



**Stretton Parish**

**CONTACT**

News for weekend beginning Friday 4th April 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 Thursday 17th April 2025

## Parish Vision Weekend

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our Parish Vision Weekend. We were privileged to have both our CMS Mission Partners with us for the weekend, Anna and Chris Hembury from Hull and Lea and Petra Williams from the Czech Republic, as well as Andy Roberts, CMS Director who came to speak to us on the Sunday morning at our United Parish Service. If you weren't able to make the service, you can [catch up with it on the website](#) where you can hear Andy's excellent sermon.

The Hemburys and the Williams were very grateful to have the opportunity to come and they also enjoyed meeting each other. We have received this note from the Hembury's:

*Just wanted to say a big thank you for all you did for us behind the scenes, all the things that go unseen and unnoticed by many. The hamper with dinner on our arrival was such an amazing start to the weekend for us especially after driving for six hours. Both our heads are full of happy chats and exciting conversations. Please pass on our thanks to everyone.*

We will be recording some of the "nuggets" from the weekend. If there was something that particularly spoke to you, please do email it into the office so we can add it to other reflections.



**At the APCM, the following people were elected:**

**Churchwardens:** Julie Lawton and Stephen Carter

**PCC Members:** Dan Robinson, Graham Vince, Anne Braddick

**All Saints DCC:** Ann Etches

Please do pray for them and for all the PCC.

**Please note there will be no Deeper service on Sunday 6th April.**

# Easter Services in Stretton Parish

## Maundy Thursday—17th April

10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence

6pm Tenebrae, St Michael's

7.30pm Holy Communion with Foot Washing, St Laurence

## Good Friday—18th April

10am Altogether, St Laurence

11.40am Walk of Witness with Churches Together,  
from Station approach road on Sandford Avenue

12 noon: Service in the Square with Churches Together

2pm An Hour by the Cross, All Saints

## Easter Sunday—20th April

5.45am—Easter Dawn Service with Churches Together at Jinlye

8.30am Holy Communion (Order 2), St Laurence's

10.30am Family Communion, St Laurence

10.30am Holy Communion, St Michael's

11am Holy Communion (Order 1), All Saints



**Maundy Thursday** is the night when Christians recall the Last Supper and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and it takes its name from the Latin word for commandment, *mandatum*. Sometimes our call to follow Jesus means getting our hands dirty, caring, or making ourselves lower than others. But there are also times when we have to allow our feet to be washed by others.

As part of our **Parish Maundy Thursday service at St Laurence's at 7.30pm**, where we will gather round the Lord's Table, we also invite those gathered to come forward to have a foot or hand washed, there is no pressure. The washing of feet is a beautiful and poignant reminder of the new commandment that Jesus gave to his disciples on the night before his death.

Also on Maundy Thursday, there will be a **Tenebrae service at St Michael's at 6pm**. A simple Communion is held at the table with participants sharing Communion with their neighbour. This is followed by eight readings from the Gospels. Tenebrae means The Gathering Darkness, and as each reading proceeds, a candle is extinguished. At the end of the service a central candle is lit, prophetic of the coming of Easter dawn.

### Churches Together services:

Good Friday: Service at the Methodist Church at 10.30am, March of Witness leaving the station approach road at 11.40am, followed by a service in the square at 12 noon.

On Easter Sunday there is a sunrise service on Plush Hill, near Jinlye at 5.45am.

## Prayer Ministry

As part of the body of Christ we should always be seeking to help, pray with, encourage and serve one another. One way of doing this is through Prayer Ministry. We will now be offering Prayer Ministry at the 10.30am Holy Communion Services at St Laurence, the 6.30pm Deeper Services at St Laurence and at 10.30am services on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Team members will be available during communion until the end of the service in the right hand corner of the nave (if facing the front of the church).

**Lent Lunches** continue at St Michael's each Tuesday during Lent, 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:** 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 11th April. We hope you will be able to join us.

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



Tuesday 8th April at 2.30pm, in the Parish Centre. Sarah Lear will be sharing Lenten Reflections.

Everyone welcome.

## Easter Lilies

On Easter Sunday St Laurence is decorated with lilies in memory of loved ones who have passed away. If you would like to make a donation (suggested amount £5) towards the cost of lilies, please put the money in an envelope marked "Easter Lilies" with the name of the person/people who you want to remember and either put in the donations box on Sunday morning, or bring to the office.



## St Laurence Maintenance Working Party

Saturday 26th April, 9.30am-12.30pm

We will get together to do those odd jobs around the Churchyard that need doing to keep it all looking neat and tidy. Even if you can just spare an hour we would appreciate the help and you will be rewarded with mid morning refreshments! Please come with your gardening gloves and any helpful tools.

The mid-week Communion service at 10.30am on Maundy Thursday (Order 1) will this week include Renewal of Ordination Vows, Commitment in Lay Ministry and reaffirmation of vows made as a Solitary.

Everyone welcome.



# PRAYER FOCUS

## We pray for the world

- Please pray that the fighting in Myanmar may stop and that no more aid convoys be bombed.
- May those grieving and suffering in Myanmar after the earthquake all receive the food and medical supplies that are so urgently needed.
- Please pray for the international situation as America tries to put itself in a more dominant position in world trade. May other nations be given wisdom and guidance as they are forced to respond.
- Thank God for all those who try to bring to the public notice the injustices that are carried out on our behalf. May the problem of sending British used car tyres to India be investigated more thoroughly so that India and its people are not polluted and poisoned as at present.

## We pray for our community

- Give thanks to God that we are free to openly witness to the events of Holy Week. May it be a time when the Holy Spirit deepens our faith and we appreciate afresh the wonder of what Jesus was prepared to go through to restore us to God our Father.
- As Easter approaches, pray for all the visitors who will come into this area, May those who visit the churches be conscious of the love and peace of God.
- Pray for the children and young people who will be on holiday from school. May they enjoy the break and be kept safe and protected from the dangers of the internet.
- Pray for the families of the Parish that Easter may be a time when they can spend valuable time sharing life together without the pressures of work and school.

We pray for all who are sick:

Janet W

We pray for those who grieve, particularly Steve J and family and Gillian P

## A prayer for Lent

Almighty and ever living God,  
you invite us deeper into your world, your people,  
your Lent.  
May this time be one of outward focus;  
seeking you in those we often ignore.  
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity,  
and encounter.  
Give us hearts hungry to serve you  
and those who need what we have to give.  
Amen.

## 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 Stretton Hall Nursing Home.

## Films on General Release this Easter

In the run up to Easter cinemas are showing new films which tell Jesus' story and could be an amazing way to Make Jesus Known to friends and family. The first is 'The King of Kings' which is an animated adaptation of the Charles Dickens short story 'The Life of our Lord' which he wrote to tell his children about Jesus. It is rated PG, reviewers say it is biblically accurate and the trailer looks engaging for children and adult animation-lovers.

The second is 'The Chosen - The Last Supper' which has in fact been made into three films that will be released in sequential weeks, starting next week. Some of you may be familiar with this hit series retelling Jesus life and I know it has had some controversial reviews, including the portrayal of violence (rated 12A), so I am sure some scenes in these films will be quite graphic. This latest series will be released on Amazon Prime later this.

Whether we go to the cinema to watch these films or not, let us thank God for the creators of these films and pray for those who do watch them, that God will speak to them through this media, and they will find churches to continue learning and journeying with Jesus.

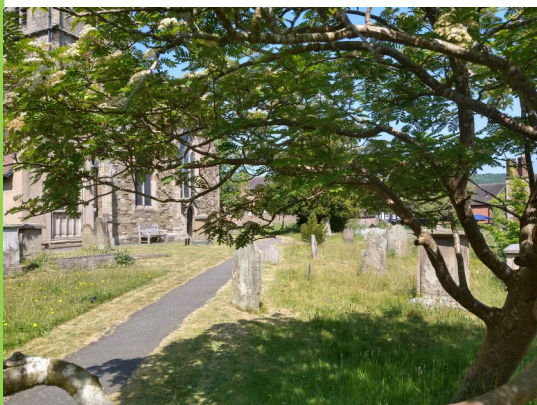
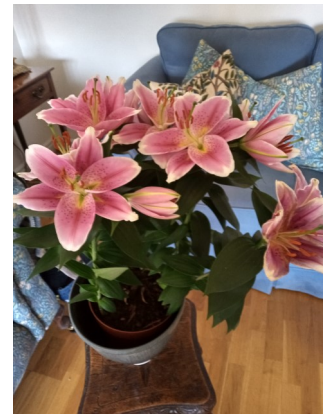
*Sally Clilverd, Children and Families Worker*



### A Thank you

Marian Goulder has asked us to pass on her huge thanks for the lily which we sent her on behalf of the Parish. Marian and her husband Patrick have moved to Yorkshire to be near their two daughters and grandson. She says she will miss us but knows they have made the right decision. We will miss Marian too—she was involved in Mothers' Union, Parents and Toddlers and regularly led the intercessions in St Laurence.

We wish Marian and Patrick every blessing in their new home.



### Help needed mowing the churchyard at St Laurence

Many thanks to Alan Kay who's been a member of the churchyard mowing team for many years. Alan is hanging up his boots.

So can you join the team? What's involved? During the grass-growing season a couple of hours mowing once a month. And help with the autumn clear-up.

Offers of help to Mike Carter ([misawa47@gmail.com](mailto:misawa47@gmail.com))

Two concerts in our churches—please come along and show your support

## SPRING SING



Stretton Parish Choir and Craven Arms Mens Chorus come together to sing for our local branch of Samaritans

ST LAURENCE'S, CHURCH STRETTON

12TH APRIL AT 7.30PM

ADMISSION £10 (CHILDREN £5)

**SAMARITANS**

Shrewsbury

All profits to Samaritans of Shrewsbury.  
Charity Number 1170398

Information: 07793001649

## Organ music for Passiontide

All Saints' Church, Saturday April 5th at 10.15am

As part of the Saturday Morning Music series, Richard Walker will play organ music by Bach and Marcel Dupré to mark the progression from Ash Wednesday to Easter; the mood will quickly lift towards the end of the recital!

The recital is centred around Dupré's 'The Way of the Cross' – 12 compositions giving his response to the 12 Stations of the Cross, from 'Jesus is condemned to death' to 'Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre'.

The recital will last around 50 minutes, and the Ragleth Inn is kindly opening early to offer us coffee etc immediately afterwards. We may also use the Ragleth Inn car park. Admission is free of charge with a retiring collection shared between the church and Stretton Foodbank.

## Flower Festival—July 2025

St. Michael's, All Stretton are planning a Flower Festival to run over three days from 12th to 14th July 2025. The theme of the whole weekend will be 'A Moment in Time'. We are encouraging everyone to share their personal memories, as well as reflecting on the more well known moments which have shaped our world since the 1940's. One opportunity to do this is to join us in St. Michael's on Saturday 5th April at 10.30am, when we can share these memories and continue to plan what we hope will prove to be a very exciting weekend. Please join us if you can help in any way, and to find out more about what's in store. *Carolyn Bates*

<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	

# DIARY

## Saturday 5th April

10.15am Organ Music for Passiontide, All Saints—see separate notice

## Sunday 6th April Readings Isaiah 43.16-21, John 12.1-8

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

NB There is no Deeper service on 6th April.

## Monday 7th

10.00am Primary School Easter Service, St Laurence

## Tuesday 8th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence  
12.00pm Lent Lunch, St Michael's  
2.30pm Mothers' Union, Owen Room

## Wednesday 9th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

## Thursday 10th

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

## Friday 11th

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

## Saturday 12th

7.30pm Spring Sing concert in St Laurence—see separate notice

## Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday Readings: Isaiah 50.4-9, Luke 19.28-40

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)
Online Service	10am	Online, via website

## Tuesday 15th April

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

## Thursday 17th—Maundy Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence  
6.00pm Tenebrae, St Michael's  
7.30pm Holy Communion with Foot Washing, St Laurence

## Friday 18th—Good Friday

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's  
10.00am Altogether Service for Good Friday—St Laurence  
2.00pm An Hour by the Cross, All Saints