



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Thursday 2nd April 2026
Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk
Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk
The next Contact will be issued on Friday 17th April 2026



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 elections for the following vacancies 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.
- 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

Nomination forms for all these positions are available in all the churches. Please speak to the Rector or one of the Churchwardens for more information.

Stretton Parish
Bring & share
Afternoon Tea
Come & join us for a wonderful afternoon of fun & fellowship and lots of cakes, scones & sandwiches!
[CLICK HERE](#) [Click here to indicate what you might bring](#)
Sunday 19th April 2026
straight after the APCM at 2pm
St Laurence's Church
All the usual allergen, ingredient lists & good food hygiene to be considered (please NO NUTS)

NOTICE BOARD

Our Easter Offerings

Offerings from our Easter Day services across the Parish will be sent to Open Doors, to help their work supporting those in the Middle East. Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term.

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

Help needed to set up the Communion table in St Laurence

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

Thank you.



All are welcome at our next Mother's Union meeting on Tuesday 14th April at 2.30pm in St Laurence Church.

Claire Tocknell will be speaking on "My life in music" with contributions from young pupils. Everyone is welcome to come along.

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



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 10th April. We hope you will be able to join us.

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

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



PRAYER FOCUS

- ◆ We pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury, that she will be filled with wisdom, grace and strength, as she looks to lead the Church with integrity and compassion.
- ◆ We pray for our Mission Partners, [Anna & Chris Hembury](#) in Hull and [Lea & Petra Williams](#) in Czech Republic.
- ◆ We give thanks for our uplifting United Parish Service on Sunday.
- ◆ We give thanks for the Winter Warmer that has provided a place of friendship and safety on Saturday mornings. We are thankful for the hard work of the team that has enabled this to happen.
- ◆ We pray for all those preparing for marriage in the Parish this year.
- ◆ We pray for one another, that the reality of the Risen Christ in our lives may help us overflow with joy and hope.
- ◆ We pray for all the local young people that they may be kept safe through the holidays and may the school staff have a refreshing break from work.
- ◆ May all those who have been attending the Alpha Course continue to grow in their faith and find new ways to serve God.
- ◆ Please pray that the spring concert at St Michael's Church on 10th April may attract visitors and help towards the ongoing costs of the wall repairs.

We pray for those who mourn, particularly the family and friends of Diana Hughes whose funeral is at 12pm on Monday 13th April at All Saints Church.

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

Memorial Book

We give thanks for the lives of those in our memorial book in April;

Frances Deaves, Peter Banfield, Olive Gripton, Paul James, Matthew Jarrett, Mary Coleby, John Boyers, Leonard Davies, Richard Warren, Leslie Naylor, Vernon Young, Allen Price, Clara Price, Cyril Williams, Katherine Tandy, Brian Underhill, Kenneth Coles, Samuel Plant, Anita Bytheway.

A Prayer for the Middle East

God of love,
As we see and hear the news of the devastating violence wrought upon and within the Middle East, we hold your broken world before you in prayer, We pray for lives lost, for people who mourn, and for those living in fear.

We pray for people stranded and in need of safe routes and safe harbours.

We long for peace and pray that those who wage war might exchange weapons for words.

Help us to know how to pray, how to speak and how to act,

that we might remember our call to follow the Prince of Peace,

In whose name we pray,

Amen.

Residential Homes

We pray for all our residential homes, this month particularly remembering Ley Gardens

A Victorian Marvel

How would you like to get to know this wonderful piece of late 19th century engineering? Not many have had the privilege of seeing it in action. Just the very sound as it ticks away the seconds and prepares to strike every quarter is mesmerising. Our wonderful church clock by J Smith & Sons, the Midland Steam Clock Works, Derby has been a faithful servant of the church and the community for well over a century. Equally faithful servants are those who wind it three times a week, but they could do with some additional help.

Are you interested to learn, and perhaps to take on the winding of the clock for one of those times each week?

If you'd like to know more, please contact Anne Hone (Tower Captain) or one of the Churchwardens Stephen Carter or Julie Lawton.

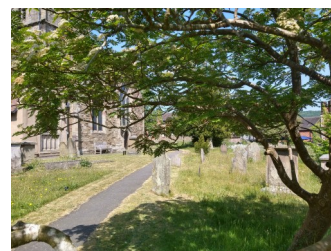


Help needed mowing the St Laurence churchyard

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.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15th April 2026 at 1.30pm
Conference Room, The Cathedral,
Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
This is the formal meeting to which
anyone is welcome to attend.

Advance Notice

Coach Trip, Friday 1st May
A visit to four historic churches in South Shropshire.
More details will follow shortly.



Repairs to the Parish Centre

We are pleased to say that following the tree falling on the roof back in early January, repairs to the Parish Centre should be starting very soon. The loss adjusters are now satisfied with the costings provided by the contractors and we should have a time line for the work to be undertaken soon. The repair to the roof will be undertaken first,

DIARY

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, leaving from Station Approach
- 12.00pm Churches Together service in the Square
- 2.00pm An Hour by the Cross, St Michael's

Sunday 5th April—Easter Day Readings Jeremiah 31.1-6, Matthew 28.1-10

- St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
- 10.30am Easter Family Communion
- St Michael's 10.30am Easter Communion
- All Saints 10.30am Easter Communion
- Online Service 10.30am Live stream of service from St Laurence

Tuesday 7th

- 9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Thursday 9th

- 10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 10th

- 9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
- 2.30pm The Well, Jemima's Kitchen
- 7.30pm Music for a Spring Evening, Concert in St Michael's

Sunday 12th April Readings Psalm 16, John 20.19-31

- St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1
- 10.30am Morning Worship
- St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion, URC
- All Saints 10.30am Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
- Online Service 10.00am Online Service

Tuesday 14th

- 9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
- 2.30pm Mothers' Union, St Laurence

Thursday 16th

- 10.00am Parents and Toddlers, Silvester Horne Institute
- 10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence
- 3.30pm Messy Church, St Laurence

Friday 17th

- 5.00pm Choir practice, St Laurence



DON'T FORGET YOUR MUG
ON SUNDAYS!

All Saints' Knitting Club

All Saints' Knitting Club is proud to announce that we sent off nineteen blankets to the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in February. This is a record for us and we will be aiming for even more in June. If you are interested in joining in, we meet fortnightly on Monday mornings. Please phone Moira on 01743 455005 for more information.

This photograph shows a selection of our colourful blankets. Can you spot the Deputy Churchwarden?

Moira Matthews, Deputy Churchwarden, All Saints



Join us to Celebrate God's Love in our Deanery

Small and wonderful acts of love
Kindness, friendship, and sharing
Fun activities and shared interests

Journey through our exhibition
Share ideas and prayer
Come together in worship and share communion
Celebrate with tea/coffee and cake



Saint Laurence's Church, Church Stretton
Saturday, 25th April 2025
Coffee from 9:30am
Event 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
rsyp.wendybrogden14@outlook.com



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
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	