



**Stretton Parish**

# CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 20th February 2026

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 6th March 2026

## Experience Lent

Last week we had the joy of welcoming four local primary schools into St Laurence's church; all pupils from Wistanstow Primary, Years 3 and 4 from Stokesay Primary, Reception to Year 5 pupils from St Lawrence's and KS2 from Rushbury Primary. There were six stations set up around the church enabling the children to consider the meaning of Lent:

- Lengthening: Preparing for Easter and Christian Living
- Letting Go: A focus on Shrove Tuesday
- Life Choices: A focus on Ash Wednesday
- Listening: Lent is for Hearing God
- Following: Dealing with Temptations
- Keeping Going: Lent is for all of life



At the final station, Keeping Going, the children enjoyed some hot cross buns as we explained how Jesus' time in the wilderness was the beginning of his work on earth for God, and how this eventually led to the events we remember and celebrate at Easter.

Huge thanks to everyone who led stations, helped set-up and dismantle everything, loaned plants and, most importantly, prayed for it all. Please continue to pray that, throughout the Lent season, the children and staff will continue to remember all that they heard and that the seeds sown will be watered over the coming months and years.

*Sally Cilverd, Children and Families Worker*



# Lent in the Strettons



## Lent Course

Methodist Church Hall  
Beginning at 2pm  
on Tuesday 24th February

Christian Aid course:  
'Act on Poverty'

A six week course to empower Christians to look at how they and their churches can address the problem of poverty.

## World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

Service at 2.30pm on Friday 6th March,  
URC Church, Church Stretton

This year's program is written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria for 2026 with the theme "I will give you rest: Come".

[Further details are found here.](#)

The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God. **Please do your best to come along and support.**



## A prayer for the start of Lent

*Heavenly Father,*

*Jesus withdrew from his friends and followers, to spend time with you. And in Psalm 27:14 we're encouraged to 'wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.'*

*Help me take time away from life's busyness to refocus my heart and spirit as I wait for you. I choose to re-centre my life on your Word, your teachings and to take heart in all your promises.*

*Holy Spirit, lead and guide me. Fill me with the hope that is only found in Christ. Thank you that I'm known and loved by you.*

*Amen.*

**Lent Lunches** TUESDAYS  
at 12:30  
24<sup>th</sup> February  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**  
ALL STRETTON

COME AND JOIN US FOR A BOWL OF SOUL-WARMING, HOMEMADE SOUP AND FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP

Stretton Parish  
Making Jesus Known



**Silent DISCO**

*Free Event*

**SAT 28 FEB  
7 - 9 PM**

**ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH  
CHURCH STRETTON  
FOR SCHOOL YEARS 6 - 11**

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL VIA THE QR CODE  
OR WWW.STRETTONPARISH.ORG.UK**



**BRING CHANGE FOR THE  
TUCK SHOP**

Stretton Parish

As part of our ongoing work to engage with the young people of the town, and building on our work in the local secondary school, we are organising a Silent Disco for school years 6 to 11.

Please do invite any young people that you know in schools years 6-11 (around ages 10 - 16) and also pray for this event:

- that we would be able to attract local young people
- would be able to make them feel welcome and comfortable
- would form meaningful relationships with them

*Sally Clilverd*

## Café Church

Following the success of the Café Church held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, and owing to popular demand, we shall be holding another on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am**.

Join us for a more relaxed style of worship in the warmth of All Stretton Village Hall. There will be time to peruse the newspapers and chat over coffee and pastries before joining together in praise and thanksgiving.

There will be no service in St. Michael's Church on that day.

And on this occasion, our time of fellowship extends into lunch. If you wish to join us on 1<sup>st</sup> March for the Bring and Share Parish Lunch in All Stretton Village Hall at 1pm, please make sure you [sign up](#).—see notice below.



## Bring & Share Parish Lunch at All Stretton Village Hall, Sunday 1st March

Please join us for a Bring & Share Parish lunch at 1pm on Sunday 1st March at All Stretton Village hall. Baked potatoes will be provided, so you are invited to bring either:

- \* A cold filling for the potatoes, such as grated cheese, coleslaw, coronation chicken, tuna mayonnaise
- \* A dessert
- \* Salad
- \* Soft drinks.

Please [book in here](#), or phone the Parish Centre on 01694 724224 to book a place.



We had a joyful time at Messy Church last week as we explored the story of Mary and Martha. Lots of fun was had painting hearts with string, making heart sunglasses, drawing pictures of Jesus, making bath bombs, polishing shoes and so much more. We enjoyed watching a new retelling of the story by the amazing Sally Lloyd-Jones during our Celebration Time and then our catering team did a fantastic job providing a tasty pizza tea followed by beautifully decorated heart biscuits. Having Messy Church in the church worked really well, mainly due to so many volunteers being willing to help set up, arrive early to ensure everything was in place and doing a fabulous job clearing up, including moving it all back to the Parish Centre. Huge thanks to everyone involved and to all of you who pray so faithfully for us.

*Sally Clilverd, Children and Families Worker*



## CAMEO



Do come along to the Silvester Horne Institute at 2.30pm on Wednesday 4th March for an afternoon of friendship, sharing, encouragement and a cup of tea and cake.

Rev'd Tim Bryan will be our speaker, who will be telling us about his time as a police officer and as a prison chaplain.

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

**Please note there is no Winter Warmer on 21st February.**



Visiting bellringers will be visiting our tower on Monday 23rd February, ringing between 10am and 12 noon.

## Valentine's Coffee morning at All Saints

We all enjoyed our St Valentine's Coffee Morning at All Saints' last week. Customers were welcomed with pink heart streamers on the door and lamp post, and treated to heart shaped biscuits and a St Valentine Victoria Sandwich with heart-shaped sprinkles. Liz Bourke presided over a very successful sale table selling marmalade and a wide selection of bric-a-brac, alongside a tasteful raffle. We are delighted to report that we raised a wonderful £450 towards the repairs to our thatched roof. Thank you to all our customers and helpers.

*Moira Matthews, Deputy Churchwarden, All Saints*



You are warmly invited to come along to our

### Winter Warmer on

Saturday mornings

10 - 12 noon

January 24<sup>th</sup> - March 28<sup>th</sup> 2026

Hot drinks, new breakfast menu, games,  
newspapers & conversation

**NEW VENUE:**

Church Stretton United Reformed Church Hall,  
High St, Church Stretton SY6 6BY

## Shrewsbury Abbey – The Cathedral That Never Was

In 1926, a vote to create an Anglican Diocese of Shrewsbury, with Shrewsbury Abbey becoming its cathedral, was defeated by a single vote in the House of Lords. It was alone amongst the six new dioceses proposed in the 1920's not to come to fruition.

Historical expert The Rev Canon Dr William Price, Anglican priest and sometime Lecturer in Church History at the University of Wales, Lampeter, will give an Illustrated talk focusing on the various attempts to create an Anglican Diocese of Shrewsbury, dating back to Henry VIII himself at the Reformation, this attempt in 1926 and again as recently as 1988.

The evening in the Abbey on Wednesday 4th March will begin with wine and nibbles on arrival from 6.30pm. William's talk will follow at 7pm. His presentation will be shown on a large screen and amplified through the sound system/loop.

Tickets are free [but must be reserved](#). For mobility enquiries, please contact: [events@shrewsburyabbey.com](mailto:events@shrewsburyabbey.com)

# DIARY

## Sunday 22nd February Readings Habakkuk 1.1-4, Matthew 13.24-30

St. Laurence's      8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2  
                                 10.30am Altogether, with baptisms  
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 24th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

## Thursday 26th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, **Silvester Horne Institute**  
10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

## Friday 27th

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

## Saturday 28th

10.00am Winter Warmer, **URC hall**  
7.00pm Silent Disco, St Laurence

## Sunday 1st March Readings Habakkuk 1.5-11, Matthew 4.1-11

St. Laurence's      8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1  
                                 10.30am Holy Communion  
                                 6.30pm Deeper  
All Stretton  
Village Hall        10.30am Café Church  
All Saints            10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2  
Online Service      10.00am Online, via website

## Tuesday 3rd

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

## Wednesday 4th

11.00am Funeral of David Young, St Laurence  
2.30pm CAMEO, **Silvester Horne Institute**  
7.30pm Alpha, Parish Centre

## Thursday 5th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, **Silvester Horne Institute**  
10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Order 1

## Friday 6th

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

## Saturday 7th

10.00am Winter Warmer, URC hall



DON'T FORGET YOUR MUG  
ON SUNDAYS!



# PRAYER FOCUS

- We pray for those who are sick, particularly from our church family, David and Valerie M.
- We pray for all our residential homes, particularly remembering the Sandford Nursing Home this week.
- We pray for those who mourn, particularly the family and friends of:
  - David Young, whose funeral is at 11am on Wednesday 4th March in St Laurence Church
  - Philippa Middleton whose funeral is at 11.30am on Thursday 12th March at the crematorium, and
  - Valerie Wright, whose funeral is at 11.30am on Friday 20th March at the crematorium.
- We pray for Orla and Eoin being baptised at St Laurence on 22nd February.
- Please pray for those from our Parish attending the New Wine Leadership Conference from 24th-26th February
- Please pray for those attending the Alpha course we are currently running.

## A prayer for the new week, from Lectio 365:

Thank you, Father, for loving me with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.

*Inspire me this week to love you more with all of mine.*

Thank you, Jesus, for your faithful and sacrificial friendship.

*Help me this week to be a faithful and sacrificial friend like you.*

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for listening to my many thoughts and words and dreams.

*Still my soul this week to listen much more carefully to yours*

Amen.



## Our verses for 2026

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Hebrews 10:23-25**



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<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
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St Laurence	James Foster	james.foster@strettonparish.org.uk	07736 324 160
All Saints	Moira Matthews	moiraemathews@gmail.com	01743 455005
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Vince	graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328478
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<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	