The Churchwardens of Stretton (1848-date)

**Most Generations**
To date, three generations of the Brocklehurst family have held the post, William, Edward and Herbert.

**Youngest**
The youngest person to hold the title of Churchwarden is Thomas Ditchfield. When he was elected as the Parishioner’s Warden in 1888 he was only 24 years old.

**Oldest**
Mr Vernon Molloy was 71 when elected Parish Warden in 1984.
Mr George Blackshaw was 74 years old when he was elected as Parishioner’s Warden in 1937.
Mr Walter Turner was 83 when nominated Vicar’s Warden in 1951.

**Longest Serving**
Only seven wardens have served ten or more terms of office.
Mr Hugh Darbyshire served 10. (1876-77, 1890-1891, 1902-1904, 1915-1917)
Mr George Blackshaw served 11. (1905-1911 & 1935-1937)
Mr Isaac Broady served 11. (1910-1919 & 1924)
Mr Wallace W G Milne served 12. (1955-1966)
Mr David Hart has served 14. (1988-2001)
Mr Vernon Molloy served 16. (1969-1984)
Mr F Thorn has served 19. (1950-1968)
Mr Dennis Mascall has served 10. (1998-2008)

**Female Churchwardens**
Mrs Barbara Hamilton became the first female churchwarden in 2009.
Churchwardens by Surname

Mr William Acton (1826-1864)
Sidesman 1859
Parish Warden 1860
William Acton farmed Brows Farm in Appleton.

Mr Harold Vernon Bailey (1914-1988)
Parish Warden 1985-87

Mr Edward Bate (1837-1907)
1879 Sidesman
Edward was a Quarry Master & Mason Farming 3 1/2 Acres Employing 20 Men & 3 Apprentices (1881)
Lived near Dorothy Cottages (1891)
In 1901 he had moved to near the Quarry.

Mr Reuben Bennett (1908-89)
Ministers Warden 1973-77

Mr Frank Blackshaw (1888-1972)
Parish Warden 1928-31, 1945-49

Mr George Blackshaw (1863-1943)
Ministers Warden 1924
Parish Warden 1905-1911, 1935-37

Mr Reginald Broadhurst (1905-2002)
Ministers Warden 1967-72

Mr Isaac Broady (1875-1965)
Ministers Warden 1910-19
Parish Warden 1924

Mr William Brocklehurst (1798-1880)
Sidesman 1854, 1858, 1862, 1868
Parish Warden 1855, 1859, 1863, 1869
William Brocklehurst farmed Walnut Farm at Appleton Cross

Mr Edward Brocklehurst (1851-1896)
Ministers Warden 1880-81, 1892
Edward was the son of William Brocklehurst and Mary Rigby.
He farmed Road Side Farm, Stretton.

Mr Herbert Brocklehurst (1879-1948)
Parish Warden 1912-14, 1942-44
Herbert was the son of Edward Brocklehurst and Mary Ann Ditchfield.
Both his father and grandfather were Wardens before him.
Mr Richard Newton Carter (1859-1893)
Sidesman 1888-89
Richard Newton Carter was born in Lymm in 1860, the son of Peter and Emma Carter. He was educated at the Masonic School in Lordship Lane, Tottenham, Middlesex. (1871)
Mr Richard N Carter was an Architects assistant (1881) in Lymm. He moved to Whitley Superior (1891) with his wife and two children where he is described as an agent (general commision).

Maj Robson John Chorley (1870-1949)
Ministers Warden 1920-23
Major Chorley was born in Warrington and died in Conwy in 1949.

Mr Joseph Clare (1885-1975)
Ministers Warden 1929-31

Mr W Clayton (1816-1880)
Sidesman 1853
Parish Warden 1854
William Clayton farmed Dudlows Green Farm.

Mr Cliff (1808-1880)
Ministers Warden 1860-61, 1871
Sidesman 1870
Probably Mr James Cliffe of the Cat and Lion

Mr Robert Walter Collin (1906-1994)
Ministers Warden 1942-46

Sir Richard Assheton Cross MP PC GL JP GCB (1823-1914)
Sidesman 1861
Parish Warden 1862

Richard Assheton Cross, 1st Viscount Cross was born on 30 May 1823. He was the son of William Cross and Ellen Chaffers. He married Georgiana Lyon, daughter of Thomas Lyon, on 4 May 1852. He died on 8 January 1914 at age 90.

Richard Assheton Cross, 1st Viscount Cross graduated from Cambridge University, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England, with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.). He was admitted to Inner Temple in 1849 entitled to practice as a barrister. He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) (Conservative) for Preston between 1857 and 1862. He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) (Conservative) for South-West Lancashire between 1868 and 1885. He held the office of Home Secretary between 1874 and 1880. He held the office of Bencher of the Inner Temple in 1876. He was invested as a Fellow, Royal Society (F.R.S.). He held the office of Home Secretary between 1885 and 1886. He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) (Conservative) for Newton between 1885 and 1886. He held the office of Secretary of State,
India between 1886 and 1892. He was created 1st Viscount Cross, of Broughton-in-Furness, co. Lancaster [U.K.] on 19 August 1886. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law (LL.D.) by Leeds University, Leeds, Yorkshire, West Riding, England. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law (LL.D.) by Cambridge University, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) by Oxford University, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law (LL.D.) by St. Andrews University, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland. He held the office of Lord Privy Seal. He held the office of Treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1895. He was invested as a Knight Grand Cross, Order of the Bath (G.C.B.). He was invested as a Privy Counsellor (P.C.). He was invested as a Knight Grand Commander, Order of the Star of India (G.C.S.I.). He held the office of Justice of the Peace (J.P.) for Lancashire. He held the office of Justice of the Peace (J.P.) for Cheshire. He held the office of Deputy Lieutenant (D.L.) of Lancashire.

In the 1861 Census Mr Richard A. Cross was a banker who lived in Hill Cliffe. His son was Hon. Rev. Charles Francis Cross, vicar of the parish from 1897-1937.

**Mr Hugh Darbyshire (1848-1925)**
Sidesman 1875, 1878
Parish Warden 1876-77, 1915-1917
Ministers Warden 1890-91, 1902-04

**Mr John Darbyshire (1831-?)**
Parish Warden 1881-82
John Darbyshire lived at Summit House on Northwich Road.

**Mr Philip Darbyshire (1852-?)**
Sidesman 1880-81
Parish Warden 1923
Philip Darbyshire farmed 52 acres near to Red Barn Doors.

**Mr William Darlington (1826-1900)**
Sidesman 1890-91

**Mr Davenport (1845-1912)**
Sidesman 1871-73
Parish Warden 1874-75
Could be Mr Alfred Davenport b.1845?
Alfred Davenport moved to Great Budworth by 1881.

**Mr John S Davies (1850-?)**
Sidesman 1883
Parish Warden 1885-87
Mr John E Davies was a chartered accountant living at Broom Cottage

**Mr Thomas Ditchfield (1864-1932)**
Sidesman 1884-86
Parish Warden 1888-90
Ministers Warden 1896-1901
Thomas Ditchfield farmed Cann Lane Farm, Appleton Cross
If this is the correct Thomas Ditchfield, he would only have been 24 when appointed Churchwarden. Possibly the youngest.

Mr Stephen Edwards
Churchwarden 2008-date

Mr Harry Fairclough
Parish Warden 1918-22

Mr Fairhurst (1801-c.1850)
Parish Warden 1850
This is probably John Fairhurst of Old Farm, Appleton

Mr Johnson Fairhurst (1828-1901)
Sidesman 1856
Parish Warden 1857
Johnson Fairhurst was born in Antrobus.
He farmed Old Farm in Appleton Thorn
He later moved to Pillmoss Farm House (1881)
He must be one of the youngest Wardens – he was only 29 in 1857.

Mr Fred W Finch (1983-2008)
Ministers Warden 1983-91

Mr J Fletcher
Sidesman 1855
Parish Warden 1856
Probably Mr John Fletcher of Wavertree whose children are buried in the churchyard.

Mr Ford
Sidesman 1876-77
I suspect this my be Mr Peter Ford born in Appleton who moved to Lower Wash, Latchford and farmed 50 Acres.

Mr John Forest (1809-c.1870)
Ministers Warden 1854
John Forrest lived at Fir Tree House in Stretton

Mrs Barbara Hamilton
Churchwarden 2009-date
Barbara was the first female Churchwarden of Stretton.

Mr David Hart
Churchwarden 1988-2001
Mr Hewitt (1831-1900)
Ministers Warden 1882-83
Most probably Mr Thomas Hewitt of Whitley who was interred at Daresbury
Mr Thomas Hewitt was farming 86 Acres (1881) on the farm next to Mr Philip Darbyshire near to Red Barn Doors.

Mr Joseph Hewitt (1866-1944)
Sidesman 1893

Mr Highfield (1798-?)
Parish Warden 1852
Mr James Highfield farmed Broom Fields in Appleton.

