



**Stretton Parish**

# CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 3rd July 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 24th July 2026

## Summer events are underway

### Parish Picnic

A good crowd gathered for the Parish Picnic on Sunday to enjoy time together in the garden at All Saints Church. Thanks to all those who went down on Saturday to set up the gazebos for us. Thankfully it wasn't as hot as it had been earlier in the week and we all had a very pleasant afternoon. This was followed by Evensong in the church led by the Parish Choir and Robin Trew whose message was "Look Up" based on Genesis 22.13.



### CAMEO Garden Party at the Rectory

CAMEO had a lovely afternoon in the Rectory garden this week. The sun shone, and everyone enjoyed admiring the garden, the lovely cakes and tea and chatting with one another. Thanks to all those who worked together to make this such an enjoyable event.



### Church Stretton Arts Festival

For the first time this year, there will be an art installation in the churchyard at St Laurence Church as part of the Church Stretton Arts Festival. The inspiration for our art comes from Psalm 121. Janet Poundford has made the bunting pictured below which will mark the entrance to the churchyard from Church Street.

The art installation will feature painted stones and spoons. It is not too late to get involved, please do have a go if you'd like to. All materials and instructions provided. Please contact Sarah Lear via [sarah@barcombe.net](mailto:sarah@barcombe.net); 07858 161077; 01694 721228.

Do make sure you go along to view the installation from 25th July.



# Teas to Please 2026

All Saints Church, Little Stretton

Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August from 2pm to 5pm

Thank you so much to all those who have donated mugs for Teas to Please. We are happy to report that we now have sufficient to be able to cater for everyone on the day.

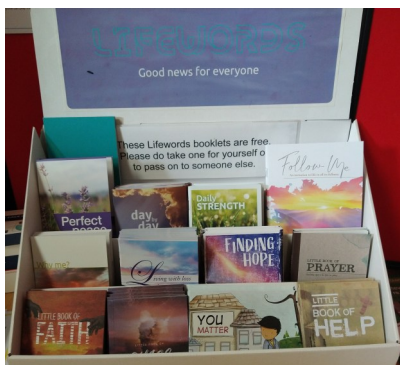
With Teas to Please only a matter of weeks away, we are now turning our thoughts to the various stalls and what is required, and we are relying once again on your generosity.

So, if you are able to donate any of the following, please contact Liz Bourke (01694 722910)

- Cakes
- Jams and preserves
- Bric-a-brac
- Tombola prizes
- Books
- Jigsaws



## Gifts for visitors



The Lifewords pamphlets in St Laurence contain words from scripture, and are very popular with visitors, who are encouraged to take one for themselves or to pass on to others.

Also, in each of the churches you will now see Bibles available for people to take who do not own one, but would like to discover more about Jesus. We would ask



that members of the congregation DO NOT take these Bibles to distribute to people, but encourage anyone they know who wants to find out more, to come and take one for themselves. Please do pray for each person who takes a Bible, that as they open and read it they may discover more about God's great love for them.



## Eeyore's eco tips

Leave one or two corners of the garden to become 'untidy' with long grass, ivy and nettles. Wildlife will love these areas.

# NOTICE BOARD



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

Helen Crumpton will be coming to speak to us about the services offered by Mayfair Community Centre.

## Do you attend the 8.30am Communion Service at St Laurence?

Numbers at the Sunday 8.30am service at St Laurence are growing and we could do with some extra help. If you attend this service and would like to help with welcoming, setting up for the service, assisting with Communion or reading, please [contact Jo](#)

## Help with mid-week Communion Service

Help is also needed with setting up for the midweek Communion in St Laurence, which is 10.30am on Thursdays. If you think you might be willing to serve in this way, please speak to Jo or Steve. Thank you.

## Café Church Sunday 5th July

Join us for a more relaxed style of worship in All Stretton Village Hall at 10.30am, where we meet for Café Church. There will be time to peruse the newspapers and chat over coffee and pastries before joining together in praise and thanksgiving.



There will be no service in St. Michael's Church on that day.

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

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



## Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

DEC charities are working with their local partners to reach people with emergency aid in Venezuela. Survivors urgently need shelter, food, water, and medical care. To donate online please use this link: <https://www.dec.org.uk> If you are unable to donate online, you can give using the card readers in All Saints or St Laurence, or put cash or cheques in envelopes marked "DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal" in the offering plates in the churches or drop in to the Parish Office. Cheques should be made payable to "DEC".



## Children's Books for Watota, Uganda

Watota (established in 1984) runs many churches and supports orphaned children and destitute women throughout Uganda. Orphaned children are raised in families in three purpose-built villages, and educated to vocational and university level, as appropriate.

Books are needed, especially books for babies and toddlers. If you have any second-hand books in excellent condition you could donate, please put them in the box provided in St Laurence Church.



*Sally and Richard Shephard*



# PRAYER FOCUS

- Give thanks to God for the many blessing we enjoy living in the Shropshire Hills
- May the people of Venezuela be comforted and helped as they try to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones and their homes
- We pray that the government in Venezuela may accept help in the recovery plans for the country and there may be honesty and integrity amongst those with authority
- May God give new vision to our politicians so that the needs of our nation for housing, health and education leading to work may become a reality
- Ask God to use the free Bibles that are now available in our churches to reveal God's love to all who take one as a gift
- Thank God for Christian witness in our schools. May the seeds sown in the primary school assemblies bear fruit in the hearts of children and staff. Pray for the 'Its Your Move' activity on Wednesday 8th, led by Sally and her team, for those children moving to secondary school
- Pray for all those away on holiday, may they find both spiritual and physical refreshment
- May the many holiday makers here in the Strettons feel the presence of Christ both in our churches and in the people they meet here
- Pray that the Arts Festival arrangements in the church may go smoothly and the events be joyous.
- May those who are grieving the loss of someone they love, know the comfort and presence of Jesus and the reality and warmth of human friendship and kindness
- We pray for Bethany and Samuel marrying at All Saints on 18th July

## A Prayer for Venezuela

Lord of mercy,  
Be near to the people of Venezuela in this time of fear and loss.

