



Stretton  
Parish

# ANNUAL REVIEW



I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, LORD, WITH ALL MY HEART;  
I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS. PSALM 9:1

**STRETTON PARISH**  
ST LAURENCE, CHURCH STRETTON,  
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, ALL STRETTON  
ALL SAINTS', LITTLE STRETTON.

**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ending 31st December 2025**

**Independent Examiner**  
T Lunt MA FCCA MRPM  
Whittingham Riddell LLP, Chartered Accountants  
Shrewsbury

**Bankers**  
CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling

Barclays Bank  
Shrewsbury

**Churchwardens:**  
Stephen Carter & Julie Lawton

**Deputy Warden – St Laurence's**  
James Foster

**Deputy Warden – St Michael's**  
Vacancy

**Deputy Warden – All Saints**  
Moira Matthews

**PCC Treasurer**  
Graham Vince

**PCC Secretary**  
Jo Aze

The Parish Office  
The Parish Centre  
Church Street  
Church Stretton  
SY6 6DQ

## **BACKGROUND**

The **Parochial Church Council** has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, in promoting the Mission of the Church. The PCC is also responsible for the care of the Church property and fabric. It is charged with framing an annual budget.

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected in accordance with the Church Representation Rules under Synodical Government by those on the Electoral Roll at the time of the Annual Meeting. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

#### **Clergy: (ex-officio)**

Revd Steve Johnson (Rector)  
Revd Christobel Hargraves (Associate Minister)  
Revd David Andrews (Curate, resigned 22/6/25)  
Revd Mary Carter (Curate, appointed 25/6/25)

#### **Ecumenical URC Minister (non-voting)**

Revd Hazel Allen

#### **Churchwardens: (ex-officio)**

Mrs Julie Lawton  
Mr Steve King (resigned 29/3/25)  
Mr Stephen Carter (appointed 29/3/25)

#### **Deputy Churchwardens: (ex-officio)**

Mr James Foster, St Laurence  
Mrs Moira Matthews, All Saints

#### **Deanery Synod Representatives (elected for a 3 year term (expiring 2026))**

Mrs Andrea Graham  
Mr Dan Wallis  
Mr Michael Edmunds (resigned 25/11/25)  
Mrs Gail Dyer  
Mrs Sarah Robinson

#### **Elected for a 3 year term expiring 2026**

Graham Shuttleworth, St Laurence

#### **Elected for 3 year term expiring 2027**

Ben Roberts, St Laurence  
Lorraine McCrohan, St Laurence

#### **Elected for 3 year term expiring 2028**

Graham Vince, St Laurence  
Daniel Robinson, St Laurence  
Anne Braddick, St Michael's

#### **Co-opted**

Cathy Watson

#### **Standing Committee**

Rector  
Julie Lawton  
Stephen Carter  
Graham Vince  
James Foster

**Finance Committee:**

Graham Vince

Rector

Julie Lawton

Stephen Carter

Christine King

Dan Wallis

The PCC met 6 times during the year and the average attendance was 17.

**ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

**Church Electoral Roll Officer:** Jo Aze

The numbers on the Electoral roll are:

St Laurence 166

St Michael's 19

All Saints' 31

**Total on Roll: 216**

The number on roll has increased from 199 to 216

## RECTOR'S REPORT, Rev Steve Johnson

As our front cover and the reports in this booklet remind us, we have much to give thanks to God for in all that has taken place in 2025 and we look forward in expectation for all that is to come!

As we reflect on the past year, we had the opportunity in June to give thanks for Curate David's ministry amongst us, as we prayed for him as he embarked on his next adventure in ministry. In the same month we welcomed Mary to the Parish, arriving as NSM Curate.

We are blessed here with a fantastic ministry team, the majority of whom volunteer in their roles. As a Parish we are hugely indebted to them for all they give.

We celebrated with our brothers and sisters, as they were baptised in the reservoir in the valley. Our ongoing mission continues, as we make Jesus known through much of our ministries including Winter Warmer, Alpha, Cameo, Parents and Toddlers and the list could go on. We also continue to grow together in faith through life groups, weekly services, and the opportunities provided by our fifth Sundays, when we gather as one and welcome visiting speakers.



Alongside celebrating God's goodness, we recognise there are also challenges. These include ageing congregations, buildings that require constant maintenance, differing preferences in styles of worship, and the fact that change itself can be difficult. There are also ongoing, repeated patterns of behaviour from a small number of individuals, which the parish has experienced for many years. The PCC and ministry team are aware that addressing these issues can be costly in terms of time, emotional energy, and resources. Nevertheless, we stand firm, trusting that the battle belongs to the Lord. We know that where God is on the move, the devil will seek to distract and destroy.

With our eyes fixed on the Lord and his call to make Jesus known, we move forward with the understanding that this calling carries a cost. We live in a world of rapid change—in how we communicate, access information, and navigate an increasingly complex society. Against this backdrop, it is inevitable that the way we express our worship and mission will also need to adapt.

Several sources have cited since the turn of the century that Western Christianity is on a steady path to decline. Which means that in the 21st century, we do need to think about how we approach being the Church, as our challenge is to be incarnational with the gospel amidst constant change and transition.

The message that we are each called to share never changes and never will, but we have to recognise that the way in which we will undertake our mission and ministry must change.

But above all, we need to remember that **the Holy Spirit is the chief agent of change**, and the Church and mission should be constantly on the move, because God is constantly moving, that all peoples should be united to him. So as a Parish, let us rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, in all that we are and all that we do.

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT, Julie Lawton and Stephen Carter



Planes normally take off into the wind to maximise lift. This seems to be a very apt metaphor for church life in Stretton Parish over the last 12 months. We would all like the wind to be on our backs but the Christian life is a fight not a waltz and consists of battles and blessings – often occurring simultaneously.

We have been blessed by being able to hold more than 200 services in the Parish over the past year – despite the departure of David Andrews, our full time curate to pastures new. This has put additional pressure on Steve, our Rector, and often on the Ministry Team, including Mary, who was licensed as a non-stipendiary part-time trainee curate in June 2025.

