



# Church Matters

The Parish Magazine of the Strettons : August 2011

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

## WORSHIP CHOIR

St. Laurence's Worship Choir made their debut performance at the 11:05 service on Sunday 24th July. They sang two songs: a rousing gospel piece, *Hosanna*, by Kirk Franklin (arr. Kim Cleaton), and the lovely hymn *People Need the Lord*, by Phill McHugh and Greg Nelson (arr. John Purifoy).



L-R: Sophie, Hilary, Martin, Verina, Janet, Moira, Ro, and their director Kim Cleaton

Their singing added an exciting element to the music of the service, and was enjoyed by many. The choir members particularly enjoyed the occasion! They have already gained a lot from being in the choir so far and are looking forward to meeting again next term. Anyone wanting to try out the choir will be welcome; the next rehearsal is on Wednesday 7th September.

The Worship Choir hope to sing for the church every few months, and we look forward to their next contribution.

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## WHOLE LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

When I arrived here I announced that I wanted to visit everyone's workplace, including where people did voluntary work. I am grateful to all those who have welcomed me into factories, offices, farms and various other places and welcomed me praying in each one. Part of Suzan's induction as curate is to visit a variety of such places so I hope to visit a few more with her.

It is said that the generation growing up now, known as 'Millennials' or 'New Victorians' wants to see change in the world today, across the whole of life, because they are acutely aware of how broken our world and society is. As those who follow the biggest change agent in history we are uniquely placed to achieve this as, for example, William Wilberforce and his circle did after the Wesleyan revival in the late 1700's.

To this end I would like to share some books I have been reading:

**Millennials: *Reaching and Releasing the Rising Generation* by Amy and Frog Orr-Ewing** shows how 'church' needs to adapt to the challenges of our day and for example let discussion lead to action, combine spiritual regeneration, proclamation, discipleship and 24/7 prayer with justice, poverty relief, rebuilding communities and social fairness; teamwork (including small groups)

rather than committees; being admitted quickly into useful roles; passion and openness to the Holy Spirit rather than theological innovation. These will be the ways to reach this generation and harness what they have to offer.

***The Great Divide* by Mark Greene:** God is the author of all life and can be involved in every aspect of it to bless it, as the Old Testament bears copious witness. In my last church one Sunday we prayed for all the health care professionals for Healthcare Sunday but on going with a few friends to a cricket match, an accountant in my congregation asked why there was not an 'Accountants Sunday'!? So a few weeks later we prayed specifically for all accountants and solicitors. On the way out that morning I was quizzed quite severely by a number who thought I must have done it because I must have assumed they were all crooked! People spend more time at work than they do in most other places so this is a key area for mission in all its aspects. This booklet is only available through the LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) whose thoughts we have used in Church Matters in the last 2 or so years. They may be contacted at [www.licc.org](http://www.licc.org) or on 020 7399 9555. I can forward e-mails from them.

***Movements that Change the World* by Steve Addison** shows how things do actually get changed,

taking Patrick and his influence on Ireland as a key example , plus the Moravians, and applying principles from the New Testament. This was recommended by John Coles of New Wine, whose strap line is 'Local Churches Changing Nations'. He looks at why and how movements rise and decline, and how change that is not just superficial can be achieved. It is costly and involves personal life change, as Jesus warned – radical discipleship has always brought change; conformity to existing ways will not!

Please do look at my copies if you wish. Elaine would be happy to order any books for you.

**Richard Hill**

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## ST. LAURENCE'S DAY



St. Laurence's day falls on Wednesday August 10th. To this end the communion on Thursday 11th at 11.30am at St. Laurence's will particularly commemorate him. In fact I am programmed to take that service and will preach briefly on a related theme.

We do commend these midweek services every Thursday to any who would like to come.

