



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 7th February 2025

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 21st February 2025



VISION WEEKEND 2025

Sat 29 & Sun 30 March



SAT 29

2pm: Worship & Reflections

2:30pm Annual Parish Meeting (APCM)

3:30pm: Refreshments

4pm: "The Mission Show"

6-8pm: Murder Mystery evening with dinner-
more info & booking details to follow

SUN 30

10:30am: United Parish Worship at
St Laurence with CMS Speaker

2:30pm Afternoon tea with our Mission
Partners



strettonparish.org.uk

Parish Vision Weekend 29-30th March

Do join us on the afternoon of Saturday 29th March in St Laurence Church. We will begin with a time of worship before moving on to our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** at 2.30pm. 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.

The theme for the weekend is "**Mission in the 21st Century – what does it look like?**" and we are delighted that both our Mission Partners are able to join us. Lea and Petra Williams and their children will be coming from the Czech Republic and Anna and Chris Hembury are coming down from Hull. We look forward to hearing about their work and learning how we can partner with them in the afternoon session.

And then in the evening, we'll have some fun with a **Murder Mystery evening** with dinner. More details on this to follow, but if you are able to help with the food preparation/setting up/clearing away that would be wonderful. We'll also need some volunteers to set up and serve the refreshments on the Saturday afternoon. Offers to Jo please. Thank you.

It's time to revise our Electoral Roll!

Every Parish must have an electoral roll which is revised annually and a new roll is prepared every sixth year. This year we must prepare a new roll, which means everyone will need to apply for enrolment even if you are currently on the Electoral Roll .

Being on the Electoral Roll means that you are qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which this year takes place on Saturday 29th March. It also means that you can stand for election to the PCC. The Electoral Roll also acts as our membership list, those we can count upon as committed members of our Parish. We would love to encourage everyone who attends our churches to join the Electoral Roll.

If you have signed up to receive emails from us you will shortly receive an application form via email to complete and submit. You can also access the form [here](#) or download one from the home page of the website. Alternatively paper copies can be found in all the churches.

The deadline for the completion of the applications is 9th March. No further names can be added after this until after the APCM on 29th March.

Vacancies

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will include elections to fill vacancies in the governing bodies of Stretton Parish. The two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have oversight of the whole Parish, and each church has its own Deputy Churchwarden and church council - District Church Councils (DCCs) for All Saints and St Laurence, and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) for St Michael's.

This year the following vacancies are to be filled at the APCM:

- Deputy Churchwarden for St Michael's
- Stretton Parish PCC places; preferably with representatives from all three churches
- Places on All Saints DCC, St Laurence DCC and St Michael's ECC.

Please speak to the Rector or one of the Churchwardens for more information.



PRAYER FOCUS

This month we are focussing our prayers on Youth and Children's Work

- ◆ Give thanks to God for the enthusiastic leadership of the work, both in church and in the schools. Give wisdom and vision to Steve, David and Sally as they seek to serve the young people within the Parish.
- ◆ Ask God to bless the young people that go to the lunchtime Oasis group at the secondary school, may the Holy Spirit lead the group into life discussions that will give leaders opportunities to chat about faith in Jesus.
- ◆ May the young people across the Parish be encouraged to grow in their faith and be inspired to share their experience of Jesus with their friends. help them to feel an integral and valued part of the church fellowship.
- ◆ Pray that the Holy Spirit will be leading and guiding other people to take on youth leadership roles as David will be moving on in his ministry later this year.
- ◆ Please ask God to encourage the families that come to Toddlers to have the confidence to get involved with Messy Church. May they build on the friendships and contacts they make with the helpers on Thursday mornings.
- ◆ Pray that the good relationships with the primary school may continue and flourish and the assemblies become the place where seeds are sown and faith grows in pupils and staff.
- ◆ May God bless and encourage all who volunteer with the work amongst youth and children and may more people be led by the Holy Spirit to offer their help.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom, inspiration and creativity for the team as they begin to plan this year's Holiday Club. Also, for the Holy Spirit to be stirring children's hearts that they would want to come and discover more about Jesus.

We pray for those who mourn, particularly the family and friends of Evelyn Batho, whose service of thanksgiving is at 12 noon on Monday 10th February in St Laurence Church.

We pray for our broken world

- * Please pray that medical resources will get in to Gaza in greater volume in the days ahead .
- * May God give strength and wisdom to refugees who are not sure where to go to seek refuge and help.
- * Pray that peacemakers may be given guidance and patience as they try to help in decision making in the Middle East.
- * Pray for the Aid agencies across the world as they try to serve those with the greatest need.
- * We pray for Somalia, Ukraine and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Residential Homes

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

Memorial Book

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

Joseph Powell, Maureen Lloyd, Wilkie Marsden, Emilie Burnett, Audrey Powell, Gwyneth Whitrick, Glynne Medlicott, Doris Fleming, Muriel Worthing, Marian Lewis, John Littleford, Thomas Round, Olive Jones, Eleanor Trewinnard, Mary London, Ernest Broxton, Harry Luty, William Coles



This year in Messy Church we are going to be looking at "Parables Jesus Told". As our February session is the day before Valentine's Day we will be thinking about a story of true love, 'The Prodigal Son'. Everyone is welcome to join us at Messy Church and there is a wide variety of activities available to

take part in, all connected to the story, plus a great opportunity to chat with folk. We have a short Celebration Time and end by sharing dinner together. If you have always wondered what it is like, or know of people who might enjoy a different way of looking at Bible stories please do invite them to join us on Thursday 13th February from 3:30 - 5:45pm in the Parish Centre. Please pray for good health for all of the helpers, for the families to be inspired by the activities they take part in and that we are challenged by the message God has for each of us.



Great love

Thursday 13th February
3:30 - 5:45pm
The Parish Centre, St. Laurence's Church, CS

Games Food Craft Fun

Please pre-book your place:
www.strettonparish.org.uk, use the QR code
or email sally@strettonparish.org.uk

ALL WELCOME



The prayer table in St Laurence Church

A very small team of faithful people create displays throughout the year for our prayer table. They would like to find more people who have a desire to connect visitors with God through interactive prayer. Could you join the team? There is no need to have any prior experience as guidance can be provided. If so please let Jo know and she will pass your details on.

Operation Manager—Giving

A few people have asked me about one-off giving options towards the post of Operations Manager. In addition to using the Parish Giving Scheme using this link - <https://tinyurl.com/GivingOpsMgr> - which takes you to the Parish Giving Scheme, you may prefer to make a one-off gift direct into the church's bank account.

The bank details are as follows:-

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ
Account name: Church Stretton PCC
Sort code: 40-52-40
Account number: 00090571
Reference: Ops Mgr Fund

Please can you make sure that you quote the reference above, so that I can clearly see that your gift is for the Operations Manager fund.

If you have already completed a Gift Aid declaration I will reclaim Gift Aid on your gift unless you tell me not to do so.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me:
email graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk or 07455-917082.

Thank you
Graham Vince
Parish Treasurer

Setting up the mid-week Service at St Laurence Church: Can you help?

Steve King is taking a break from setting up the mid-week service and someone is needed to perform this important role. The service of Holy Communion is held on Thursdays at 10.30am in St. Laurence Church.

Duties include putting out the cross and the candles, service sheets and offertory box, setting up for communion, and switching on the sound before the service, and putting it all away after the service. There is no heavy lifting required, Are you able to help? Please speak to Steve King or Jo in the office if you would like to discuss this further. Thank you.



Alpha

Alpha explores the Christian faith in an informal and friendly way. It's free and we would love to welcome you!

Saturdays 10.15-11.30am in the Parish Centre. Book in via the office or [parish website](#).





Visiting bellringers will be ringing at St Laurence on Wednesday 19th February at 9.45am for 45 minutes.

Our verse for 2025

"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.."

1 Samuel 12:24



One of our young people, Arthur Wallis, will be cutting off his long hair to donate to a wig-making charity. He is hoping to raise some money to donate to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which provides wigs to children with cancer to restore their confidence and identity. If you would like to donate, you can do so here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/arthur-hair>

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 Preb 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 Ciliverd	sally@strettonparish.org.uk	07985 943 906
Readers	Gillian Taylor	gillian.taylor@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
	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
Pastoral Coordinator	Rev Nancy Cleaton	Nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328132
Treasurer	Graham Vince	graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328478
Rector's PA	Jo Aze	jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Chrissie Pepler	chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 771888
Life Group Coordinator	Caroline Windley	caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk	
Rector's Day Off	Fridays		
Church office hours: 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday			

DIARY

Sunday 9th February Readings Isaiah 6.1-8, Luke 5.1-11

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

Monday 10th

12.00pm Thanksgiving service for the life of Evelyn Batho, St Laurence

Tuesday 11th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
12.30pm Mothers' Union, Owen Room
7.30pm St Laurence DCC

Wednesday 12th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room
11.00am All Saints DCC

NB The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th February.

Thursday 13th

10.00am Parents & Toddlers, Parish Centre
10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence
3.30pm Messy Church, Parish Centre

Friday 14th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 15th February

10.00am Winter Warmer, Parish Centre
10.15am Alpha, Children's Room, Parish Centre

Sunday 16th February Readings: Jeremiah 17.5-10, Luke 6.17-26

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Deeper
St Michael's 10.30am Morning Worship,
All Saints 11am Holy Communion, Order 1
Online Service 10am Online, via website

Tuesday 18th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 19th

9.45am Visiting bell ringers

Thursday 20th

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 21st

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 22nd

10.00am Winter Warmer, Parish Centre
10.15am Alpha, Children's Room, Parish Centre