The wardens are well aware that services don't just happen and wish to record their thanks to all those who faithfully and quietly go about preparing the church buildings for services, setting up sound systems etc and laying on refreshments afterwards. It can be a battle, but the blessing has been a perceptible rise in church attendance at services and prayer meetings over the last year. Moreover, visitors remark upon the

warm welcome they receive and comment upon the sensitivity and quality of the worship music in its differing forms. Seeing the youngsters playing their instruments with such assurance and ability is a great joy.

A particular highlight of the year was the baptism service for 10 candidates held at the reservoir in July. It was another instance of a battle (to obtain permission from the National Trust and other bodies) which led to blessing when the dark and forbidding skies swirled all around but were unable to halt or dampen the celebration.

Good weather also prevailed for the 41 folk who attended the New Wine Festival with 14,000 others at Shepton Mallet a week or so later.

After a busy summer which included a highly successful flower festival at St Michael's, "Teas to Please" at Little Stretton and a Holiday Club entitled Desert Detectives held at St Laurence from 26th-29th August, normal church activities resumed.

Life Groups continued to meet and the church sought to reach out to the community with services in the Primary School and with Winter Warmers on Saturdays in the Parish Centre.

The richness and variety of church life in 2025 was exemplified by the contrasting exuberance and adventure of the Youth Group weekend away in October, with the solemnity and dignity of a much appreciated Remembrance Sunday service a month later.

Bishop Richard preached on 30th November, prior to the Ministry Team's annual time away together at Foxhills, Frodsham. A very profitable two days of fellowship and decision making – particularly about Visions and Values was enjoyed by all.

Advent and Christmas saw a wide range of activities and services, including Christmas Wreath Making, Messy Church and the Christmas Tree Festival, carol services, the Silent Night service, Noisy Nativity. And then there was Christmas Day itself. All these services and activities needed dedicated preparation and commitment – as did the Christmas Day lunch. Thanks to all concerned.

Thanks also to Anna Hunt for all her excellent work as our first Operations Manager. She has done the initial hard work of ploughing the ground. We hope that others will come to till and plant.

For many of us, we are now living in times of unprecedented uncertainty. And so the verses for 2026 from Hebrews 10.23-25 about "holding unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful" have a strong and comforting resonance. But we take heart from God's faithfulness to us in the past year and his eternal message and promise from both Old and New Testaments that He will be our God and we will be His people and that the Lord's work done in the Lord's way will not lack the Lord's resources.

#### **SAFEGUARDING, Chrissie Pepler, Parish Safeguarding Officer – [chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk)**

It is over a year since I highlighted at our 2025 APCM the impact of the Machin report on safeguarding in the Anglican church. The report highlighted many short comings in our safeguarding systems nationally, at Diocesan level and at Parish level which needed to be addressed urgently to ensure we do all we can to prevent abuse of people happening and to put victims' voice and welfare at the forefront. There have been changes happening at all levels. However, in November 2025 the Charity Commission deemed that the implementation of reforms is being pursued "with insufficient urgency and pace". The Commission also expressed concern that the Church did not treat allegations of abuse from an adult not assessed to be vulnerable as a safeguarding issue. "The Commission's guidance is clear that trustees must take reasonable steps to protect from harm all people who come into contact with their charity." There is a regulatory action plan, put in place by the Charity Commission, to oversee the changes to be made at national level and the Archbishop's Council is committed to implementing these "as swiftly as possible".

What does this mean for us at Stretton Parish? Our PCC includes safeguarding as a standard agenda item each time they meet and receive a report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer at least twice a year. We continue to implement some of the changes 'coming down the line' from the national church. There is recognition that we need to do more to broaden our consideration of protecting all people who come into contact with our churches in the Parish. The PCC have adopted the Code of Safer Working Practice (link - [code-of-safer-working-practice-02.07.2021.pdf](#)) to be used in all groups

and work throughout the Parish. In September the PCC meeting had a focus on safeguarding and used a worksheet to consider how the PCC can better promote a healthy and safe church culture. This is something that we should all aspire to, as part of the Parish, and as we seek to promote the Christian message.

We have continued to use safer recruitment for a lot of our volunteer positions. This takes a little longer, so we thank you for your patience if you have been safer recruited over this last year. Last summer the Diocese stopped using their provider for DBS checks and a new provider came on board towards the end of the year. As we have a higher number of DBS checks conducted than many other parishes in the Diocese we had the opportunity to be a 'sub-unit'. This means that we can deal directly with the provider rather than going through the Diocese. This has been very helpful as they are an organisation that has expertise in providing safeguarding services for churches and so understands what we do. All DBS applications are done online (with support if needed) and we find we are getting them back much more quickly than with the previous arrangement. Our thanks go to Jo Aze for supporting the arrangements for DBS for the Parish over the last year.

I thank God that we have leaders and a PCC that takes safeguarding seriously and as we continue to work to improve how we safeguard each other, we must remember that safeguarding is 'everybody's business'.

### **ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH, CHURCH STRETTON, James Foster, Deputy Churchwarden**

I started writing this report, quite naturally, at looking at last year's report. I am struck that many of the things I was grateful for last year, I am also grateful for this year. Our church building continues to be used for a larger and more diverse range of events and many of the people who help look after the buildings and churchyard, continue to do in such a servant hearted way. We deepened our partnership further with the Arts Festival in 2025 and we are working with them regarding this year's festival again, although some how this works, based on if the hall will be available or not may be needed.

As we use the church more for events, we are moving chairs and setting up for events on a much more regular basis, as well as then realigning the church back to 'normal' afterwards. I have been present on a couple of occasions when a small army of people arrive at the end of an event and within no time, the church is back in order. These things do not go unnoticed by those running and organising these events and they are blessed by this practical help.

We have a busy year ahead with potential changes to the church being considered with the addition of a servery and an accessible toilet. Plus of course we have to manage and oversee the repairs to the Parish Centre to get the hall operational again as soon as possible.

One thing I love to do at least once a month is to read the comments made by visitors to the church. We are very lucky to be able to open the church every day so people can come in and enjoy the space, ponder the history of the building and reflect on God's faithfulness to his church in this place over so many hundreds of years. I would encourage everyone to read what is written by those visiting, which often comment so positively about how its clear that there is a living community of followers of Jesus and they love to see a church building and churchyard being so clearly used but also looked after and cared for. I am grateful as ever to everyone who does their part in helping to achieve this in so many ways.

### **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, LITTLE STRETTON, Moira Matthews, Deputy Churchwarden**

During 2025 we have been happy to introduce some very successful additions to our church and social calendar. Regular refreshments after the services are very much appreciated by the congregation who enjoy the opportunity to socialise. We think this has helped maintain the size of the congregation.

Our service on St David's Day was very successful with a memorable sermon on the work of St David, some rousing Welsh hymns and the Collect read in Welsh. Welsh themed refreshments included Bara Brith and the congregation went home with a bunch of daffodils each and smiles on their faces. We also added an Easter egg hunt to our celebrations on Easter Sunday and it was wonderful to see young and old searching for eggs in the Spring sunshine. Both services attracted a more diverse congregation.



Equally, our new tradition of celebrating the birthday of All Saints' Church on All Saints' Day has attracted wider participation. The Choral Evensongs held every four months have proven popular with the Choir and congregations alike.

We are all enjoying our regular church lunches following the Christian Aid Service, the Harvest Festival, and the Carol Service. A big thank you should be given to Liz Bourke (Head Chef) and her hard-working team of waiters. Many of our social activities, such as the coffee mornings, have raised funds for the Roof Appeal and we have been grateful for the addition of a card reader at the back of the church which has helped with visitor donations. Our sales of preserves and plants have helped raise much needed funds as well.

### **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, ALL STRETTON, Rev Hazel Allen, LEP URC Minister**

We have had a positive year at St Michael's in spite of our limited numbers and personal health issues in the congregation and we appear to be moving forward with the help of the Holy Spirit. Service numbers remain in the twenties outside the holiday periods.

We were delighted to have the Revd Steve Faber, the moderator of the West Midlands' Synod to lead our worship and communion in November. We are grateful for help from other people in the parish, particularly from Julie Lawton who is acting as our Deputy Warden, dealing in particular with fabric issues but helping in other areas too.

During the year we have reached out to the village and other people through Lent Lunches, Tenebrae at Easter and wreath-making. A summer concert with the Caradoc Quartet and Mark Tocknell as well as a celebration weekend entitled "A Moment in Time" in July. Some of the congregation attend parish lifegroups, but we still do not seem to be able to find the right time for a church prayer meeting – gam on Fridays appeals to very few!



A large majority of the congregation now attend the combined parish services and people from our church help with Teas to Please, The Well, and Winter Warmers.

The ministry to residents at Stretton Hall is able carried out by Gillian Taylor, taking a monthly communion service, a carol service and visiting residents, This year two of our congregation are residents there.

May we remain joyful people of hope, depending on the Holy Spirit to lead us forward in the coming year and may we remain faithful in prayer.

### **CONDOVER DEANERY SYNOD, Andrea Graham, Lay Co Chair**

The Deanery Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Deanery Synod in October 2025 and was subsequently submitted to the Diocese. The aims of the strategy are to:

- improve communication and collaborative working,
- further develop Group Ministry considering a two team/hub model, and
- recruit, train, licence and support a mix of lay and ordained leaders.

We are starting to deliver in key areas. The action plan will be reviewed in twelve months.

We are trying to improve communication. The first part of the plan is to circulate draft minutes to PCCs after each Deanery Synod meeting starting this year.

A long-term vacancy for Rector of The Condover Benefice will be filled by Gareth Ingham from May this year. The 0.5 whole time equivalent (WTE) role has been combined with a 0.5 WTE role of Rural Church Missioner, which will help us with delivery of the Strategy.

Rather than closing, it has been agreed that Halford Church will continue as a Festival Church. Electricity and heating have been restored following successful applications for grant funding.

The Diocese has let us know that the next triennium commences on 1st July 2026. Deanery Synod Representatives will be elected at this year's APCM on 19th April. We encourage people to continue in role, or put themselves forward. This is an exciting time as the new Rural Church Missioner will be in post progressing delivery of the Strategy.

## BETHEL/GREENHOUSE PROGRAMME, Cathy Watson

The Greenhouse (Bethel) programme began in 2022 with an initial vision of a 'House of God' (Bethel) serving the Stretton community, based on the vision *to follow Jesus' lead in serving our community in practical, social and spiritual ways. The programme functions as a 'greenhouse', in which new ideas and possibilities are planted as small seeds and nurtured, some of which grow and turn into full plants. Last year the programme was renamed from 'Bethel' to 'Greenhouse'.*

The team is split into four areas of focus, each taking the lead on different aspects of work within the Greenhouse Programme.

- Infrastructure
- Grants and fundraising
- Communications
- Projects

At every team meeting we review the progress made by each group and agree the next steps, in line with our strategic plan which was agreed by the PCC in June 2024 (available on request). For each project activity we have carried out an extended period of listening and learning about existing activities within the Parish and the community, and identifying gaps and needs, supported by Biblical reflection and prayer.

### Infrastructure

The Infrastructure group continues to support the plans to develop a servery and toilet in the church. The acoustics in the Parish Centre were identified by many in the Parish as a key area to be addressed, and the Greenhouse Winter Warmer project was able to secure funding from the Marches Energy Agency which provided around 50% of the cost of adding acoustic panels to the ceiling.

### Grants and fundraising

The Grants and Fundraising group continues to review potential sources of funding for different kinds of projects. They have also been working with the Charity Commission to align historical legacies and grants with current funding needs. During the year, specific funds were secured for the Winter Warmer project: £1,000 from the Marches Energy Agency scheme and £725 from the Warm Welcome UK Campaign

### Communications

A Greenhouse flyer, summarising the programme's origins and focus, has been developed and is available at each church in the Parish.

### Winter Warmer Project

The Winter Warmer drop-in grew out of a recognition that there are fewer opportunities for people in the community on Saturday mornings, particularly in the winter. The Winter Warmer is a place where members of the Parish and the wider community can come to enjoy bacon baps, cake and good coffee. It aims to meet a range of needs, including loneliness, cost-free activities for children and adults, food insecurity and a warm space in the winter months. Now in its third year, it runs through the winter, starting in late September/October and ending around Easter, with a short break over Christmas.

