



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Thursday 14th May 2026
Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk
Parish office: 01694 724224 office@strettonparish.org.uk
The next Contact will be issued on Friday 29th May 2026

We are delighted to welcome Venerable Sam Hustwayte, the new Archdeacon of Ludlow to preach at our 10.30am service at St Laurence on Sunday 17th May.



Condover Deanery Synod Event Celebrating the small but wonderful!

On Saturday, 25th April Deanery Synod shared in a special service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Preb. Chris Hargraves, who is our Rural Dean, to celebrate some of the small but lovely things we do across Condover Deanery.

During the service there was an opportunity to visit eight table-top displays celebrating activities going on around the Deanery. The offerings were diverse, ranging from children's work in Stretton and Apedale; pioneer ministry at Christchurch, Craven Arms; the All Saints Knitting Club, Stretton Mother's Union with their Blessings Bags; an after school drop in for young people at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock; locally led services at St James, Shipton; and the survival journey of St Thomas's, Halford, which is now a Festival Church.



Coffee and cake were served, and people had the opportunity to chat, share ideas and get to know each other. Many thanks to all those who helped on the day.

People there were blessed by the occasion. Several said they found it unexpectedly moving. Many of us made new connections and almost everyone learnt something new about ministry across the Deanery.

Andrea Graham



Cubs Ring Bells

On a pleasant evening on 21st April, Julie Lawton, Stephen Carter and Mary Carter were joined in St Laurence Church by 20 cubs and their leaders for a couple of hours. The cubs were divided into three groups and in turn took part in three different activities to learn why and how people have worshipped God at St Laurence's over the centuries.

Mary concentrated on the "why" of the faith and gave an explanation of the gospel message itself. Julie concentrated more on the "how" and gave the cubs a tour of the church explaining how the physical layout and features carried spiritual significance and meaning.

To Stephen the lot fell of accompanying the cubs up the bell tower to witness a demonstration of bell ringing by three bell ringers who very engagingly explained how the eight bells rang. The cubs were encouraged to have a go themselves and enjoyed this a great deal.

The Guides are coming next!

NOTICE BOARD

St Laurence Maintenance Party

Saturday 16th May, 9.30am-12.30pm

On Saturday morning a working party will meet 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!



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



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

Stretton Parish

OS B I B L E
C I E T Y



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.

Churches Together

AGM—Wednesday 19th May
7.30pm at URC

Summer Picnic

Sunday 7th June at 1pm
St Milburga's Presbytery Gardens



Mugs, and More Mugs!

Multicoloured, any colour, floral, striped, polka dot, china, ceramic, stoneware, large, small, cute, ugly and even with a funny saying on the side – PLEASE BRING US YOUR UNWANTED MUGS!

By far the biggest request last year at Teas to Please was for a mug rather than a cup and saucer, and so we have responded and have made room for more mugs.

So, as you spring clean and delve to the back of your cupboards, please think of us and bring those mugs along to Moira Matthews, Julie Lawton, Stephen Carter, or leave them at the back of All Saints' Church in Little Stretton.

Thank you.



YOUTH WORKER

The PCC are stepping out in faith to recruit for a new youth worker for the Parish. We are at an exciting time of growth and flourishing ministry across Stretton Parish and are beginning to see our young people grow in their faith and encounter Jesus. We are also beginning to reach out into the community attracting young people to activities and events. As we begin advertising and step out, we need to raise funds to cover the salary and other expenses. Please can you consider whether you can give towards this very important work.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GIVE BOTH REGULARLY AND ONE-OFF.

a) **To give using your debit or credit card –**

click here- [Youth Worker - Stretton Parish · ChurchSuite Donate](#) – there is an option to Gift Aid your gift if you want to. There is also the option to give regularly, using your debit or credit card.
Or, use the card readers in the churches.

b) **To give by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme** - further details will be available in the next Contact.

c) **To give direct into the Parish bank account** – use these bank details:

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd,

Account name: Stretton Parish

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account number: 00090571

Reference: Youth Worker

Please can you make sure that you quote the reference above, so that I can clearly see that your gift is for the Youth Worker fund.

If you wish to give regularly by standing-order then please set up using your banking software, using the above bank details and, again, **please use the reference "Youth Worker"**. Alternatively, please ask me for a standing-order form.

If you have already completed a Gift Aid declaration I will reclaim Gift Aid on your gift(s) unless you tell me not to do so.

d) **To make a gift by cheque or cash** – please make your cheque payable to "*Stretton Parish*" – please put your cheque or cash in an envelope clearly marked "Youth Worker" and give the envelope to the Parish Office or put in the donations box or offertory plate in your church. If you have already completed a Gift Aid declaration, I will reclaim Gift Aid on your gift unless you tell me not to do so.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me—email graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk or by phone—07455-917082.

Thank you.

Graham Vince, Parish Treasurer

Book-Keeper (voluntary)

We are looking for a volunteer book-keeper. This role involves making payments, entering transactions into the ledger, processing the bank statements, banking cash and cheques, producing reports etc.

The work can be done from home, using our online computerised accounting software, and would take on average about 4-5 hours per week. Book-keeping knowledge is needed but no formal qualifications are required. Computer skills are required, with a good working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheets.

The post involves working with the Parish Treasurer and full training will be given. If you are interested in this role, please contact Graham Vince at graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk or 07455-917082.

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



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 Field House.
- We pray for Charmaine Mellings and Daniel Weaver, marrying at St Laurence on 23rd May.
- Please pray that the posts of Youth Worker, Operations Manager and Book keeper will be filled.
- Please pray for our Mission Partners, [Anna and Chris Hembury](#) in Hull and [Lea and Petra Williams](#) in Czech Republic.
- Continue to pray for the three young people who are leading a Youth Alpha Group in the secondary school.

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
All Stretton LEP—URC Minister	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 17th May Readings Ezekiel 36.24-28, John 17.1-11

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	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 19th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 20th

7.30pm Alpha, Parish Centre

Thursday 21st

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 22nd

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

5.00pm Choir Practice, St Laurence

Saturday 23rd

1.00pm Wedding of Charmaine Mellings and Daniel Weaver, St Laurence

Sunday 24th May, Pentecost Readings Acts 2.1-21, John 20.19-23

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 1
	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Michael's	10.30am	Holy Communion
All Saints	10.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
Online Service	10.00am	Online Service

Tuesday 26th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence

Wednesday 27th

7.30pm Bible Society Romans Course, Parish Centre

Thursday 28th

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 1, St Laurence

Friday 29th May

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

5.00pm Choir practice, St Laurence

The Parish Office will be closed on
Friday 15th May and Monday 18th
May

This exhortation was used at the close
at the Churches Together Taize
worship service on Sunday:

In this week:

Mend a quarrel
Search out a forgotten friend
Dismiss suspicion and replace it with
trust
Write a love letter
Share some treasures
Give a soft answer
Encourage youth

In this week:

Manifest your loyalty in a word or
deed
Keep a promise
Find the time
Forego a grudge
Forgive an enemy
Listen
Apologise

In this week:

Try to understand
Reject envy
Examine your demands on others
Think first of someone else
Appreciate, be kind, be gentle
Laugh a little more.
Deserve confidence

In this week:

Take up arms against malice
Decry complacency
Express your gratitude
Worship your God
Gladden the heart of a child
Take pleasure in the beauty and
wonder of the earth

Speak your love
Speak it again
Speak it still again
Speak it still once again...

~ Author Unknown