



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 7th November 2025

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 21st November 2025

Remembrance Services on Sunday 9th November

In St Laurence's Church there will be a formal, civic service, whilst in the Parish Centre a contemporary, All-Age service will take place, **both starting at 10am.**

For those unable to travel to the memorial an Act of Remembrance will take place in St Laurence's church at 10.50am

All are invited to return to the Parish Centre where refreshments will be served.

An Act of Remembrance will form part of the morning services at St Michael's and All Saints churches.



A Prayer for Remembrance

Father of all, remember your holy promise, and look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare,

those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.

Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades,

and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world.

And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom.

This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Nearly £500 raised towards Parish Youth Work Fund

Thanks to all of you who attended the Shrewsbury Light Orchestra concert held at St Laurence's Church on 25th October. We raised just a few pounds under £500 which, given it was a rainy cold evening wasn't a bad result.

The orchestra all said how wonderful the acoustics were and how they'd love to come back again. There was a similar event held in fairly close proximity that weekend, so next time we will check all town calendars and ensure we get a fuller house! Thanks to all the generous volunteers who helped on the evening. It ran so smoothly because of you.

Anna Hunt



NOTICEBOARD

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.



Call for Help St Laurence Maintenance Party Saturday 15th November

Once the majority of the leaves have fallen, we have a list of jobs to do to clear up for the winter and make sure that we keep our buildings free from being affected by the things nature throws at them! We therefore require as much help as possible on **Saturday 15th November from 9.30am**, for a push to do these jobs. We have had a remarkable team of helpers at this time in previous years and we hope we can have enough help to get everything done - many hands make light work. As always, even just an hour is very useful. Bring gloves and clothes you don't mind getting dirty! Warm Welcome will be on so bacon sandwiches and coffee will be freely available.

The Well

The Well provides an opportunity for ladies to meet informally, chat, enjoy each other's company and to support each other. We meet in the back room at Jemima's Kitchen on the High Street in Church Stretton.

This month we will be meeting at 2pm on Friday 14th November. We hope you will be able to join us.

Contact Anne Braddick on 01694 723311 if you have any questions.



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Tuesday 12th November, 2.30pm, Parish Centre
This month members will be sharing memories.
Everyone welcome.

Deanery Confirmation at Much Wenlock
with Bishop Richard
Sunday 23rd November at 3pm.
Everyone welcome.



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



Stretton Parish Christmas Tree Festival

This year Stretton Parish is inviting our community to join with us to celebrate Christmas with a Christmas Tree Festival in St Laurence Church. We have had an enthusiastic response from community organisations, which we hope will encourage visitors and members of the community to visit the church and enable them to encounter the Christian message of Christmas. The festival will run from Wednesday 3rd December through to Sunday 4th January. Participants have been asked to decorate a 4ft tree on the theme of one of the characters or objects in the nativity story.

Marion Shuttleworth, Festival Organiser

Churches Together in the Strettons' contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival this year will be a tree based on the theme of **Angels-the heavenly host**.

We are in need of angels to fill our tree please, so how about having a go at making some? The angels should be 6-10 cm high. They can be knitted, crocheted, paper-crafted....sewn, felted, the possibilities are endless- choose something you enjoy doing. Preferably white or silver and possibly touches of gold or yellow.

We need the angels by the last week of November. You can give them to me on 23rd November at the 10.30am service or leave them in the box at the back of church up to the 25th.

Thank you.

Alison Phillips 01694 328613



Big Christmas Choir

Come and be part of our big choir for the Carol Service to be held in St Laurence's at 6.30pm on Sunday 21st December. We'll rehearse in church on Sunday December 7th, 14th and 21st from 3pm to 4:30pm. Reading music is helpful but not necessary. There will be lots of traditional carols plus a couple more challenging pieces. We're a lovely, friendly group; come along and join us for a great Christmas sing. Just turn up, or talk to Ru or Janet for more details.

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

Sally needs your help!!

We are seeing an increase in the number of families attending our events and in order to continue to be able to put these on safely we need some more volunteers.

Could you help, even on an occasional basis?

Messy Church meets on the second Thursday of the month at 3.30pm in the Parish Centre. Helpers are needed to help with crafts, serve food, wash up, clear up the room at the end of the session, or talk with the visitors. Any offers gratefully received.

Messy Light Adventure, Saturday 29th November 4pm in St Laurence Church.

This is part of the town's activities to celebrate the Christmas lights switch on. We expect a lot of people to come to this, so we need lots of help.

Please offer to Sally at sally@strettonparish.org.uk or give her a call on 07985 943906

Sally needs toilet roll cardboard tubes for an activity—please bring to the office during the week or give to Sally at church.



