



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Thursday 17th April 2025
Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk
Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk
The next Contact will be issued on Friday 2nd May 2025

Maundy Thursday- Thursday 17th April
When we remember Jesus' humility.

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Laurence

6pm: Tenebrae, St Michael's

7.30pm: Holy Communion with Foot Washing, St Laurence

Good Friday- Friday 18th April

When we remember Jesus' Crucifixion.

10am: All Age service at St Laurence

12noon: Churches Together service in Square

11:40- Walk of Witness gathers ahead of service at Station Approach

2pm An Hour by the Cross, All Saints

Easter Sunday- Sunday 20th April

When we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

5.45am: Churches Together Easter Dawn Service at Jinlye

8.30am Holy Communion (Order 2), St Laurence

10.30am Family Communion, St Laurence

10.30am Holy Communion, St Michael's

11am Holy Communion (Order 1), All Saints



Stretton Parish

EASTER

Our giving at our Easter Sunday services will be sent to Open Doors

Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom.

Please use this link to give directly, where you can Gift Aid your donation:

[Support persecuted Christians - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

You can also give via the card readers in the churches and Parish Centre or by cheque payable to "Open Doors" which we will forward on. We are unable to claim Gift Aid to Open Doors via the card readers.



Last Thursday we welcomed over 40 people to explore a new story from Open Doors based around the last week of Jesus' life. 'Mrs Pilate's Servant Girl' tells of the plight of a girl named 'Useless' by her mistress whose life is changed when she encounters Jesus through his friends. You can click or copy this link to watch a video of the story or share it with grandchildren or friends:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovU_Q2OSj90

Linked to the story we created clay vases, straw nests (the chocolate variety with eggs!), wove mats, made a palm spinner, guessed the spices, used wet chalk to make a tape resist cross, plus much more! We then enjoyed a short Celebration Time and finished with a delicious meal.

As always, thanks to all who volunteer each month to make Messy Church such a joyful, interactive way of sharing God's story and to all of you who pray for us.



A prayer for Easter Sunday

God our Father,
by raising Christ your Son
you conquered the power of death
and opened for us the way to eternal life.

Let our celebration today
raise us up and renew our lives
by the Spirit that is within us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Introducing our new Churchwarden—Stephen Carter

At last month's APCM Stephen Carter was elected as Churchwarden, replacing Steve King who has stepped down after four years in the role. Stephen will officially take up this post after he has been sworn in on 23rd June. Stephen writes:

My wife Mary and I first came to a service at St Laurence in November 2023, We felt immediately at home, which we took as confirmation that we should buy the house we were looking at in Church Stretton. The purchase went through remarkably quickly and we have been regular attenders for the last 15 months.

Neither of us are strangers to living, working and worshipping in this Diocese. I lived and worked in Bridgnorth for 32 years as a solicitor and served as Churchwarden at St Peter's Worfield where Mary and her late husband also worshipped. My late wife died in January 2020 and Mary and I were married three years ago. We have eight children between us. I became a Christian at university 52 years ago - not that time of itself leads to maturity in one's walk with Christ.

I'm still stumbling along the path of obedience and live as much out of failure as out of success. I will need your prayers.



Operations Manager

Following the 31st March closing date for applications for the position of Operations Manager, we wish to inform our congregations that we sadly received no applications, despite the fact that the post was advertised widely through our own website, social media and the Diocesan newsletter and website.

As a Ministry Team, not only do we remain firmly convinced that this is a real need for the Parish, but we are also confident that the right person for the role will come along.

We would ask that you continue to pray for the Spirit to move in the heart of that person and that they have the confidence to come forward.

Should anyone wish to explore the role further, the role description and person specification are still available from Jo in the office, and several members of the Ministry Team would be happy to have a conversation.

It will soon be time to say farewell to David, our curate...

Where did those three years go? We will be having a picnic on Rectory Field on Sunday 22nd June at 12.30pm to say "goodbye" to David. Please put this date in your diaries.

News from our CMS Mission Partners

We were very blessed by the visit of our CMS Mission Partners, Lea and Petra Williams and Anna and Chris Hembury last month when they joined us for our Vision Weekend. Their latest newsletters are available to read using the links below, or paper copies are available in all our churches. Please do take the time to read them and to remember them in your prayers.

