



**Stretton Parish**

**CONTACT**

News for weekend beginning Friday 10th October 2025

Parish Website: [www.strettonparish.org.uk](http://www.strettonparish.org.uk)

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 24th October 2025

## We celebrated harvest across the Parish with praise, food and dancing!

Our traditional Hoedown was a great success with many dancers young and old celebrating the harvest season in St Laurence Church. There was much laughter and fun from young and not-do-young as The Odd Socks Ceilidh Band led us in the dancing, which at times demanded much concentration and always plenty of energy. Once again, there were a few joining us from outside our church community – thank you for making them feel welcome. We ask for your prayers that God will bless these connections.

Our thanks go to Lorraine and her team for the delicious supper, to Margaret and Amanda for the refreshing fruit punch, and to our stewards at the event welcoming people and keeping them safe and revitalised with fresh water. And finally, thanks to the volunteers that helped prepare the church beforehand, including the flower arranging team. And to those who reinstated the chairs at the end of the evening – moving the chairs is now a very slick operation!



The harvest service at St Laurence was a joyful time, with our worship led by the choir. They opened the service with a beautiful rendition of John Rutter's "For the beauty of the earth". Our monetary gifts from our Harvest services across the parish are going to Tearfund's Harvest Appeal and we watched a video produced by Tearfund about the Transforming Communities work in Malawi. The church was decorated for harvest by our talented flower arrangers and there is a harvest theme to the prayer table—do take a look and use it to aid your prayers.

### All Saints enjoyed a lovely Harvest Lunch on Sunday.

The church had been beautifully decorated by Chris Jones and members of the congregation sat down to tables set with white tablecloths and pretty flower arrangements. Hot casseroles, freshly cooked vegetables and a tempting selection of desserts were all on offer. Many thanks to Liz Bourke, our chef, and to all those who waited on tables.

Good food, good friends and good hymns. What more could you ask from a Harvest Festival?



St Michael's celebrated harvest with an uplifting service led by Gillian Taylor, and was extremely well attended. The church was simply but beautifully decorated. Thirty seven people joined together for a fabulous harvest lunch in All Stretton Village Hall, hosted by St Michael's. Thanks to Julie Lawton, Jan Lloyd and the team who organised this. We welcomed visitors from the village to both the service and the lunch.



We were able to send £1938.91 to Tearfund's Harvest Appeal. This was raised from cash and card giving across the Parish of £1332.30 and £606.61 raised at the Harvest lunches. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

# Experience Harvest at St Laurence

Last week we had the joy of welcoming all the children from St. Lawrence's Primary School into church to take part in Experience Harvest. Each class attended for 70 minutes and during this time they were in small groups of 7 children or less and explored five different harvests with a short activity or reflection connected to each one. Linked to each different harvest was a Fruit of the Spirit and for our final station we reflected on the different fruit and considered how God wants each of us to grow in these qualities. Our five different stations were:



- Harvest of the Earth - Joy - we made a clay thumb pot
- Harvest of the Flock - Humility - we wove a length of wool onto a loom
- Harvest of the Grain - Generosity - we ate some bread and were thankful
- Harvest of the Garden - Patience - we sowed herb seeds
- Harvest of the Ocean - Peace - we made an origami boat

Huge thanks to all who lent and made props for the stations and to everyone who led a station. The children and teachers really appreciated the opportunities to learn in a different style and reflect on the foods and harvests that they mostly take for granted.

*Sally Clilverd*



Harvest of the Earth



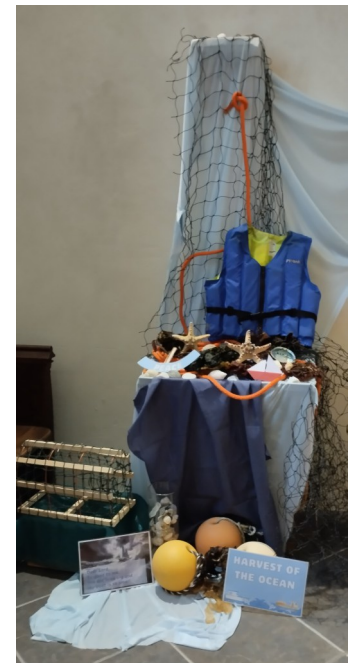
Harvest of the Flock



Harvest of the Garden



Harvest of the Grain



Harvest of the Ocean



## Concert by Shrewsbury Light Orchestra, Saturday 25th October, 7.30pm

### In aid of Stretton Parish Youth Work

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.

Tickets at £8.50 are available via the [church website](#), The Plant Centre at The Old Bank on the corner of Sandford Avenue/High Street, Anna Hunt, or the church office. All proceeds are for our Youth Work fund.

**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).

If you can offer to help, please could you email:

[anna.hunt@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto: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



## Autumn Quiet Time

Saturday 11th October, 10am-12.30pm in St Michael's Church

A quiet space held for you to relax into being with God with stimulus material provided. Come for all or part of the time.

## St Laurence Working Party

Saturday 18th October, 9.30am-12.30pm

Please come along to lend a hand with jobs around the churchyard, even if it's just for an hour. All help very much appreciated. Thank you.

## The God of All Comfort

On Sunday 2nd November at 3pm we have a special service in St Laurence called "The God of All Comfort" where we remember before God those who have died in the past year and prayers are offered for those who mourn. If you would like someone remembered by name, please send their name to Jo at [jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk) or 01694 724224.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

Everyone is welcome to come along.



## Stretton Parish Bring & Share Sunday Lunch, 12.30pm on 16th November

Following on from previous Stretton Feasts, but ringing the changes slightly, you are all invited to a 'Bring and Share Sunday lunch' in the Parish Centre. Baked potatoes will be provided but we ask that you bring either a filling for the potatoes, salad, a pudding, or drink to share. Please tick the appropriate box when you book.

Please [sign up through the website](#) or through Jo in the office.





## Prisons Week 2025—12th-18th October

For 50 years, Prisons Week has encouraged Christians everywhere to pray for prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities and those working or volunteering in the criminal justice

system. Please pray each day during Prisons Week but also ask yourself if there is one thing that you as an individual, or as a church, can do to help any of the people for whom you are praying. Literature about Prisons Week is in each of the churches on Sunday—please do take a copy, there are prayers each day that you can use.

See [www.prisonsworld.org](http://www.prisonsworld.org) for details.

### News from Lea and Petra Wililams, our CMS Mission Partners in Czech Republic:

First, the new academic year has begun. We kicked things off with a welcome BBQ for the student ministry, UKH, and it was a brilliant, slightly chaotic evening with about forty students. It feels like a very promising start to the term. **Please pray for this new term: for the weekly Bible studies and outreach events, and that the friendships begun at the BBQ will deepen and lead to meaningful conversations about faith.**



Secondly, today is the first day of parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic. There is a great deal of uncertainty and the public conversation has become quite divisive, with concern about what a new government might mean for the ongoing support of people from Ukraine. If you would like to read more about the situation, you can do so here:

[Will pivotal election turn Czech Republic into another anti-EU agitator?](#) **Please pray with us for the nation at this time, particularly for a gracious and truthful public conversation and for wisdom for all who are voting.**

Finally, we have some exciting and unexpected news about our church. After months of searching for a larger space, a wonderful possibility has opened up. We have received a potential offer for the entire floor of a city-centre building, which is owned by an order of Catholic sisters. The sisters have already approved our request, which is an important step forward. We will be visiting the building next week to discuss the details, with the final decision now resting with the Catholic archbishopric. It is a wonderful potential answer to prayer. **Please join us in giving thanks and pray for wisdom and favour as we prepare for this meeting and await the final decision.**

Your prayers and support continue to encourage and sustain us - thank you! We'd be grateful if you could share our greetings and gratitude with your congregations.

In Christ,

Lea and Petra

### Visit to our Mission Partners

Alan and I are going to visit our CMS Mission Partners, Chris and Anna Hembury (pictured right) in Hull from Tuesday 4th—6th November. We will stay in a hotel and join them in the daytime, to see the projects that they are running. Hopefully we will get to know them better as well as inform ourselves, and our church, with their prayer needs. Please could you pray for us to be a blessing and encouragement to them. We hope to share a little of what we see God doing, on our return at church.



*Sarah Robinson*



# PRAYER FOCUS

## Pray for recent and current events in Stretton Parish:

- Give thanks to God for the activities associated with our Parish Harvest weekend. May God bless the many visitors to the events and encourage them to attend other church events.
- Please pray that the primary school children who visited the Harvest Experience may have a lasting impression of the variety of good things provided for them by a loving God and give them thankful hearts we pray.
- Please pray for the Quiet Morning at St Michael's church on Saturday 11th October, may the Holy Spirit enable those present to feel close to God and hear him speaking to their needs.
- Praise God that Winter Warmer is operating again on Saturday mornings and offering a safe space to relax.
- Thank God for the help and inspiration of the current Bible Course. May it give those attending a greater insight into the wholeness of the Bible as God's Word to his world.
- Continue to pray for all those who visit the Food Bank, may they have the courage to seek any help they need with day to day problems.
- We prayer for our young people going away for a weekend together to the Rock UK Summit Centre in South Wales 10th-12th October.

### We pray asking for God's help:

Lord you are a present help in trouble,  
Come revive, redeem. restore.  
In our darkness come as light  
In our sadness come as joy  
In our troubles come as peace  
In our weakness come as strength  
Come Lord to our aid  
Open our eyes to your presence  
Open our minds to your grace  
Open our lips to your praises  
Open our hearts to your love  
Open our lives to your healing  
And be found among us.  
Amen.

### A prayer for the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, who becomes the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury:

Almighty and everlasting God,  
the only worker of great marvels,  
send down upon your servant Sarah,  
called to be Archbishop of Canterbury  
and all who are committed to her care,  
the spirit of your saving grace,  
and that they may truly please you,  
pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing.  
Grant this, O Lord,  
for the honour of our advocate and mediator,  
Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### Memorial Book

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

Laura Proctor, Cyril Evans, George Jennings,  
Gwenneth Williamson, Kenneth Wheale,  
Charles (Dim) Cattermole, Sylvia Bentley, Edna Jones,  
Janet Martin, Barbara Forsyth, John Evans,  
Henry (Ted) Hallam, Anne Murton, Linda Riley,  
Alma Harrell, Barry Soden, George Williamson,  
Reginald Lloyd, Douglas Haunch, Gordon Jones,  
Lilly Powell, Edith Tanner, Sheila Smith, Frank Phillips,  
Percy Illsley, David Parker,

### We pray for all who are sick

Pat G.

### Residential Homes

We pray for all our residential homes,  
this month particularly remembering  
Stretton Hall Nursing Home.





## The Churches Together Open Forum met on 24th September

Amongst the business discussed there are several areas where they are asking for help:

**Christmas Cards:** Once again a card will be delivered to all houses in the Strettons giving details of Christmas services at all the churches. It is hoped that the front of the card will bear a Christmas picture created by a local resident. So if you're artistic, why not have a go at a design? The card will be an A5 card. If you are interested in having a go at a design, please contact Jo for a full specification. Designs should be sent to David Andrew by 17th October.

**Christmas Tree Festival:** Stretton Parish are organising a Christmas Tree Festival again this year, to be held in St Laurence Church. Churches Together have been invited to decorate a 4ft tree on the theme of one of the characters or objects in the nativity story. If you would like to be involved in this, please contact Sue Hill, Chair of Churches Together on 01694 658155 or [sue\\_hill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue_hill@yahoo.co.uk)

**Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service in the square:** A small group of volunteers is needed to oversee the jobs needed to make sure this event takes place. A full list of what is required has already been prepared. If you would like to find out more without obligation, please come along to a meeting on Thursday 23rd October at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church vestry. If you are interested but not able to get to the meeting, please contact Sue on 01694 658155.

 **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

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL MAPPA MUNDI AND CHAINED LIBRARY MUSEUM


# The Hereford Gospels for Today CALL OUT TO ARTISTS

In 2026, Hereford Cathedral will be celebrating 1350 years of the Diocese of Hereford with a special exhibition around one of its great treasures, The Hereford Gospels. Alongside the exhibition, a beautiful new book has been commissioned thanks to donations from the cathedral congregation, with the title The Hereford Gospels for Today.

We would like to invite people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to create artwork to be pasted into or reproduced for this new book. Contributions should be A4 or smaller and on not more than 80 gsm paper. They can be original artwork if it fits that size and you are happy to gift it to the book, or a good photograph or copy. A short piece of text that can go on the same leaf is welcome.

Submissions must be received by 31 December 2025.

To find out how you can participate in this exciting project please contact Bishop David Thomson, Project Lead, at [HerefordGospels@skypilots.co.uk](mailto:HerefordGospels@skypilots.co.uk) or visit [www.herefordcathedral.org/news/gospels-for-today](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/news/gospels-for-today)



# DIARY

**Sunday 12th October** Readings Jeremiah 29.4-7, Luke 17.11-19  
Readings at All Saints: 2 Timothy 2.8-15 & Luke 17.11-19

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 1
	10.30am	Morning Worship
St Michael's	10.30am	Holy Communion, URC
All Saints	10.30am	Morning Prayer, Common Worship
Online Service	10.00am	Online, via website

## Tuesday 14th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence  
2.30pm Mothers' Union with Sarah Westaby MU Trustee, Owen Room

## Wednesday 15th

7.30pm The Bible Course, Children's Room

## Thursday 16th

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

## Friday 17th

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

## Saturday 18th

9.30am St Laurence Working Party  
10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre

**Sunday 19th October** Readings Jeremiah 31.27-34, Luke 18.1-8

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	4pm	Evensong
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10.00am	Online, via website

## Tuesday 21st

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

## Wednesday 22nd

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

## Thursday 23rd

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

## Friday 24th

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

## Saturday 25th

10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre  
7.30pm Concert with Shrewsbury Light Orchestra, St Laurence

The Parish Office will be closed  
on Monday 20th October





At Evensong on Saturday 4th October, at Evensong in the Cathedral, Paul and Kate Green were welcomed as Readers to the Diocese by the Bishop of Hereford.



Stephen Carter gave a fascinating talk at CAMEO last week. The picture shows Ian Terry (CAMEO lead), Stephen Carter and fellow retired lawyer David Roberts, who were reminiscing about "doing law" back in the day!



## "Walking to Church"

Adele, Maureen and Doreen asked to have their photo taken after they'd been to the midweek Communion service at St Laurence. We give thanks for their faithfulness and share in their joy at coming to worship together

<b>Rector</b>	Rev Steve Johnson	steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722585
<b>Curate</b>	Rev Mary Carter	mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328649
<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>	Stephen Carter	stephen.carter@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328649
	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	Maira 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>Operations Manager</b>	Anna Hunt	anna.hunt@strettonparish.org.uk	07543 400524
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>	Chrissie Pepler	chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 771888
<b>Life Group Coordinator</b>	Rev 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	