



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 8th March 2024

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk

The next Contact will be issued on Thursday 28th March 2024



Holy Week & Easter in Stretton Parish

Monday 25th March

Holy Week Quiet Time

You are welcome to join either the morning or evening session

morning: 10am-12.30pm/ evening: 6.30pm-9pm

St Laurence's ***Booking required** - See Page 4

Maundy Thursday

Midweek Communion

10:30am at St Laurence

Holy Communion with Foot Washing

7:30pm in St Laurence's

Good Friday

Good Friday Family Service

10am in St Laurence's

Joining Churches Together service
in the Market Square at 12noon.

2pm- **Reflection hour**

St Michaels



Easter Sunday

6:30am: Plush Hill, Churches Together Sunrise service

St Laurence's 8:30am Holy Communion

All Saints: 11am Holy Communion

St Michael's: 10:30am Holy Communion

St Laurence's: 10.30am Family Communion

Stretton Parish Churches: All Saints, Little Stretton;
St Laurence, Church Stretton & St Michael's, All Stretton.
More information at strettonparish.org.uk



A Message from Steve



This isn't how I thought Lent would pan out.

Thank you all for your prayers and offers of practical help and thanks too for those of you who have sent cards and goodies over the last few weeks.

Time for an update from me: I have been diagnosed with a type of Psoriasis that is caused by a virus, which explains lots of the symptoms I have experienced over the last few weeks. As it is viral, sadly there is no quick fix - but lots of rest, fluids and moisturising creams. I have been signed off now until the 24th March; once I do come back to work the plan is for a phased return as I build up the energy levels.

I really must send huge thanks to all those who have stepped in and covered, especially the Ministry team.

Over the last few weeks, I have been reading through the Psalms and these verses have struck me... Psalm 16: 7-9,

*I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure.*

Steve Johnson, Rector

Thank you!

I would like to say thank you to everyone who kindly made and donated cakes for the Bake Sale on Saturday 24th February at the Winter Warmer and after church at St Laurence on the Sunday. Also thank you to all those who bought the cakes and for the very generous donations received. It all helped to raise over £800 for the MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Association!

Esther Johnson



Stretton Feast

Huge thanks to Isabel and Lorraine for putting on the fantastic Stretton Feast last weekend. It was a lovely meal, with an excellent quiz, all with a Welsh theme and everyone had a lot of fun and enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere.

Churches Together Good Friday open air service

Volunteers needed:

- Two readers
- People to help distribute orders of service and (cold) hot cross buns.

Offers to Greg Forster on 01694 723318.



Thank you to our flower arrangers who have made lovely posies to give out to all on Mothering Sunday.

Parish vision weekend 20th-21st April

Do join us on the morning of Saturday 20th in St Laurence Church. We will begin with a time of worship, and teaching brought to us from Christopher Landau from ReSource. This will be followed by **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**. This is our opportunity to reflect on what we have done and what we are planning in order to 'Make Jesus Known' across the Strettons. There are vacancies on the Deanery Synod, PCC, DCCs at St Laurence and All Saints and the ECC at St Michael's. Look out for further details and nominations forms will be available after Easter Sunday.



We gather again in the evening for a fun time of fellowship. We will have a two course meal together, followed by a quiz/games evening suitable for all age groups. So do [book in to reserve your place](#), letting us know of any dietary requirements. We would welcome help with;

- Food preparation
- Serving
- Washing up
- Donations of desserts.

All offers of help to the office please. Thank you.

On Sunday 21st April, we have a United Parish Service at 10.30am at St Laurence, with Christopher Landau and a Deeper service at 6.30pm.

Revision of Electoral Roll The Electoral Roll is the list of those qualified to vote at the APCM. It also acts as our membership list, those we can count upon as committed members of our Parish. If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll, please take an application form, available from each of the churches, or via the home page of the website and complete and return to the office by 2nd April.



Holy Week Quiet Time

Monday 25th March 10am-12.30pm and 6.30pm-9pm

St Laurence Church

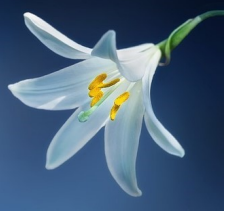
You are welcome for either the morning (10am-12.30pm) or evening (6.30pm-9pm) sessions.

Sarah Lear will lead these times offering activities with stimulus material if wanted - biblical, poetic, artistic and creative. There will also be plenty of space for your own approaches if you prefer. Or do a mixture of both. If you've only got 15 minutes in your day, just pop in and experience the ambience. These sessions will be flavoured on pain and Christ's suffering to tie in with Holy Week.

Tea and coffee provided. To book in for the full session, [please use this link](#).

Further details from Sarah Lear via sarah@barcombe.net

NOTICEBOARD



Easter Lilies

On Easter Sunday St Laurence is decorated with lilies in memory of loved ones who have passed away. If you would like to make a donation

(suggested amount £5) towards the cost of lilies, please put the money in an envelope marked "Easter Lilies" with the name of the person/people who you want to remember and either put in the donations box on Sunday morning, or bring to the office.

20th Century Voices



Gerald Finzi - Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice

- God is gone up

Herbert Howells - Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis

Charles Wood - O Thou the Central Orb

Edward Bairstow - Save us O Lord

All Saints Church

Little Stretton

Sunday 17 March 2024

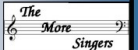
At 7.30pm (no interval)

£12 in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-more-singers

or on the door



After concert all profits and donations will go to a chosen charity
For further information call 07896 761149



GROWING TOGETHER
Year of Faith 2024



Bishop's Study Day 1

at Craven Arms Community Centre
on Thursday 14th March, 9:30am-3pm,

This event gives the opportunity to connect with others who share a passion for the Christian faith; engage in thought-provoking discussions and listen to inspiring talks.

Speakers include **Paul Williams, CEO Bible Society** and **Rev Andrew Ollerton, Presenter of The Bible Course.**

Register using [this link](#).

Stretton Parish LENT LUNCHES



St Michael's Church, All Stretton

Every Tuesday

20th February - 26th March

12.30 - 1.30pm

**Homemade soup & roll/ fruit
tea or coffee**

£4.00 for the church funds.

All are welcome at our next
Mother's Union meeting on
Tuesday 12th March at
2.30pm in the Parish centre.



We will be having a time of reflection, led by
Revd Caroline Windley, followed by refreshments.

We are collecting small boxed Easter eggs for families
at the refuge and all donations would be appreciated at
the meeting.



Taizé Worship: Sunday 10th March at 6pm
at St Milburga's. Join us for 40 minutes of
singing, readings, prayers and a time of
quiet reflection.

Stretton Taizé is associated with Churches
Together in the Strettons.



PRAYER FOCUS

This monthly page replaces the Prayer Diary, which of course you can carry on using.

At Stretton Parish we are made up of three distinctive churches with eight different congregations: All Saints, St Michael's, 8.30am, 10.30am at St Laurence's, Messy Church, midweek Communion, Deeper and online. Please pray this month for each of these congregations that through their Services and activities each person may be drawn into closer relations with Jesus, their faith deepened and they find fellowship and friendship with all those they meet.

So let's pray...

- that those who have recently joined a congregation feel welcomed and safe and have the courage to share something of their story with others.
- that the young people in our congregations will always be valued and encouraged to play their part.
- for courage for those who have questions about faith, that they may find opportunities to ask questions & find the answers.
- for those who are lonely, that God leads them to those who can get alongside and give them the companionship they need.
- for those who feel frail or unwell, that they will receive practical support as well strength and patience in their trust in God.
- for parents concerned the effect social media is having on their children, for wisdom in dealing with the issues.
- for those going on holiday, that they may find physical and mental refreshment, but also have the opportunity to grow in faith.
- for each congregation to find new ways to refresh their worship.
- that praying together becomes a much more important activity in the life of the congregation
- for anyone who is sensing that God is calling them to start something new for Him, that they may be given wisdom and courage to step out in faith,

We pray for all who are sick:

Steve J, Sylvia L, Tricia P.

Memorial Book

We give thanks for the lives of those in our memorial book in March:

John Seager, Margaret Roberts, Barbara Manser, Helen Bowyer, Francis Woodhouse, Guy Heath, William Cooke, Donald Hopkinson, Lucy Fisher, Doreen Goss, William Wright, Jean Small, Derek Martin, Helen Davidson, Lily Luty, Mark Lawton, Beryl Wheale, Florence Montgomery, Gwyneth Evans, John Mason, Joyce Coad,

We pray for those who mourn,

particularly the family and friends of Sheila Speake, whose funeral is at 2.45pm on 19th March at Shrewsbury crematorium, and the family and friends of Michael Bishton whose funeral is at 1pm on 27th March at Aberystwyth crematorium.

Residential Homes:

We pray for all our nursing homes, this month particularly remembering Stretton Hall Nursing Home

Stretton Foodbank Appeal.

Stretton Foodbank provides food to people in need living within a 5 to 7 mile radius of Church Stretton. Over the last couple of years, the demand for help has increased significantly, with over 380 people (including over 170 children) being helped in 2023. In January 2024 alone we helped over 150 people, which required a substantial amount of food.

