



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 26th September 2025

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 10th October 2025

Stretton Parish's Harvest Services, Sunday 5th October

This harvest Stretton Parish is looking locally and globally.

Locally, our produce will go to the Stretton Foodbank and they have asked if you can bring the following items to our Harvest services on 5th October:

Harvest Appeal

Baked beans	Tinned soup	Cooking Oil	Pasta
Peanut butter	Tinned Fruit	Honey	

Globally, our monetary gifts given at our Harvest services will be sent to Tearfund, which provides the finances for innovative Bible-based training to be delivered through local churches around the world. This training brings hope and belonging through the local church, and communities begin to use their own skills and resources to lift themselves out of poverty. Tearfund's Transforming Communities programme brings change that is both sustainable and equipping. Investing in communities, we can help transform lives because God takes the small things and multiplies them beyond all we can imagine.

Our monetary gifts can either be by cash, or by using the card readers situated in St Laurence Church, All Saints Church and the hall in the Parish Centre. Use the "Harvest" option on the card reader menu.

Alternatively, donate via [Tearfund's website](https://www.tearfund.org/). If you want to Gift Aid, please give direct to Tearfund as we can only reclaim Gift Aid where money being given is for our income. HMRC are very specific about this.

Stretton Parish Harvest Hoedown

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

Please book by 12 noon on Wednesday via the [church website](http://www.strettonparish.org.uk) or use the QR code or call the church office.

Please do invite friends and neighbours! 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).

Help is needed:

- **To prepare the church** on Saturday morning, come along at 9.30am and maybe have a bacon butty at warm welcome afterwards!
- **To set up and serve the food** during the hoedown, come along at 5pm
- **To help monitor the water station** in the church during the dancing
- **To make people welcome**



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

Marion Shuttleworth



Events in the Parish in October



Autumn Quiet Time

*Come and experience the peace of God in
St Michael's Church, All Stretton*



Saturday 11th October

The session will run from 10-12.30.

Or if you've only got 15 minutes in your day, just pop in.

What to expect? A quiet space held for you to relax into being with God with stimulus material provided if wanted - biblical, poetic, artistic and creative.

This session will be flavoured about time but really I'm just creating space for you to be with God and you can choose which activities, or not, you want to participate in.

Tea and coffee provided.

If you want to book in, head to strettonparish.org.uk, contact Sarah Lear via sarah@barcombe.net or just show up on the day.

Harvest lunches

Sunday 5th October at All Saints and St Michael's

- * St Michael's is hosting a two-course harvest lunch at All Stretton Village Hall at 12.30pm. Please [book in via the website](#) or there is a sign-up list at St Michael's.
- * The lunch at All Saints, Little Stretton is at 12 noon, which follows the morning service and drinks interval. Choice of casseroles, followed by autumn puddings, tea/coffee.
Book with Liz Bourke on 01694 722910.

Payment for both lunches is by donation, all proceeds to Tearfund's Harvest Appeal.

Everyone is invited to these lunches.

There is still time to sign up for

The Bible Course

Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, beginning on 1st October.

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

Further information is available on the [Bible Society website](#).

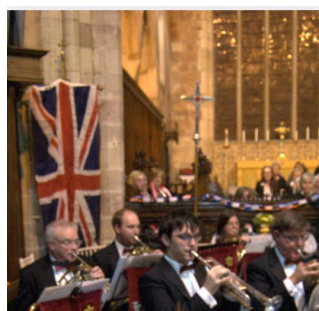
Save the Date! Saturday 25th October, 7.30pm

Stretton Parish is excited to announce that Shrewsbury Light Orchestra will be performing a concert of light classical music including traditional and modern show music, film and TV themes at St Laurence's Church on 25th October at 7.30pm.

All proceeds are for our Youth Work fund. We will promote this concert on Facebook and Community Messaging with a link for buying tickets via Church Suite - more on this shortly, but please save the date.

In the first instance, I am seeking volunteers to help serve refreshments in the interval (this would be around 8.15pm for 20 minutes) and clear up after the show (around 9.45pm). Please could you email anna.hunt@strettonparish.org.uk or find Anna Hunt - Operations Manager after church.

Many thanks, Anna 07543 400524



RAISING FUNDS FOR
CHURCH STRETTON
YOUTHWORK



Stretton Parish

Shrewsbury Light Orchestra

OCT 25

19:30 PM

PRICE: £8.50



New Wine 2026

28th July - 2nd August 2026 in Shepton Mallet.

A group from the Parish will be going to New Wine again next year. Will you join us? There is something for everyone on site, and it is a great time of fellowship.

For details, and to book, go to the [New Wine website](#)

Early-bird prices end 30th September, so don't delay!

When booking your place, when asked for your group, you need to book under "Stretton Parish". For more details see Steve, or James Foster.



Mug Mooch!

Amongst the recent feedback from Teas to Please, several of our volunteers highlighted the fact that times have definitely changed when it comes to how folk like to drink their tea! At several points during both afternoons, the queue came to a standstill whilst people waited for mugs to emerge from the dishwasher, despite the fact that there were plenty of cups and saucers readily available.

