



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 12th April 2024

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 26th April 2024

Stretton Parish Vision Weekend 20th—21st April 2024 incorporating the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Saturday morning

10.00am-11.00am: Our weekend will begin with the opportunity to worship together and to listen to our guest speaker, Christopher Landau. This will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.

11.30am-12.15pm: The APCM will take place in St. Laurence's Church. During this time, elections will be held for a number of key roles to support the governance of the Parish, including to the PCC and the Deanery Synod. If you feel you are being called to a particular role, please ensure that you complete a nomination form and submit it to Jo in the office as soon as possible, and at the latest by Friday 19th April. Forms are available in each church. See details of vacancies overleaf.

The APCM will provide an opportunity to hear reports from the Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, PSO and others regarding the continuing work across our three churches.

Saturday evening

5.45pm-9.00pm: Parish Fun Night!

Who doesn't love a good quiz?! Come along to the Parish Centre and enjoy a 2-course meal together, and then pit your wits against those quiz buffs, with fun rounds to suit all ages, a mix of traditional, visual, quirky, local and hands on rounds. [Book your place here.](#)

Donate what you can on the night towards the cost of the food, Book via the parish website or through the office. **Bookings close at 10am on Thursday** as we are buying the food on Thursday lunchtime.

If you can also **donate a dessert**, then please let Jo know as soon as possible. Offers to help **serve and wash up** would also be very welcome. Thank you.

Sunday morning

10.30am-11.30am: United Parish Service in St. Laurence's Church. Another opportunity to hear our visiting speaker, Chris Landau.

The Revd Dr Christopher Landau was appointed Director of ReSource in 2021, having previously led the 'ReSource Future' process in 2017-18. He is married to Carolyn, and they have three children. The family moved to Telford from Oxford, where Christopher was previously an associate minister at St Aldates Church, a chaplain with the Oxford Pastorate, and an honorary cathedral chaplain at Christ Church.



Having grown up in a traditional market town Anglican parish, Christopher read Theology at Cambridge University (as a choral scholar at Trinity College) before moving to London as a BBC News trainee. There he joined a local parish church that had just received a plant from Holy Trinity Brompton. His faith came alive in unexpected ways, and six months after being appointed as the BBC World Service's religious affairs correspondent, he felt a calling to ordination. During training at Ripon College Cuddesdon he began work towards a doctorate in Christian Ethics, completed during his curacy in west London. His work on disagreement among Christians has been published by SCM Press as 'A Theology of Disagreement'. He is passionate about Christians hearing the Spirit's call to pursue loving unity, seeking the fruit of the Spirit, even in the face of inevitable disagreements, and about promoting constructive conversation about the Holy Spirit's work across the different traditions of the church.

Update on Steve, our Rector



Steve has started on some new medication and we pray this will speed up his healing. He has now been signed off work until 19th April. He met with the Archdeacon last week and they discussed his phased return to work and he will be meeting with the churchwardens to talk about what this will look like. Steve plans to take part in our Vision Weekend on 20th/21st April and we very much look forward to seeing him.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for Stretton Parish will take place during our Parish Weekend, on Saturday 20th April. 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.



PCC vacancies: At the APCM, church members are elected to serve on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which oversees the whole parish, being the body which is legally responsible for its financial affairs and its assets. This year there are five vacancies: if possible, two representatives from St Laurence's two from All Saints and one from St Michael's.

Deanery Synod vacancies: There are four vacancies to serve on the Deanery Synod, for a three year term. Deanery Synod usually meets twice per year and is a vital part of the working/communication between parishes within the Deanery, and between parishes and the Diocese. The Rector is automatically a member of Deanery Synod and Deanery Synod members are automatically members of the PCC.

District Church Councils—The PCC delegates to each DCC the operational running of church services and day-to-day maintenance of the church building. There are a number of places on the DCCs (and ECC for St Michael's), forms available from the churches.

If you are interested in serving either on the PCC, Deanery Synod or DCC, you will need to find a nominator and seconder. Nomination forms are in all three churches. For further information, please speak to one of the clergy or churchwardens.

The Annual Report and Annual Accounts are available to view on our [website](#), and paper copies are in all three churches. Please do read these to see all that has been going on in the Parish over the last year.

The Electoral Roll is available to view via the footer on the homepage on our [website](#) and in the church office by request.

Experience after Easter

From 21 - 24th May St. Laurence's will be hosting an event for the primary school to explore the events between Jesus' resurrection and Pentecost. I am looking for a team of people to:

- create props and backdrops for the different stations
- prepare activities for each station
- lead a station during the event
- welcome and make drinks

For this event a DBS certificate will **not** be a requirement. If you are able to help in any of these roles please do let me know.

Sally Clilverd,

Sally.clilverd@strettonparish.org.uk

Easter Services

Thank you to everyone who helped at all our Easter services. We were pleased to welcome lots of visitors to our services and to see the churches full to celebrate that Christ is Risen!

We are very grateful to the flower arrangers who worked so hard to make all three churches look so beautiful for Easter Day. Thank you!



The Churches Together team thank everyone involved in the Good Friday march and service in the Square on Good Friday; Martin Robinson for his music, Steve Aze for the PA system, our six readers, from St.Laurence's, St.Milburga's, the Methodist Church and the Friends' Meeting, for those involved in the liturgy, and for all who helped with stewarding, banner-carrying, and furniture removals. Several passers helped move the chairs down from the Parish Centre to the Square, and then back again, particularly a passing cleaner, and some scout leaders. Ken Hathaway and David Andrew were involved in the planning and liaising with the authorities.

Those who managed to get up really early on Easter Sunday enjoyed the beautiful sunrise viewed from Jinlye at the Easter Sunrise Service.