Mr John Homer
Churchwarden 2003-2009

Mr Houghton (1786-?)
Parish Warden 1849
Probably Henry Houghton b.1786

Mr Harold Johnson
Ministers Warden 1953-54

Mr Robert Kerr (1834-1902)
Ministers Warden 1884-87
Mr Robert Kerr was Scottish and a Mechanical Engineer by trade. He moved to Stretton from Ashton on Mersey.
Mr Robert Kerr lived at Primrose Hill

Mr T H Lyon (1827-1914)
Ministers Warden 1870
Thomas Henry Lyon lived at Appleton Hall

Mr Dennis Mascall
Churchwarden 1998-2008

Mr Matherman
Ministers Warden 1952

Mr Edward Melling (1867-1935)
Ministers Warden 1927-28

Mr Wallace W G Milne
Ministers Warden 1955-66

Mr Vernon Molloy (1913-2003)
Parish Warden 1969-84
Mr Harry Moore  
Ministers Warden 1925-26

Mr Francis Arthur Morris (1871-1945)  
Parish Warden 1939-41

Mr R W Ogden  
Ministers Warden 1938-41

Mr Fred Owen  
Churchwarden 1992-97, 2002

Mr Lawrence Owen (1887-1949)  
Ministers Warden 1932-37

Mr John Pendlebury (1795-1870)  
Sidesman 1852  
Parish Warden 1853  
John Pendlebury farmed Booth House in Appleton.

Mr John Percival (1788-?)  
Ministers Warden 1852-53  
Mr John Percival farmed 40 Acres unnamed farm in Stretton.

Mr William Percival (1822-1874)  
Sidesman 1857, 1865  
Parish Warden 1858, 64, 66  
Ministers Warden 1867-69  
William Percival farmed Hillfoot Farm (1861)

Mr Thomas Percival (1856-1908)  
Sidesman 1890  
Parish Warden 1891-92  
Thomas Percival farmed Hillfoot Farm (1891)

Mr Joseph Percival (1876-1935)  
Parish Warden 1932-34

Mr John Pimlott (1805-1869)  
Parish Warden 1851, 1861, 1865, 1867  
Sidesman 1860, 1864, 1866  
Mr John Pimlott farmed Burley Heyes Farm in Appleton Thorn.

Mr Poole (1812-?)  
Ministers Warden 1850-51, 1857  
Joseph Poole lived at Mosswood Hall

Mr de Priz  
Sidesman 1882
Mr John Renshaw (1859-)
Parish Warden 1894-95
John Renshaw had moved to The Limes in Lower Whitley as Farmer by 1901.
He married Sarah Ann Ditchfield 6th Jan 1892 in Great Budworth.

Mr John Rutter (1858-1943)
Ministers Warden 1894-95
Mr John Rutter was a grocer at the Spring Bank Shop on the Warrington and Northwich Road.

Mr George Rylands (1924-1989)
Ministers Warden 1978-82

Mr Thomas Okell (1787-1851)
Ministers Warden 1849
Thomas Okell Lived at Stretton House.

Mr Henry Taylor
Parish Warden 1848
Sidesman 1863

Mr F Thorn
Parish Warden 1950-68

Mr Ralph Tickle (1878-?)
Parish Warden 1896-1901
Mr Ralph Tickle farmed Hillside Farm (1901)

Mr Walter Turner (1868-1954)
Ministers Warden 1947-51

Mr Samuel Walker (1832-1897)
Parish Warden 1879-80
Samuel Walker lived at Stretton Lower Hall

Mr C Whitley (1846-1909)
Ministers Warden 1879
Charles Thomas Whitley lived at Walls Pit House. He was the son of the Reverend Canon John Whitley.

Mr George Whitlow (-1930)
Parish Warden 1925-27

Mr John Whitlow (1805-1867)
Ministers Warden 1848, 56, 58-59, 62-66
John Whitlow farmed Old Farm, Stretton (1851, 1861)
He was born in Lower Whitley
Mr John Whitlow (1855-)
Parish Warden 1893
John Whitlow farmed Broomfields Farm (1881, 1891)
He was the son of George Whitlow of Hatton.
Possibly grandson of the above Mr John Whitlow.

Mr John Wilde (1813-?)
Ministers Warden 1855
John Wilde lived at Stretton Farm

Dr James Willett (1835-?)
Ministers Warden 1874-78
James Willett lived at Stretton House

Mr Oswald William Willett (1864-?)
Parish Warden 1902-04
Ministers Warden 1905-09
Mr Oswald Willett was James Willett’s son. He was the Postmaster at Stretton Post Office in 1901.

Mr Winstanley (1842-1923)
Ministers Warden 1888-89
William Winstanley farmed at Dorothy Farm, Stretton

Mr James Worthington (1823-78)
Sidesman 1869, 1874
Parish Warden 1870-73, 1878
Mr James Worthington was a land agent and Timber Merchant living at Broom Cottage in Appleton. He died in office on the 20/12/1878.

Mr Thomas Wright (1837-1869)
Sidesman 1867
Parish Warden 1868
Mr Thomas Wright lived at Shepcroft, Appleton.

Mr James ?son
Ministers Warden 1872-3