



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 6th March 2026
Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk
Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk
The next Contact will be issued on Friday 20th March 2026



Last Saturday we held a **Silent Disco** with a photo booth and tuck shop. 22 young people in school years 6 - 11 (approx. 10-16 year olds) came to the event. You will see from the photos how the church was transformed and in the speech bubbles you can read what the young people thought. We are grateful to Shropshire Youth Association for loaning us the equipment and it was great that Lee, the town youth worker also came to join us. Huge thanks to everyone who helped make it so successful; it was a great team effort!



I've never done a silent disco & it was amazing; a great experience with friends. Loved the songs and danced all night!

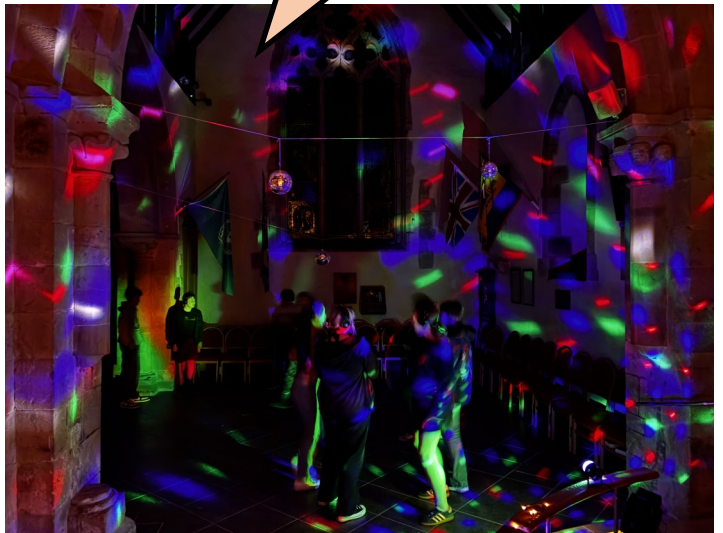
Good fun.
Amazing songs.
Good sound quality.



It was really fun but a bigger selection of snacks needed!

I had an amazing time – it was really nice to be able to invite friends as well! We really enjoyed the songs (and the photo booth!)

I had the BEST time and the church looked brilliant with so many disco lights.



Mothering Sunday—Sowing Seeds of Love

Mothering Sunday is always a tricky dilemma for Churches, as it was never designed to be a day that elevated one role over another, it was about the church family. Traditionally it was a day when people returned to their mother church and the wider church family.

And over the years our idea and commitment to church family has become increasingly individualistic, to the point where our priorities as God's people have shifted. This means that our priorities don't reflect how Jesus talked about those who followed him, or how the early church met in Acts, or even the original vision behind Mothering Sunday.

We seem to have somehow separated out our loyalty to God and our loyalty to the church family. We're more focused on experiencing God at a personal level and church often becomes that place you go to when you're not busy.

Yet, in the midst of this Mothering Sunday focus, when we have always tended to focus on a particular role, we fail to notice that many people stay away from Church on this day, as for many it's a difficult time. For the childless, the grieving, the orphans, the estranged. There are so many people hurting.

That's why going forward we would love Stretton Parish services to be times where we celebrate Family and Community- going back to our roots... being a place where the grieving and the rejoicing can sit side by side and both feel seen. Both feel valued.

Jesus' vision for authentic Christian community doesn't just challenge us to be more considerate of another's pain, but to suffer with them as one body. Jesus' vision for the church calls us to realign our priorities and place our family of faith above our earthly families.

So going forward giving out posies across our services in Stretton Parish will be something we lay down for the sake of others and instead we will be doing something different. This year is all about 'sowing seeds of love', something the world needs right now.

Steve

Parish Prayer Meetings

It was a joy to have so many people at our Tuesday prayer meeting this week. At this time of turmoil in our world, it is good for us to take the opportunity to come together and pray for the many difficult situations we see around us but also to praise God for the amazing work He is doing in our Parish and further afield. For those who may worry about praying out loud, please be reassured that there is no pressure to pray, just join in with 'Amen' to those things which are on your heart. But also know that God wants to hear the groanings of our hearts and that one-line prayers in our everyday language are valued by Him; and He loves it when we gather together to petition Him.

