



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 20th March 2026
Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk
Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk
The next Contact will be issued on Thursday 2nd April 2026

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

HOPE



strettonparish.org.uk



United Parish Service, 29th March

Please join us for our United Parish service on Sunday 29th March at 10.30am in St Laurence Church. We will welcome Matt Hogg from [CPAS](#) (Church Pastoral Aid Society) as our guest speaker, who has a wealth of experience in helping churches grow.

Matt's current role with CPAS involves teaching and training to help the development of missional leadership and to encourage evangelism and mission in churches across the country. Previously, Matt planted a church in West London which he then pastored for 11 years. Amongst other things during his time in the London Diocese he helped develop learning communities to help churches grow, co-founded a resourcing network for digital best practice, and he was a vice-chair of governors in a state primary school. Matt recharges around others and enjoys connecting with new people. He relishes innovation and enjoys unlocking growth and potential at every level.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is on Sunday 19th April at 2pm in St Laurence, followed by an afternoon tea.

We hope you will be able to join us.

The APCM will include elections to fill vacancies in the governing bodies of Stretton Parish. The two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have oversight of the whole Parish, and each church has their own Deputy Churchwarden and church council - District Church (DCCs) for All Saints and St Laurence, and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) for St Michael's.

This year the following positions are to be filled at the APCM:

- Two Churchwardens
- Stretton Parish PCC: There are vacancies for one representative from St Laurence, one from St Michael's and two from All Saints, so five vacancies in total.
- Deputy Churchwardens for St Michael's, All Saints and St Laurence
- Two places on the St Laurence DCC
- Two places on the All Saints DCC
- One place on the St Michael's ECC
- Four places on the Deanery Synod

If you can offer to help with setting up and serving the tea or bake a cake, please let Jo or Anna know. Thank you.

It's time to revise our Electoral Roll

Every Parish must have an electoral roll which is revised annually. Being on the Electoral Roll means that you are qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which this year takes place on Sunday 19th April. It also means that you can stand for election to the PCC. The Electoral Roll also acts as our membership list, those we can count upon as committed members of our Parish. **We would love to encourage everyone who attends our churches to join the Electoral Roll.**

If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll, you can access the form [here](#) or download one from the footer on the home page of the website. You can add your signature using your mouse if you are completing it on a laptop or PC, or with your finger or a touchscreen stylus if using a mobile device. Alternatively paper copies can be found in all the churches or you can ask Jo to email you one. Please complete and return to the office by 3rd April. After this no new names can be added until after the APCM.

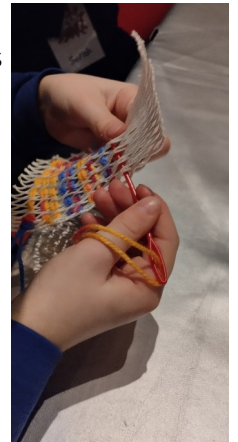


This month at Messy Church our theme was 'Through the roof' as we thought about the miracle of the paralysed man. We wove mats, filled matchboxes with as many small things as possible (to remind us of how crowded the room was), decorated gingerbread men to show how the man felt after he had met Jesus, colour in coded crosses, made jointed people and lots more! In our Celebration Time we considered that Jesus thought it more important to heal the man's spiritual needs before his physical needs and wondered who we needed to show forgiveness to. We finished our time together with tasty pizza, our decorated gingerbread men & fruit.



Huge thanks to everyone who helped before, during or after Messy Church and to all of you who pray for us, we real do value it. Families have been extremely positive about our move into the church, and your prayers would be valued as we consider how this might be managed in the future when the Parish Centre is reopen. Next month we will meet a week later than normal, to avoid the Easter Holidays, on Thursday 16th April and our theme will be 'Journeys'.

Sally Clilverd, Families and Children's Worker



St Michael's Steps

Comments are regularly made about the access to St. Michael's Church, not only the steep slope up to the church itself, but particularly the steps up into the porch. Well, a recent addition will hopefully make things just a little bit easier and safer.

Following receipt of the necessary permissions from the Diocese of Hereford, local heritage blacksmith Darren Broome was commissioned to forge and fit extensions to the handrails on either side of the steps. There is now something secure to hold on to right to the very top; and such is Darren's skill that the extensions are hardly noticeable, appearing as if they had been there from the very beginning.

Do come along one Sunday and take a look.

Julie Lawton, Churchwarden



CAMEO

Those attending CAMEO this month thoroughly enjoyed a talk by Rev Tim Bryan who spoke about his life, from his time as a rugby player at Oxford, to being a DI in the Met, to ordination and prison Chaplaincy, Tim spoke delightfully about God's gentle and guiding hand throughout his life, including the ministry that he and Liz now offer for retreats, refreshment and renewal. We are so grateful to him!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st April, 2.30pm in the Silvester Horne Institute. As it will be Holy Week, we shall spend time reflecting on Jesus' death, passion and resurrection, using a variety of hymns, Bible readings, prayers and poems contributed and read by anyone and everyone, with a few words shared about how the poem helps us and brings us closer to God in Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

Ian Terry, CAMEO leader



NOTICE BOARD

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.

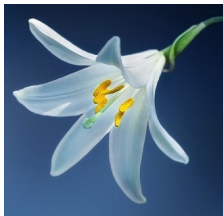


Help needed to set up the Communion table in St Laurence

Would you like to like to help with this important job occasionally? Please contact Jo if you're interested. Thank you.

Easter Lilies

On Easter Sunday St Laurence is decorated with lilies in memory of loved ones who have passed away. If you would like to make a donation (suggested amount £5) towards the cost of lilies, please put the money in an envelope marked "Easter Lilies" with the name of the person/people who you want to remember and either put in the donations box on Sunday morning, or bring to the office.



St Laurence Maintenance Working Party

Saturday 21st March, 9.30am-12.30pm

We will get together to do those odd jobs around the Churchyard that need doing to keep it all looking neat and tidy. Even if you can just spare an hour we would appreciate the help. Please come with your gardening gloves and any helpful tools.

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

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

TUESDAYS
at 12:30

Lent Lunches

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

Making Jesus Known
Stretton Parish

Stretton Parish

Music for a Spring Evening

THE CARADOC QUARTET
WITH MARK TOCKNELL ON CLARINET

Friday 10th April 2026
at 7:30pm

St Michael and All Angels Church
ALL STRETTON

Interval - with wine & cheese

Retiring collection for repairs
to the boundary wall

All Saints' Church
Little Stretton

Choral Evensong

with the Stretton Parish Choir

Sunday March 22nd at 4pm
with refreshments to follow

Stretton Parish
ALL SAINTS
LITTLE STRETTON

Stretton Parish

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

Shropshire Chamber Orchestra

THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY
TEAM CLEO FUND

Charity Concert

Elgar ~ Serenade for Strings
Britten ~ Lachrymae for Viola and Strings
Nielsen ~ Little Suite for Strings
Suk ~ Serenade for Strings

Bedwyn Phillips, conductor
Jane Park, viola
Claire Tocknell, leader

Sat 28-Mar 19:30 St. Laurence's Church, Church Stretton
Sun 29-Mar 15:00 Trinity Church, Meole Brace

No tickets! – £ pay what you feel

SCO is run by volunteers and our musicians give their time for free. We want our concerts to be available to everyone but need help to continue what we do. Pay what you feel on the day – your donations will support the orchestra and all remaining proceeds will go to charity. Thank you for your support!

Telephone enquiries 07415 234866 Logo © Yvonne Appleby

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	

DIARY

Sunday 22nd March Readings Habakkuk 3.1-19, John 12.20-33

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Altogether
St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion
All Saints 4pm Choral Evensong
Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service 10.00am Online, via website

Monday 23rd

10.00am Primary School Easter Service, St Laurence

Tuesday 24th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 25th

7.30pm Alpha, Parish Centre

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

7.30pm Shropshire Chamber Orchestra, St Laurence

Sunday 29th March, Palm Sunday Reading Matthew 21.1-11

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am United Parish Service
Online Service 10.30am Live stream of service from St Laurence

Tuesday 31st

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

7.30pm PCC, Children's Room, Parish Centre

Wednesday 1st April

2.30pm CAMEO, **Silvester Horne Institute**

7.30pm Alpha, Parish Centre

Thursday 2nd—Maundy Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Order 2, St Laurence

7.30pm Holy Communion with Foot Washing, St Laurence

Friday 3rd—Good Friday

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

10.30am Family Service, St Laurence

11.40am Walk of Witness

12.00pm Churches Together service in the Square

2.00pm An Hour by the Cross, St Michael's



DON'T FORGET YOUR MUG
ON SUNDAYS!