarah Wildblood

'THE PRODIGAL GOD' BY TIM KELLER

Broadly speaking there are two ways to find happiness, says Tim Keller: the way of self-discovery, "finding your true self", or the way of moral conformity, living an upright life, repressing our natural desires. In the Parable of the Prodigal or lost son, the two brothers tried each of these approaches. The first type of person today dislikes words like "tradition", "prejudice", "authority" and thinks the others are bigoted and that "progressive" people are the solution to the world's problems; the second thinks the world will be made right by moral rectitude and moral people are the solution.

"Love as a free gift"

The sadness is that both sons in the parable are lost but only the first one comes to realise it. Both wanted the Father's gifts but not the Father. The elder brother made himself his own saviour and thus put himself in the place of God. That is the essence of their sin, not simply specific acts. The younger son goes as far away as possible; the second does everything to embarrass his father at the party and to hurt him. Do we not sometimes want what God has to offer but not Him?! Do we not find it hard to accept the Father's love as a free gift,

renouncing the pride which thinks we earned it in some way?! Don't we try to be our own Saviour rather than to receive it from God? Don't we try to manipulate God by thinking He owes us blessings because of our righteousness and that He has failed us when He does not pay up? Would not the spiritual 'hug' of God do so much to bring healing to broken lives and allay guilt, fear etc.?

Tim Keller has had a very fruitful

"Bring unchanging truth"

ministry among people in their 20's and 30's disaffected by Christianity as they have seen it and influenced by Postmodernism. So his books are an object lesson in how to bring unchanging truth to a world whose reference points are far away. In this book, he finally draws out how the elder brother, instead of trying to find fault with him, should have gone looking for his brother and been willing to make the sacrifice of losing part of his inheritance to pay for the fatted calf, the band and the party, but, like the Pharisees, refused. Jesus, on the other hand, like the two people in the previous parables, did go seeking us to save us who were lost and pay the price for us to be welcomed back into the Father's arms.

Richard Hill

*The Prodigal God by Tim Keller,
Hodder £7.99.*

OUR TITHE DONATION TO SAONRE

A third of our tithe donation from Building in Faith was sent to a Tearfund partner in Burkina Faso to help build a church in the village of Saonre, about 10 miles from the capital Ougadougou. Our funding



Saonre Congregation

was sent to them in November and meant they were able to finish the building work and put a good sturdy roof on the church, essential in the torrential rains they sometimes experience there.



Saonre Church Choir

Once the funds arrived, local church members and builders worked around the clock to finish the church in time for their opening ceremony on

Sunday, November 28th, last year. During the celebratory service 27 children and adults were baptized there. The church is now known as Temple Evangélique El Roi. The congregation in Saonre has really been encouraged by this practical support from our church – one of the many blessings that come from our generous giving.

Isabel Carter

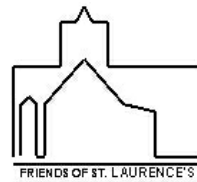
HEALING SERVICE

There will be a healing service on Sunday June 26th at 6pm. The Methodists usually share in this service and I am delighted to say that the Rev. Hazel Ratcliffe, the new Methodist Minister, is preaching and sharing in the ministry.

Hazel will in fact be back to preach at the Pet Service in Rectory Field on Sunday July 31st at 5:00pm.

Richard Hill

THE FRIENDS OF ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS

Please do not forget to respond to the letter, which you will have received by early June.

Many thanks

LOW CARBON OPEN HOMES DAY

The Parish Centre is the starting point for the Low Carbon Open Homes Day on Saturday July 9th from 9:30am onwards. It will host a renewable technologies exhibition with a number of experts from different companies on hand. Programmes with a map to find the various open homes in the Strettons area will be available, together with refreshments and lunch. This is a great opportunity to find out how to make our homes more energy efficient by chatting with users and experts.

Isabel Carter

AN 'ALMOST' ROYAL WEDDING

On Thursday 28th April the Infants school prepared their own special Marriage Service to commemorate the royal wedding between William and Kate. Children were chosen to act as bride, groom, best man, bride's father, bridesmaids and pageboys. All had dressed up for the occasion as well as the remaining children and teachers who formed the "congregation". The school hall had now become church. Colourful hats and beautiful dresses were on display. The Reverend John Hughes arrived to conduct the ceremony and after explaining to the children the blessings of marriage, the marriage service took place. The Bride looked

radiant as the Groom placed an enormous ring on her finger. They were declared "Husband & Wife".

The children clapped and cheered as the Bride, Groom and Wedding Party made their way down the aisle. It was a happy, fitting celebration of the wedding that was to take place between William and Kate the following day.

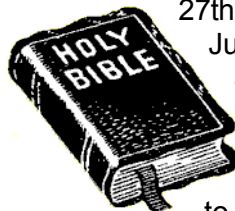
John Hughes

NEW HOLY COMMUNION TABLE

John Holden has generously offered to make a Communion Table and is currently constructing a prototype(s) to show the congregation an example of both style and size of the proposed table. The table should be on display by the end of June and John would be most grateful if people would view the prototype and give their comments to him either in person, by phone on 724167 or by email on john.helga77@btinternet.com.

BIBLE EXHIBITION

There will be a Bible exhibition during the Summerfest on 11th June from 11am to 5pm and also from Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July. Offers to be around to chat with people, and show school children around, to Richard please.



FUN AND GAMES

These puzzles and games are aimed at the whole church family, from the youngest to the oldest. Hopefully you'll find something that suits you. Relax, have a bit of fun and give those 'little grey cells' a workout!

OLD TESTAMENT HEROES WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the Old Testament heroes in the Word Search below? When you have, the remaining letters will spell out one of Jesus' famous sayings. Good luck!

H J I M A M B T Z H
A H E E A W O E A E
R P Y R T H C S L H
O E H E E H A I T A
B S R U A M J R T I
E O H R S A I A B D
D J I O H N D A T A
H A N O E D I G H B
H S O L O M O N E O
L R E H T S E I F E

ABRAHAM
DEBORAH
ELIJAH
ESTHER

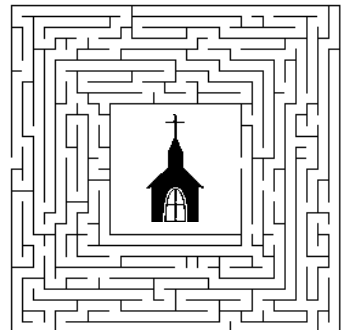
GIDEON
JACOB
JEREMIAH
JOSEPH

OBADIAH
SAMSON
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH

Jesus said

AMAZING!

Can you help Richard find his way to the Church in time for the service? He doesn't want to keep the congregation waiting!



WALKING FOR JUSTICE

I visited Burma four times during my work with Tearfund. I was supporting a Tearfund partner there to translate community development materials into local languages. An amazing country and amazing, courageous people. But I always entered the country with apprehension; everywhere we were watched by security forces and therefore wary. I was smuggled into the back of buildings where workshops were being held to avoid drawing attention to our work. Once we spent a whole afternoon discussing how to translate the title of a book (Mobilising the community) to convey what it was about to readers, whilst avoiding the regime taking note. I was always glad to know that an organization like Amnesty International existed in case I ended up the wrong side of the authorities (my colleague was once questioned for 3 hours by security forces – just because she visited a rural village where fieldwork was being done by workshop participants).

Amnesty fight for the rights of people who are imprisoned unjustly for speaking out against injustice or religious intolerance. They engage lawyers to work on their behalf, encourage letter-writing campaigns and send greeting cards to encourage isolated and largely forgotten prisoners of conscience. I'm a member of the Stretton Amnesty Group and to celebrate Amnesty's 50th anniversary at the

end of May, a small group of us are walking 50 miles from Church Stretton, linking in with other groups in Shrewsbury and Wenlock who've offered accommodation and are joining us for part of the way!

I'm focusing on fund raising on behalf of three Burmese prisoners of conscience - Khun Bedu, Khun Kawrio and Khun Dee De - all students who were sentenced to 35-37 years in prison for peaceful protest a few years back – remember the peaceful demonstrations led by the monks. Those peaceful requests for democracy ended in violence and mass imprisonments.

People have been wonderfully generous in sponsoring me (and I know I will need all the encouragement I can later in the walk!). If you'd like to add your support please do anytime this month. I'll let you know how I get on!

Isabel Carter

ASCENSION DAY

Ascension Day is very important in the Christian calendar, as it was the time our Lord left the earth and promised He would come back the same way, according to the eyewitnesses. There will be a service of Holy Communion at St. Laurence's this year, with two hymns at 11.30am, on Thursday June 2nd. All are welcome, including members of other churches.

Richard Hill

June 2011

OAKLAND GIRLS CHOIR

Please put the weekend of June 24th - 26th in your diary – it promises to be a great occasion! Our Church is hosting a visit by our former Rector, Jonathan Millard, and the Oakland Girls Choir from Pittsburgh, USA, who will be performing in St Laurence's on Friday 24th at 7.30pm. This should be a wonderful evening showcasing young talent of a high standard. Admission will be free for this event, with a retiring collection.



We have had a good number of offers of hospitality for the 30 girls and 14 accompanying adults, but still have some to accommodate. Please do consider whether you can help.

On the Saturday the girls will be exploring Shrewsbury and the local area, and in the evening attending an open-air performance of a Shakespeare play in Ludlow.

On Sunday 26th Jonathan will be preaching at both morning services, and looks forward to meeting up with

as many people as possible, and seeing for himself our re-ordered church.

If possible can you help with one of the following:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

Accommodation, with one evening meal on the Friday, and packed lunch on Saturday.

OR

SATURDAY:

Providing a fruit pie/fruit crumble for an evening meal hosted in the Parish Centre at 6pm. Help also needed in the kitchen. Costs remunerated.

OR

SUNDAY:

Contributing towards a Bring-& Share Ploughman's lunch at 12:15pm in the Parish Centre.

Isabel Carter has kindly agreed to master-mind this meal. Given that there are already 40 plus visitors and we have to provide enough food for everyone, it will need to be a little more organised than usual – and numbers will be limited.

If you want to join us, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church and commit to bringing food as indicated. If you can help with setting out tables, chairs and food, following coffee after the 9:30am service, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Valerie McCalla

No Baptism anniversaries this month.

MAY WEDDINGS

7th May - Allan Weston and Velencia Banks.

We wish them many years of happiness and that God may richly bless them and their families.

MAY FUNERALS

The following funeral took place during May:

Bruce Pollard

We hold his family and friends in our prayers.

MEMORIAL BOOK

In May we gave thanks for lives of:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Arthur Morris | 1/5/2004 |
| James Toothill | 2/5/2000 |
| Anthony Richardson | 3/5/2007 |
| Gwendoline Nicholls | 5/5/2008 |
| Daniel Grafton | 6/5/2000 |
| Roland Whitrick | 7/5/1981 |
| John Petter | 8/5/1999 |
| Arthur Lewis | 10/5/1998 |
| Ivy Lester | 11/5/1989 |
| Alice Martin | 12/5/1995 |
| Herbert Shepley-Watson | 15/5/1986 |
| Hugh Morris | 21/5/1974 |
| Edna Cottrell | 22/5/2002 |
| William Johnson | 23/5/1986 |
| David Roberts | 23/5/2005 |
| Percival Langford | 27/5/1976 |
| Ian Penny | 27/5/2004 |
| Bill (William) Leak | 28/5/1999 |
| Arnold Mason | 31/5/1994 |

PENTECOST



Pentecost Sunday is June 12th. There will be the usual services across the parish. As this is how God comes to us and meets our deepest

needs, let us pray for a fresh Pentecost! A good passage to meditate on might be Luke 11:1-13 and let God dispel doubts, fears and any sense of inadequacy. Then we might be ready as the early church was ready in Acts 2!

Richard Hill

SONGS OF PRAISE

To round off the Summerfest, we are holding a **Songs of Praise** with a band from Churches Together, at 5:00pm on Rectory Field for about 45 minutes, followed by refreshments provided from the Parish Centre. At the time of writing, I have two requests, one from All Stretton and one from the Methodists, *so please send more requests to me*, preferably well-known, and be prepared to give a reason for your choice! If you want to help in any way please contact either the church office or myself. Seating will be provided, plus a PA.



Richard Hill

JUNE SERVICES

| St. Laurence's | | | St. Michael's | | All Saints' | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | 8:00am | 9:30am | 11:05am | 6:00pm | 10:30am | 11:00am | 3:00pm |
| 5th June | Holy Communion (Common Worship – Order Two) John Hughes | Holy Communion (Common Worship) Rector John Hughes | All Age Service All Age Team Rector | | Morning Worship Paul James | | Evening Prayer (BCP) John Holden |
| 12th June Pentecost | Holy Communion (Common Worship – Order Two) Rector | Holy Communion (Common Worship) Nancy Cleaton Rector | 11.05 Special Rector | 5pm Songs of Praise Rector, Field | Holy Communion (Common Worship) David Morris | Holy Communion (Common Worship – Order Two) Paul James | |
| 19th June Trinity | Holy Communion (Common Worship – Order Two) Rector | Holy Communion (Common Worship) Rector | 11.05 Special Rector | | Morning Worship Nancy Cleaton | Morning Prayer (BCP) David Morris | |
| 26th June | Holy Communion (Common Worship – Order One) Rector | Morning Worship Rector Jonathan Millard | 11.05 Special with Communion Rector Jonathan Millard | Healing Service John Holden Hazel Ratcliffe | Holy Communion (URC) | Holy Communion (Common Worship - Order Two) Nancy Cleaton | |

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

I thought that not everyone within the Church Family necessarily knows who our Mission Partners are, so here is a list and some details.