*Everlasting God we thank you
that our time of worship renews
our faith and trust in you and
your risen son Jesus Christ.
Send us out into the coming
week ready to show our
gratitude and live the Good
News of Easter. Amen*



The St Laurence bells will not be rung on Sunday 14th April as the bellringers are having a well-deserved rest.

Altogether Service, 28th April

Following on from last year, the Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers will be joining us again at the 10.30am Altogether Service on 28th April in St Laurence Church. As part of the service, all in the Scout movement will renew their scout promises. We look forward to welcoming them.



PRAYER FOCUS

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

World Focus

- Give thanks to God that more aid is now making its way into Gaza.
- Continue to pray for all those seeking a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.
- Give thanks that the children taken hostage in Nigeria have been returned to their homes.
- May God give strength and comfort to all those imprisoned for their faith in Jesus. May the Holy Spirit challenge the hearts and minds of their captors.
- Pray that all those taking aid out to Ukraine may be kept in safety.
- Pray that false news and untrue rumours on the Internet may not be believed.
- May God give wisdom and hope to farmers here the in the UK and across the world as they have to cope with unpredictable weather conditions.

Local Focus

- Pray for our Rector Steve, that God would continue to heal him and that the medication would have only a positive outcome.
- Pray for our Associate Minister Chris Hargraves, whilst she has a two week holiday.
- Pray for our Parish Vision Weekend on 20th and 21st April, that the Holy Spirit will guide Christopher Landau as he prepares to lead our worship and teaching. May the two days be a refreshing time of fellowship for all our congregations and an exciting time of looking forward to what God has in store for us.
- Give thanks for all the visitors that have joined us for services across the Parish over Easter, may they know that they are greatly loved by God and desire to know him better.
- May the Resurrection and Presence of Jesus in our lives be a constant source of joy and inspiration to each one of us.

We pray for all who are sick

Steve J, Sylvia L, Tricia P. David M.

We pray for our Town

We pray for our Town Council and for local shops and businesses in our town.

Memorial Book

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

Frances Deaves, Peter Banfield, Olive Gripton, Paul James, Matthew Jarrett, Mary Coleby, John Boyers, Leonard Davies, Richard Warren, Leslie Naylor, Vernon Young, Allen Price, Clara Price, Cyril Williams, Brian Underhill, Kenneth Coles, Samuel Plant, Anita Bytheway.

Residential Homes

We pray for all our nursing homes, this month particularly remembering Field House Residential Home

Spring into Summer with a Warm Welcome!

Saturday mornings (10am until 12 noon) from 27th April

The Saturday morning Winter Warmer programme came to an end on Easter Saturday. Members of our church and wider community enjoyed hot food and drink, each other's company and conversation in a safe, welcoming environment. Each week we served 50 to 60 people, and we estimate that about 150 people came at least once during the 12 week project.

Parents with very young children and older people were equally comfortable and we were able to provide for people with a wide range of needs and reasons for coming.

We are very grateful to the many members of Stretton Parish who were involved in planning and running the sessions including those who sat and provided a listening ear to guests. The ability to befriend and listen is a special gift, and we are blessed that so many of our church family do this so naturally.

We found that the sessions had become an important part of people's lives and routines and that there was a strong desire to see a continued event. Therefore, we have decided to run a Spring into Summer project.

From Saturday April 27th we will start our 'Warm Welcome' programme in the Parish Centre until the end of June. We will be offering hot and cold drinks and pastries, tray bakes and fruit, free of charge. We are also hoping for the weather to be suitable for sitting outside and maybe serve an ice cream or two!

We are currently building our team of volunteers and if you would like to help with welcoming, serving or just chatting to guests we would love to hear from you. You can volunteer for an occasional Saturday or make a regular commitment.

If you are interested, contact the Project Lead, Louise Jackson—louise.jackson449@gmail.com and join us for our Volunteer Induction on 23rd April at the Parish Centre (2-4 pm)



Spring into Summer ...

Warm Welcome

Saturday mornings
10 - 12 noon
St Laurence Parish Centre
Church Stretton.

A choice of
food and drinks,
games, puzzle books,
magazines,
newspapers.
Space to chat and
make new friends.

Accessible facilities
for all ages.
Free of charge

Everyone Welcome
27th April - 19th June

Bethel@Strettonparish.org.uk

 Stretton Parish  PLACES OF WELCOME

The poster features a large sunflower on the right side against a blue sky background. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts.

A New Wine Opportunity

Thursday 2nd May 12:00 - 2:30pm.
Craven Arms, Methodist church hall

Mark and Lindsay Melliush and Deborah Jackson are hosting a meeting of worship, teaching and ministry with Rev Rich Johnson, the National Director of New Wine. Rich leads All Saints Worcester which has grown and planted new church communities. All Saints expresses their journey as 'joining with God in the renewal of all things and practising the way of Jesus in community'. Come and be encouraged, meet with others and hear about what God is doing across our country. We look forward to welcoming you!
NB Bring a packed lunch.

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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Sunday 14th April Readings: Acts 3.12-19, Luke 24.36b-48	
St. Laurence's	8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1
	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 16th April

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Thursday 18th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 19th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 20th

10.00am Vision morning, with APCM at 11.30am—see separate notice

5.45pm Parish Fun Night—see separate notice

Sunday 21st April	
St. Laurence's	8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
	10.30am United Parish Service
	6.30pm Deeper
Parish Centre	5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10.30am Live stream of the 10.30am service from St Laurence

Tuesday 23rd

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

6.30pm St Michael's AGM

Wednesday 24th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

Thursday 25th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 26th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 27th

10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre

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	