



# Stretton Parish

## CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 23rd July 2021  
The Parish of St. Laurence's, Church Stretton with  
St. Michael's & All Angels LEP, All Stretton & All Saints, Little Stretton.  
Parish Website: [www.strettonparish.org.uk](http://www.strettonparish.org.uk)  
Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk

### Our verse for the year:

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15.13*

### Services for Sunday 25th July, 8th Sunday after Trinity. Reading: Matthew 7.1-5

St. Laurence's	8.00	Holy Communion Order 2, traditional
	9.30	Holy Communion
	11.15	Morning Worship
St. Michael's	10.30	Holy Communion—URC
All Saints	11.00	Holy Communion, followed by baptism
Online Service	10.00	Online via website, or by phone 01694 631066

Please continue to book a seat via the website [www.strettonparish.org.uk](http://www.strettonparish.org.uk) or by phoning the office on 01694 724224

There will be **no mid-week Communion Service** this Wednesday 28th July as the morning concerts are taking place in St Laurence's—see details overleaf.



**Sarah's retirement picnic:** At the 11.15am service at St Laurence's on Sunday, we'll say thank you to Sarah for her ten year's as Children and Families' Worker. This will be followed by a picnic on Rectory Fields from 12.15pm, so please do come along and show your appreciation to Sarah. Bring your own food and drinks and a rug or deckchair. Bring your own food and drinks and a rug or deckchair. Should the weather be inclement we will picnic in the Parish Centre.

A caterpillar cake—the perfect gift from Steve and ministry team for a Children's worker!! Tasted good too!!



From Monday 26th July we will be opening each church every day for private prayer and for visitors. During the month of August we will have more limited opening arrangements at St Laurence's because we will be hosting our art exhibition and we will need to have stewards in St Laurence's whenever it is open. We would like the art exhibition to be open each week from Wednesday to Sunday mainly in the daytime but we will also offer an evening opening each Thursday during August (from 6pm until 8pm). If you are willing to help with stewarding during the next few weeks please would you get in touch with Jo who will be working on a rota for two hour sessions and Romaine will have a calendar with her on Sunday at both of the St Laurence's services that morning too. Thank you.

**Information about lifting of restrictions:** With the Government removing the final set of restrictions this week, we want to assure you that our first priority as Stretton Parish leadership will always be to protect the safety of everyone in our parish.

As a community we now need to move forward without set legal restrictions and as a Parish we have to decide how best to manage the risk to ourselves and others. The Church of England has said that Incumbents are best placed to know the contexts of the varied services, ministries and events that each Parish will be involved in.

Stretton Parish is one Parish with three Churches and each building is different in worship and lay out, so please be mindful that careful assessments have taken place to ensure the best possible safety of everyone so that no one feels excluded from attending a service.

Any place where multiple people can gather is still going to be an area of risk. The virus isn't going away, and even those who have had both doses of the vaccine may still be at risk from contracting or spreading any variant of Covid-19. Those still waiting for a second dose, or who – for whatever reason – have not been vaccinated (and we are here to love not judge) are at greater risk. God calls us to love our neighbour as ourself, to protect the widow and the orphan, and to love one another as God loves us. No one would willingly put a loved-one at any kind of risk or in any danger.

The following cautious approach to what will, and will not, change at this point will be reviewed monthly. We ask for your prayers as we as a Parish, community and country begins the slow process of attaining a degree of the normality lost over the past 18 months.

- In any of our buildings, services, homegroups, meetings or any other event we run, **hand sanitisers will remain** and we ask that you continue to use them as you enter and leave, and of course at other times you feel necessary.
- We will still **ask you to book in if you can** for services or events, but if you can't do that, when you come we will continue to take details.
- Whilst we recognise the law has changed, we, along with many other public places will ask you to **consider wearing a mask upon entry and exit to services and events, during communion distribution and when singing indoors**. When making your decision about wearing face-masks we would ask you consider others.
- I am pleased to say that **in some of our services, singing will return**, but some may only be outside or may return later in the year.
- **Sadly, we will continue to offer communion in one kind** because of the many hazards of sharing one cup at this time.
- If some or all of this feels too much, we have decided within each Church to have a '**zoned area**' where the seats will continue to be social distanced, they will be near doors, masks will be worn and people will not sing. Please do ask the welcomers where this area is.

With any activity within the life of the Parish, each activity will **require a risk assessment**, groups will be responsible for completing this before any activity takes place and in accordance with the guidelines needs to be shown to the incumbent and/ or wardens.