So we have decided to move with the times, and next year hope to have more mugs available. But that very much depends upon you. Do you have mugs that you don't use lurking in the backs of cupboards? Are they in perfect condition with no chips, cracks or stains? Please have a mooch around because we'd like to take them off your hands.

There will be a box at the back of each church for the next couple of weeks for your mug donations, for which we would be extremely grateful.

Thank you.

The Teas to Please
Committee



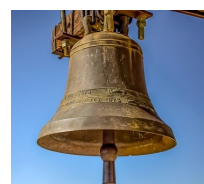
CAMEO

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st October at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Our speaker will be our new churchwarden, Stephen Carter, who will be talking about how God has tangibly been moving throughout his life.

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

We welcome visiting bellringers to St Laurence Church bell tower on the afternoon of Saturday 4th October.



Experience Harvest at St Laurence

29th September—2nd October

Next week the church will be set up with five stations for children from St Lawrence Primary School to explore the rich harvests provided by God to the natural world for us all to enjoy. Due to this the church will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:15am - 12 noon and 1:15pm - 2:45pm and on Thursday from 1:15pm - 2:45pm. At other times you will be very welcome to come and spend time visiting the stations to remember and give thanks for God's steadfast goodness and provision to us. Please do also pray for the team as they share God's goodness to us with the children and staff.



 **Stretton Parish**

Can you give a helping hand?

by bringing us:

sleeping bags

chocolate

tea

coffee

sugar

pasta



hats

gloves

scarves

tinned soup

biscuits

rucksacks

toiletries for men and women

We're collecting for The Ark, Shrewsbury.

Please bring your donations to St Michael's All Stretton
or St Laurence's Church by November 23rd

You are invited for hot drinks and a breakfast bap at the

Warm Welcome

Saturday mornings
October 4th - December 20th

10am - 12 noon
at **St Laurence's Parish Centre,**
Church Stretton.



 **PLACES OF WELCOME**

 **Stretton Parish**

Emma Payne writes: "I've decided to challenge myself by running the Cardiff Half Marathon on October 5th and wanted to use this as an opportunity to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease Association. I chose this charity because I was inspired by the Johnson family and their story. As I trained as a Speech and Language Therapist I know how impactful MND can be to a person and their family's lives, so I am looking forward to running this race in Phil Johnson's memory."

If you would like to support Emma, please use this link.
www.justgiving.com

From the PCC

At the PCC meeting on 23rd September, the main focus was on Safeguarding. Chrissie Pepler, our Parish Safeguarding Officer talked us through the Safeguarding Action Plan which keeps us on track with actions that need to be taken. We reviewed the schematic diagram of how we respond to safeguarding concerns and allegations and looked at the Code of Safer Working Practice and the worksheet on Promoting a Healthy and Safe Culture. We are very grateful for the enormous amount of work Chrissie does for us as PSO.

Reports were received from Bethel, Foodbank, Finance, Holiday Club, Teas to Please, and the DCCs and ECC. Steve shared with us plans for Christmas services and events, details of which will be coming out over the next few weeks.

DIARY

Sunday 28th September Readings Jeremiah 32.6-15, Luke 16.19-end

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 10.00am Online, via website

Monday 29th September—Friday 3rd October—Experience Harvest, St Laurence

Tuesday 30th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 1st October

2.30pm CAMEO, Parish Centre
7.30pm The Bible Course, Children's Room

Thursday 2nd

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

Friday 3rd

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

Saturday 4th

10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre
6.00pm Harvest Hoedown, St Laurence

The Parish Office will be closed
on Tuesday 30th September

Sunday 5th October—Harvest Readings Exodus 23.14-19, John 15.1-17

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

Monday 6th

10.00am Primary School Harvest service, St Laurence

Tuesday 7th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
10.15am Ministry Team meeting, Children's Room

Wednesday 8th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room
7.30pm The Bible Course, Children's Room

Thursday 9th

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

Friday 10th

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

Saturday 11th

10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre
10.00am Quiet Morning, St Michael's, see separate notice

For our Prayers

We pray for those who mourn, particularly the family and friends of Brian Jones, whose funeral is at 11.30am on Saturday 27th September at All Saints Church.

We pray for those who are sick, particularly remembering Pat Gregory.

Residential Homes: We pray for all our residential homes, this month particularly remembering Ley Gardens.

We pray for our young people going away for a weekend together to the Rock UK Summit Centre in South Wales 10th-12th October.

We pray for our Harvest events including Experience Harvest next week.

We continue to pray for Gaza: On Sunday 21st September, we began the 10.30am service in St Laurence with a minute's silence to bring the situation in Gaza before God, with churches across the nation. Steve then lit a candle and prayed this prayer, which was written by the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, and shared by the Church of England:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ
came down from heaven to be the true bread
which gives life to the world:
In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza
and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation,
that they may be given both physical bread
to nourish their bodies
and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.
By the power of your Spirit,
bring a speedy end to this cruel war,
the release of all captives,
care for the sick and wounded,
comfort for those who have lost loved ones,
and the opening of a pathway
for a just and lasting peace
here in the very homeland where your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
ministered during his earthly life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 Cilverd	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	07543 400524
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	