



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 2nd May 2025

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 23rd May 2025

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped in our churches in Holy Week. There was a great variety of services including poignant Maundy Thursday communion services, Tenebrae, a very moving Good Friday service and a Reflection Hour on Good Friday at All Saints. We were pleased to welcome lots of visitors to our services on Easter Day and to see the churches full to celebrate that Christ is Risen!

It was also good to join with Churches Together for the service in the Methodist Church, Walk of Witness and service in the market square on Good Friday and the sunrise service on Easter morning at Jinlye.

We are very grateful to the flower arrangers who worked so hard to make all three churches look so beautiful for Easter Day. Thank you!



Easter at St Michael's



We were truly blessed this Easter season.

On Maundy Thursday, 14 of us attended a very moving Tenebrae service where we broke bread and shared communion together, and joined in the telling of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. After each passage of scripture, candles were extinguished one by one, leaving just one burning to represent the light of Christ as we all left in silence.

Then we were greeted on Easter morning by banners declaring that He is Risen, along with the most beautiful floral decorations adorning the church. We enjoyed a joyful service together, along with chocolate eggs for everyone at the end.

Thanks go out to all those whose contributions enabled us to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Fun at All Saints—On Easter Sunday we enjoyed our first ever Easter Egg Hunt in gentle April sunshine. A lovely time was had by both young and old. It was also nice to welcome visitors who joined in with real enthusiasm!





Christian Aid Week 11th-17th May

We will be delivering envelopes again in Church Stretton, (but not collecting them) with the option of returning them to Mayfair. We are short of deliverers this year, so offers of help will be much appreciated. Please contact Tony Peck on 07719 717977 if you can help.

All Saints, Little Stretton, are holding a Sunday Lunch in aid of Christian Aid at 12pm on 11th May. To book a place please phone Liz Bourke 01694 722910

A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2025

Lord, you are faithful to your promises.
Through the Spirit, you bless us
with abounding hope.
When power seeks to silence justice,
give us the courage to raise our voice.
When an end to poverty seems far off,
renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth.
When our neighbour reaches out,
inspire us to respond with overflowing love.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Churches Together in the Strettons
invite you to our
**Christian Aid Week
Service**
Sunday 11th May
St Laurence's Church
3pm



The Churches Together AGM will be held on Wednesday 21st May, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start in the URC hall. Everyone welcome.



Mothers' Union next meeting is on Tuesday 13th May at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. This month's speaker will be Andria Lewis, Diocesan President, speaking on the Away From It All (AFIA) Scheme.

This scheme is one of MU's longest-running projects that support families through the provision of holidays and trips, offering much-needed respite to families who are unable to afford or access trips and holidays due to difficult circumstances. Some families may be facing adversity, health problems, economic hardship, bereavement, health issues or other life-changing circumstances.

Do come and join us.



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



Deanery Ascension Day Service

Thursday 29th May, 7.30pm
At St Andrew & St Mary's Church, Condover.



From Bishop Richard;

As you will know, the Diocese has been running at a significant financial operating loss for several years. We are once again facing an operating loss in the region of £1,000,000 for 2025. That equates approximately to the ministry costs of 15 full-time stipendiary clergy.

This is a source of great anxiety for everyone from parish treasurers and clergy to the Finance Committee of the DBF and the senior staff. Sadly, it is the inevitable result of decades of declining numbers attending church and giving sacrificially of their money to the work of God in local parishes. The pandemic only accelerated matters.

I firmly believe our current financial challenges are, at their root, spiritual challenges. We need God to move us from a mindset of scarcity to a mindset of generosity. That will take courage.

We need courage at every level of our diocese to release a planned percentage of our reserves each year, until other giving increases, to sustain our stipends fund. At the same time, we pray and work for the growth of God's church in our diocese and for an increase in regular giving.

Considering these challenges, I am calling a day of prayer across our diocese on *Monday 12th May*. We need to pray earnestly and collectively for God to move by his Holy Spirit to provide the resources we need for the mission he has called us to in 2025 and beyond.

Please keep a look out for details of times when we will gather together, as a Parish as part of the Diocesan Day of Prayer. The full letter from the Bishop can be read [here](#).