The Winter Warmer Project team leaders, Louise and Graham Jackson, will be moving away from Stretton this summer. Their dedication, inspiration and commitment to the Winter Warmer have

## Key Objectives



To serve children, young people, and families as a priority



To meet practical needs identified in our community



To support social connection and a sense of belonging



To develop our church buildings to enable delivery of our Vision



been outstanding and they will be sorely missed. However, we are determined to continue the excellent work they have established, and over the next few months, the Greenhouse team will be aiming to recruit further volunteers and identify replacement team leaders (please contact: [greenhouse@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:greenhouse@strettonparish.org.uk) if you would like to know more).

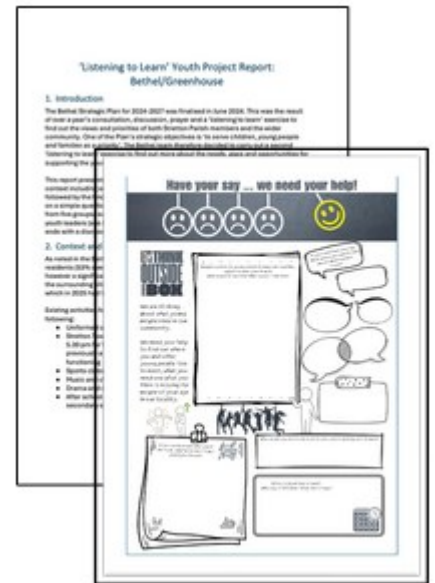
### Youth Work

Following the community-wide listening and learning process, which led to the creation of the Winter Warmer project, we have carried out a second learning activity, focusing on youth in the community. We gathered information about youth activities within the Parish and the community and talked with young people and their leaders about their needs and the gaps, and the report was submitted to the PCC (available on request). Our initial plans to pilot some Winter Warmer-style youth activities in the first part of this year were put on hold because of the lack of access to the Parish Centre, but a number of one-off youth events continue in the meantime, and we will revisit this when the Youth Worker has been recruited.

As with all our activities we move forward in prayer, trusting that God will guide our thinking and our steps, to show us what might be our role going forward.

### Join the Greenhouse Team!

We are looking for people from across the parish with a range of skills and experience to join the Greenhouse Team. If you would like to know more, get involved in the team or join the volunteer rota for the Warm Welcome, please have a look at the Greenhouse leaflet, or get in touch: [greenhouse@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:greenhouse@strettonparish.org.uk).



### CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG FAMILIES WORK, Sally Clilverd

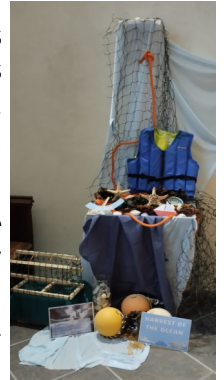
The last year has seen our connections with St Lawrence Primary School continue to strengthen. Steve and Sally continue to lead collective worship twice weekly in school, on a Monday and Wednesday. In September they introduced a collective worship plan which includes a prayer for the week and questions related to the weekly theme, that teachers can use in their class assembly. This has proved popular with the school, and we will shortly prepare plans for the next two years. We have welcomed the pupils into St Lawrence's for services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas (which was also attended by a very large number of parents). In July, we led a workshop for the Year 6 pupils to help them in their transition to secondary school gifting each of them an 'It's Your Move' booklet from Scripture Union and then held a Leavers service, which was attended by all the KS2 pupils. We also welcomed all the pupils to 'Experience Harvest', which consisted of six stations reflecting on the different types of harvests and linked them to the Fruit of the Spirit.

Messy Church continues to be well-attended, with most families attending on a regular basis. We spent the year exploring the parables of Jesus and it is encouraging to see the enthusiasm the children join in the variety of activities and crafts, especially the food ones! It is encouraging to see some adults spending more time on reflective activities, including the prayer stations, and several children have shared their prayers with everyone during the Celebration time. For the town's Christmas lights switch on we held Light ADVENTure in church, which was again attended by over 150 people, who spent 40 minutes exploring 10 activities before we looked at a disco ball and thought about Jesus being the 'Light of the World'.

Parents and Toddlers continues to be a valued part of the week for the young families who attend the group. We currently have a large number of 6 – 18 month olds and we regularly see all 7 high-chairs in use during snack time! It is a privilege to be able to journey through these formative months and offer a chance to talk, and sometimes pray with parents, grandparents and carers.

During the last week of the school summer holidays we held our Desert Detectives Holiday Club, welcoming over 40 children to explore the amazing life of Moses through stories, crafts, games, jokes, messy plagues, the inevitable custard pie and delicious lunches. It was a joy to be able to share some of the adventure at the United Service with a couple of the families whose children had attended also joining us.

Our Discoverers group on a Sunday morning is a real blessing to lead; watching the young people grow, gain confidence to ask questions and make connections as they develop their faith. We have generally explored the same Bible readings as the parish, using a wide variety of games, activities and crafts to go alongside our studies and discussions,



A huge thank you to all of you who pray for our children, families and each activity or event. I am also very grateful to everyone who volunteers in any way across all areas of this ministry; thank you for your time, talent and generosity, without which none of the activities would be possible.

### **YOUTH WORK, Steve Johnson**

We have had a great year with the youth lifegroup - we give thanks for the way God is working in the lives of our young people.

Curate David was one of the leaders of the group and when he finished his curacy, Steve (Rector) took on the leadership alongside Chris Lear and Anna Hunt.

Thematic sessions around a book of the Bible or Christian living allow for Bible study, craft, games, drama and of course food.

One of the highlights of the year was in October, when we had our weekend away to the Summit Centre, near Merthyr Tydfil. 11 young people and 4 adults enjoyed walks, rock climbing, bushcraft skills, camp fires and teaching sessions.

This was made possible by members of the Parish who generously sponsored our young people to go - a huge thank you again to those who gave! We have booked again to go away in October 2026 and so far we have over 20 young people who have expressed interest in going.