We gather:
Tuesdays 9:15 at St. Laurence's
Fridays 9:00 at St Michael's

All are Welcome.



Easter Hope



Stretton Parish

Palm Sunday- Sunday 29th March

When we remember Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem.

8.30am Holy Communion (Order 2), St Laurence

10.30am United Parish Service, St Laurence

Guest Speaker: Matt Hogg from CPAS

Maundy Thursday- Thursday 2nd April

When we remember Jesus' humility.

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Laurence

7.30pm: Holy Communion with Foot Washing, St Laurence

Good Friday- Friday 3rd April

When we remember Jesus' Crucifixion.

10:30am: Family service at St Laurence

11:40- Walk of Witness gathers ahead of service at Station Approach

12noon: Churches Together service in Square

2pm An Hour by the Cross, St Michael's, All Stretton

Easter Sunday- Sunday 5th April

When we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

6.20am: Churches Together Easter Dawn Service at Jinlye

8.30am Easter Communion (Order 2), St Laurence

10.30am Easter Family Communion, St Laurence

10.30am Easter Communion, St Michael's, All Stretton

10:30am Easter Communion, All Saints, Little Stretton



strettonparish.org.uk

NOTICE BOARD

World Day of Prayer

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



Help needed mowing the St Laurence churchyard

Sadly during 2025 we lost Alan Kay who was a faithful member of the churchyard mowing team for many years. So can you join the team? We need at least two new members.

What's involved? During the grass-growing season a couple of hours mowing once a month. And help with the autumn clear-up.

Offers of help to Mike Carter (misawa47@gmail.com)

Thank you.

Good Friday

Churches Together Service in the Square

Volunteers required on Good Friday, 3rd April to take about 20 plastic chairs from the Parish Centre to the square and put them in place for the service. The chairs need to be there well in advance of the service commencing at noon so starting to take them should be okay at about 11.15am. They will also need returning to the Parish Centre when the service finishes at about 1pm.

Also we need two people to distribute the service sheets from about 11.45am and to collect them afterwards.

Please let me know if you are able to help.
Alison Phillips.
01694 328613



Lent Course

Methodist Church Hall
Tuesdays at 2pm
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.

Mothers' UNION

Mothers' Union meet in St Laurence Church on Tuesday 10th March at 2.30pm. Nancy Cleaton will be speaking to us about pastoral care. Everyone welcome.

Hospitality

We are looking for some extra people to join our hospitality team—either to help with refreshments on Sundays at St Laurence or to help with fellowship meals. If you would like to offer or know more, please contact Jo on 01694 724224 or office@strettonparish.org.uk

Lent Lunches
TUESDAYS
at 12:30
24th February
March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
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



PRAYER FOCUS

We give thanks...

- * To God for the joyous time experienced by the young people at the Silent Disco last Saturday. May this be the first of many such youth activities encouraging fun and friendship in the church.
- * Praise God for the increased numbers sharing together at our parish prayers on Tuesday mornings. May other people come and join us.
- * Praise God for the good response to Café Church held in the village hall at All Stretton. May this continue to be a blessing to all who attend and attract others to join us.

We ask...

- * As we count our many blessings here in the Strettons, pray that we may be generous with our resources to help those around the world who are in desperate need.
- * Pray for the leaders of the nations that they may seek peaceful solutions to their problems.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit will change the hearts of those who seek power in the world at the expense of other people.

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

Philippa Middleton, whose funeral is at 11.30am on Thursday 12th March at the crematorium,

Ian Hunter, whose funeral is at 12.30pm in St Laurence Church on Monday 16th March, and

Valerie Wright, whose funeral is at 11.30am on Friday 20th March at the crematorium.

We pray for those who are sick, particularly remembering Valerie and David M.

We pray for the nursing homes in the town particularly remembering Field House.

Memorial Book

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

John Seager, Margaret Roberts, Barbara Manser, Helen Bowyer, Francis Woodhouse, Guy Heath, William Cooke, Donald Hopkinson, Lucy Fisher, Doreen Goss, William Wright, Jean Small, Thomas Patton, Derek Martin, Helen Davidson, Lily Luty, Mark Lawton, Beryl Wheale, Ronald Hughson, Florence Montgomery, Gwyneth Evans, John Mason, Joyce Coad,

A prayer written by Embrace the Middle East:

Almighty God, our refuge and our strength, we turn to you as we once again witness the rising of conflict and the fear laid upon ordinary lives.

Trusting in your steadfast love, we hold before you our friends and partners across the Middle East, in communities already stretched beyond endurance. Surround them with your protection.

Be a fortress for those who cannot flee and a shield for those whose work is to heal and to hope.

We remember before you all whose hearts are filled with dread today and whose future feels unbearably fragile.

Do not let the innocent be swept away by the decisions of the powerful.

Break the bow and shatter the spear.

Open paths for wisdom, restraint, and justice where none seem possible.

Give courage to peacemakers and clarity to those who speak truth.

Let your peace take root in scorched and fearful places.

Keep our hearts from despair and teach us to stand with those who suffer, to pray without ceasing and to hope, even now, in your redeeming love.

Amen.

DIARY

Sunday 8th March Readings Habakkuk 2.1-4, John 3.16

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Morning Worship
St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion, URC
All Saints 10.30am Morning Prayer, Common Worship
Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service 10.00am Online, via website

Monday 9th

7.00pm St Michael's ECC AGM, Children's Room, Parish Centre

Tuesday 10th

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

Wednesday 11th

9.30am All Saints DCC
7.30pm Alpha, Parish Centre

Thursday 12th

10.00am Parents and Toddlers, **Silvester Horne Institute**
10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence
3.00pm Messy Church, St Laurence Church

Friday 13th

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

Sunday 15th March, Mothering Sunday Readings Habakkuk 2. 5-20, John 9.1-12

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1
 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Deeper
St Michael's 10.30am Morning Worship
All Saints 10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1
Online Service 10.00am Online, via website

Tuesday 17th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 18th

7.30pm Alpha, Parish Centre

Thursday 19th

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

Friday 20th

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

Saturday 21st

10.00am Winter Warmer, URC hall

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 17th March.



DON'T FORGET your mug
ON SUNDAYS!

A note from Chris:

I have been very grateful for your support and prayers over the last few months as I have cared for my father. He passed away peacefully on Thursday 26th Feb at the good age of 96. I was able to be with him. The care he received from the staff at the care home was superb – they clearly had taken him to their hearts!

Thank you. Christobel

Diocesan Safeguarding Team

The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is now Lisa Anderson, 07999 028076
lisa.anderson@hereford.anglican.org

and the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is now Carl Steventon, 07593 817717
carl.steventon@hereford.anglican.org



Taizé Worship: Sunday 8th March at 6pm at St Milburga's. Join us for 40 minutes of singing, readings, prayers and a time of quiet reflection. Stretton Taizé is associated with Churches Together in the Strettons.

The **Shropshire Churches Tourism Group** newsletter is [here](#) or paper copies are in the churches. A coach trip is planned for later in the year so do keep an eye out for details.

Shropshire Chamber Orchestra

are hosting a charity concert in aid of Brain Tumour Charity and the Team Cleo Fund.

Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm
in St Laurence Church.

There are no tickets, just come along and pay what you feel on the day.

Elgar—Serenade for Strings
Britten—Lachrymae for Viola and Strings
Nielsen—Little Suite for Strings
Suk—Serenade for Strings.
Further details from Claire Tocknell,
Orchestra leader.



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



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 Clilverd	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	Moira Matthews	moiraemathews@gmail.com	01743 455005
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