A prayer for generosity

Our gracious Lord and loving heavenly Father, whose mercies are new every morning;
who has shown us infinite generosity in Christ;
we pray that your Holy Spirit would ignite that same generosity in us now.
The challenges we face are great, but your grace and strength are greater.
Help us to look to you for wisdom and courage
knowing that we are called by you to be your people here, now, for this time,
to plan, work, pray, and give for the time that is to come and the people who will follow us.
Release and provide the resources we need now for the future you are building,
and may your kingdom come and grow among us day by day.
We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

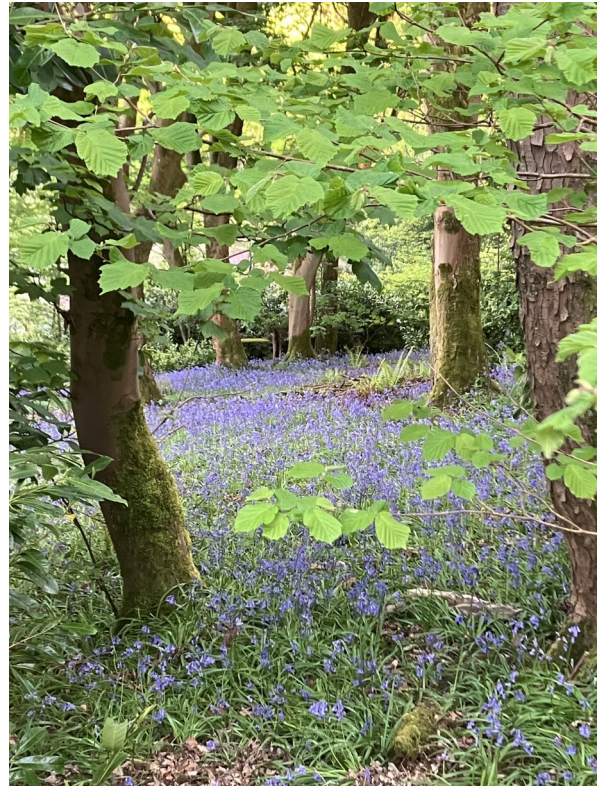
VE Day 2025

St Michael's, with the support of All Stretton History Society are holding a small photographic exhibition of memories by people with local connections, between 3rd and 11th May. The church will be open between 10.30am-3.30pm for visitors so do go along and take a look.

Church Stretton bellringers will be ringing a quarter peal to coincide with the Mayor's event in the Town Square at 6.30pm on 8th May.



The Youth Life Group went for a walk on Sunday...



Gillian Patton would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and prayers following the death of Tom. Thank you also for the donations of £520 in memory of Tom which she has sent to EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel).

Thank you for your generosity

Donations given at the Lent lunches at St Michael's totalled £407. This has been split between Housing Justice and St Michael's church funds. housingjustice.org.uk

The total given on Easter Sunday for all three churches combined was £543.50, which has been sent to Open Doors. www.opendoorsuk.org

Stretton Parish
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
ALL STRETTON

*Music for a
Summer's Evening
with The Caradoc Quartet
including Mark Tocknell and young musicians*

**at St Michael and All Angels Church
All Stretton**

Friday 6th June at 7:30pm

**Wine and cheese
in the interval**

*Retiring collection for Water Aid
and St Michael's church funds.*

Flower Festival—A Moment In Time

Saturday 12th—Monday 14th July

There will be a sign up chart in all three churches from Sunday 4th May where you can offer to help.

For further details see Contact dated 17th April, or email Carolyn Bates on carolynbates@gmail.com

Farewell to David, our curate

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.



PRAYER FOCUS

- * Give thanks for the Good News of Easter, that we serve a living Saviour who is present with us through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- * Pray for all the visitors who joined us in the Parish for Easter services, may seeds sown in their hearts take root and grow.
- * As we hear and rejoice at the work of the Holy Spirit bringing many people into churches throughout the UK at this time, may we be faithful in praying for the Spirit's outpouring in our Parish, in Church Stretton, and the villages.
- * If you can, take time to walk around the area where you live, praying for the families and individuals in your neighbourhood, that they may hear the call to follow Jesus.
- * Pray for those in Life Groups who are facing challenging times because of health issues. Help those in the groups to stay in close contact and support one another.
- * Pray that the various problem situations around the world may lead people to think about faith values and truths that really matter in life.
- * Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine that their hopes and wishes for their country may be taken into account, as possible solutions to the war are discussed.

We pray for those who mourn,
particularly the family and friends of:

Mary Lewis, whose funeral is at 11am on Friday 9th May in St Laurence Church;

Valerie Thorn whose funeral is at 12.30pm on Tuesday 13th May at Shrewsbury crematorium, and

Dot Hills whose funeral is at 2pm on Friday 23rd May at Shrewsbury Crematorium.

A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

We pray for all who are sick

.Janet W

Residential Homes

We pray for all our nursing homes, this month particularly remembering Sandford Nursing Home.

Memorial Book

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

Arthur Morris, Valerie Mackay, James Toothill, Anthony Richardson, Gwendoline Nicholls, Daniel Grafton, Roland Whitrick, John Petter, Arthur Lewis, Ivy Lester, Aline Montgomery, Alice Martin, Beryl Haunch, Herbert Shepley-Watson, John Beswick, Hugh Morris, John Miles, Derrick Coleby, Edna Cottrell, Stanley Pearce, William Johnson, David Roberts, Elizabeth Collins, Bessie Morris, Ian Penny, Percival Langford, Bill Leak, Arnold Mason.

DIARY

Sunday 4th May Readings Zephaniah 3.14-end, John 21.1-19

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 10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service 10.30am Online, via website

Tuesday 6th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
10.15am Ministry Team Meeting, Children's Room
7.30pm St Laurence DCC

Wednesday 7th

10.00am CAMEO, Parish Centre
7.30pm Life Group leaders' meeting, Children's Room

Thursday 8th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre
10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence
3.30pm Messy Church, Parish Centre

Friday 9th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
11.00am Funeral of Mary Lewis, St Laurence
5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

Sunday 11th May Readings: Revelation 21.1-7, Isaiah 25.1-8

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1
 10.30am Morning Worship
 3pm Christian Aid Service
St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion—URC
All Saints 10.30am Morning Prayer, (Common Worship)
Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service 10am Online, via website

Monday 12th

1.00pm St Michael's ECC

Tuesday 13th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
11.00am All Saints DCC
2.30pm Mothers' Union, Owen Room

Wednesday 14th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

Thursday 15th

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

Friday 16th

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

Saturday 17th

9.30am St Laurence Working Party



Taize Worship: Sunday 11th May 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.

NB The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 12th, reopening on Tuesday 20th May.

DIARY continued

Sunday 18th May Readings Genesis 22.1-18, John 13.31-35

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	10.30am	Holy Communion, Order 1
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10am	Online, via website

Tuesday 20th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
7.30pm PCC, Children's Room

Thursday 22nd

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre
10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 23rd

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

Bishop's Teaching Event, Saturday 31st May 9.30am-1pm, St George's Church, Pontesbury

This event will include a teaching session from Bishop Richard on proclaiming our faith to others. There will be repeated workshops, allowing participants to choose two of the three workshops. The three workshops will explore the [five marks of Anglican mission](#):

Workshop 1 will focus on schools, education, youth, children and families. Our Intergenerational Mission Lead, Elizabeth Hackney, will lead it in partnership with our Education Team.

Workshop 2 will focus on the environment and how we can care for God's creation. Our diocesan Mission Enabler for the Environment, Revd Steve Hollinghurst, will lead this

Workshop 3 will focus on caring for those in need and how we can work for justice. Our diocesan Mission Enabler for Society, Rev'd Joe Simons, will lead this workshop, along with speakers Helen Brown, from Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, Gareth Stafford from Marches Energy Agency, and Rev'd Greg Smith on behalf of Rea Valley Foodbank.

If you're looking to join us at this event, please [register for a place via Eventbrite](#).

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			
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All Saints	Moira Matthews	moiraemathews@gmail.com	01694 723045
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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	