Bring comfort to those who are hurting,  
shelter to those without homes,  
and strength to all who are responding with care and compassion.

May your presence be a source of peace,  
and may hope rise even in the midst of uncertainty.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen

**We pray for the nursing homes in the town**  
particularly remembering Field House

**We pray for those who are sick,**  
particularly Valerie M, Sylvia L Michael F

**We pray for those who mourn,**  
particularly the family and friends of David Morris who died last weekend.  
Funeral details to follow.

## Prayer for marriage

God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Memorial Book

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

Barbara Leak, Peggy Medicott, Robert Roseveare,  
Hedwig Lewis, Doris Nutall, Thomas Shepherd,  
Alan Newman, Clive Wheeler, Christine Hughes,  
Mary Marsden, Claire Miles, Kathleen De'Ath,  
Sydney Mulliner, Annie Cooper, Kenneth Elderwick,  
Marjorie Stevens, Harry Harland, Valerie Yapp,

# DIARY

## Sunday 5th July, Readings Genesis 9.8-17, Matthew 26.26-29

St. Laurence's	8.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Deeper
St Michael's	10.30am	Café Church, All Stretton Village Hall
All Saints	10.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2
Parish Centre	5pm	Young People's Life Group
Online Service	10.00am	Online Service

## Tuesday 7th

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

## Wednesday 8th

7.30pm	Bible Society Romans Course, Parish Centre
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## Thursday 9th

10.00am	Parents and Toddlers, Silvester Horne Institute
10.30am	Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence
3.30pm	Messy Church, St Laurence

## Friday 10th

9.00am	Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
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The Parish Office will be closed for a fortnight from Monday 6th July, reopening Monday 20th July.

## Sunday 12th July, Readings Genesis 17, 3-12, Matthew 19.16-26

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

## Tuesday 14th

9.15am	Parish Prayer meeting, St Laurence
2.30pm	Mothers' Union, St Laurence
7.30pm	PCC, Children's Room

## Wednesday 15th

10.00am	Leavers Service, St Laurence
7.30pm	Bible Society Romans Course, Parish Centre

## Thursday 16th

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

## Friday 17th

9.00am	Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
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## Saturday 18th

9.30am	St Laurence Working Party
1.30pm	Wedding of Bethany Powell and Samuel Byers, All Saints



**Taizé Worship:** Sunday 12th July 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.

# DIARY continued

**Sunday 19th July**, Readings 1 Samuel 2.1-10, Luke 2.36-38

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

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

**Wednesday 22nd**

7.30pm Bible Society Romans Course, Parish Centre

**Thursday 23rd**

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

**Friday 24th**

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

## Phishing emails

One of our parishioners recently received an email from a fake email address which looked to be from the Rector. Many phishing emails can look genuine but can infect your devices with a virus, steal personal information or persuade you to part with money. If you're unsure whether an email is genuine, use the tips in the poster to the right. If in doubt, phone the person to check they sent it, or delete the email.

**SecurityHQ Top Tips to Detect Phishing Scams**

- 1 Name of Sender can trick you.
- 2 Check for typos.
- 3 Don't share sensitive information hastily.
- 4 Don't fall for Urgency!
- 5 Hover but don't click.
- 6 Attachments can be dangerous.
- 7 Is it too good to be true?
- 8 Keep your devices up to date.
- 9 Regularly check your accounts.
- 10 When in Doubt, Call out.

If you suspect that the security of your work device or data has been compromised, inform your cyber security team or your manager immediately.

www.securityhq.com

<b>Rector</b>	Rev Steve Johnson	steve.johnson@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 722585
<b>Curate</b>	Rev Mary Carter	mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk	07356 220329
<b>Associate Minister</b>	Rev Preb Christobel Hargraves	chris.hargraves@strettonparish.org.uk	01547 550311
<b>All Stretton LEP—URC Minister</b>	Rev Hazel Allen	hazel.allen@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 751400
<b>Children &amp; Families Worker</b>	Sally Cilverd	sally@strettonparish.org.uk	07985 943 906
<b>Readers</b>	Gillian Taylor	gillian.taylor@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
	Chris Lear	chris@barcombe.net	07514 738 653
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Stephen Carter	stephen.carter@strettonparish.org.uk	07356 220329
	Carolyn Gray	Carolyn.gray@strettonparish.org.uk	07913 989252
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>			
St Laurence	James Foster	james.foster@strettonparish.org.uk	07736 324 160
All Saints	Moira Matthews	moiraemathews@gmail.com	01743 455005
<b>Pastoral Coordinator</b>	Rev Nancy Cleaton	nancy.cleaton@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328132
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Vince	graham.vince@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 328478
<b>Rector's PA</b>	Jo Aze	jo.aze@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 724224
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>	Chrissie Pepler	chrissie.pepler@strettonparish.org.uk	01694 771888
<b>Life Group Coordinator</b>	Rev Caroline Windley	caroline.windley@strettonparish.org.uk	
<b>Rector's Day Off</b>	Fridays		
		<b>Church office hours:</b>	9am-12.30pm Monday to Friday