Our current partnerships include:

Prison Fellowship, especially in supporting the Chaplaincy at Shrewsbury prison.

Church Pastoral Aid Society - Growing leaders, growing churches.

Church Army - Valley of Hope. Working with ex-offenders in the Valleys of South Wales.

UPA - Although we have not been able to establish a partnership with a Church in an Urban Priority Area (UPA), we try to include a letter from a Church or project in a UPA in Church Matters once each quarter, including this 'Companion' in our weekly intercessions.

Bible Society - supporting the work of the Stretton Bible Society Action Group.

Tearfund - Make poverty personal. Working all around the world with the poor.

Anne Lapage - a Church Mission Society (CMS) mission partner teaching evangelists and children in Kilolo, Tanzania.

Shepherd of the Hills Children's Foundation, The Philippines, with whom we are linked through CORD (Christian Outreach, Relief and Development), a society which grew from a project set up by a former rector of Church Stretton. The foundation is currently managed by Nathaniel Mejica (the son of the founder) and his wife Ruth.

If you would like to know more about any of the partnerships then please visit the parish website at www.strettonparish.org.uk/church-life/mission-partnerships/ where there is more information and links to web pages for all of our Mission Partners.

Simon Cleaton

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Deadline:
The deadline for submissions for the June edition of Church Matters is Friday 17th June. If possible, can all articles be be emailed to simon.cleaton@talk21.com preferably in the form of Word Documents. Alternatively, drop them in to the Parish Office.

Note:
The editor reserves the right to amend, curtail or expand, and to select appropriate headings and subsidiary headings, for all articles submitted for inclusion in Church Matters.

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE 2011

| | | | |
|------|----------|--|-----------------|
| 1st | 9:00am | COGS Club | Parish Centre |
| | 3:00pm | Women's Fellowship Garden Party | Rectory |
| | 7:30pm | Church Prayer Meeting | Parish Centre |
| | 7:30pm | Worship Choir | Parish Centre |
| 2nd | 11:30am | Ascension Day Holy Communion | St. Laurence's |
| 3rd | 9:30am | Women's Bible Study | Parish Centre |
| 4th | 7:25am | Men's Group | Parish Centre |
| 7th | 2:30pm | St Michael's Church Fellowship 'Easter in East Africa' - Anne Moffatt | St. Michaels |
| 8th | 2:00pm | Pastoral Care Team Meeting | Parish Centre |
| | 7:30pm | Church Prayer Meeting | Parish Centre |
| | 7:30pm | Worship Choir | Parish Centre |
| 9th | 10:00am | Parents and Toddlers | Parish Centre |
| 10th | 9:30am | Women's Bible Study | Parish Centre |
| 11th | All Day | Summerfest | Church Stretton |
| | 2:00pm | Reading of John's Gospel | All Saints |
| 12th | 5:00pm | Songs of Praise | Rectory Field |
| 15th | 7:30pm | Church Prayer Meeting | Parish Centre |
| | 7:30pm | Worship Choir | Parish Centre |
| 16th | 10:00am | Parents and Toddlers | Parish Centre |
| 17th | 9:30am | Women's Bible Study | Parish Centre |
| 18th | 7:25am | Men's Group | Parish Centre |
| | 10:00am | Youth Coffee Morning | Parish Centre |
| | 6:00pm | Ladies' Night | |
| 22nd | 7:30pm | Church Prayer Meeting | Parish Centre |
| | 7:30pm | Worship Choir | Parish Centre |
| 23rd | 10:00am | Parents and Toddlers | Parish Centre |
| 24th | 9:30am | Women's Bible Study | Parish Centre |
| | 7:30pm | Oakland Girl's Choir | St. Laurence's |
| 27th | All Week | Bible Exhibition | St. Laurence's |
| 29th | 7:30pm | Church Prayer Meeting | Parish Centre |
| | 7:30pm | Worship Choir | Parish Centre |
| 30th | 10:00am | Parents and Toddlers | Parish Centre |

If you know of any events or meetings that you think should be included in the Diary Dates please let me know. I only put in what I'm given! Also do visit the website at <http://www.strettonparish.org.uk> as all upcoming events are on there along with all regular church activities.