One of the other major highlights was the Baptisms in the Carding Mill Valley reservoir, when 5 of the young people were baptised - we praise God for this wonderful occasion and continue to pray for all our young people as they continue their journey of faith with God.



### **LIFE GROUPS, Caroline Windley, Life Group Coordinator, [caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk)**

Life Groups do what the name suggests: they are a safe place to share Christian life together. They are places of discipleship, learning, prayer, worship, encouragement, fellowship, friendship, pastoral support and occasionally food. If you would like to join a Life Group please get in touch.

Each group is different and groups are free to use whatever resources they consider pertinent to their members. Sometimes the parish makes suggestions as to a particular book or theme that fits a season or sermon series.

The Life Group Facilitators (leaders) continue to meet on a termly basis. We have had a number of business related, mainly safeguarding issues to address which haven't always been straight forward, but we are hopeful that with the right structures now in place we can spend more time encouraging and praying for each other.

In September we joined the Pastoral Care Group for a session that addressed pastoral issues for those who are frail elderly or facing life limiting conditions.

We had hoped over the course of the last year to start two new Groups, this hasn't materialised but we have been able to accommodate all those looking to join a group in one of our 11 groups across the parish. It is still an aspiration, but we are waiting on the Lord's timing for the impetus to create a new group with appropriate leadership.

#### **PASTORAL CARE, Nancy Cleaton, Pastoral Care Coordinator, [nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk)**

Pastoral Care continues to be offered across the parish in a variety of ways. It is offered more formally through the Pastoral Care Team whose members offer Pastoral Care through meetings and visits, which may include listening and conversation, Bible reading and prayer ministry. Such visits can be a lifeline for those who are no longer able to get to Church and provide a valuable link to the Church community. **It is important to note that all our Pastoral visitors have undergone appropriate Safeguarding Training.**

The Pastoral Visitors visit individuals at home and in hospital. We have a good relationship with the Chaplaincy at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals who keep us informed if anyone from the parish is a patient. Two members of the team are designated hospital visitors.

Together with Cameo the Pastoral Care Team organises the annual Christmas Carols and Tea at the beginning of December. This is always a wonderful event and last year was attended by over 90 people.

Members of the clergy are also available to take Home Communion to those unable to get to church. This can be on a regular basis or for a limited period as the need arises. All of the Care Homes receive a regular monthly communion service led by a member of the clergy or lay minister. Notices are now in the Care Homes indicating who is the designated person to offer this in each Home.

More informally Pastoral Care is offered through the Life Groups and Cameo. The Life Groups are a major source of Pastoral Care for their members and there have been many examples throughout the year of this care being shown both spiritually and practically.

**Pastoral Care plays a vital role in our ministry and in our church family, therefore it is extremely important that the Ministry Team is aware of anyone in any kind of need and anyone who might appreciate a visit. So if you would like a visit or know of someone else we might be in touch with then please let me or a member of the clergy know.**

#### **MUSIC, Ru Trew and Dan Robinson**

The purpose of our sung worship across the parish is to glorify God, creating space in which we may encounter Jesus, offer Him our praise, and give ourselves afresh to Him. We are blessed with a rich variety of services, within which we seek to reflect a range of musical styles. This is made possible by the many gifted musicians in our church family who generously offer their time and talents to support our worship.

The Parish Choir leads sung worship at St Laurence's on the first Sunday of each month at the morning service, as well as at occasional choral evensong services at All Saints' and for special occasions throughout the year. At other Sunday services, both morning and evening, worship is led by music groups featuring a variety of instruments, including piano, guitar, flute, violin, cello, cornet, clarinet, French horn, cajón, and drums, alongside singers.

Across all our services, our aim is to worship God using both traditional and contemporary music, embracing styles that encourage joyful congregational participation as well as those that create space for reflection and contemplation.

We warmly welcome anyone who may feel called to contribute to this ministry, whether by singing with the choir or joining one of the music groups—please do speak to either of us if you are interested.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all who give their time, energy, and gifts to enrich our sung worship, and for the support you offer us as we coordinate the music and choir.

### **ALPHA, Mary Carter**

Stephen Carter and I ran an Alpha course on Saturday mornings in 2025 from January to April to fit in alongside Winter Warmer, offering bacon or sausage baps to our guests. We had five people coming on a semi-regular basis. However, weekly attendance was rather hit and miss as other Saturday commitments took priority, and two people had to drop out due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **MISSION PARTNERS, Jo Aze**

We continue to support our two Church Missionary Society (CMS) Mission Partners: Anna and Chris Hembury, serving in Hull, and Lea and Petra Williams, working in the Czech Republic. We receive regular updates from them through CMS, and members of Stretton Parish are encouraged to register on the CMS website to receive their newsletters directly.

In addition, we share summaries and prayer requests in the Stretton Parish "Contact", enabling the whole church family to engage personally with their work. We also uphold both couples regularly in prayer at our parish prayer meetings.



It was a particular privilege to welcome both couples last March for our Vision Weekend. Hearing first-hand about their ministry was both inspiring and humbling, reminding us of the depth of their commitment and calling.

During the year, Alan and Sarah Robinson were able to visit the Hemburys in Hull and later shared their experiences through Contact. Tim and Liz Bryan hosted Chris and his "Circuit

Breaker" group at their retreat house in Carding Mill Valley, providing rest and refreshment. Chris later wrote, "Our link with St Laurence is a real highlight in our lives and sustains us in so many ways."

Looking ahead, Steve Johnson is planning to visit Lea and Petra in Brno later in 2026, continuing to strengthen these important relationships.



### **STRETTON FOODBANK, Richard McCrohan**

This is a summary report for the Stretton Parish ACPM on 19th April 2026, summarising the Foodbank's activities during 2025:

1. At the start of 2025 the requirement of referrals for extended support was introduced.
2. New clients continue to be able to self-refer for their first 4 visits.
3. By introducing the need for clients to obtain referrals from an appropriate agency, a significant number received additional support, resulting in not needing to use the Foodbank.
4. The number of people being helped in 2025 was 214, of which 112 were children. While down from a total 381 in 2024, there is still significant need in Church Stretton and the surrounding area for the Foodbank.
5. At the end of the year there were approximately 40 active clients.
6. Income totalled £30,752. Which included a grant in December of £6,400 from the DWP Household Support Fund.
7. Expenditure totalled £17,258.

