



Stretton Parish

CONTACT

News for weekend beginning Friday 24th July 2026

Parish Website: www.strettonparish.org.uk

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

The next Contact will be issued on Friday 7th August 2026

Church Stretton Arts Festival

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:

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
where does my help come from?*

*² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*³ He will not let your foot slip –
he who watches over you will not slumber;*

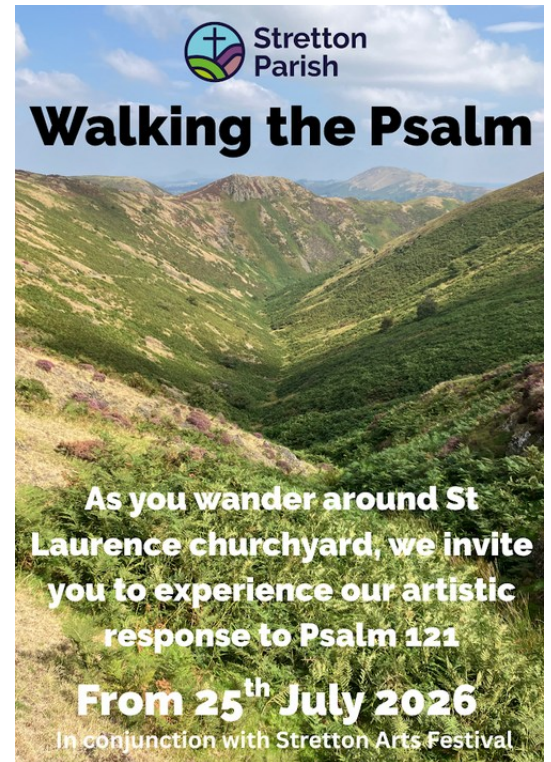
*⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep*

*⁵ The LORD watches over you –
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;*

*⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm –
he will watch over your life;*

*⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.*

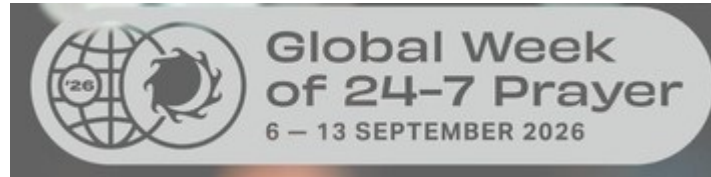


The team putting together the display has started assembling items in the churchyard. Do come along and check it out as more items are added over the next few days. Here's a preview:



Parish Centre Update

We are pleased to report that progress is continuing towards the repair and restoration of the Parish Centre. We have now received confirmation that the contractors' detailed scope of works is expected shortly, following ongoing discussions with the loss adjusters and insurers. The planned work includes repairs to the ceiling, electrical systems, decoration throughout the hall, and restoration of the flooring, along with other necessary remedial work. A recently discovered area of possible mould in part of the floor has also been added to the assessment to ensure it is dealt with properly. Although the process has taken longer than we had hoped, we are encouraged that the project is moving forward. We have requested that work begins as soon as the Arts Festival concludes on 10 August, with the aim of welcoming everyone back to the Parish Centre as soon as possible.



As a parish we are joining with the 24-7 Global Week of Prayer from 6th-13th September. This involves praying alongside people from all over the world for every nation on earth.

Each church will be open daily with prayer stations and St Laurence will remain open until 7pm. If you find it difficult to get to church, please pray at home, and of course, in the evenings and overnight you will be praying at home, where you can read and pray through some Psalms, pray through the news, read a hymn and pray, and pray using prayer pointers and news in Contact. We are running it from 6pm beginning with Deeper on Sunday 6th September until 6pm on Sunday 13th September, so there are 168 hours to be filled!

To sign up when you can commit to pray:

- Use [this link](#):
- Use the sign-up sheet available in all three churches

Help required to set up prayer stations.

There have already been some offers of help, but more are needed. If you/your Life Group would like to assist on Sunday afternoon 6th September, please contact Mary Carter on 07356 220329 or email her at Mary.carter@strettonparish.org.uk by Friday 28th August.

As part of this week of prayer, we will meet together for worship and prayer. We'll begin the week at our Deeper Service on Sunday 6th September at 6.30pm and will join together again on Wednesday 9th in St Laurence at 7.30pm. Please do put these dates in your diary and come and join us.

