



**Welcome**

**Stratton Team Ministry**

***Seeking, Sharing and Serving  
God Together***

**St. Margaret's, Stratton**

**Coleview**

**St. Mary Magdalene, South Marston**

**St. Leonard's, Stanton Fitzwarren**

**PRIEST IN CHARGE: Reverend. Elveen Mead**

### **Church Prayer**

The Lord be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us.  
Help us to be a blessing to each other  
and our communities that your ways  
may be known among us.  
Let all the people praise you, O God  
let all the people praise you,  
*Amen*



# December



3 <sup>rd</sup> December		First Sunday of Advent	
St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church	
9:30am	9:30am	4pm	10am
Holy Communion Service	Sunday Morning Worship	Advent Carol Service	Family Christingle Service
10 <sup>th</sup> December		Second Sunday of Advent	
St Margaret's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church	St Leonard's Church	
9:30am	9:30am	11am	
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Family Christingle Service	
17 <sup>th</sup> December		Third Sunday of Advent	
Coleview Community Centre	11am	Team Christmas Carol Service	
St Margaret's Church	6pm	Christmas Carols by Candlelight	
22 <sup>nd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Services Please See Our Other Poster	
31 <sup>st</sup> December		First Sunday of Christmas	
St Margaret's Church	10am	Sunday Morning Team Worship	

Please see our website for the most up to date information [www.strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)

We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.





<b>22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER</b>		<b>FRIDAY</b>		
St Mary Magdalene Church	7pm	Christmas Carol Service		
<b>24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		
St Margaret's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church		St Leonard's Church	
11pm	5pm	9pm	3:30pm	7pm
Holy Communion Service	Crib service	Holy Communion Service	Walking Nativity	Carols by Candlelight
<b>25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
St Margaret's Church	10am	Holy Communion Service		

Please see our website for the most up to date information [www.strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)

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## Christmas Card Delivery



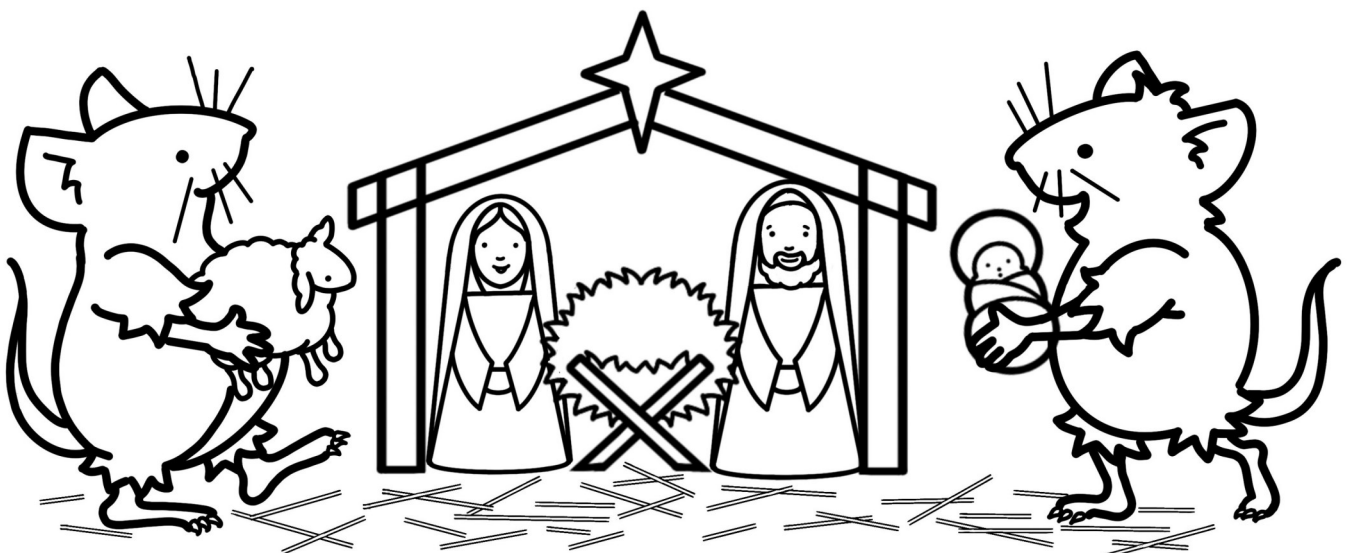
Thank you so much to all who signed up and to take cards out on your walk.

Also a very big thank you to 1st Stratton St Margaret's Scout Group.

## Puzzle Sale

At St Margate's Centre  
on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December after  
the 9:30am Service

Perfect for any last min Christmas  
gifts monies raised in aid of the  
Children's Society







## 5th Swindon Boy's Brigade

- . Do you enjoy meeting friends?
- . Do you enjoy playing sports and games ?
- . Learning new skills ?
- . Making crafts ?
- . Taking part in events and competitions ?

We have vacancies for Boys aged 5 - 11 years.

Based at St. Margaret's Church Centre,  
for nearly 50 years.

For more information

contact:- T. Daglish  
[5swindonbb@gmail.com](mailto:5swindonbb@gmail.com)

<https://boys-brigade.org.uk/join/>



**THE BOYS'  
BRIGADE**   
-the adventure begins here



# SATURDAY SCENE AND BUMPS & BABES CELEBRATE CHRISTINGLE



AT ST MARGARET'S CENTRE

(KENWIN CLOSE, OFF ERMIN STREET, STRATTON ST. MARGARET)

SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

@ 4PM

# FREE!





The background of the poster features a soft-focus illustration of coffee-related items. At the top, there are two white coffee cups filled with brown liquid. Below them, a red banner with white text reads 'MEETING POINT'. Further down, there are more coffee cups, some with different colored liquids (yellow, orange, brown), and various spices including star anise, cinnamon sticks, and vanilla beans. The text 'PREMIUM COLLECTION' is faintly visible at the top, and 'TEA & COFFEE' is faintly visible in the middle.

# **St Mary Magdalene Church South Marston**

**The 'drop in' is for all members of our  
community**

**Come and Join Us for Coffee**

**In the Village Hall**

**10:00 - 12:00**

**Saturday**

**18<sup>th</sup> November**

**16<sup>th</sup> December**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Enquiries or for table reservations  
please call**

**01793 824339**

**stm**



# **St Leonard's Church Stanton**

Hosts Coffee Morning now at  
Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

20<sup>th</sup> of December 2023

*Everyone Welcome*



With Carols, memories and  
mince pies



# St Margaret's Church Stratton



at

St Margaret's Centre

Every Thursday

9:30am - 11:30am

Sundays after Church Services

*Tea also available*



# SWINDON SCOUT POST

ONLY  
**35p**  
per stamp

ON  
SALE  
HERE

Scouts



PLEASE CLEARLY address  
cards including **POSTCODE**  
and post in the  
Special Green Scout  
Post Boxes.

2023

Swindon  
XMAS CARD  
Delivery Service



Swindon Scout Post

Stamps Available at St  
Margaret's Preschool,  
Thursday Coffee  
Morning & St Margaret's  
Church Services

Only post cards in the special GREEN Scouts Post Boxes

The law says we can **ONLY** deliver Christmas Cards. **NO MONEY OR CHEQUES** should be sent through this service.

NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR VALUABLES, INCORRECTLY ADDRESSED CARDS OR ANY ADDRESSED TO AREAS OUTSIDE THOSE STATED BELOW.

POST  
DELIVERY  
AREAS

WE DO NOT DELIVER  
OUTSIDE THESE AREAS

- |                |                 |                     |                         |              |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| • Ashbury      | • Burdrop       | • Hampton           | • Purton                | • Tockenham  |
| • Badbury      | • Bushton       | • Hannington        | • Royal Wootton Bassett | • Wanborough |
| • Basset Down  | • Castle Eaton  | • Highworth         | • Swindon               | • Watchfield |
| • Bishopstone  | • Chiseldon     | • Hodson            | • Salthrop              | • Wroughton  |
| • Blunsdon     | • Clyffe Pypard | • Inglesham         | • Sevenhampton          |              |
| • Broad Hinton | • Coleshill     | • Latton            | • Shrivenham            |              |
| • Broad Town   | • Cricklade     | • Liddington        | • South Marston         |              |
| • Bourton      | • Greatfield    | • Lydiard Millicent | • Stanton Fitzwarren    |              |

**LAST TIME FOR POSTING**

**4.00pm on Tuesday 12th December**

Please **DO NOT USE** Scout post stamps on cards posted through **Royal Mail post boxes**.  
THEY ARE NOT VALID, AND THE RECEIVER OF THE CARD WILL HAVE TO PAY A SURCHARGE.

[www.swindonscouts.org.uk/post](http://www.swindonscouts.org.uk/post) • email [post@swindonscouts.org.uk](mailto:post@swindonscouts.org.uk)





## **Hold the Date - Bishop of Swindon welcome service**

Bishop Viv is delighted to announce that this will take place on Advent Sunday, 3 December 2023 at 6.30pm in Christ Church Swindon.

An additional service will take place in Bristol Cathedral on a later date as Neil takes up his new stall as Suffragan Bishop.

Bishop Neil will then visit many parishes over the course of 2024.

More details on the welcome service will follow in due course but please do make the date known amongst your congregation(s).

In the meantime, we pray for Neil as he prepares for his consecration on 30 November. We look forward to his episcopal ministry amongst us.

STRATTON ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL



FAMILY TREE PLANTING!



JOIN US ON SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 10AM - 12PM!



LET'S PLANT A  
TREE TOGETHER!



Meet us at the subway under Swindon Road  
near Matalan at Greenbridge - SN3 3SG!

Bring along family and friends to help plant a variety of saplings,  
including oak and beech trees.

Join in, wrap up warm and bring a spade, gloves  
and boots or wellies!



# Bumps & Babes

ARE YOU A NEW  
OR EXPECTANT PARENT?

## Register Now

[forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7](https://forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7)

### 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



[Bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com](mailto:Bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com)



[www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/explore/kids-and-youth/bumps-babes/](http://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 to a 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.

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*Our Mission: To reduce the impact of food poverty  
on people in crisis in the Swindon and district area.*



**THANK YOU TO**

**STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY**

**WHO PARTICIPATED IN HARVEST 2023**

**YOU DONATED 173.1 Kgs.**

**THIS WILL HELP US GREATLY, AS WE CONTINUE HELPING PEOPLE IN  
SWINDON AND SURROUNDING AREAS WHO ARE IN FOOD CRISIS.**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.**

### **DONATIONS - WHAT WE NEED MOST**

**Regular sized Tins, Jars, Bottles, Cartons or Packets of the following:**

***" Potatoes; Meat; Fish; Tomatoes; Soup; Vegetables; Fruit; Puddings; Pasta  
Sauce; Cereals; Small Jars of Coffee; Tea; Small Bags of Sugar; Biscuits;  
1L Bottles of Squash; Washing Up Liquid; Laundry Pods; 2 in 1 Shampoo &  
Conditioner; Male and Female Deodorants"***

**PLEASE NOTE: We have plentiful supplies of pasta, baked beans and  
shower gel so none are needed.**



# STRATTON ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES!



**Monday**

7 - 8:30 AM  
BREAKFAST CLUB  
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE  
\*FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN  
OF ALL SCHOOL AGES

**Wednesday**

3:30 - 5:30 PM  
LESTO+ CLUB (AGES 10-14)  
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE  
6 - 7 PM  
NEURODIVERSITY/ADDITIONAL  
NEEDS YOUTH CLUB  
@MEADOWCROFT CENTRE  
7 - 9 PM  
EVENING STREET SESSION  
@ MERTON

**Tuesday**

3:30 - 5:30 PM  
YOUTH CLUB (AGES 9-14)  
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE  
5:30 - 6:30 PM  
OUT REACH SESSION  
@ MEADOWCROFT

**Thursday**

3:30 - 5:30 PM  
YOUTH CLUB (AGES 10-14)  
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE  
5:45 - 8 PM  
OUT REACH SESSION  
@ GRANGE/COLEVIEW



@SSMPCSWINDON



@SSMPCSWINDON

01793 823761

HERRY.RILEY@STRATTONSTMARGARET.GOV.UK

## Meadowcroft Community Centre Community Groups:

**Mon**

Carers Cuppa -  
Monday 27th 1:15-3pm

Martial Arts -  
5:30-9:30pm

**Tue**

Swing Out Swindon -  
7:30-8:30pm

Singing for Fun -  
10am-12pm

**Wed**

Open Minds -  
27th 1:15-3pm

**Thur**

Thursday Club  
1-3:30pm

U3A Dressmaking  
Group (9th&23rd) -  
1-4pm

Martial Arts -  
5:30-9:30pm

**Fri**

U3A Discussion Group -  
Friday 10th 2-4pm

## Older Generation Walking Club!

Friday's from midday, starting at Meadowcroft Community Hall and ending at the Beechcroft Library for a cup of tea and a natter! Monday morning's at 9am starting outside the Coleview Community Centre and ending at Costa Greenbridge, to relax and unwind!

For More Info, Please Contact Us At:  
01793 823761  
[info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk](mailto:info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk)

## Our Weekly Free Community Cafe Groups Held At Meadowcroft Community Centre - SN2 7JX:

Every Monday morning from 7am until 8:30am we have a Breakfast Club providing cereals, toast, sweet treats, fruit and drinks, for parents and children of all school ages.



Every Friday morning from 10am until 12pm we have a Community Cafe which you can chat with your neighbours and housing officers from Swindon Borough Council, over a cup of tea, coffee and biscuits, and take home surplus food from local supermarkets.



## Beechcroft Library Activities:

01793 680030

[beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk](mailto:beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk)

- Public Engagement Session - every 1st Tuesday of each month (starting November 7th) 6pm to 7pm , At Beechcroft Library!

**LIBRARY**



## November Activities at Beechcroft Library

**Stratton's  
Wellness Day  
Event**  
Saturday 18th November 2023  
10am - 4pm

Thurs 2nd 10:30am - Visit by Firefighter Dan

Thurs 2nd 13:30pm - 15:30pm - Beechcroft Book Club

Tues 7th 18:00pm - 19:00pm - Public Engagement Session With Your Parish Council

Tues 7th - Sat 11th - Remembrance Day Display

Wed 8th 14:00pm - 16:00pm - Employment Support/Guidance by Pioneer Programme

Tues 14th 10:00am - 12:30pm - Cost of Living Help/Advice by Citizens Advice Bureau

Tues 14th - Fri 17th - Children's Nursery Rhyme Week

Sat 18th 10:00am - 16:00pm - Stratton's Wellness Day Event!

Sat 25th 10:30am - 13:00pm - Lego Challenge



## Regular Free Activities & Group

Tues 13:30 - 15:30

Fun Art Group

Wed 10:00 - 12:00

Friendship Group

14:00 - 16:00

Tea and Tech

Thurs 10:30 - 11:15

Toddler Storytime

10:30 - 12:30

Stratton Advice Point

13:30 - 15:30

Bereavement Group

16:15 - 18:30

Family History Research

Fri 11:00 - 12:30

Knit, Sew & Natter Group

Sat 10:30 - 13:30

Chess Club & Board Games

Sat 11:00 - 11:45

\* Saturday Story Time

\*Saturday 4th & 18th November





# SWINDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



## CONCERT

**Thomas:** Overture Raymond

**Creighton Griffiths:** Concerto for Jazz Harp and Orchestra  
Soloist: Ben Creighton Griffiths

**Tchaikovsky:** Symphony  
No. 5 in E Minor Op. 64

**Conductor:** Malcolm Webb

**Leader:** Matthew Taylor

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**Sunday 26 November 2023**

**7:30pm – 9:30pm**

**St Joseph's Catholic College,  
Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR**

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## TICKETS

**Available from:**  
[www.swindonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk](http://www.swindonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk)  
or Swindon Central Library  
or direct from orchestra members  
£10, under 18s free

**RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF NELSON TRUST**



## **The Lighthouse Bookshop, Highworth.**

The Lighthouse Bookshop has been on the High Street for almost 40 years, serving Highworth and the Swindon area. However, it is very likely that it will have to close before it reaches that milestone.

Unless the number of customers increase significantly over the next few months, closure is “on the cards”.

The Bookshop is very well stocked with cards for all occasions, Bibles, Christian books and a whole variety of gifts. The Christmas stock will arrive in September and will go on display in October. We will definitely be open for the Christmas period.

Please make the Lighthouse Bookshop your first port of call for everything that the Lighthouse stocks. Malcolm and Val can order for you any item that is not in stock.

Please do continue to pray for the managers and all the staff, volunteers and trustees as we continue to serve the churches of Highworth and the surrounding area.

### **The normal opening hours are:**

Mon – Thurs 9am – 3pm.

Friday and Saturday 9am – 1pm.



Contact details: The Lighthouse Bookshop, 40 High Street, Highworth.  
01793 763337, email [info@lighthouse.books.plus.com](mailto:info@lighthouse.books.plus.com)

# Daily Prayer

*Daily Prayer* is the official app to help you follow Morning, Evening and Night Prayer, wherever you are.

For every day of the year, it presents the three services in full and include Bible readings (NRSV translation), psalms, canticles and seasonal variations.

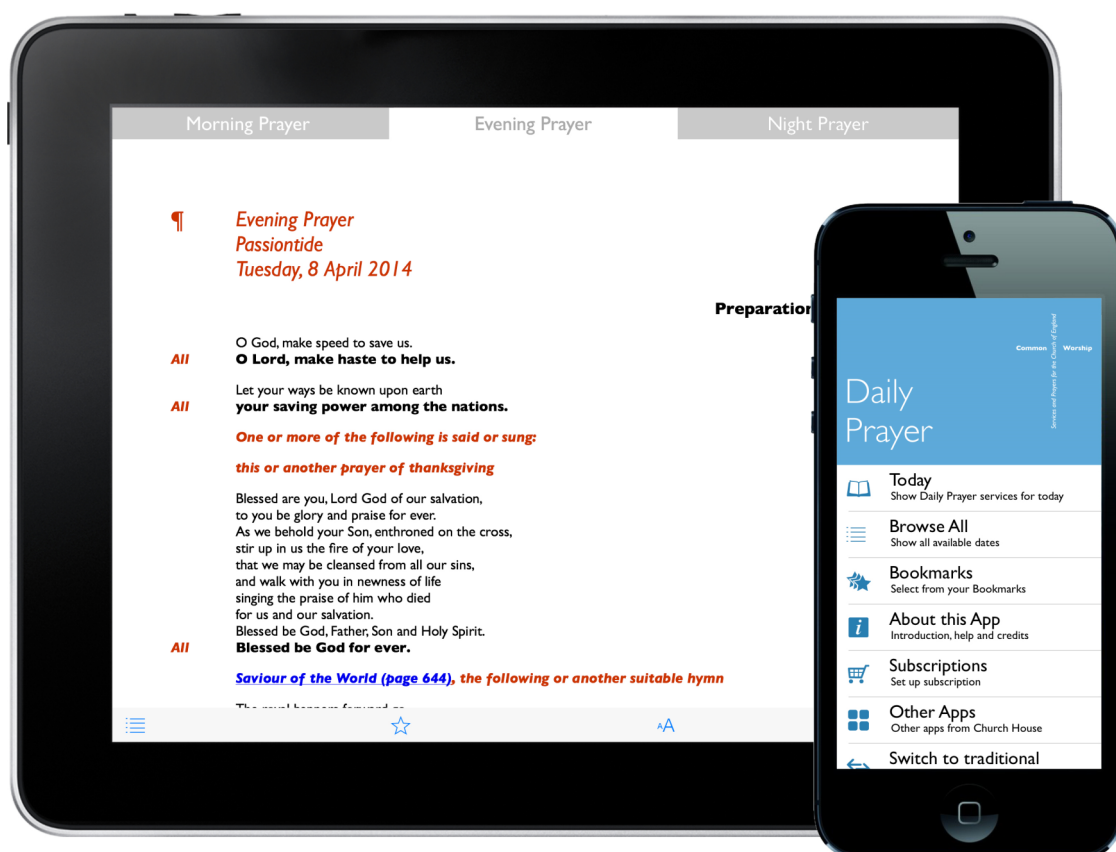
It allows you to:

- Access Morning, Evening and Night Prayer for yesterday, today and a month ahead
- Listen to full audio of Morning and Evening Prayer (Contemporary Services)
- Switch between Contemporary and Traditional formats with one click
- Find details of Feast Days, Festivals and Commemorations from the Common Worship Calendar
- Read Bible passages in full (NRSV translation) without the need for a separate Bible app

**The app is compatible with smartphones and tablets** (iPhone/iPad iOS 9.0+ and Android 5.1.1+).

Join the Church of England in a service of Daily Prayer

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>





# Keeping in touch



**'Daily Hope'** is the free phone line (0800 804 8044) that you can call each day to hear an introduction, listen to a hymn followed by a reflection and prayer.



**Daily Pray** Find complete services for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer from the Church of England with this official Daily Prayer app. This can be found in your app store and downloaded for free.



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:



**PARISH  
GIVING  
SCHEME**

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

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.



Stratton Team Ministry is pleased to welcome you back for Private Prayer:

**St Margaret's** Church will be open by appointment please call the office on 01793 826505 or email [stmargaretsoffice2@btconnect.com](mailto:stmargaretsoffice2@btconnect.com).

**St Mary Magdalene's** Church will be open everyday from early morning till early evening.

**St Leonard's** Church will be available for private prayer by phoning Roger and Liz Hillman on 01793 762935, they will arrange with you for the building to be open at a time that can be quiet and safe.



**Please Note** up to date guidance from the Government and Church of England

**Contacts:**

Team Office: Tel: 01793 826505  
email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

**Websites:**

[www.strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)  
[www.southmarstonchurch.wordpress.com](http://www.southmarstonchurch.wordpress.com)  
[www.stantonchurch.info](http://www.stantonchurch.info)

**Facebook:**

@StrattonTeamMinistry



Scan me & choose the Church for  
your kind donation