8. We continue to receive considerable support from the community through food donated at the Coop and Mayfair.

9. There were a total of 28 active volunteers as at the end of December 2025.

A full report was submitted to the Stretton Foodbank Governance Committee earlier this year.

### **CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, Marion Shuttleworth**

Stretton Parish is committed to caring for our environment. The Environmental Committee, on behalf of the PCC, has developed an action plan to minimise our impact on the environment to help the Church of England's Net Zero 2030 target. Further, the grounds of each of our churches are managed to benefit wildlife, all in line with the Church of England's fifth mark of mission to TREASURE creation; thanks are due to those volunteers that manage our outside spaces with such care and enthusiasm for fauna and flora.

St Michael's and All Saints, being small churches with low frequency use and using renewable electricity and LED lights, are both effectively net zero. The Parish Centre is heated by electricity, also on a renewable tariff and the solar panels (installed in 2010) continue to provide electricity to the grid. However, St Laurence is used regularly and whilst also using renewable electricity and LED lighting, it is heated by gas. Despite now being on a 'green gas' tariff, the use of gas continues to be the major contributor of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the parish. Investigations of possible 'greener' heating options are being considered, particularly in the context of the age of the current gas boilers.

The ECO Church scheme operated by the Christian Charity A Rocha, provides motivation and encouragement to us to continue to consider our impact on the environment in all parts of our lives as God's people in the Strettons. Achieving the Gold award is challenging; currently St Laurence and All Saints have achieved their Silver Award, St Michael's has Bronze. Such awards are a visible sign to our community that Stretton Parish treasures Creation.

### **MOTHERS' UNION, Di Coles**

Although our Branch is small in number, we continue to meet faithfully each second Tuesday of the month. Most meetings feature a speaker, though as we are unable to offer payment, our options are sometimes limited. Each gathering begins with prayers and a hymn, and we place special emphasis on praying for the worldwide Mothers' Union through our annual Prayer Diary. Meetings conclude on a friendly note with tea and cake, fostering fellowship and community.

Locally, we provide practical support to our Primary School by supplying uniform sweatshirts, hats, and gloves to children who would otherwise go without. At Easter and Christmas, we offer gifts and Easter eggs—often filling two large boxes—to be shared among families in need. In addition, we contribute to the Hereford Diocese Mothers' Union Crisis Intervention Fund, which provides essential items such as furniture and kitchen utensils to individuals who are newly re-housed after experiencing homelessness.

Our latest initiative, "Blessing Bags," extends comfort and care to anyone in need, not just members of our congregation. The heartwarming feedback we receive from recipients reminds us of the power of small acts of kindness.

While the name "Mothers' Union" may suggest membership is limited to mothers, this is no longer the case. All who are baptized are welcome to join and share in our fellowship and service.

### **ST LAURENCE BELL RINGERS, Anne Hone**

The Tower has 9 members who ring for various services and to practice. We would welcome further recruits and form a friendly and easy going group – we form a hub for a large area of the north part of Church Stretton District – and arrange ringing with a number of depleted membership towers, mostly covering weddings and keeping several towers ringing. We do quarter peals regularly for this purpose (and to improve the members ringing). We have tower outings twice a year, this is social and enables members to experience other towers.

The bells are in reasonable health for their age (1890 installation) but some of the pulleys and ropes will need to be replaced.

## REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF OUR BUILDINGS, Julie Lawton and Stephen Carter

### *All Saints' Church— Little Stretton*

A major project is underway to install a ramp in order to make access easier for those with mobility issues and to prevent the portable ramp having to be installed and dismantled every week for services. The DCC is working with the architect, and preparations are being made for the submission of a planning application in the near future.

Meanwhile, following the quinquennial report, necessary work to the ridge of the thatched roof (required every 10 years) is planned for April 2026. Moss will be removed, minor repairs will also be made to the bellcote, and the thatcher will manufacture and install a new oak cross. A local stonemason is currently working to ensure the integrity of the wall adjoining the road. Tenders have also been sought for repairs to the outside of the kitchen extension, including cleaning out and reconfiguring the guttering and making the flat roof watertight.

Lengthy discussions with Severn Trent over water billing have taken up much time but have resulted in little progress. Contrary to their original appraisal, they now insist that in order to resolve the situation, a water meter will need to be fitted.

Following investigations, it was decided that no lightning protection was needed in order to satisfy our insurers.

### *St Laurence Church—Church Stretton*

Raised at the Bellringers' AGM in March 2025, it was agreed that the lighting in the Tower was poor and posed a risk to health and safety. New LED panels have been added to the Clock Room and the Bellringing Chamber, outside lighting has been replaced and now operates on a PIR, whilst emergency lighting has also been upgraded. The changes have been welcomed by the Tower Captain and bellringers.

One of the gas boilers heating the church needed repair which has prompted the DCC and Environment Committee to start to assess best options for the longer term.

Our insurers raised an issue regarding the boiler room steps, and the lack of cover should anyone fall or be injured. Following a long and careful process which involved not only a full Faculty but full planning permission, we hope that a gate will be installed at the top of the steps in the near future.

Work towards the installation of an accessible toilet and a servery inside the church is well underway. Locations have been chosen, details about fixtures and fittings required have been fully discussed and agreed, and our architect is finalising sketch drawings to submit to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for initial consultation. An Archaeological Investigation and Assessment report will be needed before trenches can be excavated for drainage, and Building Regulation Approval will be needed because of the creation of a new foul water system.

The quinquennial inspection is booked for 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

### *St Michael' and All Angels Church—All Stretton*

After delays owing to other road works in the area, work finally began on repairs to the boundary wall in late October. This took much longer than anticipated because of inclement weather. The stonemason produced a worrying report and advised that a structural survey be undertaken. The resulting very detailed survey report has recently been received, containing much useful information and advice for our consideration regarding next steps.