Stretton Parish

Global Week of 24-7 Prayer
6 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

From 6–13 September, Stretton Parish is joining the global Church to pray non-stop for every nation on earth.

You're so welcome to join us by signing up for an hour or more via the QR Code or on the sheets at the back of Churches.

The main stations will be in St Laurences, and there will also be 'Pray at home' ideas closer to the week.

As part of the week, we will also join together for worship & prayer in St Laurence on:
Deeper on Sunday 6th at 6:30pm
Wednesday 9th at 7:30pm

More info: strettonparish.org.uk

Teas to Please 2026

All Saints Church, Little Stretton
Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August
from 2pm to 5pm

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) or Stephen Carter (07356 220329)

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



A poster for 'Teas to Please 2026' with a red border. At the top is a string of blue and white bunting. Below it is a photo of All Saints Church, Little Stretton. The text is centered and reads: 'You are invited to Teas to Please on the lawn at All Saints' Church, Little Stretton, SY6 6RD From 2 pm to 5 pm, on Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August'. It lists activities: 'Teas, cakes, stalls, bric-a-brac, books, musical entertainment and games! The Scarecrow Competition results will be announced on Monday'. It also mentions: 'Card payments welcome. Proceeds will support Hope House, Severn Hospice and All Saints' Church maintenance'. At the bottom are illustrations of a vase of flowers, the Stretton Parish logo, and a teapot.

You are invited to

Teas to Please

on the lawn at All Saints' Church, Little Stretton, SY6 6RD

From 2 pm to 5 pm,
on Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August

Teas, cakes, stalls, bric-a-brac, books, musical entertainment and games!
The Scarecrow Competition results will be announced on Monday

Card payments welcome. Proceeds will support Hope House,
Severn Hospice and All Saints' Church maintenance



Stretton Parish
ALL SAINTS
LITTLE STRETTON



A poster for 'Summer Serenade' with a yellow and blue sunburst background. It features a large treble clef and musical notes. The text reads: 'An Evening of Summer Music In the company of The Ludlow Concert Band Summer Serenade Saturday 5th September 7.30pm at St. Michael's Church All Stretton, SY6 6LB Free admission interval with refreshments'. At the bottom, it says 'Retiring Collection in aid of the continued work on the Church boundary wall.' and 'Please note: For those who have difficulty with mobility, there is an alternative vestry entrance with a shallow plinth and 3 steps'. The website 'strettonparish.org.uk' is at the bottom.

Stretton Parish
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
ALL STRETTON

An Evening of Summer Music
In the company of The Ludlow Concert Band

Summer Serenade

Saturday 5th September
7.30pm
at St. Michael's Church
All Stretton, SY6 6LB

Free admission
interval with refreshments

Retiring Collection in aid of the continued work on the Church boundary wall.

Please note: For those who have difficulty with mobility, there is an
alternative vestry entrance with a shallow plinth and 3 steps

strettonparish.org.uk



A poster for 'Alpha' with a grey background. It features the Stretton Parish logo and the Alpha logo (a red question mark). The text reads: 'Explore the Christian faith on your terms at Alpha. THERE'S A SEAT FOR YOU Alpha is a place to meet new people, watch a short video, and talk honestly about life, faith and meaning. It's free and includes a meal and we would love to welcome you! Wednesdays, starting 23 September, 19:30pm AT THE PARISH CENTRE, CHURCH STRETTON Let us know you are coming or to ask a question: 01694 724224/ strettonparish.org.uk or use the QR code'. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

Explore the Christian faith on your terms at Alpha.

Stretton Parish

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Alpha is a place to meet new people,
watch a short video, and talk honestly
about life, faith and meaning.

It's free and includes a meal and we would love to
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Wednesdays, starting 23 September, 19:30pm

AT THE PARISH CENTRE, CHURCH STRETTON

Let us know you are coming or to ask a question:
01694 724224/ strettonparish.org.uk or use the QR code



NOTICE BOARD

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](#)

"Summer Lite" services at St Laurence

While our children's workers have a well earned rest, the 10:30am service at St Laurence from 26th July through to 30th August, will be suitable for all ages.

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 14th August. We hope you will be able to join us.

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



Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

Following the appeal in the last edition of Contact we have received a thank you from DEC for the £571.82 we were able to send to the Venezuela Earthquake Appeal.

You can still donate online using this link:

<https://www.dec.org.uk>



**CHURCH STRETTON
ARTS FESTIVAL**

**Greensleeves
Exhibition**

Free Entry



We are delighted to present this special one-day exhibition.

A group of eminent costume historians and practitioners have examined and recreated costumes, fabrics and embroidery described in the song *Greensleeves* almost 450 years after it first caught the attention of the Elizabethan public.

Two of the makers will be in attendance and there will also be a textile handling display and an opportunity to view a film made on the subject of the *Greensleeves* Project.

**Free entry, open 12 noon to 5.30pm on Wednesday 29th July
(and also 6.30-9pm for Passamezzo concert goers)**

Christmas!

For the last four years we have provided a full Christmas lunch in the Parish Centre on Christmas Day for those who would otherwise be on their own. This has been much appreciated by those who have come along. James has taken the lead on this each year, and would now like to take a well deserved break.

We would like to offer the lunch again this year, but need someone to head this up. Could this be you? If you think you might be willing, please contact the office. Thank you.



PRAYER FOCUS

- We pray for those who are sick, particularly in our church family, Valerie M. Sylvia L and Michael F.
- We pray for all our residential homes, particularly remembering Ley Gardens.
- Please pray for our Mission Partners, [Anna and Chris Hembury](#) in Hull and [Lea and Petra Williams](#) in Czech Republic.
- Pray for preparations for Teas to Please taking place at the end of August.
- Pray for all those visiting the churchyard during the Arts Festival

Please pray for all those from Stretton Parish going to **New Wine** from 28th July to 2nd August. May they encounter God in new ways and be refreshed in their faith.

DIARY

Sunday 26th July, Readings Joshua 2.1-21. Matthew 13.44-52

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

Tuesday 28th

9.15am Parish Prayer meeting, **Parish Centre**

Friday 31st

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's

Please note there is no mid-week Communion service on Thursday 30th July as we are hosting the Coffee Concerts that week.

Sunday 2nd August, Readings Esther 4.13-17, John 1.19-28

St. Laurence's 8.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
 10.30am Summer Lite
St Michael's 10.30am Holy Communion—Iona
All Saints 10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2
Online Service 10.00am Online Service

Tuesday 4th

9.15am Parish Prayer meeting, St Laurence

Thursday 6th

10.30am Holy Communion, Order 2, St Laurence

Friday 7th

9.00am Prayer Meeting, St Michael's



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



Stretton Parish is a host venue for the following
concerts during the Church Stretton Arts Festival



**CHURCH STRETTON
& SOUTH SHROPSHIRE
ARTS FESTIVAL**

Free Coffee Concerts in St Laurence, 10.15am, followed by refreshments:

Monday 27th July: Mixed Chamber Music and solos

Tuesday 28th July: Pianist Harry Raybould

Wednesday 29th July: Cellist Corinne Frost and pianist Janine Parsons

Thursday 30th July: Piano duet recital by Gill Styles and Richard Walker

Friday 31st July: Holborne Brass

Saturday 1st August: Wenlock Jazz Ensemble

Events in St Laurence

Tuesday 28th July, 7.30pm: Rossetti Ensemble with Chris West

Wednesday 29th July, 12 noon-5.30pm *Greensleeves* Exhibition, in the Parish Centre

Wednesday 29th July, 7.30pm: Passamezzo— *With Gold Embroidered Gorgeously*

Friday 31st July, 7.30pm: Corvus Consort and Fenella Humphreys— *Shared Ground*

Sunday 2nd August, 4pm: Robin Ince

Monday 3rd August, 7.30pm: Ensemble Renard

Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm: Mid Wales Opera

Friday 7th August, 7.30pm: John Lenehan presents *The Roaring Twenties*

Free Organ recitals

Monday 3rd August, 12 noon: David Price at All Saints Church

Saturday 8th August at 12 noon: Richard Walker at St Laurence Church

For more details of the concerts and other festival events, visit the [Church Stretton Arts Festival website](http://ChurchStrettonArtsFestival.org.uk)

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 Cilverd	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
	Carolyn Gray	Carolyn.gray@strettonparish.org.uk	07913 989252
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	