PRAYER FOCUS

- ◆ Pray for all those who regularly go into the Primary School and have an opportunity to share the good news with children and teachers. May they know God's presence guiding them and may they see the seeds sown bearing fruit.
- ◆ Thank God for the opportunity presented by Winter Warmer to offer those outside the church a place to come and relax, make friendships and have the chance to share in one another's lives. Pray that the Holy Spirit may lead conversations into opportunities for sharing the good news of Jesus in a relaxed and natural way.
- ◆ May the Bible Course continue to be a source of blessing and fellowship to those who attend.
- ◆ Please pray for the Ministry Team as they seek God's guidance for the work of the Church in the Parish in the coming year. Pray for the upcoming ECC, DCC and PCC meetings.
- ◆ We pray for all those who worship at home at this time asking that God will make His presence real to each one of them and enable them through internet /media services and visits and friendships to still feel part of our Parish Fellowship.
- ◆ Please pray that the people of Ukraine may be able to keep warm as the weather becomes colder, protect their sources of heating and may they receive some of the help they have been promised.
- ◆ Pray for our Mission Partners, [Anna and Chris Hembury](#) in Hull and [Lea and Petra Williams](#) in Czech Republic.

*Lord, as we remember with sadness the horror of war, help us to work for better understanding between races and nations.
Forgive us our pride and divisions, and renew in each us the desire for peace, so that trust may replace suspicion, friendship replace fear and your spirit of reconciliation be known among us.
Draw close to all those suffering this day from the pain and hardship resulting from war, may they know your caring and loving presence with them as they receive the help they need.
Amen*

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

Michael Cole, whose funeral is at 1.15pm on Monday 17th November at the crematorium, and

Garry Lee, whose funeral is at 3.30pm on Friday 21st November at the crematorium.

Memorial Book

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

Gladys Duke, Rita Wakefield, Daphne Wall, David Maddocks, Patricia Davidson, Raymond Tipton, Kate Boyers, Mary Cooke, Frederick Coad, Kieran Harris, Elcena Mare, Margaret Fryer, Quenton Pryde, Derek Bolton, Ernest Phillips, Doris Powell, Ilse Forster, Peter Thomas, Cyril Sumpter, Percy (Bill) Gatter, Derek Pyle, Geoffrey Dickenson, Ethel Joyce, Marian Dyke, Valerie McCalla, Leslie Penny, Leslie Cockcroft, Arthur Coleshaw, Cyril (Syd) Leather, Eileen Tipton and Joan Keenan.

We pray for all who are sick

Richard McCrohan

Residential Homes

We pray for all our residential homes, this month particularly remembering Field House.

Volunteers - Christmas Dinner 2025

On Christmas Day we will once again be hosting a Christmas Dinner for those in our community who may be on their own at Christmas or will struggle to afford a traditional Christmas dinner. The venue will be a warm and Christmassy Parish Centre.

We are looking for offers of help leading up to the day, on Christmas Eve to prepare, and on Christmas Day itself. We have a list of roles below that we are looking for people to fill.

We are also looking for donations of items to help make the occasion special for those attending.

If you can let us know what you can do, we will coordinate with you nearer the time .

If you can offer your help with any of the roles below or by committing to donate items listed, please complete [this quick form](#) as a preference or contact Anna Hunt at anna.hunt@strettonparish.org.uk. If it is easier to phone the office 01694 724224, please do or office@strettonparish.org.uk.

Roles to fulfil:

- Helping cook in the kitchen on the day
- Preparing food on Christmas Eve
- Help decorate the Parish Centre, Setting Up on Christmas Eve, including one person willing to go up a ladder to hang decorations!
- Washing up & clearing away on the day
- Making table centre pieces

Items that can be donated

and for which we'd be hugely grateful are:

- Christmas crackers
- Christmas cake
- After 8's
- Brandy butter
- Cranberry sauce
- Sherry
- Wine
- Soft drinks
- Decorations for the hall
- Christmas pudding



DIARY

Sunday 9th November Readings: Job 19.23-27, 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18
Reading at 10am at St Laurence, Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1
 10.00am Remembrance Service
Parish Centre **10.00am** All Age Remembrance Service
St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion
All Saints 10.30am Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service 10.00am Online, via website

Monday 10th

7.00pm St Michael's ECC

Tuesday 11th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
2.30pm Mothers' Union, Owen Room
7.30pm St Laurence DCC, Children's Room

Wednesday 12th

10.15am Banner Group, Children's Room
9.30am All Saints DCC
7.30pm The Bible Course, Parish Centre

Thursday 13th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Parish Centre
10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence
3.30pm Messy Church, Parish Centre

Friday 14th

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

Saturday 15th

9.30am St Laurence Maintenance Party—churchyard clear-up
10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre

Sunday 16th November Readings Malachi 4.1-2, Luke 21.5-19

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Holy Communion
 12.30pm Bring and Share Lunch, Parish Centre
 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 10.00am Online, via website

Tuesday 18th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 19th

7.30pm The Bible Course, Parish Centre

Thursday 20th

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

Friday 21st

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

Saturday 22nd

10.00am Warm Welcome, Parish Centre



**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 or visit www.herefordcathedral.org/news/gospels-for-today



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

steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk

mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk

chris.hargraves@strettonparish.org.uk

hazel.allen@strettonparish.org.uk

sally@strettonparish.org.uk

gillian.taylor@strettonparish.org.uk

chris@barcombe.net

stephen.carter@strettonparish.org.uk

julie.lawton@strettonparish.org.uk

james.foster@strettonparish.org.uk

moiraemathews@gmail.com

nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk

graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk

jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk

anna.hunt@strettonparish.org.uk

chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk

caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk

Church office hours: 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday

01694 722585

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