Repairs have been carried out to the lightning conductor.

### *Parish Centre*

Following a successful grant application, additional acoustic panels were installed on the ceiling of the main hall to improve the sound. Feedback as to its effect was positive.

The AV system in the main hall was revamped and made simpler to use.

The loft ladder and hatch leading from Room 1 were replaced by a safer, easier system, and more of the loft was insulated and boarded to render it more accessible and to increase storage capacity.

Asbestos assessments have been carried out across our buildings from which Asbestos Management Plans have been drawn up.

# FINANCE REPORT, Graham Vince

For full financial statements, see separate document

## Stretton Parish

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total	
		St Laurence	All Saints	St Michael's					
		£	£	£	£	£	£		
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENT FROM</b>									
<i>Donations and legacies</i>									
	<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2a	166,635	18,183	22,873	68,320	-	276,011	239,946
	<i>Other donations and legacies</i>	2b	17,500	6,615	1,589	2,452	-	28,156	8,149
	<i>Income from charitable activities</i>	2c	12,571	598	342	-	-	13,511	11,246
	<i>Income from investments</i>	2d	12,777	1,200	884	23	2,087	16,970	18,631
	<b>TOTAL INCOME RESOURCES</b>		<b>209,484</b>	<b>26,596</b>	<b>25,688</b>	<b>70,794</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>334,649</b>	<b>277,972</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>									
<i>Charitable activities</i>									
	<i>- Grants, Donations &amp; gifts</i>	3a	18,414	5,068	2,287	5,229	-	30,998	27,130
	<i>- Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>	3b	198,299	16,345	20,834	41,040	78,450	354,968	253,831
	<i>- Governance costs</i>	3c	2,022	250	250	-	-	2,522	2,317
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>218,734</b>	<b>21,663</b>	<b>23,372</b>	<b>46,269</b>	<b>78,450</b>	<b>388,487</b>	<b>283,278</b>
<b>NET INCOME / EXPENDITURE BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>			<b>(9,250)</b>	<b>4,933</b>	<b>2,316</b>	<b>24,525</b>	<b>(76,363)</b>	<b>(53,839)</b>	<b>(5,306)</b>
<b>GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</b>		5b	-	-	(147)	-	254	107	1,672
<b>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>			2,400	(1,200)	(1,200)	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>			<b>(6,850)</b>	<b>3,733</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>24,525</b>	<b>(76,108)</b>	<b>(53,732)</b>	<b>(3,634)</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2025			359,559	30,249	23,403	27,898	76,108	517,217	520,851
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2025</b>		8	<b>352,709</b>	<b>33,982</b>	<b>24,371</b>	<b>52,423</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>463,485</b>	<b>517,217</b>

**Stretton Parish**

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	5a	219,467		224,367
Investment assets	5b	-		62,723
		<u>219,467</u>		<u>287,090</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors & prepayments	6	5,934		10,067
Short term deposits		197,087		193,646
Cash at bank and in hand		60,800		48,093
		<u>263,822</u>		<u>251,805</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year				
Accruals & creditors	7	19,804		21,678
		<u>19,804</u>		<u>21,678</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			244,018	230,127
<b>NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>			<u>463,485</u>	<u>517,217</u>
<b>Represented by</b>				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted	12		326,635	327,135
Designated	9		84,428	86,077
Restricted	10		52,423	27,898
Endowment	11		-	76,108
	8		<u>463,485</u>	<u>517,217</u>

Signed on behalf of Stretton Parish

on .....

Julie Lawton  
(Church Warden)

Stephen Carter  
(Church Warden)

The notes on pages 9 - 16 form part of these accounts

## **Stretton Parish**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stretton Parish**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 7-16.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of the report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T Lunt BA (Hons) FCCA MTPI

#### **WR Partners**

Chartered Accountants  
Belmont House  
Shrewsbury Business Park  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6LG

## MINUTES

### THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Opening Prayers</b> The Annual Parish Meeting was chaired by the Associate Minister, Rev Christobel Hargraves in the Rector's absence and she opened the meeting with prayer.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Elections of Churchwardens</b> The nominees were Julie Lawton and Stephen Carter. They were duly elected with everyone in favour. The Associate Minister thanked Steve King for his work as churchwarden over the last four years.</p> <p>Julie Lawton added her thanks to Steve King, for his work, both pastoral, spiritual and practical. She highlighted his work on the technical work in St Laurence, the appointment of a new architect, his support for the DCC of All Saints and support at the midweek Holy Communion service. The Rector conveyed his thanks too.</p> <p>Steve King thanked Julie, Rector and the Ministry Team for their support during his time as Churchwarden.</p>

### THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> John Palin, Tricia Palin, Keith Bell, Barbara Bell, Adele Grounds. Mike Edmunds. There were 75 people present.</p>								
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous APCM held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.</p>								
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> None</p>								
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Electoral Roll</b> The numbers on the Electoral roll are:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>St Laurence's</td> <td style="text-align: right;">155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Michael's</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Saints</td> <td style="text-align: right;">26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total on Roll</td> <td style="text-align: right;">199</td> </tr> </table> <p>The number on roll has reduced from 276 in 2024 to 199 in 2025.</p>	St Laurence's	155	St Michael's	18	All Saints	26	Total on Roll	199
St Laurence's	155								
St Michael's	18								
All Saints	26								
Total on Roll	199								
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Annual report on the proceedings of the PCC</b> Details were recorded in the Annual Report.</p>								
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Rector's Report &amp; Churchwarden's report.</b> Full written reports from the Rector and Churchwardens were in the Annual Report booklet. Steve King drew attention to the "Verse for the year" for 2024, John 15.5. As we reflect on the last year and look forward to this year, it speaks that we do nothing here without God's presence. Last year was very busy, with increasing numbers attending services, with joyful worship led by our choir and music group. Our work with the community has grown, including our barn dance, presence at the town's Fun Day and the Christmas lights switch on, and this year we put on a Living Advent calendar for the town. He thanked everybody who helps with all these events, they couldn't happen without our volunteers. Planning for the future – Our Curate, David Andrews will be leaving us at the end of June. We will have an opportunity to say goodbye nearer the time.</p>								

## 7. Finance

The treasurer presented the accounts for the last financial year ending 31 December 2024.