**Richard Hill**

## TONY BURDON

Rev. Tony Burdon was a curate in the Strettons in the late 1970's. My path and his have crossed over the years in a number of ways including having their daughter in my congregation at one point. His wife, Pam, also got ordained and they are both retiring from their current post at Burstwick and Thorngumbald on the east side of Hull this summer. In fact, because they were short staffed with scattered parishes we lent them one of our readers (lay preachers) and had others go and help, so our paths crossed again.

If anyone would like to send them greetings on their retirement on July 31<sup>st</sup> (so be very quick!), please e-mail them to the churchwarden Ken Wilson at [kswilson@kswilson.karoo.co.uk](mailto:kswilson@kswilson.karoo.co.uk) or snail mail to Ken Wilson, 19 Bridge Bungalows, Main Road, Ryehill, Hull. HU12 9JS (tel. 01964 622352).

Needless to say I did play cricket in his parish (!) and one of the areas in the Deanery of which he was rural dean had the glorious title of 'Sunk Island'!

**Richard Hill**

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## BIBLE SOCIETY

August 6th, 10 - 11.30am : Coffee and Cake in aid of the Bible Society, held at 62 Stretton Farm Road.

## ENERGY SOURCES

Recent facts and figures published by the Dept of Energy and Climate Change and explained by Ian Froggatt provided a fascinating and informative start to the last 8th Day group meeting.

The UK has seen huge changes in patterns of energy usage and production in recent years. UK energy production has gone down by nearly 50% since 2000 due to the drop in North Sea fuel production. Energy use for transport has doubled in the past 40 years, increasing from 19% in 1970 to 39% in 2009, whilst industry usage has decreased by half; from 43% in 1970 to 19% in 2009. Some of this is due to energy efficiencies in production, but much is due to the



loss of British manufacturing.

Gas consumption has tripled in the same period; from 11% in 1970 to 32% in 2009. Gas is a particularly efficient fuel as it is a primary energy source (for example when

used in cooking and central heating), whilst electricity (which is produced by converting various energy sources, mainly coal, to steam for driving turbines) loses around 60% of its potential energy during conversion and transmission. Overall energy consumption has reduced a little in the past couple of years due mainly to the recession and energy efficiency initiatives, despite some freezing temperatures in the winters. Certain initiatives have helped make our industry more energy efficient such as the cap and trade European Emissions Trading Scheme.

Coal still makes up a third of our source of energy, now largely imported from Russia, South Africa, Columbia, the USA and Australia, whilst gas makes up 37%. Most of our gas comes from the UK North Sea gas fields, but we now rely on around 25% of imported gas mainly from Norway and The Netherlands. Our dependence on imported energy fuels throw up some real concerns regarding our future energy security, with our transport fuels coming largely from the Middle East. We face some conflicting issues in balancing climate concerns, energy security and the affordability of energy – highlighted in the past month or so with soaring petrol prices.

Renewable energy, despite recent rapid growth, including our own PV

panels on the parish centre, still makes up a tiny proportion of UK energy sources. The government plans for this to increase to 15% of our total energy sources by 2020. The new Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) just announced will give the same boost to renewable energy technologies such as ground source heat pumps and woodchip boilers, as the feed in tariffs (FIT) have done for PV panels.

Some food for thought:

Gas is a much more efficient source of energy than electricity – something to bear in mind when changes to our homes and kitchens are planned.

Could St Laurence's consider updating the parish centre heating system to take advantage of the new RHI? There may never be a better time.

**Isabel Carter**

## **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

On the 25th September Stretton Parish, along with churches all over the UK, will once again be participating in Back to Church Sunday. It is a simple and effective way of helping people who have stopped coming to church to come back, or to enable folk who have never tried church to experience it. God longs for people to come to him and we can all help. A lot of people are open to coming/returning to church and it has been proved time

and time again that a personal invitation is often all that it takes.

The Back to Church Sunday invitation/prayer cards will be distributed at the start of September (spare cards will be left in the 3 churches for those who miss the distribution or need extra invitations). Please begin to think and pray now about who you could invite to come to church with you on the day. Thank you.

**Sally Cooke**

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## **GIDEON TURNER - WHAT HE LEARNED AT THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS TALK**

- Once upon a time the Spanish found a foreign country made out of islands. Then they were invaded by the Americans.
- In the country we are talking about there are giant landslides.
- There are volcano's in this country
- This is a tropical country, it's a civilised country
- Most of them are Christians
- This info is about the country called the Philippines.



## **STREETWARDENS**

We published on Contact the list of roads still without a warden. What we are asking folks to do is simply to say hello to anyone moving in to the area and give them any suitable literature from the church, as a welcome on behalf of Christians in the Strettons. Experience shows that when people move house they are often willing to think about life afresh and take on new challenges. Conversely some people who have been regular church attendees stop because they could not settle into a church different from the one they came from, so it is important that we do welcome people in the name of Christ. Any queries or further offers to me!

The town would also be interested to know if we discover gifts and skills which could be used by various organisations within the Strettons. Gardening is one that has been mentioned. The church, of course, seeks to use the gifts of all who come and the areas of finance and debt counselling are currently in demand – see me or one of our Leadership Team if you have anything at all to offer.

Little and All Stretton are organising the welcome of new people to the area (and spotting any particular pastoral needs) themselves. For Church Stretton, we are still looking for people for: Crossways/Village

Pointe, Sandford Ave (East) both sides, Oaks Road/Drive, Brooksbury.

**Richard Hill**

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### **CAMY ASTON SAYS 'GOODBYE'**

It doesn't seem like eleven years! I came to Church Stretton (well, near it!) in June 2000 having decided that St. Laurence's was the Bible Believing and Evangelistic outreaching kind of church that I wanted to be part of.

Now it is time to move on - I couldn't live in my house if I was unable to drive, it's too far 'out in the sticks'!

Moving house is a real opportunity to assess one's Christian life.

- Have I grown spiritually?
- What have I learned of Jesus?
- What mistakes made can I learn from?

And most importantly of all -

- Am I still growing, and growing nearer to Jesus?

I would like thank all of you for your friendship and Christian fellowship - especially for your prayers for myself and my family (Gabriel moves to secondary School in September) in sickness and other

needs (thankfully I only have two hips, both new!).

Many are the Biblical exhortations to grow, to walk, to aspire - in effect to GROW!

Finally, with my love and prayers, I would urge you to remember Paul's words -

**Camy Aston**

Camy's new temporary address:

*Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14).*

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## **HUMOUR IN SERMONS – HELP OR HINDRANCE?**

*This is an edited extract of an article written by John Hughes for the Church of England Newspapers - 24th June 2011*

We have all enjoyed the occasional joke, but is humour in church a turn on or a turn off? Does it make you sit up and take notice, or slump down with a groan? How can we make our church services more relevant to the masses?

Jesus gave us a direct command: *'go and make disciples of all nations....teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you'* Matt 28 v 19-20.

For many churches, the sermon is the main opportunity to teach the Good News about Jesus to the greatest number of people. Yet the sermon is under attack from all sides. For many parishioners, the sermon is a turn off and something to be endured. Instead of making disciples, we are turning them away.

### **Humour in the Bible**

The greatest teacher in our Bible was Jesus. Is he an example of how to preach? Did he use humour, stories and illustrations? The answer is, undoubtedly, 'yes'. In an age when the Bible is less and less

read, it remains true that the stories Jesus told are the best known stories in the world.

Jewish wit was humour by exaggeration and could be cutting. So when Jesus said, *'why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye, and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?'* the crowd would have understood the humour. When Jesus said, *'you must obey the Scribes and Pharisees,'* the crowd would have gasped. Jesus goes on, *'but don't do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.'* Laughter would have rippled among them. Jesus drives the point home, *'blind guides, you strain out the gnat but swallow the camel....you clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and self indulgence... you are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside, but on the inside, are full of dead mans bones and everything unclean.'* (Matt 23 v 24-27)

This was Jesus using humour at its best. Here was someone who spoke their language, and yet who also spoke the truth.

