



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Thursday 28th March 2024

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 12th April 2024

Holy Week Quiet Time Monday 25th March

Sarah Lear facilitated a Quiet Time for us on Monday in St Laurence. She writes "It was a real privilege to create time and space for God to move amongst us last Monday, with a blend of structure and freedom, materials and peace. I really enjoyed working with the church environment to create places of quiet. My grateful thanks go to churchwarden Julie who gracefully and encouragingly accommodated my every request to allow access and the movement of all the church furniture, Sally for photocopying on a very busy day in her life and Louise for absolutely covering my back and wandering about with flowers."

Our thanks go to Sarah for organising this event for us.

Some comments from participants:

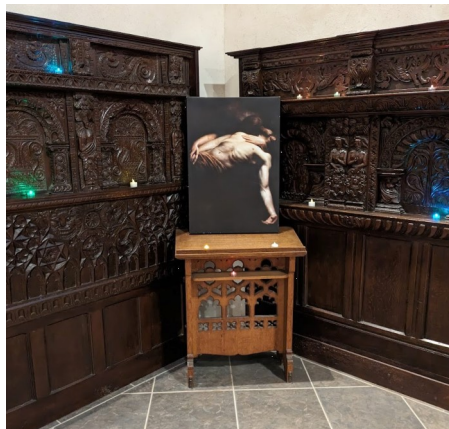


I valued the peace and quiet and space amidst much decision making and busyness to BE STILL. To rest in the Presence of God.

I found the pictures particularly helpful, initially being drawn to one in particular - praying and listening as the Holy Spirit led me.



The poems were a helpful resource too - so many of them - but I was led to the right one (s).



*Dedicated time to pray, listen, open our hearts and just be with God.
All of the materials were helpful and helped me to turn off my intrusive thoughts.*



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



Appointment to the College of Canons of Hereford Cathedral

Late last year, Bishop Richard appointed Christobel Hargraves as Prebendary de Wellington. She will be licensed and collated on Sunday 5th May at 3.30pm during Evensong at Hereford Cathedral. You are warmly invited to be part of this service.

This appointment is in recognition of her service to the Diocese and she will not be leaving Stretton Parish!!

What is a Prebendary? The prebendal stalls (seat) in the Cathedral are named after parcels of land (often local farms) which were known as "prebends" and which gave each stallholder an income: although the income has long since gone, the title remains! The use of the title prebendary was an indication of membership of the greater chapter of so-called Old Foundation Cathedrals (the 9 pre-reformation non-monastic cathedrals). Their sister cathedrals (former monastic foundations and those founded by Henry VIII) always called members of their greater chapters honorary canons. In practice therefore the two titles—Prebendary and Canon—have little difference.



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.



Vacancies

The following vacancies need to be filled:

Stretton Parish PCC:

- Deputy Churchwarden for St Michaels,
- Four other vacancies (if possible one from St Laurence's, one from St Michael's and two from All Saints)

Condoover Deanery Synod – four vacancies

Ecumenical Church Council (St Michael's) - two vacancies

If you wish to stand for any of these positions, please take a nomination form available from each of the churches, find someone to nominate and second you, and return the signed form to the Parish Office, or hand to one of the clergy or churchwardens. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact one of the clergy or churchwardens.

Churchwardens—The election process also applies to the two Churchwardens.

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. If you are not sure if you are already on the Electoral Roll, please check with Jo in the office.

NOTICEBOARD



Maintenance Morning @ St Laurence's - Saturday 6th April - 9:30-12:30

We will be restarting our maintenance mornings at St Laurence's on Saturday 6th April. Things are starting to grow again in the churchyard, so any hands available will be gratefully received to keep on top of things as Spring will be in full swing. We get lots of lovely comments about the church building and the churchyard from the community, so ensuring it is a safe and pleasant place to be is an important part of our witness.

As always, even if it's only an hour you can spare we will appreciate it. Mid morning refreshments will be provided as usual. Please come with your gardening gloves and any helpful tools.



CAMEO: Wednesday 3rd April, 2.30pm in the Parish Centre

Come along for an afternoon of friendship, sharing, encouragement and a cup of tea and cake. This

month Rev'd Robin Trew will be speaking on "Coincidences". To book transport with Ring and Ride, please ring Rhoda on 01694 724197.



Don't forget the clocks go forward by one hour on Sunday morning (31st March).



All are welcome at our next Mother's Union meeting on Tuesday 9th April at 2.30pm in the Parish centre.

Liz Bryan will be speaking on "What does it mean to die well?" Everyone is welcome to come along.

Lent Lunches at St Michael's

Thank you to everyone who supported the Tuesday Lent Lunches at St Michael's. They were a great time of fellowship and we were able to raise nearly £600 for church funds.



The Well: The Well provides an opportunity for ladies to meet informally, chat, enjoy each other's company and to support each other. We meet in the back room at Jemima's Kitchen on the High Street in Church Stretton.

This month we will be meeting at 2pm on Friday 12th April. We hope you will be able to join us.

Contact Anne Braddick on 01694 723311 if you have any questions.

Our verse for 2024

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5



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DIARY

Sunday 31st March, Easter Day Readings: Isaiah 25.6-9, Mark 16.1-8

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Easter Family Communion

St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion

All Saints 11am Holy Communion

Online Service 10.30am Live Stream of the 10.30am service from St Laurence

Tuesday 2nd April

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
10.15am Ministry Team meeting, Children's Room

Wednesday 3rd

3.00pm CAMEO

Thursday 4th

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 5th

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

Saturday 6th

9.30am Maintenance Morning, St Laurence

Don't forget the clocks go forward by one hour on Sunday morning (31st March).

Sunday 7th April Readings: Acts 4.32-35, John 20.19-end

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Deeper

St Michael's 10.30am Morning Worship, Iona

All Saints 11am Holy Communion (Order 2)

Online Service 10am Online, via website

Tuesday 9th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
2.30pm Mothers' Union, Parish Centre

Wednesday 10th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

Thursday 11th

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

Friday 12th

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

NB The Parish Office will be closed for the Bank Holidays, Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April.

For our prayers:



- Please do continue to pray for our Rector, Steve, who has been signed off work for a further two weeks, until 8th April. Please remember Lindsay and the family too at this time.
- We pray for those who mourn, particularly the family and friends of Margaret Trow, whose funeral is at 11.30am on Tuesday 16th April at St Michael's.
- We pray for our local nursing homes, this week particularly remembering the Sandford Nursing Home.
- We pray for those trying to bring peace to the Middle East, may they be given wisdom and sensitivity and patience.
- Pray for our upcoming APCM and those considering standing for one of the posts on the PCC, ECC and Deanery Synod.

A prayer for Easter Sunday

Lord God, you loved this world so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too.

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day.

Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world.

All for your glory do we pray, Lord,

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	Moirra Matthews	moiraemattthews@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	