June 2024

Stratton Team Ministry

Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God Together

www.strattonteamministry.co.uk



STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY

Rector: Reverend Elveen Mead [Usual Day off Friday]

Lay Minister: Lisa Lodwick

Alison Burston

Dan Read

Church Administrator Georgina Martin 826505

Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Margaret's Church and St Mary Magdalene Church

Mrs June Lewis 822954

Mr Ian Jones 07769703385

Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Wardens

Mr David Horne 07717447855

Mr Richard Pfleger 828367

St Leonards Church

Mrs Liz Hillman 762935

Mr Chris Pope

Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers & DBS Lead Recruiters

Dr Mike Bosher 07799835437

Mrs Mary Bosher

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for St. Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene

Mrs Rosalind Mitchell (Secretary) 764146

Mrs Diane Whitford

(Deputy Secretary of St Mary Magdalene) 824339

St Leonards

Mr Michael Curtis

(PCC secretary St Leonards)

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Stratton Methodist Church, 829335
St Mary's R C Church, The Presbytery, Swindon 535089

Clergy report - March 2024 (Easter 6)

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.'

Jesus goes on to say in the reading 'and I appointed you to go and bear fruit.'

John 15:12

The theme of love and bearing fruit makes this a perfect reading for me as I was preparing this week's talk.

Because loving one another and bearing the fruit is what I want to concentrate on.

We have just had our APCMs, Annual Parochial Church Council Meetings an opportunity to reflect on the past year. There are reports that are diligently written by the leaders of groups in our churches that talk about the activities that have taken place. They celebrate the joys and the challenges we've faced.

Minister's reports though not essential are often an opportunity to thank those who have contributed so much of their time, energy and money over the past year. The tradition is to use them as a sermon prior or just after the meeting.

So in a nutshell my sermon should say didn't we do well and thank you.

Short and sweet but so as not to short change you. Buckle up because here we go!

You have been and continue to be a joy to minister to.

I want to start with one of the highlights for me that just about sneaks into this year. That of the lifting of the suspension meaning that I was re-licensed as Rector by our new Bishop Neil Warick. This was not just a big deal for me but for all of us as it means the diocese deem us worthy of being a rectorship. This gives certain privileges, and it also recognises the good work that has been going on here.

Something else that just sneaked in was to finally be able to announce that our new curate Charlotte will be joining us after her Deaconing in June.

I continue to feel blessed to be part of this wonderful worshiping community.

The welcome and support that I've experienced is something that shows what wonderful welcoming churches we have in the team. That doesn't just benefit me but all newcomers or visitors. This is what makes the difference to whether people stay, and make our church their home. Every one of you are ambassadors. At a service when you smile, when you say hello, when you share about what we do here. But not just on a Sunday you are ambassadors during the week, wherever you go. What you say about our church matters and makes a difference. So even if you are not directly involved in any of the activities, you still make a difference so thank you.

Reading through the report folder makes me gasp at how much we've accomplished.

We continue to offer services across our churches on a Sunday even though at times this has been challenging to cover. I had help, Alison Burston, Lisa Lodwick and Mark Tubey, have regularly been part of our Sunday ministry. Reverend Trevor Day has helped out along with Reverend Rachel Cook and a couple of other floating priests including Michael Johnson. And it was a pleasure to welcome back one of our previous Vicars, Victor Howlett who is willing to help out occasionally in the future when his commitment to his local church allows. However LLMs and priests don't work alone, stewards and contacts that have assisted at services, your support when we take services is invaluable and to you, I want to say thank you. By being welcoming we have seen our congregations grow and new people wanting to stay with us and to call Stratton Team home. It has been a privilege to minister to people who have been hurt by previous church encounters to now know they are in a place that welcomes them unconditionally and without prejudice or bias.

Church is far more than the building, it is made up of the people who worship together.

Understanding the nature of church has meant that we have been able to see how we can truly worship the One who created us, in various ways and under His care

We have held many events over the year too and there has been a feeling of celebration at each of them, and this has also added to our fundraising campaigns. St Margaret's held its church fete after having to post pone it in 2022 due to the death of the Queen. The success of that means we are putting it on again this year.

At St Leonard's they held a church clean up which took place as part of King Charles' coronation weekend events. The turn out was fantastic and along with much cleaning and clearing, the gravel path was renewed.

St Mary Magdalene held a flower festival and sold cakes to which many from the village attended.

We are always interested in new ideas for ways to raise money, or to make a difference in our community or to bless those connected to our churches, so please do consider how you can join in and let me know if you have any ideas!

The Eco leaflet with activities to do outdoors is one example. How lovely to see St Leonard's eco work recognised by the Diocese and publicity team.

We held a number of special services over the year Taize, Prosecco and praise, the Noah production and The interactive passion. Thank you to all who were involved in these. Attendance for Christmas services across our churches were up or maintained. The walking nativity at Stanton was well attended and the crib service at South Marston attracted families from the villages. I continue to work with South Marston school. They come into church to celebrate Easter, Harvest and Christmas. It is lovely to see the church full and to welcome children with their families.

I have purposely not mentioned any names this year, as there have been so many people who keep us going in various ways, some more obviously and some more privately, but please know that you are all valued.

I know that some people have struggled as they have aged to be as active in church life as they were before, but please do not be disheartened by this. Spending time at home and in prayer is just as valuable as the person who makes the tea and coffee or vacuums the carpets.

It is a joy to take Communion to people not able to come to church as regularly as they would like. We have quite a few on our list and I don't often get around to doing these as often as I would like. I hope to get a team together to help me with this ministry, please make contact if you would like a home communion or are able to be part of the team.

One thing that has been my priority since coming to Stratton Team is creating an atmosphere of mutual love, acceptance and family across our 4 communities of St Leonard's, St Mary Magdalene, Coleview and St Margaret's.

By working together we ensure a strong future of Christian presence in our town and villages. Each church is unique and special and that is to be celebrated and protected but that shouldn't stop us working together ever more closely in the future.

There are many aspects of life at Stratton Team that involve individuals and teams that I would like to thank, as I do perhaps you might like to consider joining:

The welcome teams – greeting people as they come into church, helping them find a seat etc and making sure they are with someone for refreshments if they're served. Thank you

Those who serve refreshments after the service or baking a cake for others to serve. Thank you

Those who keep our churchyards looking tidy – we always need more people for this, thank you

Those who run and take part in our choir which practices on a Sunday evening. I have heard so many stories of how being part of the choir has been life changing. Thank you.

Our bell ringers at St Margaret's – a wonderful way to make music to the Lord and get a workout at the same time. Thank you.

Thank you to those who make our churches look beautiful.

- The ones who change our altar frontals
- Who clean the brass
- Who clean our churches
- Who create beautiful flower displays
- Who look after the fabric of our churches and that means the structure like the roof, electrics, heating and all that sort of stuff. Thank you

A special thanks for those who have worked so hard to get the re-ordering project at St Margaret's. Our vision to get the bells repaired, the tower renovated and a toilet facility installed has involved a great deal of work. It has been a long old slog but the end is in sight. Work has started and we look forward to celebrating when everything is completed.

Thank you for those who offer refreshments across our communities hospitality is so important.

A special thanks goes to those who set out the chairs and tables for all the various activities we put on at the centre.

Thank you to those who donate to the Food Collective and take it on our behalf to their warehouse.

We have a wonderful team of people who go into our care homes. Thank you. We have a wonderful group of vergers, sound co-ordinators and stewards. We always need more.

Thank you for those who support me and the ministry team in this way.

A lot goes on at our coffee mornings, our once a month at Stanton and South Marston and the weekly one at St Margaret's centre. If you do the drinks, bake the cakes or serve at these cafes, thank you.

We have a number of children focused activities. Thank you to those who run and volunteer at, our Bumps and Babes, Saturday Scene, Boys Brigade, and our all age services at South Marston and Stanton. I hope to get a team to run an all age service at St Margaret's or Coleview in the future so please do come forward if you can help me with this or you want to be part of any of the other children's groups I've mentioned.

You can never have too many volunteers!

We have some very talented people in our churches who provide music.

Our wonderful organists and our music group add so much to our worship on a Sunday. Thank you, you bless us more than you can know.

We have morning prayer meetings which take place at St Margaret's centre, thank you to those who faithfully pray there each week. Prayer is vital so thank you to everyone who prays for our churches.

A number of other things run behind the scenes collecting for charities, that deserve our thanks, Operation Christmas Child, Rags to Riches, jigsaw puzzle sales, our recycling of bottle tops, pill blister packs etc and the many other times we collect for various charities we support.

Those involved, thank you.

Thank you to those who support the PCC by helping with the electoral role, who oversee the fees for our occasional services, those who liaise with the diocese, and other administrative duties, our secretaries and treasurers. Thank you.

Thank you to our safeguarding officers and those who are our eyes and ears in each of our churches, though we all have a role to play in ensuring a safe space for everyone.

Our thanks go to our Health and Safety officers, making sure that our events and services are held safely.

Thank you those who distribute and write articles for our magazine

Thank you for those who maintain contact with organisations, the Mother's Union, scouts and brownies and our schools.

Thank you to our school foundation Governors who bring a Christian perspective and presence into the meetings

Thank you to those who oversee our prayer diary.

Thank you to those who are on our PCCs you are vital, without you a church cannot survive.

In particular thank you to our church wardens who work so hard.

Not only do you support the church, you support and care for me, thank you.

Thank you to our ministry team Dan, Lisa and Alison and for our LLM on loan Mark

Tubey. Our thanks also goes to those who have occasionally taken services for us Such a lot, and I've probably missed loads, If I've missed you out, thank you. Maybe you could prayerfully consider where you can be part of the amazing work that goes on at Stratton Team. Trust me you will be blessed far more than you ever expect. Being part of a church family is wonderful but you get so much more out of it when you become involved. Please, please consider what brings you joy and where that gift that is unique to you can be used to bless others. I am grateful for the support from each and every one of you. If I have neglected an activity, group, ministry or work that goes on at Stratton Team I am deeply sorry but know that I am also deeply grateful. I pray and give thanks to God for each and every one of you. Every single person forms part of our family that is Stratton Team Ministry, Without your help we cannot carry on. Without your help we wouldn't be here now, Without your help we won't be here in the future. So thank you, thank you, thank you Blessings

Christian Aid Week - 12th - 18th May 2024

I was looking for an article to read at the May Care Home services and decided to look in a 1991 copy of The Friendship Book (it belonged to my mother).

The reading for Monday May 13th 1991, talked about Christian Aid and I chose it as I thought it was relevant. It made me think about how lucky we are here in the UK!

The article said about how over 500,000 volunteers made door-to-door collections in those times helping to raise money towards help for the poor in the Third World.

The author was reminded of a book called 'The Country Child' from the 'The Little Grey Rabbit' series by Alison Uttley. She tells of a girl named Susan Garland who was on her way home from school but turned back guiltily and walked two miles just to pick up a crust of bread that she had dropped! It reminded the author of one of the previous Christian Aid slogans

"To live more simply, that others might simply live".

It also reminded me that as a Christian, I have a responsibility to look at everything that's on offer to help the way I live, help my brothers and sisters and ultimately help save our planet!

Recently I was recommended this App called 'Too Good to Go' and their website.

Their slogan is "Let's fight food waste together" and they say

'Food waste is a big problem, and we can be a solution. Too Good To Go is the app that lets you rescue unsold food from an untimely fate at your favourite spots'.

Of course, I had to test it out and was pleasantly surprised. I paid £3.09 and collected a 'surprise bag' from Morrisons after 5pm that evening.



The bags vary each day and with each supermarket but this is what my bag contained. I froze a lot of items but it was excellent value and thankfully saved it going to WASTE!

Why not give it a go?

June Lewis

All things bright and beautiful,

all creatures great and small... the Lord God made them all.



I've heard that many organists and ministers get a bit fed up of this hymn, as it's chosen so often for weddings and funerals, but I've enjoyed singing it since I was a schoolgirl, and I still find the words meaningful today. These phrases resonate in my mind when I'm out enjoying nature, looking and listening for things that pique my interest. A pretty flower, twittering bird, scampering squirrel, glistening spiderweb, or a curious insect. Some things catch my eye easily, such as a butterfly fluttering by, but other little creatures are only noticed when I bend down to look at something else. At times, it's only *after* I've taken a photo of a nice flower that I've noticed a tiny beastie has photobombed my picture!

Sometimes, I've been annoyed by bugs, especially the biting sort, but I'm also fascinated by their weird shapes and iridescent colours. And I really appreciate the ease with which we can now take great photos of them just with a mobile phone. It's become so simple to click on the camera icon, take a quick snap, and later look with awe at the intricate details. Well, I say simple – it does sometimes take quite a lot of patience, standing very still, and crouching down amongst potentially prickly undergrowth. And it can cause bemused looks from passers-by, especially when I use the voice-activation to trigger the camera (very useful, by the way), so I appear to be saying "smile" to an invisible person!

However, I find it very rewarding to capture interesting images to enjoy later. I also like to share them with my friends via social media. My aim is not to show off, but to showcase the beauty of nature, and ideally point towards the wonders of God's creation. I'm wary of being too explicit about my Christian faith on social media, but this is where the hymn comes in — I've occasionally referenced it in the annotation to my photos, as a not-too-subtle hint, I hope.

Because for myself, taking delight in nature is one of the things that draws me closer to God. Being out for a walk in woods, with dappled sunlight breaking through the leaves and birds chirping melodically up in the trees, is a sure way to lift up my spirit and cause me to give prayerful thanks to our Lord - the maker of it all.

I'm aware that not everything about nature is beautiful or good, but one of the things I like to show with my photos is that even "ugly bugs" and weeds have a beauty and fascination of their own. During Covid lockdowns, I posted pictures of daisies and dandelions from my garden – yes, just simple and ordinary, but still capable of making us smile. And great food for bees!

I love the way that sunlight makes such a big difference to a scene – it heightens contrast and brightens everything up. I shared this in a sermon once: comparing the effect of the physical sun with the Son of God; how Jesus enlivens us, brightens up our lives, helps us to see things in a new light.

I also like taking photos after it's been raining – there's something special about those glistening drops of water on petals and leaves. A welcome drink for thirsty plants and bugs, and maybe a reminder of Jesus, the Living Water. Although too much rain can be damaging, as those affected by floods sadly know too well. And so it also speaks to me of resilience, of coming through the storm; maybe a bit battered or bruised, but still intact, still beautiful, still opening up to face the welcome sun (and Son), still a source of nourishment to others.

One of the comments that pleased me most was when a friend said: "I'm now hooked on standing still and peering at flowers!". I hope you will be encouraged to do so too, and take delight in the "glowing colours and...tiny wings" that God has made so well. May it lift your spirit and cause you to sing a hymn of praise too!

by Lisa Lodwick, Licensed Lay Minister and member of ArtServe.

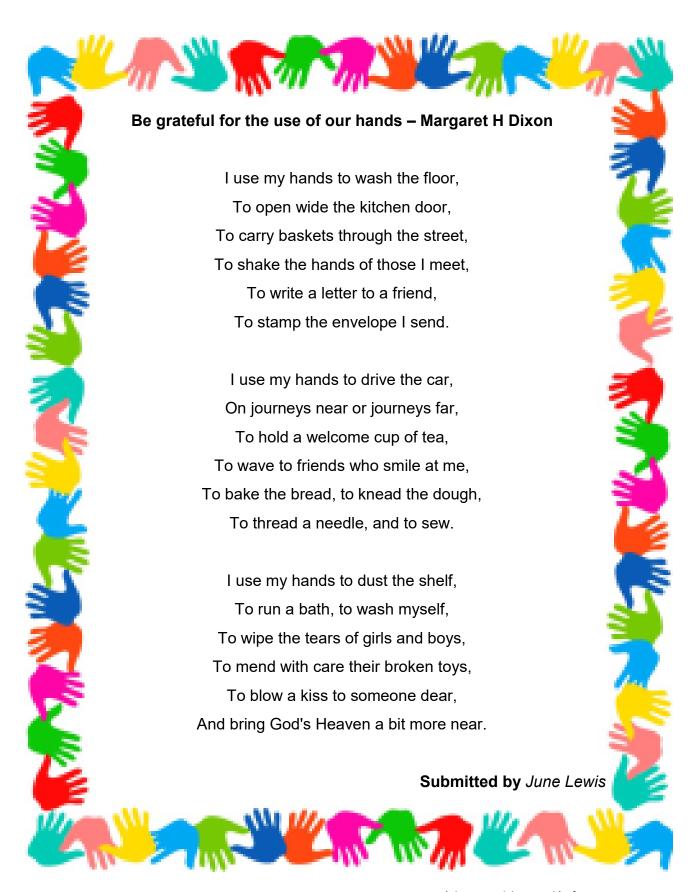
Article originally printed in The Methodist Recorder, April 2024











St Margaret's Church Building Project

Work is continuing in the tower with the staircase and mezzanine floor in position. The internal wall separating the toilet and electrics switchboard has been plastered, the stair handrail is still to be fitted. The toilet area fittings have been chosen and are being purchased.

The kitchen back walls and electrical wiring is being carried out in readiness for the back cupboards to be fitted, the final details of equipment has been chosen.

Work to fit the ceiling of the bell chamber on site should start soon. The new ceiling will be raised in the tower to give a ring chamber of 10 feet 6 inches and we will see if we can get a date for the bells to be returned to the church.

Having been awarded the Heritage Lottery fund for the roof, we are hoping to find out when the stone roof tiles will be available. There is a waiting list for these so it could be a delay on this item.

The church is a building site during the week and therefore has restrictions on access so we can only see what has been done at weekends.

Thank you for your understanding and patience whist this work is being carried out.

Richard Pfleger





A link with the past?

In January 1986 between the settlements of Gennesar and Magdala on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, an amazing discovery was made.

As a result of falling sea levels the outline of a sunken wooden boat appeared. Scientific analysis revealed that it was built between 50 BC and 50 AD and that it had been in use in the time of Jesus.

Around 7 feet in beam (about the beam of today's canal narrow boats) and about 26 feet in length, it could easily have accommodated Jesus and his disciples, plus a small crew to tend the sail and to steer.

Being flat bottomed it thus corroborated the story in Mark 4 verse 1, of Jesus teaching the crowd from a boat as, being flat bottomed it would take the ground close inshore.

Regularly new discoveries continue to add substance to Biblical stories.

For Jesus to teach from a boat, He had, perforce, to be close inshore and only a flat bottomed boat could fit the bill since a keeled boat would have to anchor further out in deeper water.

As Christians we believe without seeing but sometimes tangible proof is welcome.

Do we need proof that God is with us always, of course not?

When we feel low then, let us take heart. God is by our side.

Colin Howell





Singing in the Church Choir

Has it ever been your desire To sing in a joyful Church Choir? To join in a song and harmony Gladsome tones and psalmody.

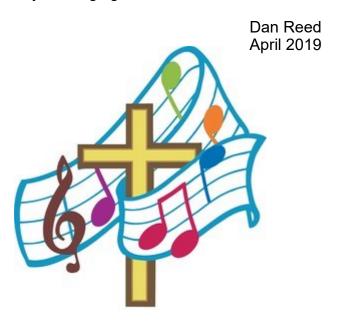
No petty thoughts of selfish whim
When expressing the words of an ancient hymn
Or excelling with others in a magical way
A modern masterpiece of the day.
Truly to sing is a wonderful thrill
We can learn so much from the skylark's trill.

Just to be in a team with likeness of mind
Never to be deaf over blind
To the spiritual words that teach a new way
Of thinking and learning how to pray,
Letting any listener share a heartfelt belief
In joy or sorrow or sadly grief.

Showing outwardly what we truly believe.

What else is better for us to achieve
Than praising with Rutter or Bach with those who would hear
Bringing them pleasure, comfort and cheer.

So will you come now and join the choir You're welcome if this is your longing desire.





2 nd June	1st Sunday after Trinity			
St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church		St Mary Magdalene Church	
9:30am	9:30am		10am	
Holy Communion Service	Sunday Morning Worship		All Age Worship	
8 th June	2 nd Sunday after Trinity			
St Margaret's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church		St Leonard's Church	
9:30am	9:30am		11am	
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service		Family Service	
16 th June	3 rd Sunday after Trinity			
St Margaret's Church	10am		Team Worship	
23 rd June	4 th Sunday after Trinity			
St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church			
9:30am	9:30am			
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service			
30 th June		5 th Sunday after Trinity		
Coleview Community Centre		11am	Team Worship	

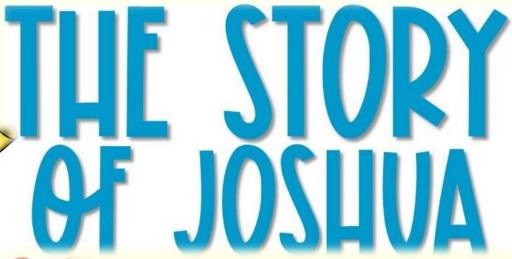
Please see our website for the most up to date information **www.strattonteamministry.co.uk**We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.



At St Margaret's Centre

(Kenwin Close, off Ermin street, Stratton St. Margaret)

Saturday 8th June @ 4pm





for more information Please contact us at ⊠stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com **101793 826505**

www.facebook.com/stmsaturdayscene



St Leonards Invite you to our Family Service at 11am on the 9th June



All welcome for a lively Family Service designed to involve children and appeal to adults.



Diocese of Bristol

Mothers' Union Fellowship Group

We have now formed a Mothers' Union Fellowship Group We meet on the 2nd Friday of the month and most months we meet at 5t Margaret's Centre from 2.30-4.00pm

Our next meeting is on Friday June 14th

We start with a short service of worship and this month we will be thinking about Father's Day

Our speaker will be Tina from 'Swindon Caring Hearts'

Do come and join us.

For more info, visit the Bristol MU website

www.mubristol.co.uk







- raising awareness of modern slavery

Anne Pope - MU Deanery Leader



Weekly Prayers for June - Mission and Vision

Monday: Footsteps in Faith

'In him we live and move and have our being.' Acts 17.28

We, the church, are all about Footsteps in Faith. We make them. We look ahead to judge the terrain. We look back to see where we've come from. We journey together, though sometimes we feel alone. Sometimes our path is well lit, sometimes we stumble in the darkness; but always, like the saints of old, we mark the landscape with our footsteps in faith.

MU Chaplain, Newcastle Diocese

Heavenly Father, give us the faith to look to Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. Faith to see the invisible, and do the impossible; faith invincible in the face of evil and death. Faith to pass the good news of Jesus to the next generation; faith to live in sustainable ways to bless the earth you created. Faith to take up our cross and follow Jeus all our day until we come to our eternal home. In Jesus name, Amen Margaret Vivian, Sheffield Diocese

Tuesday: Community transformation

'You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:14,16

Pray for the work of the church, bringing hope and help for a new start to those in prison, a voice for the unjustly convicted, and practical compassion for victims of circumstance.

God our Saviour, we come to you with broken hearts. We see the world in pain and hunger, not only for food but also for justice. Our minds are full of questions, though the innermost of our hearts could feel your love and compassion. Your grace shines on humanity whether righteous or wrong. Let us be your helping hands for the bereaved and the persecuted. God of hope, please hear our prayer, in Jesus name. Amen

Annabel Khinn sett Lin, Myanmar



Wednesday: Worldwide fellowship

You are members of God's family. You are being built together into a house where God lives through his Spirit.' Eph 2.19,22

Ever loving God, thank you for the gift of family. In the family the binding love of God finds expression and is where dreams, hopes and aspirations are nurtured. Bless and strengthen every family. In your loving mercy give us the resilience to trust in you in the midst of hard times. Help us to be faithful members of your worldwide family that we may find our joy in you. Amen Dorothy Siep, Papua New Guinea

Thursday: Peace and safety

'Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.' Hebrew 12:14

We pray for nations torn apart by war, for communities disrupted by anger, for individuals tormented by guilt.

May I know peace

Peace in this world

Peace in this country and this town

Peace for my neighbours and my community..

Peace for my friends and my family

May I know peace in myself,

And may I be a giver of peace

As a peacemaker to my friends and family

As a peacemaker to my neighbours and my community...

As a peacemaker for this city and this country

And a peacemaker for this world.

A Hope for Peace (Newcastle Chain of Peace)



Friday: Nurturing family faith

We will not hide these things from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious dees of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.' Psalm 78:4

Nurturing children is a both a joy and challenging task; testing the limits of our patience and stretching the boundaries of our faith. We pray for God's help us to reflect his love in our families and to our children.

Thank you for my family and the important part I play in mine. You are the perfect father: always loving, kind, encouraging, forgiving, patient and faithful; always available to hear my prayers, requests, complaints and fears; always ready to lead, guide, help, strengthen, encourage and support. Help me to learn from your example, trust you in my weakness, believe you when I doubt and quickly turn to you for help. Show me that today's opportunities are not limited by yesterday's shortcomings. Amen.

Author Unknown

Saturday: Vision for the environment

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the earth and over all the wild animals of the earth." Gen 1.26

Dominion, God-style, is not domination, but wise stewardship, mindful of balance and interdependence, of responsibility & thankfulness.

God of life, we praise you for the beauty of creation, its richness and variety; yet, through greed and ignorance, we scar your world with plastic waste and throw so much away. Make us more like Jesus, treading gently on our common home, and breathe your Spirit on us, that we may care more deeply for your Earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rt Revd Graham Usher. Bishop of Norwich and Lead Bishop on the Environment



Father's Day Reflection - 16th June

Father's Day holds a special place in Christian parenting as it honours the paternal figures who are called to mirror the love of our Heavenly Father.

It's an occasion to express gratitude for father figures and their invaluable role in shaping our spiritual and moral development. As we celebrate Father's Day, let us also remember those who may be grieving, estranged, or longing for fatherly love. May this day be a reminder of the profound impact fathers have on our lives and a call to honour and cherish them with love, respect, and appreciation.

Father's Day not only celebrates the role of fathers but also prompts deep reflection on the complexities of family dynamics, especially in the context of brokenness. It's a day where we honour the paternal figures who have positively influenced our lives, but it's also a time to recognize the pain and challenges faced by those in broken families. For many, Father's Day may evoke feelings of loss, longing, or estrangement, highlighting the absence or brokenness of father-child relationships.

As Christians, we're called to acknowledge and respond to the brokenness in our families with empathy, compassion, and love. We recognize that brokenness can manifest in various forms, including divorce, absenteeism, or strained relationships. It's essential to extend grace to those who may be hurting or experiencing Father's Day with mixed emotions.

In recognizing broken families, Father's Day becomes an opportunity for healing and reconciliation. Through prayer, support, and acts of kindness, we can offer comfort to those who feel the ache of broken relationships. We're reminded of God's redemptive power to heal wounds and restore what is broken, including familial bonds. Father's Day, therefore, serves as a call to action, urging us to reach out to those in need, extend forgiveness, and foster healing within our families and communities.

Through shared experiences and expressions of appreciation, Father's Day can help mend rifts and promote reconciliation within families. This day can serve as a catalyst for strengthening family bonds and fostering connections.

Bless you and yours as you pray Malachi 4:6a (NKJV): 'And he will turn the hearts of fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers.'



Intercessions for Father's Day (from Worship Words)

Wonderful God, creator, friend and sustainer; We thank you for nurturing us like a mother and we praise you that your care and protection surround us like a father.

On this Fathering Sunday, we remember all the people who have nurtured us, especially the important men in our lives, those who have seen, not just with their eyes, but with their heart. Hear our prayer for fathers around the world.

Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember fathers, whose families are torn apart by jealousy, fighting and misunderstandings. We remember fathers who are older, but who still bear the responsibility of raising children and grandchildren. And we remember fathers who mean well, but make mistakes.

Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember men who, because of various circumstances, are unable to become fathers. We remember fathers who have adopted children and fathers who given up their rights as fathers.

Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember fathers who rejoice in the achievements of their children. Who joyfully watch a new generation take hold. We remember fathers who are single parents, who through personal sacrifice and perseverance provide a loving home for their children.

Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember fathers who helplessly watch their children suffer from malnutrition or disease because of famine, drought, flood or war. We pray for the fathers who do everything they can to support their children.

Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, thank you for those who have nurtured us. Open our eyes to the plight of so many fathers and mothers around the world for whom life is difficult. Help us share your love and mercy with them.

Mother Father God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the silence of this moment, hear the prayers of our hearts. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Merciful God, Mother and Father of us all, honour our prayers, spoken and unspoken, humbly lifted to you in faith. Amen.



Warden's Potting shed Update. St Margaret's Church

The first Sunday morning sale went well selling all the plants available on the day so far raising £100 for church funds.

The next plant sale will be Sunday 2nd June after the Sunday Service in the hall which hopefully will have Hollyhocks, Cosmos, Geraniums, and Spider plants available.

Richard Pfleger



A fraught housewife answered the phone and was relieved to hear a friendly voice on the



other end. "Oh mother," she sobbed," I've had a terrible day, I sprained my ankle this morning and so I haven't been able to go shopping. The washing machine's broken down, the baby won't eat, the house is a mess, and I'm supposed to be hosting a dinner party tonight." "Now, don't you worry, I'll be over in half an hour. I'll do the shopping, clean up the house and cook your dinner. I'll feed the baby and I'll call a repairman to fix the washing machine. I'll do everything. And I'll call George at the office, and tell him he ought to come home and help" "George? Who's George?" "George - your husband! This is 3144628?"-"No this is 314 4629." "Oh. "Does this mean you're not coming over?"

A couple were sent two theatre tickets as an anniversary present with the cryptic message: "Guess who sent them?" They rang round all their friends and family but nobody admitted sending the tickets, however they weren't prepared to look an anonymous gift horse in the mouth and went to the theatre and had a wonderful time. But when they got home they discovered that their house had been burgled. On the kitchen worktop was a note saying: Now you know."





Swedish explorer Leif Erikson returned from his voyage to the New World only to discover that his name had been removed from his home register. He was appalled and complained bitterly to the leader of the town council. After investigating the oversight, the council leader apologised saying he must have taken Leif off his census.

On the stock market today:

Helium was up,

feathers were down,

paper was stationary,

fluorescent tubes were down in light trading,

knives were up sharply,

pencils up were down a few points,

elevators were up and down,

escalators experienced a slight decline,

mining equipment hit rock bottom,

sun peaked at mid-day,

the market for raisins dried up,

there was no move for artists models,

vacuum cleaners picked up,

caravans were trailing,

socks were unchanged,

balloon prices were inflated,

and the bottom fell out of disposable nappies.



Judging at the village fête:

This competition is 'how many things you can fit in a matchbox'. Rosie fitted the most in with 72 things- Seventy-two?! -... matches.

- Eccles it's me Bluebottle! Why don't you open the door?
 - •Okay how do you open a door?
 - •You turn the knob on your side.
 - •But I haven't got a knob on my side.

The Goon Shows

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Groucho Marx

I was the teacher's pet. She kept me in a cage at the back of the class.

Ken Dodd

We went to Rick Stein's restaurant in Cornwall. I had the sole. -

Meunière? - No, it wasn't busy at all.

Guard dogs operating

Sign outside a hospital.

My wife was a very ignorant woman. For years she thought the Charge of the Light Brigade was the electricity bill.

Les Dawson

Gee, I just love this Westminster Cathedral. Tell me, is it pre-war?

Madame, it is pre-America.

American tourist and London tour guide.

What did the nuclear physicist have for lunch? Fission Chips.

Anon

That's all!



St Margaret's Church Stratton



at

St Margaret's Centre Every Thursday

9:30am - 11:30am

Sundays after Church Services

Tea also available



ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH SOUTH MARSTON • Welcomes you to a. Community Coffee

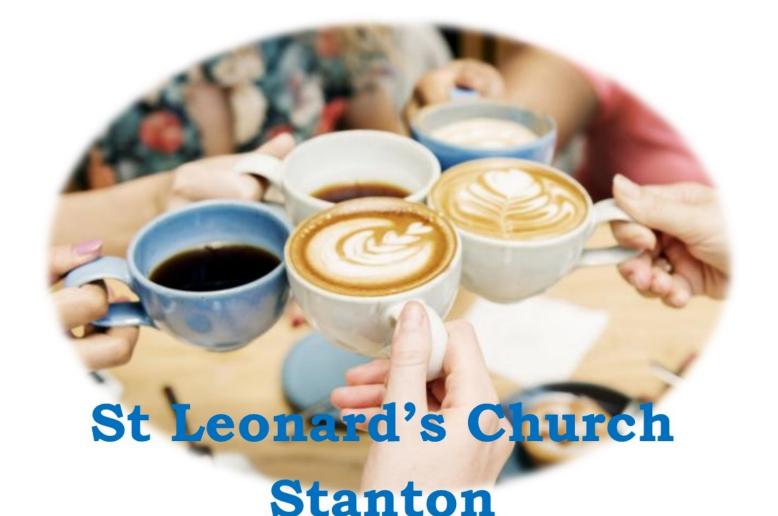


Come and Join Us for Refreshments (including bacon butties and delicious cakes)
In the Village Hall

10 - 12

Every third Saturday in the month Next date 15th June

Enquiries or for table reservations please call 01793 824339



Hosts Coffee Morning now at Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

12th of June 2024

Everyone Welcome

A talk with Rachel

At St Mary Magdalene Church



Come and Join us



For Tea and Cakes







To Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Sunday 9th June.





In the Church grounds
With static aircraft on display in and around the
Church and Glebe







Come and join Stratton Team Ministry for our Bumps and Babes group on Tuesdays.

Bumps & Babes is a place for expectant parents and parents with babies (up to one year old*) to meet and chat over a coffee – sharing in the experiences of pregnancy and the joys and challenges of the early months of parenthood.

Mats and toys are available for you to play with your babies, as well as time for a few songs!

We are joined by guests each a month to share with us about subjects from weaning to breastfeeding; faith to reusable nappies!

Register for your place now via the link or complete a form on arrival – we look forward to welcoming you!

When: Tuesdays 11.15-12.15

(term time only)

Where: St Margaret's Centre,

Kenwin Close, SN3 4NY

Cost: Free

Contact Us & Useful Links

Bumps and babes 9@gmail.com



www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/explore /kids-and-youth/bumps-babes/



Register for your place now https://forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7



Bumps and Babes St Margaret's Swindon

^{*}Bumps and Babes aims to provide a safe place for younger babies to explore, therefore the group is only open to babies up toa year old or until they are very mobile - you will be responsible for your child at all times. A babies and toddlers group runs in the St Margaret's Centre on a Wednesday and Friday where there are more age-appropriate toys for toddlers. Please contact us if you have a special request.



Time: Starts Friday 28th June 2024 at 7pm

Place: St Mary's Church, Rodbourne Cheney

Prayer requests can be texted to 07434 658 124

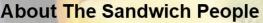
Please join us for 24 hours or just for a part of it!

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.





Sandwich



More than just a sandwich!

Social Enterprise supporting homelessness locally.

Freshly made sandwiches, buffets, cakes & sweet treats delivered to your door. Our team of volunteers, most of who are experiencing homelessness are supported by qualified and staff members to help them gain confidence and qualifications, ready for them move on to independent living, work, or education.

The Sandwich People are about changing lives. We are social enterprise run by people who have experienced homelessness and are now supported by The Salvation Army. Based at Booth House Swindon, we are your one stop shop for your buffet requirements.

We provide opportunities and training in a supportive but genuine working environment. We support people to develop a new social network based on respect, understanding and a shared hope for the future.

Since 2007 we are proud to have maintained our 5* food safety rating. Our buffets start from a little as £3.00 a head. All made fresh onsite daily using locally produce items.

To find out more, please email sandwichpeopleorders@salvationarmy.org.uk

Thank you to the Sandwich people for the wonderful buffet on the evening of the 21st March.

Above wording taken from their website https://thesandwichpeople.co.uk and Facebook https://thesandwichpeople
www.facebook.com/thesandwichpeople



STRATTON'S COMMUNITY PANTRY

Available at Beechcroft Library!

There'll be a great selection of free produce and pantry items available.

I'm sure you'll find everything you need here!

TUESDAY 10AM - 12PM FRIDAY 1PM - 3PM



Located at: Beechcroft Library , SN2 7QQ





Weekly Community Activities

	Activity	Time	Provider
Monday	Breakfast Club	7am-8:30am	SSMPC
	Older Generation Walking Group -	9am	SSMPC
	Coleview Community Centre		
	Carers Cuppa	1:15-3pm	SYC
	Jiu-Jitsu	5:30-9pm	DDMAA
Tuesday	Good To Sing (Monthly)	11am-12pm	GTS
	Community Pantry	10am-12pm	SSMPC
	Fun Art Group	1:30-3:30pm	FOBL
	Stratton's Youth Club	3:30-5:30pm	SSMPC
	Public Engagement Session with Your	6-7pm	SSMPC
	Parish Council (Monthly)		
Wednesday	Stratton Mental Health Support Group	10-12pm	MIND+SSMPC
	Friendship Group	10-12pm	FOBL
	Open Minds (Monthly)	1:15-3pm	OM
	Tea and Tech	2-4pm	FOBL
	Stratton's Youth Club – LQBTQ+ and	3:30-7pm	SSMPC
	Neurodiversity		
Thursday	Toddler Storytime	10:30-11:15am	SSMPC
	Stratton Advice Point	10:30am-12:30	SAP
	U3A Dressmaking Group (Bi-Weekly)	1-4pm	U3A
	Thursday Club (Bi-Weekly)	1-3:30pm	TC
	Bereavement Group Beechcroft Book Club (Monthly)	1:30-3:30pm 1:30-3:30pm	SSMPC
	Stratton's Youth Club	3:30-5:30pm	SSMPC SSMPC
	Family History Research (Bi-Weekly)	4:15-6pm	FOBL
	Homework Club (over winter months)	6pm – 7pm	SSMPC
	Homework Club (over winter months)	opin – 7pin	SSIVIFC
	Jiu-Jitsu	5:30-9pm	DDMAA
Friday	Swindon Borough Council Community	10am-12pm	SBC
	Cafe		
	Knit, Sew & Natter	11-12:30pm	FOBL
	Older Generation Walking Group –	12pm	SSMPC
	Meadowcroft Community Centre		
	Community Pantry	1-3pm	SSMPC
	U3A Discussion Group (Monthly)	2-4pm	U3A
Saturday	Chess Club & Board Games	10:30-1:30pm	FOBL
	Lego Club (Monthly)	10:30-1pm	FOBL
	Saturday Story Time (Bi-Weekly)	11-11:45am	SSMPC





Key	Location	
	Meadowcroft Community Centre	
	Beechcroft Library	
	Walking Group	

Key	
SSMPC	Stratton St Margaret Parish Council
FOBL	Friends of Beechcroft Library
SYC	Swindon Young Carers
SAP	Stratton Advice Point
TC	Thursday Club
SBC	Swindon Borough Council
MIND	Mind Swindon
DDMAA	Draco Dojo Martial Arts Academy
GTS	Good To Sing
OM	Open Minds





You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

Great News! You can now sign up to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online. There is a link for this on the Giving page of our website:

https://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/giving/

If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the church. It is perfectly safe and can be stopped or changed at any time.

PGS is a great way to give to the work and mission of St Margaret's Church. Donations given through PGS come straight to the Church, there are no admin fees or bank charges for us to pay. 41 people have now signed up to do this - Thank you





Recycling @ St Margaret's Centre





WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE





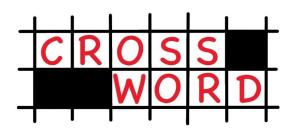


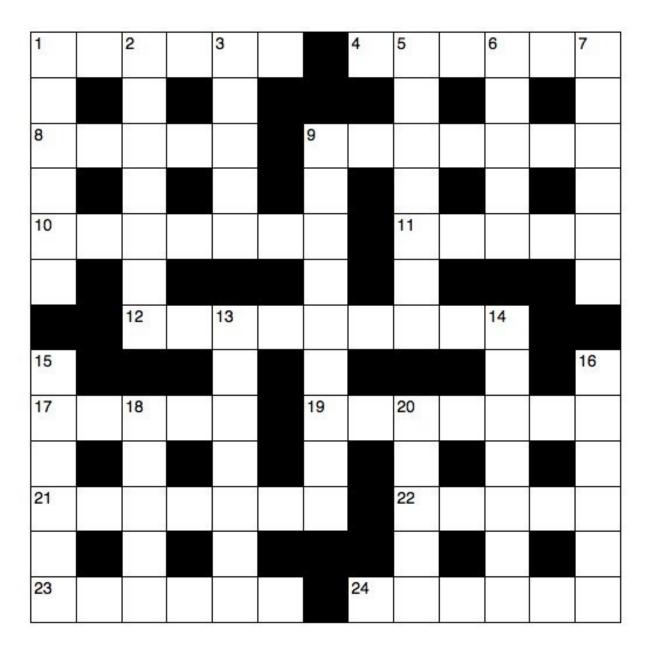






Any brand of EMPTY medicine blister packets





Across

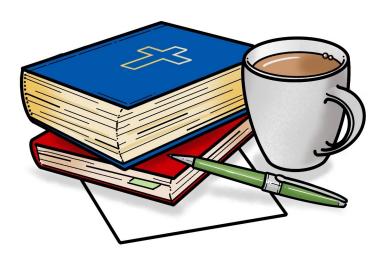
- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)

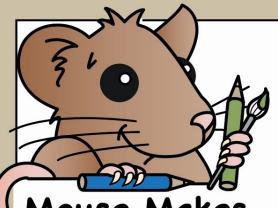
Across

- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got —, so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)





Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG MPWF UIF GBUIFS IBT HJWFO UP VT UIBU XF TIPVME CF DBMMFE DIJMESFO PG HPE

POF KPIO UISFF: POF

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates: "Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."



If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

APATERNOSTER O

Genesis 37:2-3

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

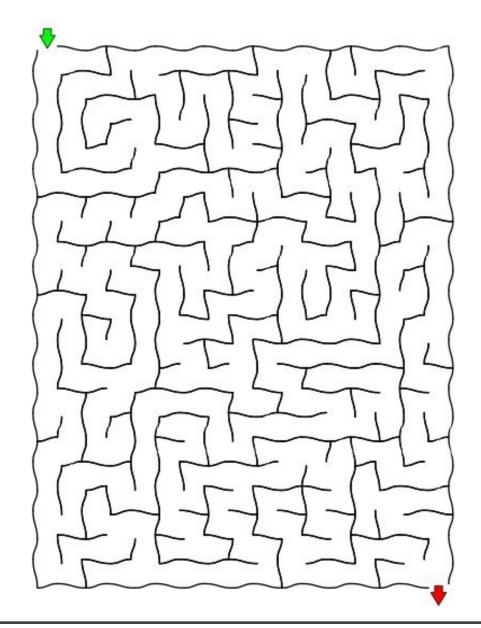
Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

AGADAUGH Ε C Ζ SA E Е Ζ Ε Α DAMA

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD **SON • DAUGHTER** JOSEPH • ISAAC **MOSES • JOB** SOLOMON **ZECHARIAH ZEBEDEE**



Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE for Articles and Information anytime before 15th June 2024

Georgina Martin: Church Office,

Tel: 826505 St Margaret's Centre

Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

Also, by hand or call Georgina Martin on 07768 243675

Errors and omissions — while we do try to ensure that all details are correct, some things may slip through and we apologise for that.

PARISH DIRECTORY & CENTRE USERS

ORGANISATIONS

Babies & Toddlers	Georgina Martin	07768 243675
Bell Ringers	Wendy Sears	07769 788821
Boys' Brigade	Teresa Daglish	07796 925621
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398
Bumps and Babes	Bekki	bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com
Cadley Dance	Maria Howse	824446
Centre Bookings	Richard Pfleger	828367
Choir	Geoff Walters	822006
Church Cleaning Rota	Pat England	822786
Coleview	Church Office	826505
Church Flowers	Richard Pfleger	828367
Evening Fellowship Group	Anne Pope	07790 730 685
		email eannepope@gmail .com
FWO Envelopes	Ray England	822786
Gift Aid Sec.	David Horne	07717447855
Guide-Brownie Commissioner	Zoe Smith	831190
Music Group	Rob South	822811
Organists	Rob South	822811
	Geoff Walters	822006
Preschool	Hayley Woods, Supervisor	07816 547752
WI. Stratton St Margaret		



Pearce Funeral Services





92 Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4NN 01793 832 072

Papermakers House, 1 Rivenhall Road, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7BD 01793 422422

Our family service caring for you

FAMILY RUN, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE PREPAID FUNERAL PLANS AVAILABLE RECOMMENDED IN THE GOOD FUNERAL GUIDE COMMITTED TO THE FAIR FUNERAL PLEDGE

"Outstanding is an understatement. These people are the ultimate in care, compassion, understanding the needs of the family" Sept 2023 Online Review.













www.pearcefuneralservices.co.uk