



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 7th March 2025

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

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

Parish Vision Weekend 29-30th March

Vacancies

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) takes part within our vision weekend and 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 positions are to be filled at the APCM:

- Two Churchwardens
- Stretton Parish PCC: There are vacancies for two representatives from each of the three churches, so six people in total
- Deputy Churchwarden for St Michael's
- Two or three places on the St Laurence DCC
- One place on the All Saints DCC

Nomination forms for all these positions will be available in all the churches from Sunday 9th March.

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

Murder Mystery Evening

We hope you will join us for some fun on the Saturday evening, when we will share a meal together whilst taking part in an interactive Cludeo game called "St Cakes Murder Mystery Game". This is suitable for all ages, and you will join a team trying to solve the murder mystery which will be acted out for us. You will need to [book in](#) for this so our catering team know how many to cater for. See you there?

Help needed with refreshments

Can you help with refreshments either on the Saturday afternoon or on the Sunday afternoon please? —see timings on poster to the right.

Could you provide a cake for the Sunday afternoon tea with the Mission Partners?

Offers to Jo. Thank you.

Stretton Parish

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

OPERATIONS MANAGER

The Spirit is at work in Stretton Parish. We are growing as a church family, with no fewer than nine different congregations and a range of hugely important outreach activities to serve our community. What has not grown in recent years is the number of staff to support all that we are doing. Consequently the Ministry Team is stretched, trying to address these growing needs whilst maintaining the operation of three churches and the Parish Centre.

After much prayer, discussion and careful research, we believe that the appointment of an Operations Manager to support matters of practical organisation, communication and legal compliance across the Parish will free the Ministry Team to focus on the work of Making Jesus Known. This initiative has been discussed with, and is supported by, the PCC.

The job advertisement is now on [our website](#) and the closing date for application is 12 noon on Monday 31st March, with interviews being held on Monday 7th April.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Initially the Operations Manager position is for twenty-five hours a week for a fixed term for two years. We pray this may be funded from additional giving. We have a vision that, as well as one-off giving, there will be a commitment of 50 x £30 x 24 i.e. fifty people committing £30/month for two years which, with Gift Aid, amounts to £40,000 (£20,000 a year) which covers salary, pension, NI etc. We are seeking Project Angels who would be willing to support with financing. Leaflets are available, explaining the plan in more detail, and we would ask that you talk about it, pray about it and speak to any member of the Ministry Team should you need further information.

HOW YOU CAN GIVE:

Monthly giving - if you are able to commit to a monthly amount, please do so using this link -

<https://tinyurl.com/GivingOpsMgr> - which takes you to the Parish Giving Scheme.

One-off giving - please choose one of the following three options:-

a) please use this link - <https://tinyurl.com/GivingOpsMgr> - which takes you to the Parish Giving Scheme.

b) or 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., 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.

c) or you can make a gift by cheque or cash - please make your cheque payable to "Church Stretton PCC" - please put your cheque or cash in an envelope clearly marked "Operations Manager Fund" and give the envelope to the Parish Office. 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.

Please pray also that we find the right person who will support the mission and life of the Parish and who has the skills to carry out the role.

Thank you.

Graham Vince, Parish Treasurer

It's time to revise our Electoral Roll!

The deadline to apply for your name to be added to the Electoral Roll is Sunday 9th March. No further names can be added after this until after the APCM on 29th March.

You can access the form [here](#) or download one from the footer on the home page of the website. Alternatively paper copies can be found in all the churches.

Lent 2025

Lent Study Groups The group previously advertised taking place in Little Stretton is now full, but a second group will meet on **Tuesdays at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre**, beginning on 18th March. If you are planning to come, please contact Nancy Cleaton by email at nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk or phone 01694 328132. The studies will be using the book "Lentwise" by Paula Gooder. Copies can be ordered for you at £7.40 each. Everyone is welcome.

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!



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 14th March. We hope you will be able to join us. Contact Anne Braddick on 01694 723311 if you have any questions.



Marmalade for Sale!

Purchasers of Becheacre marmalade in past years may be pleased to know that it is back in production. Unfortunately Adele does not feel she can cope with the stall at the gate, or transporting it on Sundays, but a telephone call (01694 722017) or email (agrounds677@btinternet.com) will ensure that what you require is placed on the shelves in Becheacre porch, accompanied by a tin for payment. Both Thick and Fine cut are available, both at £3.50 a jar. Proceeds to Church Army.



Taize Worship: Sunday 9th March at 6pm at St Milburga's. Join us for 40 minutes of singing, readings, prayers and a time of quiet reflection. Stretton Taize is associated with Churches Together in the Strettons.



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 9th March Readings Deuteronomy 26.1-11, Luke 4.1-13

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 11th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
12.00pm Lent Lunch, St Michael's
7.30pm St Laurence DCC

Wednesday 12th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

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
2.00pm The Well, Jemima's Kitchen
5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 15th

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

Sunday 16th March Readings: Genesis 15.1-12, Luke 13.31-end

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
Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service 10am Online, via website

Tuesday 18th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
12.00pm Lent Lunch, St Michael's

Thursday 20th

10.00am Parents & Toddlers, Parish Centre
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

NB The Parish Office will be closed on
Wednesday 12th March.

For your Prayers



We pray for those who mourn, particularly the family and friends of Norma Brewer who died this week. Her funeral will be at 2pm on Saturday 22nd March in St Laurence Church.

Residential Homes: We pray for all our residential homes, this month particularly remembering Field House

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

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.

Please pray for our upcoming **Vision Weekend** on 29/30th March.

Do pray for those considering standing for **places on the PCC** and **DCCs/ECC**.

A Prayer for Lent

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
and a generosity of service
that gives without counting cost.
A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One
who gave everything,
that we might show
the power of love
to a broken world,
and share the truth
from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it .

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 Clilverd	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	