[Lea and Petra's news](#)

[Anna and Chris's news](#)

Flower Festival - A Moment In Time

The Stretton Parish will be celebrating and remembering with our community events and personal memories of the 80 years since the end of World War II

The festival will be held in St Michael's Church, All Stretton over three days from **Saturday 12th to Monday 14th July**. In addition to the **Flower Festival** there are three special events:

- A **summer concert by the Ludlow Concert Band** on Saturday 12th July at 7:30pm;
- A **'Songs of Praise' service** on Sunday 13th at 6:30pm, and
- A **VE themed Tea Party** on Monday 14th at 3pm.

Flower arrangements will depict key events drawn from the past eighty years, and incorporate personal memories. The church will be open each day to view the flowers.

Although this is being organised by members of St Michael's it is a Parish wide event, with members of both St Laurence and All Saints helping with the planning and staging of the event.

Can you help us? We wish to provide refreshments at the events, and we know our congregations have many talented bakers. Please let me or Jo (office@strettonparish.org.uk) know if you could provide any of the following:

- **Cakes** for the refreshments in the interval of the concert
- **Shortbread** and similar for after the Songs of Praise
- **Scones** for the Tea Party

Or if baking isn't your thing, could you join our team to help serve the refreshments?

If you would like to be involved with the flower arrangements or any practical aspect of running the Festival, please get in touch. We hope this will be an important occasion for our community to reflect on the moments which have shaped our world since the 1940s.

Tickets for the concert will be on sale nearer the time, with proceeds and donations from the Festival going to the work of St Michael's.

Further details of all the events and how you can get involved will be coming out in the coming weeks. There will be a sign up chart in all three churches from 4th May where you can offer your help. Please look out for further information as it is available. Or feel free to email me before then with offers of help or if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to seeing you at our Festival in July.

Carolyn Bates
carolynbates@gmail.com



NOTICEBOARD

Thank you from Steve, Lindsay and the girls for the cards, gifts and prayers following the death of Steve's brother. Steve will be back to work following Phil's funeral, which takes place on Thursday 24th April.

Music for a Summer Evening

The Caradoc Quartet, with Mark Tocknell at St Michael and All Angels Church, All Stretton on Friday 6th June at 7.30pm

Wine and cheese will be served in the interval and there will be a retiring collection for Water Aid and St Michael's Church.

Church Stretton Art Trail

21st April to 6th May

St Laurence Church and Parish Centre are delighted to be part of the Art Trail showcasing the unique art created by Church Stretton Secondary School pupils. Do pop in to view the art and to follow the trail of all 30 venues.

Churches Together service, Good Friday

If you would like to join an impromptu choir to lead the singing in the Market Square at 12 noon on Good Friday, come prepared to arrange yourselves close to the keyboard. Please bring a full music edition of your hymn book if you would like to sing the harmony parts.

The hymns are 'There is a green hill', 'My song is love unknown', 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' and 'When I survey' if you want to look them up beforehand.

Altogether Service, 27th April

Once again, the Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers will be joining us at the 10.30am Altogether Service on 27th 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.

SPRING SING

Thank you to everyone who came along to St Laurence last Saturday to support the Stretton Parish Choir and the Craven Arms Men's Chorus concert. A magnificent £900 was raised in aid of the Shrewsbury branch of the Samaritans.

Prom Praise: Wonder

Live from the Royal Albert Hall
Saturday 3rd May at 7.30pm

This unique event combines orchestral and choral music with worship, celebrating the magnificent beauty of our created universe.

You can watch this live via this link:

<http://allsoulsmusic.org/>

**Please note from 27th April
services at All Saints will begin
at 10.30am**

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.

DIARY

Sunday 20th April Easter Sunday Readings Isaiah 65.17-end, Luke 24.1-12

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Family Communion
 St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion
 All Saints 11am Holy Communion, Order 1
 Online Service 10.30am Live Stream of service from St Laurence

NB There is no Deeper service on 20th April.

Tuesday 22nd

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Thursday 24th

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 25th

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

Sunday 27th April Readings: Psalm 150, John 20.19-31

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1
 10.30am Altogether
 St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion
 All Saints 10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
 Online Service 10am Online, via website

NB From 27th April, All Saints service time changes to 10.30am.

Tuesday 29th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 30th




10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

Thursday 1st May

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre
 10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence

Friday 2nd



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

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

Rector	Rev Steve Johnson	steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722585
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LEP URC Minister, St Michaels	Rev Hazel Allen	hazel.allen@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 751400
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Deputy Wardens			
St Laurence	James Foster	James.foster@strettonparish.org.uk	07736 324 160
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Treasurer	Graham Vince	graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328478
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Life Group Coordinator	Caroline Windley	caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk	
Rector's Day Off	Fridays	Church office hours: 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday	