



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 29th August 2025

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 12th September 2025

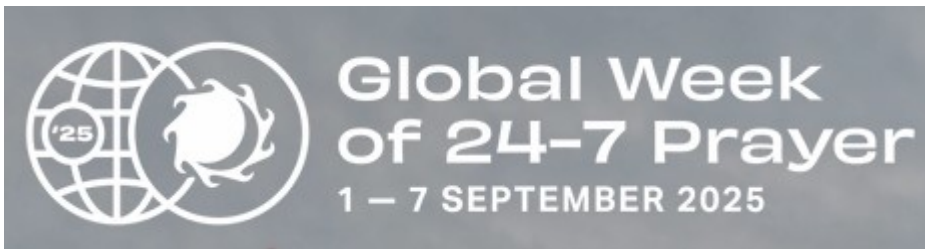
Fun at Desert Detectives Holiday Club



We have been having a wonderful time at Desert Detectives Holiday Club with 34 children joining us so far this week and more set to be with us for the last two days. We are really looking forward to sharing some of our activities, challenges and fun with you on Sunday morning and do hope you are able to join us at the **United Service on Sunday at 10.30am** in St Laurence.

We would also encourage you to join us beforehand for a **breakfast bap** between 9:45am - 10:20am and spend time talking to the families and hearing first-hand what the children have been enjoying. Please book for breakfast in advance if possible by phoning the office before 12.30pm on Friday on 01694 724224 or by using [this link](#). More stories and photos to follow in the next Contact.

Sally Clilverd, Children and Families Worker



As a parish we are joining with the 24-7 Global Week of Prayer from 1st-7th September. This involves praying alongside people from all over the world for every nation on earth.

Each church will be open daily with prayer stations and St Laurence will remain open until 7pm. If you find it difficult to get to church, please pray at home, and of course, in the evenings and overnight you will be praying at home, where you can read and pray through some Psalms, pray through the news, read a hymn and pray, and pray using prayer pointers and news in Contact.

How can you sign up?

- Use this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/a17701/>
- Use the QR code
- Use the sign-up sheet available in all three churches



As part of this week of prayer, we will meet together for worship and prayer on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th September in St Laurence's at 7.30pm. On Sunday 7th we will meet together to conclude the week with our Deeper Service at 6.30pm in St Laurence.

A Prayer for the Global Week of 24-7

Father of the nations, we join with our global family, lifting voices and hearts to you, the Creator, who reigns over all. Please hear our prayer:

Lord, show us your glory.

Come quickly, shine brightly, illuminate every part of the world. May your glory be revealed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and your Son, Jesus, exalted across the earth.

Lord, show us your glory.

Strengthen your church, may it be a light in the darkness. Where there is weakness, give strength. Where there is fear, grant courage. And where there is despair, ignite hope.

Lord, show us your glory.

We ask for new life to spring forth, for joy to overflow and your kingdom to come. Help us to find our voice and empower our witness that we might proclaim your truth.

Lord, show us your glory.

Shine your light into the darkness, transform our nations, heal our land, and bring peace to all. Jesus, reveal yourself as the way, the truth, and the life throughout your beautiful planet.

Lord, show us your glory.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Introducing our Operations Manager

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed an Operations Manager. Anna Hunt will begin in her new role on Monday 1st September.

Anna writes:

My name is Anna, and I have been worshipping at St Laurence since the beginning of 2025. My husband, Rich, and I moved to Church Stretton at the end of December and are so pleased we found this lovely town in such idyllic surroundings - it is so good for the soul - and joining this parish has felt like coming home!

As background, my first career was in destination marketing in the 80s and 90s, beginning as a travel agent, then as a sales manager for a couple of tour operators promoting Tunisia, the Italian Dolomites, Ibiza and Australasia, culminating as Wales Marketing Manager in the USA - I'm Welsh so this was a dream come true!

A few years after the arrival of my son Jamie in 1998, I worked in a primary school so I could be as available as possible for him. Once Jamie was old enough to walk to school safely with his friends, I made a career change and moved into some exciting and varied roles at a government agency.

My hope for this role is that my previous experience and of course God, will equip me to tackle it with enthusiasm and energy. I know there will be some steep learning curves along the way, which will likely mean I'll be reaching out to the wise and the faithful of this parish. My goal is to serve the Ministry Team in a way that takes away some everyday pressures so they can focus on blessing and growing what I can already see is a very special parish.

See you Sunday!

Anna



**Stretton Parish**

TRY ALPHA

A different kind of hope.

Explore the Christian faith on *your terms* at Alpha.

It's free and includes a meal and we would love to welcome you!

Thursdays, starting 25 September at 19:30pm

AT THE PARISH CENTRE, CHURCH STRETTON

Let us know you are coming or to ask a question:
01694 724224 / strettonparish.org.uk or
or use the QR code



Alpha

Are you interested in attending Alpha? Or do you know someone who you think might be? It would be helpful if you book in by **17th September**, so we can plan the catering.

You can book your place using [this link](#)

Could you help with the catering? Dave Gibson is heading this up, but we need two assistants each week. You would need to arrive at 7pm to help serve the meal and clear away afterwards. Your meal will be provided. If you can help, please contact the office as soon as possible, Thank you.

Calling all bakers: Could you provide a cake one week for Alpha? We are also looking to provide cakes for those attending the Bible Course. If you can offer, please let Jo know: jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk or 724224. Thank you.



Stretton Parish

OS BIBLE SOCIETY

We are running
The Bible Course
 and would love you
 to join us!

The Course will help you discover how Bible characters, stories, and themes are connected, from Genesis to Revelation.

**Wednesdays, starting 1 October
 at 19:30pm**

AT THE PARISH CENTRE, CHURCH STRETTON

Let us know you are coming
 or to ask a question:
 01694 724224/ strettonparish.org.uk or
 or use the QR code



The Bible Course is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the Bible, helping you to discover how Bible characters, stories and themes are connected, from Genesis to Revelation. You are very welcome to come along, whether you have been a Christian for many years, or are new to the Christian faith. There are eight sessions and the format is videos followed by questions and discussion using the Bible Course Guidebook,

Further information is available on the Bible Society website.

There are eight sessions, to be held weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, beginning on 1st October.

Do [book in](#) to register your place on the course.



Stretton Parish Harvest Hoedown

Saturday 4th October 6pm-9pm, St Laurence Church

Please book in via the [church website](#) or use the QR code or call the church office.

Tickets are £8 per adult, children free (up to two per adult). A simple Harvest supper will be served (for which donations will be gratefully received on the night).

Please invite friends and neighbours - this is an opportunity for the church to connect with our community as we celebrate the Harvest season and remember and be thankful for God's bounty to us. Flyers are available in the churches.

VOLUNTEERS - We need people to help in the following ways:

- * **Welcoming & manning the doors** into church (would suit people who wouldn't be dancing).
- * **Drinks** preparing and serving drinks in the Parish Centre during the interval.
- * **Food** - helping Lorraine prepare the supper in the afternoon.
- * **Moving chairs in church**, on Saturday morning and after the Hoedown.

Please contact Jo in the office if you can help. Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Hoedown.



NOTICE BOARD

CAMEO

Wednesday 3rd September, 2.30pm
Parish Centre

Come along for an afternoon of friendship, sharing, encouragement and a cup of tea and cake.

This month our Churchwarden, Julie Lawton will be our speaker.

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

Mothers' UNION

Mothers' Union are holding their annual service in St Laurence on Tuesday 9th September at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. Do come and join us.

Help needed with watering

We are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to water the flower troughs outside the Parish Centre in warm/dry weather. Offers to Jo please. Thank you.

