



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 29th May 2026

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 12th June 2026

On Sunday 31st May, we welcome Christopher Landau as our speaker to our United Parish Service, at 10.30am in St Laurence.



The Revd Dr Christopher Landau was appointed Director of ReSource in 2021, having previously led the 'ReSource Future' process in 2017-18. He is married to Carolyn, and they have three children. The family moved to Telford from Oxford, where Christopher was previously an associate minister at St Aldates Church, a chaplain with the Oxford Pastorate, and an honorary cathedral chaplain at Christ Church.

During ordination training at Ripon College Cuddesdon he began work towards a doctorate in Christian Ethics, completed during his curacy in west London. His work on disagreement among Christians has been published by SCM Press as 'A Theology of Disagreement'. He is passionate about Christians hearing the Spirit's call to pursue loving unity, seeking the fruit of the Spirit, even in the face of inevitable disagreements, and about promoting constructive conversation about the Holy Spirit's work across the different traditions of the church.

St Lawrence CE Primary School had a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection recently. They received an excellent report, stating "St Lawrence Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish". One of the strengths noted was "the strong partnership with the local church which significantly enriches the quality of collective worship and religious education. These connections help pupils feel a genuine sense of belonging and deepen their engagement with the local community."

Congratulations to everyone for their hard work.

Churches Count on Nature

Love your Burial Ground Week is a celebratory week which Caring for God's Acre has been running for many years. During the week all who help to look after our churchyards and cemeteries are encouraged to celebrate these fantastic places.

Churches Count on Nature is part of this special week, focusing on the diverse wildlife to be found in our churchyards. Here in the Strettons, we have much to celebrate in our beautiful churchyards. For example, visitors to St Laurence's often comment on how much they enjoy the reflective signs and wildflowers – a great tribute to those who work hard to keep them special. Thank you!!

To mark this week of Churches Count on Nature here in the Strettons we are holding a mini bioblitz on **Sunday June 7th** in St Laurence's churchyard straight after the morning service. Wander out with coffee in hand, or bring a packed lunch and stay a little longer. We'll be organising bug hunts, wild flower ID and observing butterflies and birds. No need for any expertise and all ages welcome to come and join in.

Isabel Carter





This month we celebrated Jesus' Ascension and the day of Pentecost with our 'Up, up and away!' theme. We explored spinning paintings (that is what salad spinners were designed for, isn't it?!), created Kool Kites that really did fly, made twirly flame gyrocopters, as well as balancing doves, sky and cloud deserts and much more! There were some great conversations

and one child made the link of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension through duplo. During our Celebration time we considered that it was the festival of 'SAMTSIRHC' that very day. No, not heard of that one? It's Christmas backwards! Because just as we celebrate Jesus coming down to Earth as a baby at Christmas, at Ascension we celebrate God taking our risen Saviour back up to heaven. We also remembered the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit sent at Pentecost and that we can all ask to be filled with his presence and power.

Thank you for your prayers for this area of ministry. Please do continue to remember our families on their journey with Jesus; that they may be bold and seek to know him more.

Sally Clilverd, Families and Children's Worker



Christian Aid Lunch



The tables were set, the church was prettily decorated, and following the Sunday service at All Saints' on 17th May, we all enjoyed the most amazing lunch in support of Christian Aid.

As we gathered for drinks, we chatted happily whilst those in the kitchen prepared no fewer than four different casseroles for us to choose from, along with a variety of vegetables.

Following this, we approached a table laden with such a variety of tasty puddings that it was impossible not to go back for seconds (and for some people, even thirds!). It was also the perfect opportunity to join in the celebration of Tim Bryan's special birthday.

The generosity of all those who attended resulted in a collection of £632 for Christian Aid.

A huge "thank you" must go to all those who organised, set up, cooked, welcomed and served. It was a joyous occasion.

Julie Lawton



Soul Food is an exploration of Christian prayer, open to all including beginners and those with long experience of prayer. With an awareness of the variety of Christian prayer traditions, tutors journey with participants to develop reflection, an awareness of personality and prayer, and the use of silence, solitude, the Bible and our imaginations as helps to develop intimacy with God.

Practicalities:

Day meetings: Saturdays 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 12th Dec 2026: 10am – 3pm, St John's Church, Saltwells Drive, Muxton TF2 8RJ

Zoom: Tuesdays 29th Sept; 13th & 20th Oct, 10th & 24th Nov, 1st Dec: 7–9.30pm

For more information or to apply, please talk to Sarah Lear, email her at sarah@barcombe.net, or phone on 07858161077 or email charles.ruxton@trinitychurches.org or use this link [Apply to join the Soul Food course](#)



NOTICE BOARD

CAMEO

Do come along to the Silvester Horne Institute at 2.30pm on Wednesday 3rd June for an afternoon of friendship, sharing, encouragement and a cup of tea and cake.

This month our speaker is Cressida Dickens, Rotary District Governor.

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



Bellringing

On Friday 10th June, at 10am there will be visiting bellringers at St Laurence Church .



Parish Picnic

Sunday 28th June at 1pm, in All Saints Church Garden

Evensong, led by the Parish Choir will be at 3pm, so why not come along to both?

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



Coffee and cakes in the garden were enjoyed by some of the congregation following Sunday's Pentecost service.

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.



Churches Together Summer Picnic

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

Everyone welcome



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 –**
use this link: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/18B618334>
- 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.

Stretton Parish Governance Meetings- May 2026

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

All Saints -Following completion of new thatch and roof repairs, plans are now underway to repaint the kitchen extension. Plans are underway for the annual Teas to Please event at the end of August and the Knitting Club continues to increase its membership.

St Michael's – The Lent lunches had been enjoyed by many, and a donation had been given to Water Aid. Quotes were now being received for the work needed on the boundary wall. Discussion took place around how to fill the roles that were needed post APCM and the wider mission and outreach of St Michaels.

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

PCC

Parish Centre Roof repairs - the external repairs are now completed. We are waiting for a detailed plan for the internal work.

Finance - It was agreed that an increase of 7.5% on this year's Parish Share would be made to the Diocese bringing this to a total of £90000. The Parish Share pays for clergy costs in the main. The flat owned by the Parish has now been put on the market.

Vision – There was a discussion on the following questions by the PCC:

As Stretton Parish PCC, when thinking ahead to this time next year:

What would our worship look like?

What would our buildings look like?

What would our pastoral care look like?

What would our outreach look like?

What would our discipleship look like?

And then, thinking differently, how might we resource these and our ministries going forward?

This produced a rich selection of ideas and these will be considered by the Ministry Team as the year continues.

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	Maira 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 31st May Readings at 10.30am service, Amos 7:7-15 & Revelation 21:1-11.

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am United Parish Service
Parish Centre 5pm Young People's Life Group
Online Service 10.30am Live Stream of 10.30am service

Monday 1st June

9.30am First Aid Course, Room 1, Parish Centre

Tuesday 2nd

9.15am Parish Prayer meeting, St Laurence
10.15am Ministry Team meeting, Parish Centre

Wednesday 3rd

2.30pm CAMEO, Silvester Horne Institute
7.30pm Bible Society Romans Course, Parish Centre

Thursday 4th

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

Friday 5th

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

Saturday 6th

10.00am Memorial Service for Hazel Ryan, St Laurence

Sunday 7th June, Readings Genesis 12.1-9, Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

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 9th

9.15am Parish Prayer Meeting, St Laurence
2.30pm Mothers' Union Garden Party, Venue To Be Confirmed

Wednesday 10th

7.00pm Bishop's Visitation, St Laurence
7.30pm Bible Society Romans Course, Parish Centre

Thursday 11th

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

Friday 12th

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

Saturday 13th

2.00pm Concert of Songs from the Musicals, by Shrewsbury Theatre Singers and Little Hereford Voices, St Laurence



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 Ley Gardens.
- 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.

A Prayer from Lectio 365 from Pentecost Sunday

Lord, bring in the harvest we pray!

Propel us out of our prayer rooms and into the public squares.

Out of our church meetings and into the streets,

Out of our timidity and into the courageous confession of your gospel!

Revive us, sanctify us, unite us, and fill us once again, we pray.

Set our hearts on fire again with the good news of your gospel.

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

