



About St Michael's Church

The origins of this church and its surrounding village are shrouded in mystery.

Domesday Book refers to a place called Stretone held by the de Ferrers family, but makes no mention of a church.

The south doorway and the surrounding masonry date to the 12th century but most of the current structure was built during the 14th and 15th centuries. The church contains some fine woodwork, including 16th-century roof timbers and Georgian box pews.

The church escaped significant Victorian restoration, so looks very much as it would have done 200 years ago. The rectors of the church during the 19th century were members of the family who occupied the adjoining manor, the Cave Brownes.

Following a steady decline into disuse and disrepair, the church was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust in 1986.

A thousand years of English history awaits you

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

Help us do more

To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.



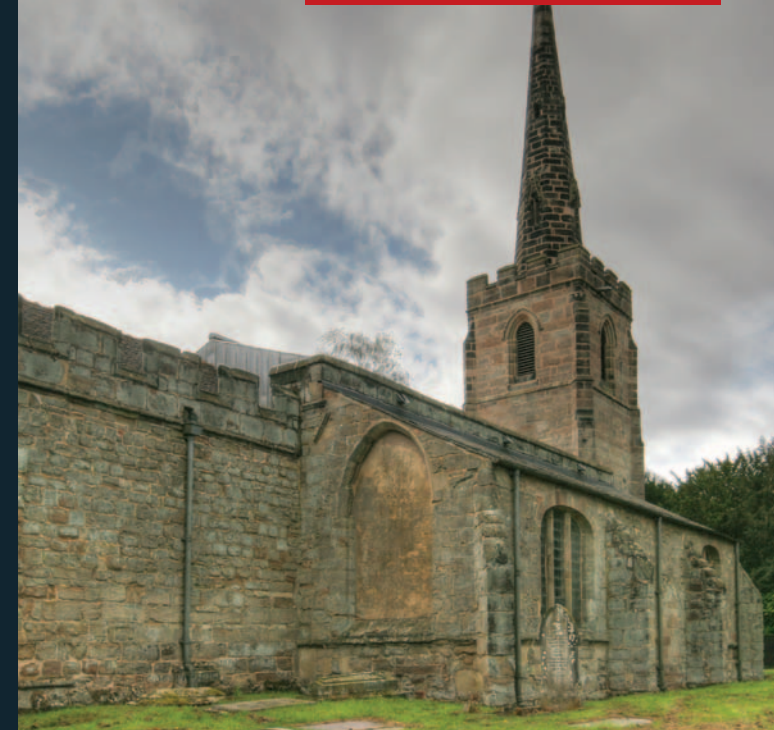
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Church of St Michael

Stretton-en-le-Field



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The historic church of St Michael

10 things to see before you leave...

1 These **box pews** were installed during the 18th century and are a rare example of a complete set. Individual families normally paid an annual rent for their own private pew, some of which have spaces to store personal belongings. Box pews were often removed by the Victorians in favour of simpler bench seats.

2 The **timbers** in the nave roof date to the 16th century and are decorated with bosses depicting foliage and mythical beings – one is carved with a comical face. Those in the chancel roof are medieval but cannot be precisely dated.

3 The **font** dates to around 1660 and is octagonal in shape, the number 8 being associated with the sacrament of baptism. The font cover is much later, dating to 1927, with an inscription commemorating a former vicar.

4 Two **grave slabs** are dedicated to members of the Savage family. The slab set into the floor belongs to Walter Savage, rector of Stretton who died in 1518. This slab shows him in his priestly robes alongside a chalice and a Bible, illustrating his role as a priest. The slab in the north doorway commemorates his parents, Richard and Agnes, who died in 1489.

5 The remains of a 14th-century **tomb recess** and grave slab can still be seen, although they were mostly destroyed by the insertion of the north-east window. A carved cross is visible on the grave cover on the floor of the monument. Some of the architectural decoration survives along the base of the window sill.

6 Curious remains of **masonry**, carved with a lamb and a rose, are positioned just east of the pulpit. Their date and original position are unknown.

7 This is a very austere example of a Georgian **pulpit**. The panelling is very similar to that of the box pews.

8 The **chancel arch** is made of wood and stuccoed to resemble stone. The exact date of its construction is unknown but is likely to date to around 1840, when extensive repairs to the church were carried out.

9 There are two sets of **rails** within the church. Those beneath the chancel arch are the original rails and date to the mid 18th century, about the same time as the box pews. The rails around the altar are Victorian.

10 This **communion table** is from the early 18th century but the legs are a later addition.

