



**Stretton Parish**

**CONTACT**

News for weekend beginning Friday 21st February 2025  
Parish Website: [www.strettonparish.org.uk](http://www.strettonparish.org.uk)  
Parish office: 01694 724224 [office@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:office@strettonparish.org.uk)  
The next Contact will be issued on Friday 7th March 2025

## Parish Vision Weekend 29-30th March

Do join us on the afternoon of Saturday 29th March in St Laurence Church. We will begin at 2pm 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

 **Stretton Parish**

# VISION WEEKEND 2025

Sat 29 & Sun 30 March

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**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](http://strettonparish.org.uk)

## 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 should have received an application form via email to complete and submit. You can also access the form [here](#) or download one from the footer on the home page of the website. You can add your signature using your mouse if you are completing it on a laptop or PC, or with your finger or a touchscreen stylus if using a mobile device. Alternatively paper copies can be found in all the churches or you can ask Jo to email you one.

**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.

## Lent 2025

**A Lent Study Group** will meet on Wednesdays at 1.30pm throughout Lent at the home of Mike and Liz Bourke, The Maltings, Little Stretton, beginning on 12th March. The studies will be using the book "Lentwise" by Paula Gooder. Everyone is welcome. If you are planning to come, please could you let Mike know either by email, [steamtrainhouse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steamtrainhouse@yahoo.co.uk) or by phone 01694 722910.

**Lent Lunches** will be held at St Michael's each Tuesday during Lent, beginning on 11th March, between 12 noon-1.30pm, with homemade soup served with a roll and butter, followed by fruit and tea or coffee. The cost is £4.50 in aid of the charity Housing Justice and St Michael's church funds. The charity Housing Justice, founded on Christian principles, is a small national charity that supports Churches and community groups to respond to homelessness and housing needs . Do come along!





Last Thursday we had a wonderful time exploring the parable of the prodigal son and asked the big question 'So...What does God's love mean to you?'. We had lots of fun junk modelling pigs, digging in dirt, painting some heart art, baking biscuits and some bath bombs to get us nice and clean!!

During our Celebration Time we thought about how all of these activities linked into the story and how God's great love for us never changes; God is always there for us and, when we mess up, he is there with his arms wide open waiting to welcome us as his child and friend. We then enjoyed a tasty pasta tea with delicious peach upside-down pudding or chocolate Christmas cake for pudding!!

Next month we meet on 13th March to explore another parable and our session is entitled 'Time to Grow'; I wonder which parable it will be? We would love to have a few more helpers on our team so, if Messy Church is something which you feel God is laying on your heart please do have a chat with Sally.



## 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.



## 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.

## World Day of Prayer 7th March 2025

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

This year's service has been written by women of the Cook Islands, with the theme "I made you wonderful".

The service in the Strettons will be held at 10.30am in St Michael's Church and is open to everyone.



## Thank you!

Steve would like to thank everyone for his birthday cards and for the cake presented to share to mark his milestone birthday.

## Ash Wednesday



To mark the beginning of Lent, we have a United Service of Holy Communion, with the option of Ashing.

Wednesday 5th March at 7.30pm in St Laurence.

Everyone welcome.



**CAMEO: Wednesday 5th March 2.30pm in the Parish Centre:** Come along for an afternoon of friendship, sharing, encouragement and a cup of tea and cake.

This month's speaker is Liz Bryan with the title "Reflections on my Christian vocation—showing Christ in palliative care".

To book transport with Ring and Ride, please ring Rhoda on 01694 724197.



All Saints' Church  
Little Stretton



## Choral Evensong

with the Stretton Parish Choir

Sunday February 23rd at 4pm  
with refreshments to follow



## 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



# DIARY

**Sunday 23rd February** Readings Genesis 2.4-9, 15-25, Luke 8.22-25

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1

10.30am Altogether

St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion

All Saints 4pm Choral Evensong

Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group

Online Service 10am Online, via website

## Tuesday 25th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

## Wednesday 26th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

## Thursday 27th

10.00am Parents & Toddlers, Parish Centre

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence

## Friday 28th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

## Saturday 1st March

10.00am Winter Warmer, Parish Centre

10.15am Alpha, Children's Room, Parish Centre

NB The Parish Office will be closed from  
Monday 24th February, reopening  
Tuesday 4th March.

**Sunday 2nd March** Readings: Exodus 34.29-35, Luke 9.28-36

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

Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group

Online Service 10am Online, via website

## Tuesday 4th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

1.00pm Ministry Team meeting, Children's Room

7.30pm PCC, Children's Room

## Wednesday 5th—Ash Wednesday

2.30pm CAMEO

7.30pm Ash Wednesday service, St Laurence

## Thursday 6th

10.00am Parents & Toddlers, Parish Centre

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

## Friday 7th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

10.30am World Day of Prayer, St Michael's

2.00pm Funeral of Paul Finch, St Laurence

5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

## Saturday 8th

10.00am Winter Warmer, Parish Centre

10.15am Alpha, Children's Room, Parish Centre



# For your Prayers

We pray for those who mourn, particularly remembering the family and friends of Paul Finch whose funeral is at 2pm on Friday 7th March in St Laurence Church.

**Residential Homes:** We pray for all our residential homes, this month particularly remembering Sandford Nursing Home.

We pray for those from our Parish attending the **New Wine Leaders' Conference** from 25th-27th February.

We pray for our **CMS Mission Partners**, Lea & Petra Williams in the Czech Republic and Anna and Chris Hembury in Hull.

Please pray for the **PCC** which meets on Tuesday 4th March.

Do continue to pray for the current **Alpha course** which is running on Saturday mornings.

Please pray for **Winter Warmer** which takes place on Saturday mornings in the Parish Centre. May it continue to be a place of welcome and friendship.

## A prayer for the world

Mighty God, we pray for peace in our world.  
May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray for the peoples of the world and all who offer their services in the leadership of the affairs of the world that they may uphold what is right and good. We pray particularly at this time for peace in all places where there is violence, war and terrorism.

Amen

## A prayer for ourselves

Everlasting God, we ask you to lead us into the coming week, Help us to believe that you are close by us, keep us from making mistakes and help us never to disappoint you through our words and actions.

Amen

<b>Rector</b>	Rev Steve Johnson	steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722585
<b>Curate</b>	Rev David Andrews	david.andrews@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 721355
<b>Associate Minister</b>	Rev Preb Christobel Hargraves	chris.hargraves@strettonparish.org.uk	01547 550311
<b>LEP URC Minister, St Michaels</b>	Rev Hazel Allen	hazel.allen@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 751400
<b>Children &amp; Families Worker</b>	Sally Clilverd	sally@strettonparish.org.uk	07985 943 906
<b>Readers</b>	Gillian Taylor	gillian.taylor@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
	Chris Lear	chris@barcombe.net	07514 738 653
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Steve King	steve.king@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722694
	Julie Lawton	Julie.lawton@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 723750
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>			
St Laurence	James Foster	James.foster@strettonparish.org.uk	07736 324 160
All Saints	Moira Matthews	moiraemathews@gmail.com	01694 723045
<b>Pastoral Coordinator</b>	Rev Nancy Cleaton	Nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328132
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Vince	graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328478
<b>Rector's PA</b>	Jo Aze	jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>	Chrissie Pepler	chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 771888
<b>Life Group Coordinator</b>	Caroline Windley	caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk	
<b>Rector's Day Off</b>	Fridays	<b>Church office hours:</b> 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday	