



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 1st May 2026

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk

The next Contact will be issued on Thursday 14th May 2026

Fun Children and Youth Events in April in Stretton Parish



At Messy Church this month we explored the journey along the road to Emmaus. Our numbers were lower, possibly due to change in week to avoid the Easter holidays, but a joyous time was had by all and it gave volunteers more time to engage in conversations. Activities included balancing lollipop sticks on bamboo canes (remembering that Jesus defied death as well as gravity when he was resurrected), a thaumatrope where Jesus appears between the 2 disciples, plaiting bread rolls to remember the meal they shared together.



It was especially humbling to watch one child aged 5 spend around 40 minutes creating the most beautiful table mat listing all the things they are thankful for. During our Celebration time two children became like the disciples and were blindfolded. They had to listen to a seated friend give them directions and attempt to feed them popcorn. We thought about how difficult this task was even though the seated volunteers were giving them clues, it would have been much easier to feed them if they had their blindfolds off and their eyes opened to see. The

disciples would have seen the clues Jesus was giving if only the blindfold of their hopelessness and lack of faith had been taken off as well.

We finished our time with a shared meal of pizza and cakes. We are so grateful to have a church that can be transformed with relative ease to accommodate Messy Church and for the amazing volunteers who serve our congregation each month. Next month we will be going 'Up, Up and Away' as we explore Jesus' ascension and Pentecost on Thursday 14th May - please do pray for the team as we prepare for this.

Youth event: We were delighted to welcome 30 young people to our Curling and Sumo event on 16th April. As the evening wore on the youth got more enthusiastic and so did the competitive element of the curling games and there were even a few Sumo 'battles'. The Sumo suits proved popular to dance in as well, with several groups taking on 'The Macarena' and a few leaders had to give them a go as well! Please pray for all of those who attended, but especially those who do not normally attend church, that they will feel God's presence with them in the fun they had and in their lives. Our next event is a climbing wall and barbeque on Saturday 20th June so please also pray for the planning, volunteers and weather.



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 or by telephone **01694 724224**.

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 15th May 2026

Interviews to be held on Wednesday 3rd June 2026



Stretton Parish

Youth Worker

We will shortly be advertising for a Youth Worker for Stretton Parish. If you are interested in financially supporting the Youth Worker role, through a one-off gift or regular giving, please speak to Graham Vince, Parish Treasurer.

Alternatively, email graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk or phone/message 07455-917082

CAMEO



Do come along to the Silvester Horne Institute at 2.30pm on Wednesday 6th May for an afternoon of friendship, sharing, encouragement and a cup of tea and cake. This month our curate, Rev Mary Carter will be joining us to share the story of how God has led her to where she is now.

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

The URC Church are having a 'Strawberry Tea' on Thursday 18th June and have invited CAMEO to join with them. It will be in the garden at the back of the URC on the High Street and in the hall if the weather isn't too good.

St Laurence Maintenance Party Saturday 16th May, 9.30am-12.30pm



On Saturday we will have morning working party to do those odd jobs around the Churchyard that need doing to keep it all looking neat and tidy.

Even if it's just an hour you can spare, we would appreciate the help and you will be rewarded with mid morning refreshments as always. Please come with your gardening gloves and any helpful tools!

Stretton Parish Governance Meetings- March 2026

The following is a summary of the discussions and decisions made at the last round of PCC, DCC & ECC meetings:

All Saints - Work has commenced on replacing the thatch on the church and making necessary repairs to the bellcote. Repointing of the wall is also underway and a design for the accessibility ramp has been commissioned.

St Michael's - A survey by a structural engineer of the wall has been completed. It does not need to be taken down completely but further work will be needed. The handrail extension has been completed.

St Laurence - Work continues looking at energy usage and the carbon footprint of the church building and of the Parish Centre.

Planning permission has been sought to install a gate at the top of the boiler room steps. An initial design of a proposed servery and toilet within the church building has been sent to the diocese.

Winter Warmer has now stopped for the next few months and will restart in the autumn.

PCC:

Parish Centre Roof repairs - The PCC heard about the progress on repairing the roof. It was hoped this would commence in early May and once completed then the internal work would commence.

Finance - The Annual Accounts were accepted prior to being presented to the APCM held in April. The treasurer also presented a budget which gave a potential small surplus at the end of the year.

Youth worker - A job description has been agreed for a youth worker which it is hoped to recruit for later in the year.



Repairs to All Saints roof took place this week

At the Annual Parochial Church Meetings on 19th April, the following were elected:

Churchwardens: Stephen Carter and Carolyn Gray

Deputy Churchwardens: James Foster for St Laurence, Moira Matthews for All Saints,

Lay Members of the Deanery Synod: Sarah Robinson, Andrea Graham, Dan Wallis

Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council: Margaret Mercer, Cathy Watson

Lay Members of the District Church Council for St Laurence: Graham Shuttleworth

The following vacancies remain unfilled:

Deputy Churchwarden for St Michael's

One vacancy for a Lay Member on the Deanery Synod

Two vacancies on the PCC

One vacancy on St Laurence DCC

Two vacancies on All Saints' DCC

One vacancy on St Michael's ECC



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



The Ministry Team have worked on Our Mission and Values and they were adopted by the PCC in January:

Our Mission

We exist as a Parish to make Jesus known here in the Strettons and beyond.

As Christians we believe that God loves this place and its people and that we are called to play our part in taking the good news of Jesus to the community, those on the edges and the nations.

Our Values

As an evangelical Parish, with CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) as our Patron, our values direct how we do things; they are the principles that we want to guide us as a family. We recognise and give thanks that as a Church family we have members from many different denominations and Church traditions reflecting the wider Church.

Above all we are committed to being a Parish, that seeks to reach out with the good news of Jesus in new ways- with Jesus at the centre.

In all things, we want to be led by Jesus, lead like Jesus and lead people to Jesus. Ultimately, we want to know Jesus and make Him known.

How do we do that?

We Worship

We make it our first priority as the family of God, to gather around Jesus and God's word, united by the Holy Spirit to enjoy His presence, and to express our love for Him with all that we are and all that we do.

We Pray

We want to be a people of prayer, who trust in God for everything and know that they can do nothing apart from Him.

We Journey

We want to be people who are all-in on Jesus, living His Lordship into every area of our lives. We can only do this by His grace and being rooted in His love and becoming lifelong apprentices of His way of life. That means learning to live His way at all times, in all places, and in every area of our lives.

We Repent

We recognise that we aren't perfect and need to repent of the things in our lives that don't follow God's way. We come to God in repentance for forgiveness. As forgiven people we then forgive those who hurt us.

We Love

We believe that to be church is to be part of God's family, therefore we want our life together to reflect His love for us and our unity in Jesus.

We Follow

We want to be people who think, speak and act Biblically and distinctively, by reading, studying and living out His story in our daily lives.

We Give

As Jesus came among us as the Servant King, so we also want to joyfully, generously and sacrificially give of ourselves and our resources for the sake of others.

We Witness

We want our lives to speak of Jesus to the world—embodying His authentic, attractive and compelling vision of what it means to be human. As well as announcing God's love with our words, we want to **be good news in our everyday lives.**

NOTICE BOARD



All are welcome at our next Mother's Union meeting on Tuesday 12th May at 2.30pm in St Laurence Church.

Jenny Heath will be speaking about the Mothers' Union in Baghdad.



"Music for a Spring Evening on Friday 10th April at St Michael's Church was a great success. The Caradoc Quartet, led by Claire, with Mark Tocknell and young

music students gave us a lively and varied programme. The Church was full and the great acoustics of the church made the performance memorable. Wine and cheese were served during the interval. Our grateful thanks to the musicians as we were able to raise £553 towards the repairs to the boundary wall.

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

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 or use the QR code



Could you make a cake for us to enjoy during the Romans Course? We have some offers, but if you could offer for 27th May, 3rd June or 15th or 22nd July, please let Jo know.

Join us on **Sunday May 17th** for Holy Communion at 10.30am followed at noon by **Sunday Lunch**

Choice of casseroles and vegetables, hot puddings with custard.

Bookings recommended, please contact Liz Bourke on 01694 722910.

Donations to Christian Aid



CONDOVER DEANERY ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday 14 May

7:30pm

Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock



PRAYER FOCUS

- * Praise God for the success and popularity of the activities we've hosted for young people.
- * Please pray for the three young people who are willing to lead a Youth Alpha Group at the secondary school. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit and given wisdom, enthusiasm and clarity as they seek to witness to their faith in this way.
- * There is an urgent need for a Parish Youth Worker, please pray that the Holy Spirit will bring the right person along to fill this role.
- * Please pray that we will be able to appoint a new Operations Manager for the Parish.
- * Please pray that the repairs and refurbishment of the Parish Centre be able to go ahead speedily.
- * May all those who are experiencing poor health or feeling frail at this time experience the closeness of God's Presence and His Peace and feel loved and cared for by their church family.
- * Do pray for the new PCC as they meet on 12th May.

We pray for Revd Gareth Ingham as he is licensed as Rector of Condover and Deanery Rural Missioner on Tuesday May 7th 2026 at 7pm at St Andrew and St Mary's Church, Condover.

We pray for Rev'd Sam Hustwayte as she is installed as the next Archdeacon of Ludlow on Sunday, 10th May at 3.30pm at St Laurence's Church, Ludlow.

Residential Homes

We pray for all our residential homes, this month particularly remembering the Sandford Nursing Home.

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

Memorial Book

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

Arthur Morris, Valerie Mackay, James Toothill, Anthony Richardson, Gwendoline Nicholls, Daniel Grafton, Roland Whitrick, John Petter, Arthur Lewis, Ivy Lester, Aline Montgomery, Alice Martin, Beryl Haunch, Herbert Shepley-Watson, John Beswick, Hugh Morris, John Miles, Derrick Coleby, Edna Cottrell, Stanley Pearce, William Johnson, David Roberts, Elizabeth Collins, Bessie Morris, Ian Penny, Percival Langford, Bill Leak, Arnold Mason.

A prayer for world peace:

Lord, we pray for world peace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations.

We pray for wars to end.

We give thanks for your promise that one day there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Until that day, we pray for your continued grace and goodness to overflow in this world so that humans can live alongside one another respectfully, allowing for mutual flourishing.

Amen.

A prayer about political instability:

O God, we pray for countries experiencing the turmoil of conflict and political instability.

We ask for peace to be restored.

Please grant wisdom and integrity to world leaders so that they will work for the good of the people they govern and serve.

We pray that citizens everywhere would have their rights preserved, so they can live peacefully, free from fear.

Amen.

We need your help!

A team from Stretton Parish will be assembling an amazing art display in our beautiful St Laurence Churchyard for the enjoyment of visitors and the wider community. The display can be seen during the 2026 Church Stretton Arts Festival which runs from 25th July to 9th August.

We would love to include small stones and spoons as part of this display and we need your help making plenty of these to create a really attractive visual spectacle. The more, the merrier! If you have time on your hands or a group that could help please do let us know. Perhaps this might make a nice Life Group summer activity? All materials and instructions provided. We will also need one or two people to help during the fortnight as we supervise the artwork. Moira and her team will also be creating knitted items so do contact them if you would like help or direction. Please contact Sarah Lear via sarah@barcombe.net; 07858 161077; 01694 721228.



 **CHURCH STRETTON ARTS FESTIVAL** The Art Display has been developed in collaboration with Church Stretton Arts Festival

Thank you for your generosity

The total given for the Easter appeal for the Parish, sent to Open Doors (opendoorsuk.org) was £510.03

The total given for the Lent lunches at St Michael's, sent to Water Aid (wateraid.org/uk) was £497.06

The total raised for the concert at St Michael's which will go towards the boundary wall repairs was £552.83.

Rector	Rev Steve Johnson	steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722585
Curate	Rev Mary Carter	mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk	07356 220329
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	07356 220329
	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	

DIARY

Sunday 3rd May Readings Genesis 8.1-19, John 14.1-14

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Deeper
St Michael's	10.30am	Morning Worship, Iona
All Saints	10.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10.00am	Online Service

Tuesday 5th

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

Wednesday 6th

2.30pm	CAMEO, Silvester Horne Institute
7.30pm	Alpha, Parish Centre

Thursday 7th

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

Friday 8th

9.00am	Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
2.00pm	The Well, Jemimah's Kitchen
5.00pm	Choir Practice, St Laurence

Sunday 10th May Readings Psalm 66.7-20, John 14.15-21

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
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10.00am	Online Service

Tuesday 12th

9.15am	Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
2.30pm	Mothers' Union, St Laurence
7.30pm	PCC, Parish Centre

Wednesday 13th

7.30pm	Alpha, Parish Centre
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Thursday 14th

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

Friday 15th May

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

Saturday 16th May

9.30am	St Laurence Maintenance Working Party
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Taizé Worship: Sunday 10th May 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 Parish Office will be closed on Friday 15th May and Monday 18th May