Throughout the pandemic the majority of people have been grateful for the precautions in place, as frustrating as we know many of you have felt. Now, as together we learn to live with the virus, and we begin to look forward to the summer- our Festival Services and the opportunities which the autumn holds, we ask that you continue to be sensitive to the needs of those around you.

We must be personally responsible and consider the obvious and hidden risks to both ourselves and others. Philippians 2:3 reminds us, "**But in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.**"

*Steve*

## Sermon series on the Pastoral Principles

The subject of this week's sermon is "Talking about integrity and admitting hypocrisy", based on the reading Matthew 7.1-5. Here are some questions to consider at home or in your home group:

- Judgmentalism, a disregard for true justice and a preoccupation with appearances are all condemned under the banner of hypocrisy.
  - ⇒ How are these kinds of behaviours seen in us?
  - ⇒ How and when do we see them in our churches?
- It's not easy to see our own hypocrisy and it's even harder to admit it.
  - ⇒ How can each of us help our own church community to be more honest and humble?
  - ⇒ Are there areas in the wider Church of inconsistency or hypocrisy that you think need to be admitted and confessed?

**Open Art Exhibition:** We're really looking forward to seeing your artwork to be included in our art exhibition (as we explained in the 4th July Contact which is still available on the website). Please bring any items that you would like to be displayed to St Laurence's church itself on Friday 30th July between 2pm and 4pm. We'll be putting out the display over the weekend for everyone to enjoy.

**Parish Prayer Meeting:**  
Wednesday 28th July at  
8pm on Zoom. Book in via  
the website to get the  
Zoom link.



**Open Art Exhibition**  
St Laurence Parish Church,  
Church Stretton

Come inside  
the church  
and see  
a range of  
creative artwork ;  
paintings, photographs,  
books and banners  
all inspired by the  
creator's journey of faith

For opening times during August:  
check the board outside the Church

Stretton  
Parish

Stories of  
Jesus

**Church Stretton Arts Festival**—Come and enjoy these free morning concerts in St Laurence's at 10.15am this week:

**Monday 26th July** Music for soprano, trumpet and piano presented by Catherine Rooney, Wendy Jones and Richard Walker

**Tuesday 27th July** Dohnanyi's Sextet for piano, violin, viola, cello, clarinet and horn

**Wednesday 28th July** Music for 5 horns presented by French Horn ConneXion

**Thursday 29th July** Baritone Paul Mcroft with pianist John Jenkin

**Friday 30th July** Gill Styles & Richard Walker play piano duets, including Czerny's Grande Sonate Brillante

**Saturday 31st July** Chameleon – Jazz funk

The details of how to obtain tickets are fully described on the festival website [www.strettonfestival.org.uk](http://www.strettonfestival.org.uk) where bookings can be made.

## For our prayers:

We pray for those who are sick or are unable to leave their homes: Margot, Barbara, Paul, David, Anne, Ewan, Rosemary, Eileen, Jeannie, Margaret, Margaret, Doreen, Sue, Di, Lena, Roger, Ray, Brian, Dorothy and Laura.

**Residential Homes:** We pray for all our nursing homes, particularly remembering Ley Gardens.

**Services for Sunday 1st August 9th Sunday after Trinity. Reading: Luke 15.11-32**  
8am Holy Communion Order 2, traditional, St Laurence's

10am Online service via website, or by phone 01694 631066.

11am The first of our outdoor services this summer is at the cricket pavilion, after coffee and pastries served from 10.30am. This is for all our congregations as well as visitors. Flyers are in all the churches so please take some to use to invite your friends and neighbours. This is for all our congregations as well as visitors, **and not just families, so please come along to Make Jesus Known to our community.**



**Sunday 1st August 2021**  
Join us at the  
**The Cricket Pavilion,  
Church Stretton**  
**10.30am**  
Coffee and Mr Bun the Baker pastries

From 11.00am  
**'The Big Spender'**  
Rector Steve's insights from the story for today

**Hymns under the Hills**  
chat, eat.....enjoy!

Bring:  
-a chair  
-a brolly or a sun hat  
-a reusable mug for your coffee  
-a picnic for your lunch

 *Stories of Jesus* 

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<b>Children &amp; Families Worker</b>	Sarah Robinson	sarah.robinson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 771248
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<b>Deputy Wardens</b>			
All Saints	Chris Jones	mail@chrisbellamy.plus.com	01694 722229
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<b>Rector's Day Off</b>	Fridays	<b>Church office hours:</b> 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday	