



**Stretton Parish**

# CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 17th April 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 1st May 2026

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

**We hope you will be able to join us.**

The APCM will take place in St. Laurence's Church. During this time, elections will be held for a number of key roles to support the governance of the Parish, including to the PCC, DCCs and Deanery Synod. The APCM provides an opportunity to hear reports from the Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Parish Safeguarding Office and others regarding the continuing work across our three churches.

Our Annual Report looking back on 2025 can be read [here](#).

Our Parish Accounts for 2025 can be read [here](#).

**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)

Please click on [this link](#) to tell us what you might bring to the afternoon tea. Thank you!

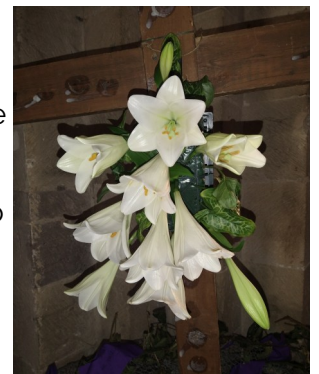
## Easter in Stretton Parish



Thank you to everyone who helped in our churches in Holy Week. There was a great variety of services including poignant Maundy Thursday communion services, a very moving Good Friday service and a Reflection Hour on Good Friday at St Michael's. We were pleased to welcome lots of visitors to our services on Easter Day to celebrate that Christ is Risen!

It was also good to join with Churches Together for the service in the Methodist Church, Walk of Witness and service in the market square on Good Friday and the sunrise service on Easter morning at Jinlye.

We are very grateful to the flower arrangers who worked so hard to make all three churches look so beautiful for Easter Day. Thank you!



# News from our Mission Partners

We have received newsletters from both our CMS Mission Partners this week.

[Anna and Chris Hembury](#) working in Hull, share how they are finding themselves in something of a wilderness at the moment. They ask us to pray with them St Brendan's prayer "Help me to journey beyond the Familiar and into the unknown. Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with you." Chris has been running three prayer courses this year and concludes their letter by saying: "At our Fridays@ gathering, one of the guys asked what the difference was between faith and prayer. Someone else suggested prayer was faith in action, investing in that relationship of trust with God. So much of our mission work feels like faith in action, full of stuff to do. So the prayer courses have been a blessing to me too, space for a different kind of action – to pause and invest in that relationship of trust, to check in with myself and sit in the company of Jesus."



[Lea and Petra Williams](#) working in Czech Republic, write about how 35 students from UKH, the student ministry Lea is part of, engaged with students before Christmas, giving out gingerbread and verses of Scripture to spark conversation about Christianity. Several students they met have now joined their Bible studies in the weeks that followed and they ask that we pray for these students as they explore faith for the first time. Petra remains busy working at the distribution centre supplying clothing, toiletries and household essentials to those in need. But the work has shifted from emergency response to the slower, harder task of integration. Petra has also facilitated a project funded by the British Embassy to empower Ukrainian women to enter the workplace. Recently, 58 people practised job interviews with a leading technology company at Vesna, while others learned how to apply for social housing. Czechs and Ukrainians sat side by side. As the Vesna team reflected: after four years, the word cizinky, foreign women, no longer feels right. These are neighbours. Please pray for Petra and for Vesna as this work enters a new phase.



To read the full newsletter from [Anna and Chris](#) and [Lea and Petra](#) click on their names, or paper copies are in all of the churches.

## Could you be our new Operations Manager?

Working closely with the Rector, Ministry Team, PCC and the Parish Administrator you will organise and manage resources, both human and physical, to support our various ministries across the Parish at this exciting time of growth.

25 hours per week (may include evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays)

£14.15 per hour

Fixed term for 2 years, initially

The role description, person specification and application form are on [the website](#). For a paper copy, please contact Jo Aze by email [office@strettonparish.org.uk](mailto:office@strettonparish.org.uk) or by telephone **01694 724224**.

**Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Interviews to be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026



**Stretton Parish**

# NOTICE BOARD

## CURLING & SUMO

in St Laurence's Church!  
CHURCH STRETTON

SATURDAY  
**18 APRIL 2026**  
7 - 9PM

BOOKING ESSENTIAL  
VIA THE QR CODE OR  
[WWW.STRETTONPARISH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.STRETTONPARISH.ORG.UK)



**FREE EVENT  
YR 6-11**

CURLING • SUMO SUITS • TUCK SHOP  
GIANT GAMES • MUSIC

Bring change for the Tuck Shop

 Stretton Parish

Please pray for this event and if you know any young people, please do encourage them to book in and come along.

## Bellringing

On Tuesday 21st April, at 10.30am the bellringers will be joining with other towers around the country to ring a quarter peal to commemorate what would have been Queen Elizabeth's 100th birthday.



## First Aid Training

We have a First Aid trainer coming to the Parish Centre on Monday 1st June, 9.30am-4pm to lead a "Emergency First Aid at Work" training session. There are some places available. If you regularly attend church or one of our activities and would be willing to be trained, please contact Jo to book your place.

## 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.

## Spring Sing



**STRETTON PARISH CHOIR** and **Craven Arms Men's Chorus** come together to sing for Lingen Davies Cancer Support

St. Laurence's Church. 25th April. 7.30pm.  
Admission £10.00 (children £5)

 All profits to Lingen Davies Cancer Fund.  
Registered Charity  
Number 1160922

## 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, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025**  
**Coffee from 9:30am**  
**Event 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
[rsyp.wendybrogden14@outlook.com](mailto:rsyp.wendybrogden14@outlook.com)



# PRAYER FOCUS

- We pray for those who are sick, particularly in our church family, David and Valerie M. and Michael F.
- We pray for all our residential homes, particularly remembering Stretton Hall Nursing Home.
- We pray for those preparing for marriage in our parish.
- Please pray for our APCM and those standing for positions.
- Please pray that repair work can commence on the Parish Centre.

**Explore the letter to the Romans**

**The Romans Course**

**Wednesdays, 27 May- 29 July 2026**

**7:30pm**

**Childrens Room, Parish Centre, Church Stretton**  
sign up via [strettonparish.org.uk](http://strettonparish.org.uk) or use the QR code

## A prayer from Embrace the Middle East

Almighty God,  
We turn to you as we 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.

We remember before you all whose hearts are filled with dread today.

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.

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

Give courage to peacemakers and teach us to stand with those who suffer, to pray without ceasing

And to hope, even now, in your redeeming love.

Amen

**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**

<b>Rector</b>	Rev Steve Johnson	<a href="mailto:steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk">steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 722585
<b>Curate</b>	Rev Mary Carter	<a href="mailto:mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk">mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 328649
<b>Associate Minister</b>	Rev Preb Christobel Hargraves	<a href="mailto:chris.hargraves@strettonparish.org.uk">chris.hargraves@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01547 550311
<b>LEP URC Minister, St Michaels</b>	Rev Hazel Allen	<a href="mailto:hazel.allen@strettonparish.org.uk">hazel.allen@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 751400
<b>Children &amp; Families Worker</b>	Sally Clilverd	<a href="mailto:sally@strettonparish.org.uk">sally@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	07985 943 906
<b>Readers</b>	Gillian Taylor	<a href="mailto:gillian.taylor@strettonparish.org.uk">gillian.taylor@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 724224
	Chris Lear	<a href="mailto:chris@barcombe.net">chris@barcombe.net</a>	07514 738 653
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Stephen Carter	<a href="mailto:stephen.carter@strettonparish.org.uk">stephen.carter@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 328649
	Julie Lawton	<a href="mailto:julie.lawton@strettonparish.org.uk">julie.lawton@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 723750
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>			
St Laurence	James Foster	<a href="mailto:james.foster@strettonparish.org.uk">james.foster@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	07736 324 160
All Saints	Moira Matthews	<a href="mailto:moiraemathews@gmail.com">moiraemathews@gmail.com</a>	01743 455005
<b>Pastoral Coordinator</b>	Rev Nancy Cleaton	<a href="mailto:nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk">nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 328132
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Vince	<a href="mailto:graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk">graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 328478
<b>Rector's PA</b>	Jo Aze	<a href="mailto:jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk">jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 724224
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>	Chrissie Pepler	<a href="mailto:chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk">chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	01694 771888
<b>Life Group Coordinator</b>	Rev Caroline Windley	<a href="mailto:caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk">caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk</a>	
<b>Rector's Day Off</b>	Fridays	<b>Church office hours:</b> 9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday	

# DIARY

## Saturday 18th April

7.00pm Youth Event—Curling & Sumo, St Laurence Church—see separate notice

## Sunday 19th April Readings Zephaniah 3.14-end, Luke 24.13-35

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2  
10.30am Holy Communion  
2.00pm APCM, followed by Afternoon Tea  
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 Service

## Tuesday 21st

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

## Thursday 23rd

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

## Friday 24th

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

## Saturday 25th

10.00am Deanery Event, St Laurence—see separate notice  
7.30pm Spring Sing concert, St Laurence —see separate notice

## Sunday 26th April Readings Psalm 23, John 10.1-10

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 1  
10.30am Altogether, with Scouts  
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 Service

## Monday 27th

7.00pm ECC

## Tuesday 28th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

## Thursday 30th

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

## Friday 1st May

5.00pm Choir practice, St Laurence



DON'T FORGET YOUR MUG  
ON SUNDAYS!