Youth Weekend Away —Sponsorship invitation

In October the Youth Life Group are having a weekend away together at Rock UK Summit Centre, South Wales.

We want all the youth to attend if they wish to. The cost of a place is £150. If you would like to sponsor a place for a young person to go on the weekend by making a donation towards the cost, that would be welcomed. You can do so by donating via [this link](#) or speak to one of the clergy, or Graham Vince, our treasurer.

Could you help clean the brass in St Laurence Church?

The brasses are polished in St Laurence every month by a rota of lovely volunteers. We have gaps in February, June and July. Could you offer to help? If so, please offer to Jo at 01694 724224 or jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk

Ride & Stride: On Saturday 13th September, the annual Ride & Stride will take place. If you would like to walk/cycle/drive to some local churches and get sponsorship, please take a sponsorship form which are in each of the three churches. Money raised goes to the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and local churches.

A Moment in Time Flower Festival



£1029 was raised at the flower festival held in July, which will be donated to St Michael's Church funds.



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 31st August Readings Jeremiah 2.4-13, Luke 14.1, 7-14

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

10.30am United Parish Service with focus on Holiday Club

Online Service **There is no online service this week**

Monday 9am to Sunday 8pm

24/7 Week of Prayer, please sign up for a slot <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/a17701/>

Tuesday 2nd September

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

10.15am Ministry Team meeting, Children's Room

7.30pm Prayer and Worship, St Laurence

Wednesday 3rd

2.30pm CAMEO, Parish Centre

Thursday 4th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

7.30pm Prayer and Worship, St Laurence

Friday 5th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

**The Parish Office will be closed on
Friday 5th September.**

Sunday 7th September Readings Jeremiah 18.1-11, Luke 14.25-33

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 10.00am Online, via website

Tuesday 9th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

2.30pm Mothers' Union Annual Service, St Laurence

7.30pm St Laurence DCC

Wednesday 10th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room

11.00am All Saints DCC

7.30pm Life Group Leaders' Meeting, Children's Room

Thursday 11th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre

10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Order 2

3.30pm Messy Church, Parish Centre

Friday 12th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

For our Prayers

With sadness, we announce that Janet Wilcoxon died on 17th August in the Sandford Nursing Home. Janet did so much for the Parish, serving on the PCC and also the wider Deanery and Diocese and we are so grateful for her commitment and support. There will be a thanksgiving service for Janet on Tuesday 16th September at 1.30pm in St Laurence Church.

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

We give thanks for a successful Teas to Please this year (report in the next edition of Contact) and for the wonderful time the children have had at Holiday Club.

We pray for areas of conflict in the world: Embrace the Middle East have shared this prayer for us to use:

Father God

Our words fall short as we witness the continuing violence and pain in Gaza.

We lift to you the people of Gaza, and partners of Embrace, and ask that they will find refuge and protection in the shadow of your wing.

We cry out to you for an immediate ceasefire and provision of desperately needed aid. For the safe and immediate release of the hostages. For a breakthrough that will bring about lasting peace and justice.

We ask that you keep our hearts soft and for the perseverance to continue in prayer.

In your mercy, O Lord, hear our prayers. Amen

The Karagandare family of Best Kebab in Sandford Avenue, suffered a great loss in a car accident whilst on holiday in Turkey. South Shropshire Interfaith are organising a vigil for them outside their shop, this **Saturday, 30th August, at 10.30am** (possibly moving round to Lion Square car park later). Please spare some time with those who gather there in compassion and solidarity with the Karagandare Family.

Rector	Rev Steve Johnson	steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722585
Curate	Rev Mary Carter	mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328649
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	Stephen Carter	stephen.carter@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328649
	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	Moirra 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
Operations Manager	Anna Hunt	anna.hunt@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Chrissie Pepler	chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 771888
Life Group Coordinator	Rev Caroline Windley	caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk	
Rector's Day Off	Fridays	Church office hours: 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday	