



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 24th October 2025

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 7th November 2025

Youth Weekend to Rock UK Summit Centre in South Wales

Last weekend the young people's lifegroup and their leaders had a fabulous weekend away at The Rock Centre, South Wales, where we enjoyed the accommodation, as well as the amazing home cooked meals.

Great fun was had by all, which included learning some Bushcraft skills and using the climbing and bouldering wall. Each morning we went for a walk up into the hills and on the Saturday evening we had a campfire - toasting marshmallows of course - and we watched a film together.

Our teaching sessions included looking at the Holy Spirit, using the Youth Alpha videos and we also had a time of prayer ministry.

A huge thank you to everyone who responded to the invitation to sponsor this weekend which enabled the young people to attend, the young people, parents and leaders are hugely thankful.



NOTICEBOARD

*Please remember
the clocks go back
by one hour on
Saturday night!!*



**Huge congratulations to
Archdeacon Fiona on her
appointment as Bishop of Taunton.**
Let's be praying for Archdeacon
Fiona and Dave as they plan their
move to Somerset in the New Year.



Concert by Shrewsbury Light Orchestra, Saturday 25th October, 7.30pm In aid of Stretton Parish Youth Work

The 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, or on the door. All proceeds are for our Youth Work fund.



RAISING FUNDS FOR
CHURCH STRETTON
YOUTHWORK



Stretton Parish

Shrewsbury Light Orchestra

OCT 25

19:30 PM

PRICE: £8.50

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 or 01694 724224.

Refreshments will be served following the service. Everyone is welcome.



CAMEO

Wednesday 5th November, 2.30pm, Parish Centre



Come along for an afternoon of friendship, sharing, encouragement and a cup of tea and cake. This month Sally Cilverd, the parish Children's and Families Worker will be our speaker.

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.



News from our CMS Mission Partners

Anna and Chris Hembury, who work in Hull have sent their latest newsletter. Here is an excerpt:

Dear friends,

***In-tension-al community:** Well, it seems it's the end of an era for Matt's House, the intentional community CMS entrusted us with looking after when it bought the former vicarage (where we were already supporting and doing community with folk who lived there). The dream was always to have a Christ-centred residential community who sought to serve, in Jesus' kin-dom establishing ways, the local community. We already had a few soul-full and justice-hungry miscreants up for some version of inhabiting the place, and we hoped and prayed for a couple or family who had been followers of the Way for longer, who might be able to provide a stabilising keel and Spirit-guided rudder to this ship of fools! Turns out that was a big ask for a place like our corner of Hull and there weren't many – actually any – of that ilk, looking for that kind of lifestyle-downgrading folly.*

Still, over the many years, we've had people come and go, rules and rhythms attempted – rules brought out allergic reactions; rhythms got going, dance partners changed, music changed, rhythms got going again, circumstances shifted, lost the rhythm, tried again, COVID happened, everyone was exhausted, re-found people for the dance, music back on, slowly finding our feet, getting ready for a good ol' boogie and... sadly, it's just no longer financially sustainable.

It has been hard work trying to hold this community and even harder trying to hold the hope that all the potential – that constantly felt within touching distance – might come to fruition. So, in some ways, at this point in our service we feel some relief in putting down what we were carrying. But we feel much more grief for the ending of something we poured a lot of love into; much more celebration for all the prayers prayed, meals shared, activism generated, youth work expanded, and people supported, sheltered and connected into a wider family; much more gratitude for the privilege of being, and having, companions to wrestle with as we figure out our faith together in this context. We have loved the honest holding of different people and perspectives in tension. We have loved the creativity that tension has birthed. We have loved the strength that tension has provided, to find our footing as we cross cultures and faith perspectives (so much harder to walk on a slack rope). Please give thanks with us for all God's blessing and provision for Matt's House for the past 10+ years, and for God's guidance as we continue to explore how to be a dispersed yet hospitable Christ-centred community together in our neighbourhood.

Peace,

Anna & Chris

You can read the newsletter in full [here](#) or paper copies are available in all three churches.



Weekly community meal at Matt's House

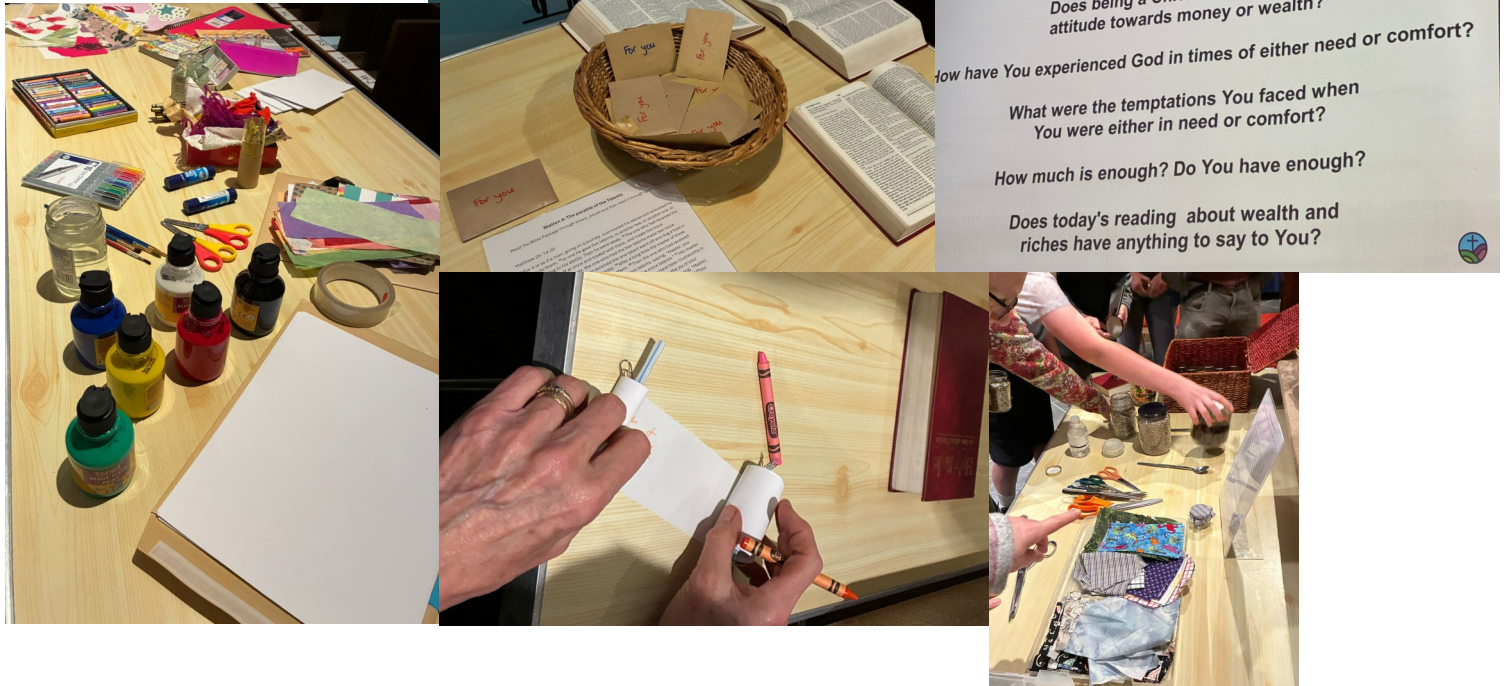


News from Lea and Petra Williams, our CMS Mission Partners working in Czech Republic was included in the last edition of Contact. They have just published their October newsletter, which gives exciting news on what is happening at their church in Brno and suggestions on how we can pray for them. It is available [here](#), and paper copies are also available in all three churches.

Deeper Service, 19th October

Talking about our finances can make us uncomfortable. Both James and Jesus had a lot to say about our attitudes as Christians towards personal wealth. During the Deeper Service on 19th October we reflected on the reading from James 4:13-5:6, we watched video clips of two very different approaches to personal wealth and were invited to consider our own stories and attitudes towards our finances. People were invited to use a number of stations around the church designed to engage our head, hearts and imaginations. In addition to three parables, (the Rich Young Man, the Foolish Farmer, and the parable of the Talents) we were invited to create a personal Blessings scroll and to consider questions that would take us deeper into the topic. Prayer Ministry was also available.

Caroline Windley



For our Prayers

We pray for those who mourn, particularly remembering those who will come to the "God of All Comfort" service on 2nd November.

We pray for those who are sick, particularly remembering Richard McCrohan.

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

We pray for Archdeacon Fiona as she prepares for her new role as Bishop of Taunton.

A prayer for the church:

Gracious Farther, we pray for your Church.

Fill it with your truth and keep it in your peace.

Where it is corrupt, purge it,

Where it is in error, direct it,

Where it is right strengthen and confirm it,

Where it needs help, provide for it,

Where it is divided, heal it,

And unite it in your love,

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen

After William Laud 1573-1645

Pat Gregory thanks everyone for their prayers and good wishes. She is now well on the way to recovery.



Messy Church in October saw us exploring the Parable of the Sower. We had a very busy session with 63 people attending and unfortunately fewer volunteers than normal. However, God was good and we were able to place volunteers where they were most needed and the food, miraculously, was more than enough for everyone! Our activities saw us plaiting bread dough, making a seed and bean clay mosaic, a pecking bird's beak (who would have guessed this would have been SO popular!), playing with spaghetti (using up broken packets when they arrived for food bank), and making woven hearts. Margaret kindly allowed us

to bring her beautiful prayer table from the church and this proved to be popular with a couple of children asking to share their prayers with everyone during our Celebration Time, during which we also watched an animated cartoon song of the parable and thought about the different types of soil the seeds were planted in, wondering which one God would liken us to.

There is no such thing as a typical Messy Church but we do always have fun as we explore a Bible passage or theme and seek to share Jesus with families. However, do remember that Messy Church is open to ALL AGES and everyone is always welcome to join us. We would also love to expand our team of volunteers so do come and talk to me or visit us at a Messy Church to find out more and see if this is something God is calling you to. The date of our next Messy Church is Thursday 13th November and our theme is 'Where are you?'; I wonder what parable we will be exploring?

Sally Clilverd, Children's and Families Worker



Butterfly and seed mosaic



Pecking bird's beak



Prayer table

All Saints Knitting Club!

The All Saints' Knitting Club has been working very hard to craft blankets for the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. We are proud to say that 14 colourful blankets were taken to the Hamlin UK office in Birmingham on Wednesday.

If you would like to join us in our knitting marathon, our next meeting is on Monday 3rd November at 10am. We are knitting six inch squares on the diagonal with DK acrylic wool. Home workers also welcome! Please contact Moira Matthews on 01743 455005 if you are interested in helping.

Moira Matthews, Deputy Churchwarden, All Saints



DIARY

Sunday 26th October Readings: Joel 2.23-end, Luke 18.9-14

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

Tuesday 28th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Thursday 30th

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence

Friday 31st

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

There is no Bible Course on 30th October as we are taking a break for half term.

Saturday 1st November

10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre

Sunday 2nd November Readings: Isaiah 1.10-18, Luke 19.1-10

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Holy Communion
 3.00pm The God of All Comfort
 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 4th

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

Wednesday 5th

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

Thursday 6th

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

Friday 7th

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

Saturday 8th

10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre



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



Stretton Parish

Christmas Wreathmaking Workshop

Saturday 29th Nov

2-4 PM

All Stretton Village Hall

Fizz and fun, mince pies

**Materials provided, just bring scissors
secateurs and any additional foliage or
decorative items you would
like to use.**

**Tickets £20 from Lesley McIntyre
01694 723427**

Profits to WaterAid.

Stocking Filler table in aid of Church funds

strettonparish.org.uk

Taize Worship

Sunday 9th November at 6pm at
St Milburga's Church.

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.



South Shropshire Inter-faith invites you to

Craven Arms Soup

Saturday 15th November, 12noon

Methodist Church Hall

Corvedale Road, Craven Arms

Bread & Soup £5

Presentations by local good causes who
will receive all the money
taken on the day,



Rector

Curate

Associate Minister

LEP URC Minister, St Michaels

Children & Families Worker

Readers

Churchwardens

Deputy Wardens

St Laurence

All Saints

Pastoral Coordinator

Treasurer

Rector's PA

Operations Manager

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Life Group Coordinator

Rector's Day Off

Rev Steve Johnson

Rev Mary Carter

Rev Preb Christobel Hargraves

Rev Hazel Allen

Sally Clilverd

Gillian Taylor

Chris Lear

Stephen Carter

Julie Lawton

James Foster

Maira Matthews

Rev Nancy Cleaton

Graham Vince

Jo Aze

Anna Hunt

Chrissie Pepler

Rev Caroline Windley

Fridays

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01694 328649

01547 550311

01694 751400

07985 943 906

01694 724224

07514 738 653

01694 328649

01694 723750

07736 324 160

01694 723045

01694 328132

01694 328478

01694 724224

07543 400524

01694 771888