### General Income & Expenditure for 2024.

All Saints had a surplus of £1663

St Laurence's had a deficit of £10,437, but there were substantial one-off expenditure refunds during the year, and the underlying deficit was £21,500 – regular and one-off giving was down on the previous year as were hire of hall and fees, mostly due to less funerals.

St Michael's had a surplus of £422

All deficits have been covered by unrestricted reserves made possible from past gifts.

### Unrestricted reserves at the 3 churches at the end of the year were as follows:

All Saints £ 30,249

St Laurence's – £ 102,767

St Michael's £ 23,403

These are our "rainy day monies", which are needed for ongoing General Fund deficits at All Saints and St Laurence's, ongoing maintenance for church building repairs at all three churches, and any unexpected costs.

### General funds budgets for 2025

All Saints £477 surplus – this could easily become a deficit if income drops.

St Laurence's £19,330 deficit – this is not sustainable. We may be over paying what we give for Parish Offer, and the PCC will be looking at this.

St Michael's £938 deficit

Operations Manager - £11.5k has been pledged so far. The target is £40,000 over two years. 4 @ £30 has been pledged in regular giving.

### How to give

The treasurer reminded us that there are a variety of ways of giving, which are all detailed on our parish website, and drew particular attention to the Parish Giving Scheme, which makes administration a lot easier and has the element of optional inflationary increase.

### Published accounts

The auditors have written that they have no concerns in connection with the examination of the accounts.

Proposal of acceptance of the accounts:

Proposed: Graham Vince

Seconded: Dan Wallis

All in favour

Proposed reappointment of Whittingham Riddel as the independent examiners for 2025.

Proposed: Graham Vince

Seconded: Cathy Watson

All in favour.

The treasurer concluded by thanking the treasurers of All Saints and St Michael's, John Bennet and Jenny Church who have both stood down during this year. He also thanked the money counters, the Finance Committee and the auditors.

The Chairman thanked Graham Vince, the treasurer, for all his hard work and for presenting the accounts in a clear way so that everyone can understand them.

## 8. Annual Fabric Report

The full written report is in the annual report booklet.

New noticeboards have been installed outside St Laurence and the boiler has been repaired in St Laurence.

Attendees were asked if there were any questions. There were none.

9. **Deanery Synod Report**

The full written report is in the annual report booklet.

Attendees were asked if there were any questions. There were none.

10. **Safeguarding**

Chrissie Pepler, PSO introduced herself. She read a quote from "Promoting a Safer Church 2017" "Safeguarding is everyone's business. For faith-based organisations and communities, getting this right can be challenging but it must be at the heart of everything they do. Recognising the risks and understanding that abusers can hide in plain sight is more than a tick-box exercise, it's about culture and behaviour."

Safeguarding concerns can affect everyone, irrespective of social class, race, education or gender etc. It is inevitable that at some point everyone will encounter someone who has experienced abuse or is currently experiencing abuse, whether as victim, as someone who poses a risk or as a vulnerable person. This can include clergy, Readers, PTOs, our employed workers and their families, where there might be the same kind of abuse issues as non-clerical families. In the context of a Church setting, where people (including perpetrators, victims / survivors of abuse and those otherwise at risk) come in times of need and to seek help, it is even more important that everyone is aware of the different forms of abuse and safeguarding concerns and can respond in an appropriate manner.

We may be aware of how, in the past, the church failed to recognize the importance of safeguarding within a church context. We have had reviews of these failures and recommendations were then made about changes that we needed to make. Sadly, some of these changes have not been made fast enough and survivors of abuse have continued to suffer. This last year we had the Makin review published. This revealed the extent of the abuse of John Smyth, operating within the Church of England systems, over several decades. Whilst people were made aware of John Smyth's activities, and disclosures were made, his activities and abuse of young men was allowed to continue, both in the UK and then overseas. The report again highlighted the changes that need to be made, particularly at a national level. This report and the recommendations were debated at National Synod in February this year. The Synod voted to take steps towards making these changes. The way the church is governed and the legal structures that sit around it make the review recommendations hard to implement currently and much work is needed at a national level to enable these improvements to be made.

At a Parish level in the Strettons many changes have been made and continue to be made to improve our safeguarding. We are implementing Safer Recruitment of volunteers, and we have started looking at how we make all our activities and practices as safe as possible for everyone. We can't guarantee that abuse cannot and will not happen in our Parish, but we **can** do all we can to prevent it happening. This means we have a culture that cares for those who are most vulnerable and have practices and safeguards in place to ensure we are as vigilant as we can be. Jesus had care for the vulnerable central to his ministry on earth – MATTHEW 18:1-7 *If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!*"

We will continue to strive to ensure our Parish is as safe as possible for those who are most vulnerable. We will continue to work at recognizing that this is not a 'tick box' exercise but is about bringing about a culture change. How we care for others and our behaviour towards each other is part of our mission in making Jesus known in our community. Thank you to our Rector, Steve, church leadership, PCC and our church family in the Strettons for working with us as we implement changes and work together to safeguard all in our Parish.

The chair thanked Chrissie and reiterated that it is important to embrace changes when we meet them.

It was proposed that Chrissie Pepler is formally appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Proposed: Steve King

Seconded: Julie Lawton

All in favour. All

<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>a) To the Parochial Church Council for Stretton Parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were two nomination from St Laurence's, from Dan Robinson and Graham Vince. They were duly elected.</li> <li>• There were no nominations from All Saints.</li> <li>• There was one nomination from St Michael's, from Anne Braddick. She was duly elected.</li> </ul> <p>b) Deputy Churchwarden for St Michael's – there were no nominations.</p> <p>c) To the District Church Council of All Saints. There was one nomination from Ann Etches. She was duly elected.</p> <p>d) To the District Church Council of St Laurence. There were no nominations.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Questions concerning Parochial Church matters or general Church matters</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Closing Prayer</b></p> <p>The meeting closed in prayer.</p>