### **Is the sermon outdated ?**

A survey some years ago asked the question, 'Why don't you go to church?' The number one reason given was, 'because the sermon is

boring.’ Poor preaching is killing thousands of churches in this country.

Yet I believe that ultimately, preaching is the mechanism for church growth and nothing has more potential power. A good sermon lasting 45 minutes can seem like only 10 minutes, but a poor sermon lasting only 10 minutes can seem like 45 minutes.

### **It all depends on Love**

Yet, it is also true that however good the sermon, whatever means may be used, the most effective element in preaching is to love the people. Aristotle wrote, *‘the character of the preacher is the most powerful weapon of persuasion’*.

**John Hughes**

Go to [www.churchnewspaper.com](http://www.churchnewspaper.com) to read the full article. Regular copies of the Church of England Newspaper can be obtained from Sheila Smith

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### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

As part of our reorganisation of some aspects of our administration, all staff members are being given work e-mail addresses. We are very grateful to Steve and Jo Aze for organising this for us. So please note new addresses in this edition of Church Matters and in the weekly Contact sheet.

## **QUEEN’S JUBILEE** **JUNE 2ND-5TH 2012**

Nancy and I met with the Mayor and other key people to discuss the Queen’s Jubilee 2012 in the Strettons. So far, ideas emerging include a major service on Sunday 3rd. It was to be in St. Laurence’s with civic signatories and church leaders but the latest idea is to have it outside in Rectory Field! There is intended to be The Big Lunch there, followed by watching the Queen’s progress up the Thames on a big screen.

I have also been asked to hold a cricket match! The idea we are working on is ‘The Rector’s XI v. Brian Underhill’s XI’! Probably on the evening of Monday the 4th at 5.30 for 6pm. Names will be picked out of a hat on the night but please forward me your name before then so we can get 22 players. The game will be 20 overs a side, each bowler will bowl 2 overs, batsmen retire at 25 until everyone has batted. Refreshments at the Social Club on Essex Road afterwards!

Other ideas include a family walk through the Monday. Whether the Summerfest coincides with this or takes place at all is yet to be decided.

Any other input or ideas will be gratefully received.

**Richard Hill**

## PHOTOS FROM SUZAN'S ORDINATION



A clutch of curates?



With Bishop Alistair



Suzan and Darren



Partying in her civies (almost!)



Nephews and Neices

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### OPEN HOUSE

Suzan and Darren invite anyone and everyone to an Open House at 26 Churchill Road on September 17th from 3pm until 8pm. Please do come along meet them and their family, if you haven't already, and enjoy their hospitality and get to know them a bit better.

## ALL SAINTS, LITTLE STRETTON

Our parish is fortunate in having three churches, and at these churches a variety of ways in which we may come together, to worship in song, word and prayer.

of Miss Sylvia Cowan, in memory of her sister Anne.

Work is taking place to provide us with toilet and kitchen facilities. It seems there are always delays when construction is involved, but we very much hope that all will be



At All Saints the services follow the very familiar - and to some the well loved and revered - Book of Common Prayer. We are grateful for the clergy, many retired, who conduct our services, and the organists who provide welcome musical support. The congregation is not large, but continues to grow, despite the inevitable losses of stalwarts from time to time.

Changes tend to be few and slow, but we recently had a lovely new psalm board installed, the kind gift

ready for "Teas to Please" which will be held over the August Bank holiday weekend, 27th, 28th and 29th. This is a big event for us and involves a huge amount of effort, mainly by the ladies of the church, with help, which is truly appreciated, from Mayfair. We are hoping that when the building is finished and if diary commitments permit, Bishop Alistair will be able to come along and formally open our new facilities.



## **NEWS FROM OUR TEARFUND PARTNER: DIOCESE OF KIGEZI WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT.**

### **Water is life; Jesus is Everlasting Life**

We have received an encouraging report from Pastor Reuben Byomuhangi, the Programme Coordinator. He uses the statement above to head the report; the love of Jesus is the motivation for all they do.

During the past three months much has been achieved; 5525 rural poor people in the District of Kabale have been provided with water facilities and sanitation services. Other particular successes include:

- 433 people have been trained in hygiene / sanitation and new pit latrines constructed;
- 259 people have been trained in food and nutrition, and as a result 70 have established backyard vegetable gardens;
- Water supplies have been provided in a number of communities, including 30 ferrocement tanks holding 4000 litres for people living with HIV, two for needy disabled people, one a double orphan named Edurida;

- 54 tap stands benefit 4603 people
- 53 large rain-water jars for 356 people;
- 60 smaller rain-water jars benefiting 330 people;
- 30 pit latrines have been dug in Nyabyumba.

Overall, a gradual transformation is taking place relating to sanitation and hygiene, agriculture and the environment, and behavioural change related to HIV awareness.

Behind these statistics each beneficiary is a person with a particular story. Edurida is disabled, having been born without arms. She lives with her brother Vincent who has learning disabilities. Edurida can read and she writes with her feet. Their water tank means that they no longer have to make a 3km journey to a spring to fetch water. They survive thanks to the love and compassion of people who cultivate their garden for them. "The presence of a tank in our home is a miracle. Visit us and see how much God loves and cares for us. I love him so much. We can now share water with our neighbours." They are no longer totally dependent on others and this has raised their social esteem.

Work has continued to train Community Development Teams (CDT). The church undertakes a

series of Bible studies to enable it to realize its responsibility in community development. The whole congregation is invited to discuss its needs and elects its CDT who are then trained in good governance, community mobilization and record-keeping.

Pastor Reuben asks for prayer for God's blessing on all these projects and for a number of challenges. Kacerere, a community 50km from Kabale town, was hit by rains and floods in March, which swept away the Project's water system and destroyed crops and livestock. Pray for the families affected. The diocese has set up Rugarama Childrens Village for 100 orphans; pray for this work. Also pray that the Project will have sufficient funds for the work of the next three months; prices of all raw materials have risen considerably. He concludes "we really appreciate all the support we are receiving from you, which enables us to do God's work here."

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## HENRY OLONGA

Even non-cricketers may remember two cricketers from Zimbabwe wearing black armbands in protest at Robert Mugabe's government in the 2003 Cricket World Cup. Mugabe was said to be so angry with Henry Olonga that he was nicknamed "Henry No longer"! He will be sharing his story, including how his faith has worked out in his

life, at Shrewsbury Abbey on Wednesday September 14th at 7.30pm. There is no need to book, but if you would like a lift please speak to John Hughes (722582), myself or a home group leader. Please invite friends. Posters and flyers will be available soon.

**Richard Hill**

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## BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES FOR AUGUST

Daisy Taylor-Lee  
Luca Browne  
Niall Morris  
Sonny Guthrie



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## MEMORIAL BOOK

In July we gave thanks for lives of:

Thomas Shepherd	15/07/2000
Alan Lewis Newman	18/07/1994
Clive Arthur Wheeler	20/07/1997
Kathleen Mary De'Ath	24/07/2003
Kenneth Elderwick	29/07/1985
Harry Harland	30/07/2006

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## FUNERALS

The following funeral took place during the last month:

Kathleen Willcox

We hold her families and friends in our prayers.

**AUGUST SERVICES**

<b>St. Laurence's</b>				<b>St. Michael's</b>		<b>All Saints'</b>	
	8:00am	9:30am	11:05am	6:00pm	10:30am	11:00am	3:00pm
<b>7th August</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship – Order Two) Rector	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship) Rector Suzan Williams	<b>All Age Service</b> All Age Team		<b>Morning Worship</b> David Morris		<b>Evening Prayer</b> (BCP) Rector Suzan Williams
<b>14th August</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship – Order Two) Mike Bourke	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship) Suzan Williams Mike Bourke	<b>All Age Service</b> All Age Team		<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship) John Hughes	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship – Order Two) Paul James	
<b>21st August</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship – Order Two) Nancy Cleaton	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship) Mike Bourke Nancy Cleaton	<b>11:05 Special</b> Nancy Cleaton		<b>Morning Worship</b> Robert Rayner	<b>Morning Prayer</b> (BCP) John Hughes	
<b>28th August</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship – Order One) John Hughes	<b>Morning Worship</b> Suzan Williams John Hughes	<b>11:05 Special with Communion</b> John Hughes	<b>Communion - Celebrating Wholeness and Healing</b> Nancy Cleaton Suzan Williams	<b>Holy Communion</b> (URC)	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Common Worship - Order Two) Nancy Cleaton	

## THE GATHERING

Almost 500 men gathered in a field near Swindon at the end of June this year for a decidedly manly weekend. Ten of us from the Church Stretton (or thereabouts) joined them.

It can be hard in today's materialistic, money driven, self obsessed world to be a man in the image of God rather than striving to fit the mould of what the world deems a man should be. Christian Vision for Men (CVM) is a movement committed to equip the church to introduce every man in the UK to Jesus Christ. This is no small task given that many men view the church as irrelevant and, at times, a rather feminine place.

The weekend provided an opportunity for us men to take a step back from the busyness of the day to day and take time to listen to God. There was worship, lead by the evergreen Graham Kendrick; darts (I never realised how bad Christian men are at darts!); inspiring and informative talks from, amongst others, Peter Grant (former international director of Tearfund), Roy Crowne (former director of Youth for Christ) and members of the CVM team; a bar serving local real ale; Britain's largest inflatable assault course; a bonfire; a bookshop and other resources; and lots, lots more.

Unlike a number of big 'Christian events' the whole weekend was completely non-threatening. So much so that the 5 amongst us who were non-Christians had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

The whole weekend was so good that we have already committed to going next year (29th June - 1st July) and we would love it if you'd join us (men only, sorry ladies!). If you think a short time away with other men, actively seeking God's will for their lives sounds like something you'd like then please contact either myself or John Wildblood.

**Simon Cleaton**

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### **Deadline:**

The deadline for submissions for the next edition of Church Matters is **Friday 19th August**. If possible, can all articles be emailed to [simon.cleaton@talk21.com](mailto:simon.cleaton@talk21.com) preferably in the form of unformatted Word Documents. Alternatively, drop them in to the Parish Office as hard copies.

### **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.

## DATES OF INTEREST FOR AUGUST

Date	Time	Event	Location
1st	7.30pm	Little Stretton Committee Meeting	All Saints
2nd	7.30pm	Bella Tromba - Part of the Church Stretton Arts Festival	St. Laurence's
6th	10.00am- 11.30am	Coffee and Cake in aid of the Bible Society	62 Stretton Farm Road
13th	1.00pm	Wedding of Michael Allen and Helen Bright	St. Laurence's
21st	4.00pm	View communion table prototypes	St. Laurence's
27th - 29th	2.30pm - 6.00pm	Teas to please - proceeds to church funds, Mayfair, Air Ambulance, South Shropshire Gateway Club	All Saints and Manor House Gardens

### Also on in August :

- Church Prayer meeting every Wednesday, 7.30pm Owen Room
- Holy Communion every Thursday, 11.30am at St. Laurence's

Please note there will be no Parents and Toddlers or Worship Choir rehearsals in August.

Recurring events are no longer being shown in the calendar as there are too many to include. The weekly diary is viewable in Contact and please remember that details of all recurring events are also on the church website at [www.strettonparish.org.uk](http://www.strettonparish.org.uk).