We are fortunate to live in a community that cares and we are grateful to all the help each week to fill the collection bins at the Coop and at Mayfair. However, with so many people needing help this is not enough. In addition to buying packaged food to cover the shortfall, we also buy fresh bread, fruit, vegetables, eggs, cheese, spread and fresh meat vouchers.

The combined result of having to cater for increased numbers of people, as well as the ongoing food price inflation has meant that our costs have significantly increased with expenditure rising close to £4000 per month to ensure our shelves are well stocked each week.

As we look into 2024, we now need to raise money to fund our ongoing operation and to formally ask the community for financial help. This can be done in a couple of ways:

1. One off donations. These can be made via the link [Stretton Parish Foodbank](#) or by bank transfer, see details below
2. Regular donations. Standing orders can be set up to donate every month using:

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd

Account name: Church Stretton PCC

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account number: 00090571

Reference: Foodbank

Donations done in these ways can also benefit from GiftAid.

In addition to individual donations, we would also welcome support from local businesses and organisations willing to help those people from our community in need.

We can be contacted on strettonfoodbank@strettonparish.org.uk



DIARY

Sunday 10th March, Mothering Sunday Reading 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
	10.30am	Morning Worship
St Michael's	10.30am	Holy Communion, (URC)
All Saints	11am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10am	Online via website

Tuesday 12th

9.15am	Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
2.15pm	Mothers' Union, Parish Centre

Wednesday 13th

10.15am	Banner Group, Children's Room
1.00pm	All Saints DCC

Thursday 14th

10.00am	Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre
10.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence
3.30pm	Messy Church, Parish Centre

Friday 15th

8.30am	Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
5.00pm	Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 16th

10.00am	Winter Warmer, Parish Centre
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Sunday 17th March Readings Psalm 105.1-11, Luke 1.46-55

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 1
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Deeper
St Michael's	10.30am	Morning Worship
All Saints	11am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10am	Online, via website

Monday 18th

11.00am	Primary School Easter Service, St Laurence
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Tuesday 19th

9.15am	Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
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Thursday 21st

10.00am	Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre
10.30am	Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence

Friday 22nd

8.30am	Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
5.00pm	Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 23rd

10.00am	Winter Warmer—Parish Centre
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Sunday 24th March, Readings, Psalm 126, Mark 11.1-11

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
	10.30am	Altogether
St Michael's	10.30am	Holy Communion
All Saints	4pm	Evensong
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10am	Online via website

The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 14th March, reopening on Friday 22nd March.

The next Contact will be published on Thursday 28th March.

DIARY—continued

Monday 25th

10am-12.30pm Holy Week Quiet Time, St Laurence
6.30pm-9pm Holy Week Quiet Time, St Laurence

Tuesday 26th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
7.30pm PCC, Children's Room

Wednesday 27th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

Thursday 28th—Maundy Thursday

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre
10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence
7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, with Foot Washing, St Laurence

Friday 29th—Good Friday

8.30am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
10.00am Altogether service, St Laurence
2.00pm Reflection Hour, St Michael's

Saturday 30th

10.00am Winter Warmer—Parish Centre

A prayer for Lent

Loving Creator of mine,
I feel the pace quicken, the time draw near.
I am filled with joy as I move toward Easter
and the promised reconciliation with you.
Teach me to follow the example of your Son,
to be worthy of being called one his people:
a Christ-ian.
Help me to live each day as he did
turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.
I await the new life with eagerness, faith
and a deep gratitude.
Amen

Rector	Rev Steve Johnson	steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722585
Curate	Rev David Andrews	david.andrews@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 721355
Associate Minister	Rev Christobel Hargraves	chris.hargraves@strettonparish.org.uk	01547 550311
LEP URC Minister, St Michaels	Rev Hazel Allen	hazel.allen@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 751400
Children & Families Worker	Sally Clilverd	sally@strettonparish.org.uk	07985 943 906
Readers	Gillian Taylor	gillian.taylor@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722956
	Chris Lear	chris@barcombe.net	07514 738 653
Churchwardens	Steve King	steve.king@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722694
	Julie Lawton	Julie.lawton@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 723750
Deputy Wardens			
St Laurence	James Foster	James.foster@strettonparish.org.uk	07736 324 160
All Saints	Moira Matthews	moiraemathews@gmail.com	01694 723045
St Michael's	Malcom Forbes		01694 723439
Pastoral Coordinator		Please contact the office for pastoral care or if home communion is required	
Treasurer	Graham Vince	graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328478
Rector's PA	Jo Aze	jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
Rector's Day Off	Fridays	Church office hours: 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday	