

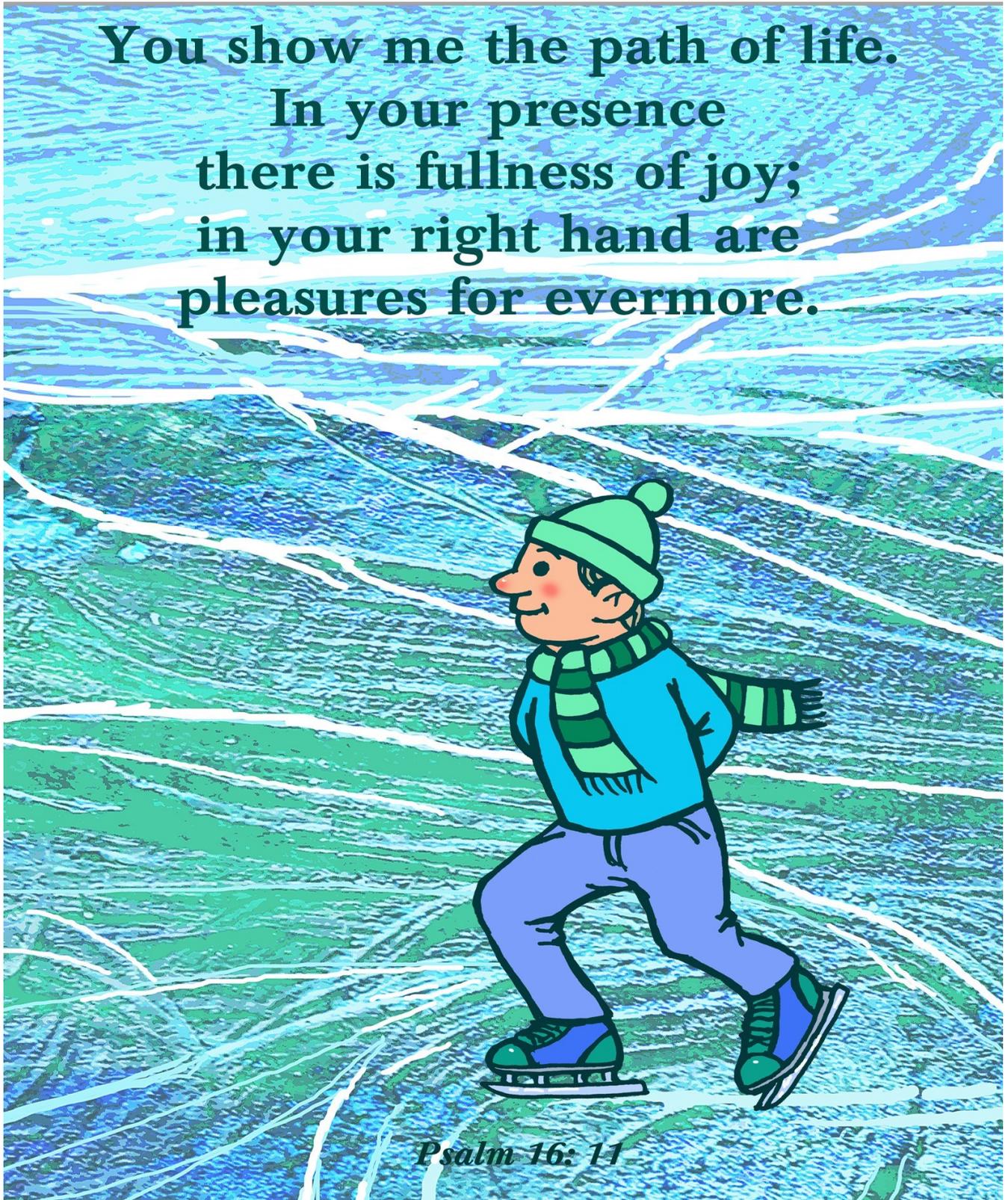
# The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:

Snailbeach, Habberley, Hope & Shelve



You show me the path of life.  
In your presence  
there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are  
pleasures for evermore.



*Psalm 16: 11*

January 2024

[www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk](http://www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk)

80p



# Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



**Rector:** Rev. Greg Smith  
(day off - Friday)  
The Deanery, Pontesbury  
07902 794653  
rectorpontstip@gmail.com

**Curate:** Rev. Richard Lonsdale  
(day off - Tuesday)  
The New Vicarage, Minsterley  
07922 830488  
richardlonsdale1@gmail.com

**Associate Minister:** Rev. Fran Brealey  
(days off - Mon, Fri, Sat)  
07982 324760  
revfran@btinternet.com

**Church Wardens**  
Susan Lockwood 07854 110271  
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

**Treasurer**  
Mike Bowen 07826 061054  
mintreasure@btinternet.com

## Services in the Parish Hall this month

Please see notice on page 26 regarding our temporary service arrangements.

Jan 7th 10.30am Holy Communion  
Jan 14th 10.30am Holy Communion  
Jan 21st 10.00am "Minsterley Praise" joint with the Methodist congregation, in their Chapel.  
Jan 28th 4.00pm Tea Time Church

*There are no services in the church building.*

## Weekly events in the church

Mondays 3.30pm Youth Café (p7)  
Tuesdays 10.00am Foodbank  
Wednesdays 10.00am Coffee Hub (p26)  
Thursdays 10.00am Trinity Tots (p13)

## other events this month (see page . .)

Thur 4th Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday)  
Sat 6th Minsterley Meadows meeting (p17)  
Tue 9th Oasis meeting (p13)  
Parish Council meeting (p15)  
Wed 10th Prayer 'taster' session (p4)  
Tues 16th Ichthus Bible study (p7)  
Tue 23rd Oasis meeting (p13)  
Sun 28th Plough Service (p26)  
Tue 30th The Gathering, Marton (p4)

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

**e-mail:** MinsterleyParishMagazine@gmail.com.

**Editor:** David Young **Tel:** 01743 537081

Copy date is the 20th of the preceding month

## "The Year of Faith"

Hereford Diocese has designated 2024 as The Year of Faith. It is tempting, I appreciate, to ask whether the Diocese thinks last year was the Year without Faith. But let us put cynicism aside. It is also tempting, I have no doubt, to assert that you already have faith thank you very much. But that is to think of faith as a lifeless object that we bury in the ground, ready to produce when we come face to face with our Maker.

However Faith is less a noun and much more a verb, a doing word. You can believe a chair is real; trust that it will support your weight; commend it to others as an impressive piece of furniture, but it's only when you sit in it that you are showing your faith in it. Faith is a living thing that is only alive if it is growing. And it only grows if we use it. We are generously providing three opportunities to use and/or grow your faith in the early days of 2024.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January the Bishop of Hereford is visiting St George's from 9.30am - 1pm to speak about how we may have confidence in the Word of God. St George's has the great privilege of hosting the launch event for the Diocese's Year of Faith and everyone is warmly invited to attend. It is a ticketed event and tickets, which are free, are available via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishops-teaching-event-growing-confidence-in-the-word-of-god-pontesbury-tickets-768335410897>

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm we are launching The Bible Course, an eight-week course produced by The Bible Society, designed to help you understand how the different books of the Bible fit together and explore key themes. No prior knowledge is necessary but everyone is guaranteed to learn something. Allen and Margaret Marsden have very kindly offered to host the course on a fortnightly basis. Anyone is welcome to attend, but please speak to them or one of the clergy so that we know to expect you.

Finally, Lent will soon be upon us (the start coinciding with Valentine's Day this year). I would like to encourage everyone to consider a carbon fast during Lent. You can find out more of what this entails by visiting <https://www.climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/>

This may all sound like quite hard work. However St Paul encourages us to "Fight the good Fight" (1 Timothy 6 v.12). This suggests that our faith won't grow much while we are sitting back in our armchairs but rather we should exercise it like a muscle. I can't think of a better prayer for me or you for 2024 than for our faith to grow.

Yours in Him

Greg

### Farewell to Rev Pam Bickley

Stiperstones and Pontesbury benefices bid a very fond farewell to Rev Pam Bickley who retires from active ministry on 31st December.

Pam has served our churches so faithfully and so well for many years. Her kindness, compassion and attention to detail have been widely appreciated.

Her sensitivity has been a tremendous blessing to many a baptism family, wedding couple and families who have experienced bereavement. Her wisdom and mischievous sense of humour has also endeared her to so many.

Pam is not moving away, so we look forward to seeing her around, but wish her every blessing as she hangs up her stole.

Greg



*Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves*

# Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural dean: Rev. Bill Rowell

01938 552064 email: wkrowell@btinternet.com

## “A Retreat in Daily Life”

A week to walk more closely with  
God through accompanied prayer

25<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

At the start of this year of prayer Bishop Richard said that, as a parish priest, accompanied prayer was the most life changing part of his ministry. It drew people closer to God more than anything else that he did. We are very blessed that a team of prayer guides will be coming to the deanery and offering a service of accompanying individuals in prayer for five days. Do sign up – this opportunity does not often happen.

There will be a taster evening from 7pm - 9pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January in St Georges Church, Pontesbury. This provides an opportunity to learn more about the week, get an idea about how it works and talk to some of the team holding the week.

The week starts with a 90-minute introduction at 4pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at St Georges Church Pontesbury. You commit to praying for 30 minutes each day and then meeting with a prayer companion for up to 30 minutes for five days, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. It finishes with a breakfast feedback on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 9am at St Georges Church Pontesbury. There is a charge of £25 to pay for the expenses of the guides, a grant is available if you cannot afford this.

For more information or if you'd like to talk it over please speak to

Greg Smith,  
Mrs Mary Worrall,  
Rev Graham Phillips (Hanwood).

Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless. - G K Chesterton

There are no short cuts to spiritual maturity. It takes time to be holy. - Erwin Lutzer

The noblest revenge is to forgive. - Thomas Fuller

We know not what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. - Willis J Ray

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves, or rather, in spite of ourselves. - Victor Hugo

A weak mind is like a microscope, which magnifies trifling things but cannot receive great ones. - Lord Chesterfield.

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar. - William Wordsworth

You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you don't trust enough. - Frank Crane.

## The Gathering

An evening of Praising & Worshipping God

"Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Everyone welcome

Refreshments  
from 7pm

Tues 30th January  
2024, 7.30pm start



Marlon Village Hall

Deanery News editor: Alison Bebb, Keepers Cottage, Cruckmeole, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN  
email: alisonbebb5@gmail.com

Items for inclusion to be submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> of previous month please

## *World News . . . .*

. . . .or “some of the items you are not likely to see this week on the TV news”

### **Turkey – Historic inauguration of new church building in Istanbul; Elderly Christian murdered.**

“Look at this crowd! These are my brothers and sisters, and at last we have a place where we can all come together!” These words are from a Turkish Christian attending the inaugural service of a church building in Yeşilköy, Istanbul on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The opening is believed to mark the first church building built with government backing in Turkey’s 100-year history as a post-Ottoman state.

This is a remarkable step, given the Turkish state’s record of unjustly expropriating churches and other church properties, adding greatly to the difficulties of the Christian communities in Turkey since the formation of the Turkish Republic in 1923. The country’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, joined church leaders to take part in the inauguration ceremony of the building in Istanbul.

Construction of the church began in 2019, and Erdogan laid the first stone. The inauguration was postponed following the February earthquake that struck both Turkey and Syria. The church, which has capacity for 750 worshippers, was filled for the inauguration ceremony.

Erdogan is open about his ambitions to spread Turkish Islamic influence, as if to re-establish the Ottoman empire. He has been criticised during his two decades as the country’s leader for converting ancient churches into mosques. Most notably, his decision to convert Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia, once the world’s largest cathedral, from a museum into a mosque in 2020, caused an international outcry.

Meanwhile, concerns of Turkey’s Christian minority were heightened with the murder of a 91-year-old Christian in the south-eastern province of Mardin on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Gevriye Ego was ambushed in front of his house in the Christian village of Enhil and shot multiple times. He died in hospital. Christians have lived in south-east Turkey for many centuries but are now a small minority. George Aslan, a Christian MP, made the assertion in the Turkish parliament that Gevriye’s killing was “part of a systematic campaign against our community to drive us away from our lands”. Many Christians were forcefully displaced in the 1990s but some, including Gevriye, have returned to their ancestral villages in recent years.

### **Bethlehem**

The ongoing situation is grave in Israel and Gaza, but also in the West Bank, which is not involved in the conflict. No one is allowed in or out of Bethlehem, and there are already shortages of flour, dairy products and petrol. Many schools are closed.

Christians living in all these regions pray for safety. They ask their Lord and Saviour, the Prince of Peace, to bring an end to the violence. Please add your prayers to theirs.

### **Laos – Eight Christian families expelled from village; Local authorities order church to stop meeting**

Prayers are needed for eight Christian families (about 60 people) who have been expelled from their village in Savannakhet province because they left the traditional spirit cults of their fellow villagers and decided to follow Jesus Christ.

District authorities issued the expulsion order on 4<sup>th</sup> October and gave the families thirty days to find themselves new homes outside the village. They began by trying to build temporary houses, using materials they found in the forest.

Elsewhere in Savannakhet province, a deputy village chief ordered a church of eighteen Christians to cease meeting. On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October the authorities interrupted a worship service and threatened the believers with arrest and heavy fines if they did not comply. The warning applied also to two Christians who were attending the service from a neighbouring village. An additional threat of a large fine was issued to the church in the event of any village residents falling ill or dying.

These orders contradict Article 30 of the Lao Constitution, which explicitly states that Lao citizens have the right and freedom “to believe or not to believe in religions”. Whilst this principle is largely followed in urban areas, there is more hostility in rural areas towards what is perceived as a Western faith.

### **BCE Davies - General Builder**

Extensions – Alterations  
Plastering – Brickwork  
Stonework – Building Maintenance

**Tel: 01743 791784**

**Mobile: 07713 906263 or 07946 571726**

42 Linley Avenue, Pontesbury, SY5 0TL  
Email: [bcedavies@btinternet.com](mailto:bcedavies@btinternet.com) Website:  
[www.Bcedavies.co.uk](http://www.Bcedavies.co.uk)

### **The Flower Shop, Minsterley**



**3 Station Road, Minsterley  
01743 791860**

*For all your floral requirements,  
fresh eggs and a small selection of groceries.*

*We are open as follows*

*Tuesday – Friday: 9.00am – 4.00pm*

*Saturday: 9.00am – 12 noon*

***We look forward to seeing you.***

## **MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL**

**Available for hire  
EXCELLENT FACILITIES**

FOR DETAILS AND TO BOOK, CONTACT  
Andrew Morris  
TELEPHONE: 07495 715469 or  
email: [minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com)

Footcare in your home.  
Robert Bland S.A.C. Dip. R.F.H.P  
Tel: 07368230473  
Email:- [bobbland04@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bobbland04@yahoo.co.uk)

**Toes R Us** 

Please support our advertisers

# SHROPSHIRE HILLS GARDEN SERVICES

[www.shropshirehillsgardenservices.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsgardenservices.co.uk)

- Strimming & brushcutting
- Hedge cutting & pruning
- Garden tidy-up
- Lawn mowing
- Patio/decking cleaning
- Weekly maintenance



Tools powered  
by renewable energy

Tel: 01743 632703 or 07971 679702  
[will@shropshirehillsgardenservices.co.uk](mailto:will@shropshirehillsgardenservices.co.uk)  
Rose Cottage, 16 Bromlow. SY5 0EA



**Illuminate**  
 18 Wyle Cop  
 Shrewsbury  
 SY1 1XB

Bibles, Christian books,  
 greetings cards,  
 large second-hand bookstall.  
 01743 233657  
[www.illuminatebooks.org.uk](http://www.illuminatebooks.org.uk)

# YOUTH CAFE

activities | FREE WiFi  
 snacks | music

**Every MONDAY 3.30pm - 5pm** (term time)  
 Years 7-10 | Drop-in | FREE admission  
 Contact Susan on 07854 110271



A youth group at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



"The vicar really is taking all of January off to recuperate, then."

### Magazine Distribution

A heartfelt Thank You to those who faithfully distribute this magazine each month. Last year, two long-serving distributors had to give up their rounds and I would be pleased to welcome someone to assist. Can you walk about 800yds per month (that's about 732meters) round local addresses? Please contact me if you can help.

**David Young, Editor**  
 01743 537081

### ICHTHUS

Come and join our informal Bible study group.

Enjoy the opportunity to discuss, ask, contribute or just listen.....whatever helps us to grow in our understanding of our Christian faith.

Meetings start at 2.30pm, and we restart after the Christmas break on Tuesday 16th January.

**Liz Jackson 01743 791352**



"By your words I can see where I'm going, they throw a beam of light on my dark path."

Psalm 119:105 (The Message Bible)

Please support our advertisers

THE LOCAL FAMILY BUTCHER  
SMITHS BUTCHERS MINSTERLEY  
HOLLY HOUSE, MINSTERLEY, SY5 0BA

01743 791863

[minsterley.butchers@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/minsterley.butchers)

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE



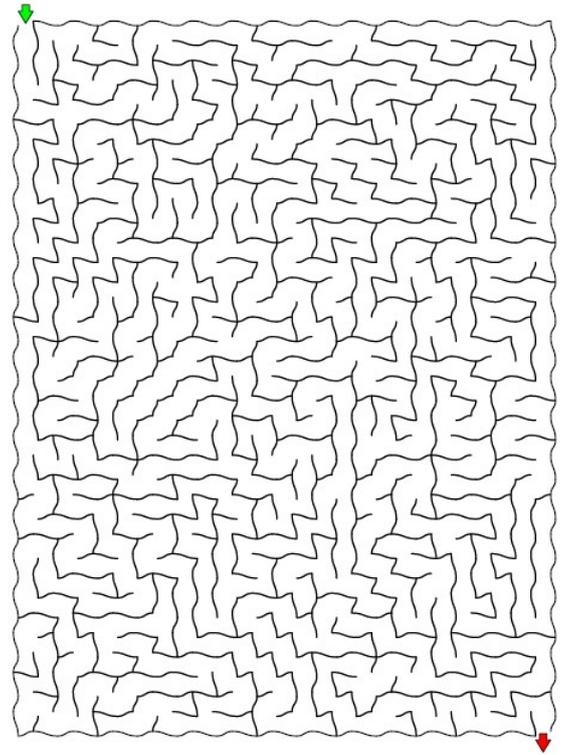
**WE ARE TAKING ORDERS WHICH CAN  
BE DELIVERED FREE OF CHARGE.**

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS  
ON FACEBOOK OR ON MY ADVERTISING  
BOARD OUTSIDE THE SHOP**

# Puzzle Page

			6				7
		7			3	5	
3					7		4
					2	6	
8	5						1
		9	3				
	9		5				3
		4	1			8	
	2				9		

© 2008 KrazyDad.com



## Wordsearch – Wise Men and St Paul meet Jesus

The Wise Men and St Paul were both on trips when they first encountered Jesus, but how different those trips were! The Wise Men, whom we remember on Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> Jan) were seeking the One for whom the Star shone, and came to Bethlehem to worship him. St Paul, whose conversion we remember this month (26<sup>th</sup> Jan), was on his way to Damascus, seeking to kill those who worshipped Jesus.

When the Wise Men encountered the Baby Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

When St Paul, the proud, fanatical Pharisee, encountered Jesus, he fell blinded on the road, and then worshipped Him by giving Him the rest of his life. St Paul endured years of suffering and hardships in his work as the great apostle to the Gentiles. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Wise      | Conversion |
| Men       | Seeking    |
| Trips     | Kill       |
| Paul      | Baby       |
| Encounter | Gifts      |
| Jesus     | Gold       |
| Different | Proud      |
| Epiphany  | Blinded    |
| Star      | Road       |
| Shone     | Suffering  |
| Bethlehem | Apostle    |



Please support our advertisers

FUNERAL



DIRECTORS

# W·R·R Pugh & Son

— established 1890 —

133 Longden Coleham Shrewsbury SY3 7DN | 87 Whitchurch Road Shrewsbury SY1 4EE

01743 344646

info@pughsfuneraldirectors.com

Dedicated professional service throughout Shropshire offering help and guidance in every aspect of arranging a funeral service.

- No obligation written estimates available upon request
- Private service chapel
- Personalised funeral stationery and orders of service
- Forget Me Not Florist
- Private parking & disabled access
- Environmentally friendly options
- We can recommend professional stone masons for all your memorial needs.



FUNERAL PLANS FROM  
**Golden Charter**  
Smart Planning for Later Life



## Hokkaido 2023

[If you missed Robert's talk at Habberley you missed a treat. Anyway, you will have to make do with his written report instead . . . . . Ed.]

The raw white fish glared at me so balefully from the plate that I wondered which of us would manage to eat the other. Eventually I accepted a draw, ate his companions and left him on the plate. This was my only attempt to eat sushi and it took place at a posh Japanese restaurant in Sapporo, the main city of Hokkaido, which is the northernmost island of Japan where I have spent three delightful weeks following an itinerary impeccably organised by *Far Frontiers*. Other ventures into Japanese cuisine were more enjoyable. At a stall by Lake Toya I persuaded Masako my guide to try a soft ice cream. This was, unusually, black, being flavoured with squid ink. She retaliated by presenting me with octopus dumplings made with rice flour rather than suet, and rice balls flavoured with salmon and wrapped in edible seaweed. The night after the sushi I did my bit for the Japanese ecology by eating venison. My guide told me this was encouraged, as the deer population was getting out of control.

I spent the first morning in Tokyo watching a sumo training session. One giant practised pushing another giant out of a ring. The bouts, which I watched on TV that evening, are ferocious; the grips being best left to the imagination. The afternoon's tour of Tokyo featured Meishi Park, a tranquil woodland in the heat and bustle of Tokyo, dedicated to the Emperor Meishi (1868-1912) and his Empress Masako. Hiromi the guide told me they had transformed Japan from a feudal society to an industrial democracy. A later guide pointed out that the transformation included the development of modern arms, and suggested a direct line from it to Japan's disastrous role in World War 2. By coincidence I was reading a biography of Lord Palmerston who in 1863 bombarded Kagoshima and forced an apology and reparations from Japan following an incident. I wondered whether the rearmament might be a reaction to humiliation.

Hokkaido is about the size of Wales, sparsely populated and lovely; pretty in places, awesomely grand in others. One day I spent peacefully cruising Lake Toya; another walking around a lake in Unema Park, looking at verdant islands and spotting the occasional heron. By contrast we walked up to the crater of the volcano Mount Ouso and saw the steam rising. Masako told me that it erupted on

average every 25 years. I incautiously asked her when it had last erupted. "25 years ago" she replied.

The highlight, for me, was the cruise along the side of the Shiretoku Peninsula. The planned cruise was cancelled because of high winds. Sachiko the guide arranged with another company to cruise the more sheltered water on the west side. The bears on the shore were too distant to be worth photographing, but the grandeur of the cliffs, tortured into fantastic shapes by wind and sea, would alone have made the trip worth while. The following day we walked on the Noshuy Peninsula, a flat desolate spit pointing into the Okhotsk Sea. From there I could see Kanashir, an island controlled by Russia though claimed by Japan. Tommy, the driver, whose hobby is mountaineering, wanted the Russians gone so that he could climb two mountains on Kanashir.

I spent the last three nights at a Ryokan Inn, a traditional Japanese inn where I slept on mattresses on the floor, and ate meals prepared in my room by the maid. The first evening featured a tea ceremony, an elaborate but friendly ritual that included much bowing and smiling. Its original purpose, I believe, was to emphasise equality between host and guests, and among the guests at a time when Japanese society was oppressively hierarchical. The tour of Kyoto included colourful, ornate Buddhist temples and more modest, naturalistic Shinto shrines. I understand from Meiko the guide that the contrast in appearance reflects the different values of the two philosophies.

Hokkaido is a wonderful place, a land of contrasts, not only between city and country, but also between rural prettiness and the bleak austerity of volcanoes and coastline. What made it a glorious holiday destination was the guides, whose expertise and helpfulness made me feel I was with friends, and the people on whom I practised my comically inept Japanese. "Yubin kitte wo kaitain desu ga" (I should like to buy a postage stamp) secured enough stamps to post a card to England and have it safely and promptly delivered.

P.S. On 24th November I gave a talk about my holiday at Habberley Village Hall to raise funds for St. Mary's. It was well attended and raised £428. My thanks go to all those who supported the event.

**Robert Currie**

# LOCAL MILK IN GLASS BOTTLES,

from our Milk Vending Machine.

AVAILABLE  
AT HIGNETTS  
OF PONTESBURY

-----  
**£1.50 for 1 Litre**

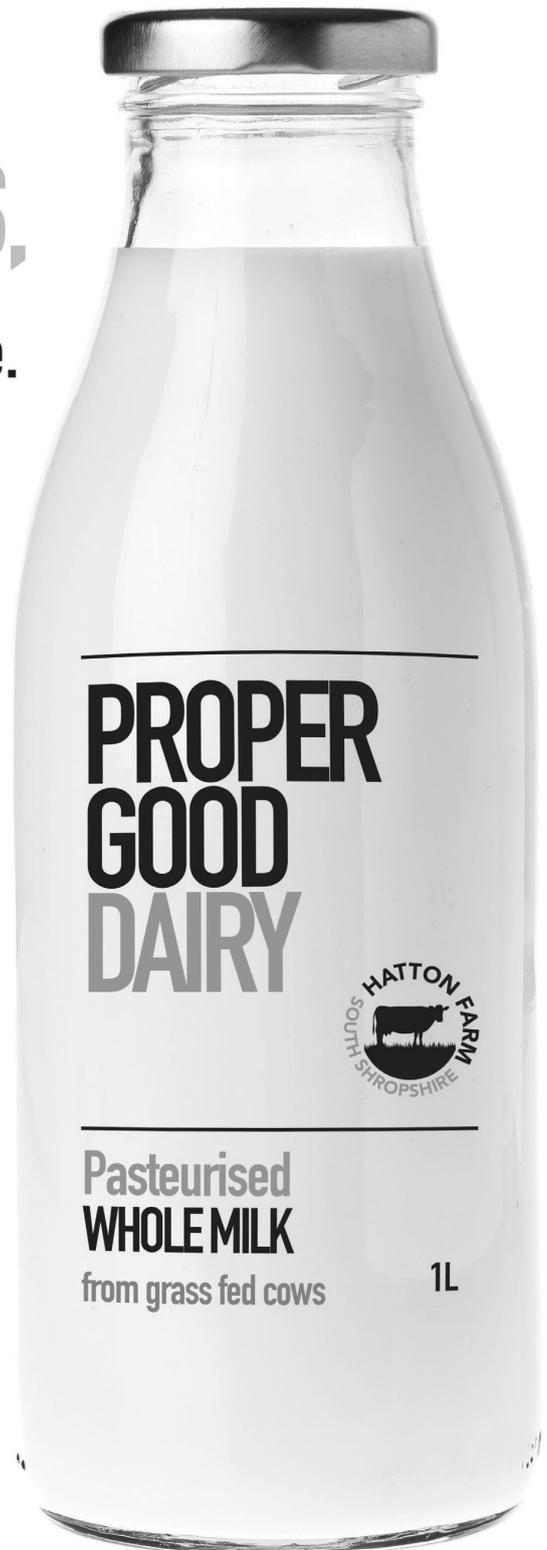
Empty bottle is £1.20.

Then simply refill  
your bottle for £1.50  
each time.

-----



[www.propergooddairy.co.uk](http://www.propergooddairy.co.uk)





...his constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!

# Oasis

FREE lunch & companionship for anyone living in Pontesbury, Minsterley and surrounding villages, who has been recently bereaved

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 12pm - 1.30pm

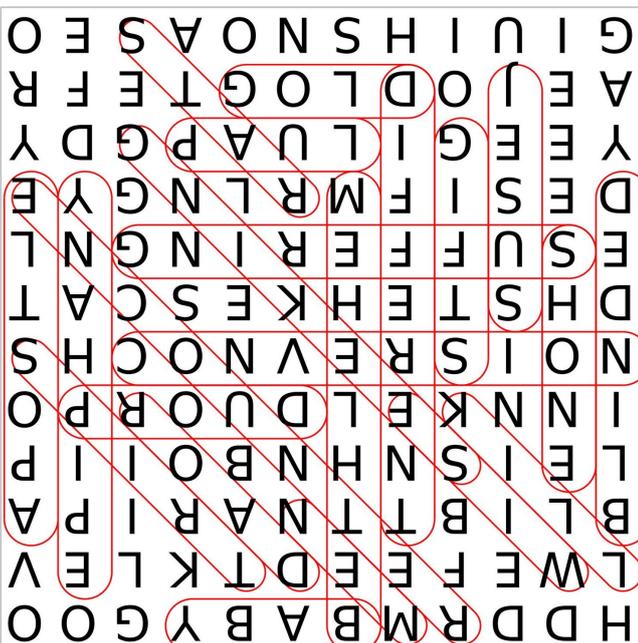
Minsterley Methodist Chapel,  
Horsebridge Rd, Minsterley

Transport Available | Friends & Family Welcome

For more information, contact Heather Ryder  
on 01743 790359 or ryder928@btinternet.com

Answers

5	2	8	7	3	9	1	6	4
7	3	4	1	2	6	8	9	5
1	9	6	5	4	8	7	2	3
2	6	9	3	7	1	4	5	8
8	5	3	9	6	4	2	1	7
4	7	1	8	5	2	6	3	9
3	8	5	2	1	7	9	4	6
6	1	7	4	9	3	5	8	2
9	4	2	6	8	5	3	7	1



10am-11.30am  
Thursdays  
term time

lots of toys,  
stories, songs  
and snacks



A FREE group for under 5s with their parents or carers

Sponsored by Smiths of Minsterley

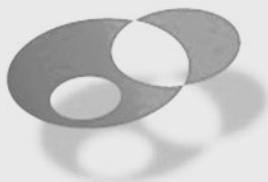
Contact  
Judith 01743 383116 or  
Barbara 01743 600476



A pre-school group at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

Investment Planning  
 Retirement Planning  
 Inheritance Tax  
 Planning  
 Intergenerational  
 Planning  
 Mortgages

It's important you make  
 the right decisions.



lewis wealth  
 management

With over 30 years experience, we offer friendly professional advice on a wide range of financial services.

Lewis Wealth Management Limited,  
 St James's House, Anchorage Avenue,  
 Shrewsbury SY2 6FG  
 Office: 01743 444 700  
 Mobile: 07967 430 392  
 Email: Neil.Lewis@sjpp.co.uk  
 Web: lewiswealthmanagement.co.uk

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

Please support our advertisers



Are you feeling overwhelmed,  
 struggling with negative thoughts  
 or lacking confidence?

Counselling is for anyone who would  
 like to experience a change in their  
 life or to feel listened to.

*It really is the ultimate in self care.*

Don't wait until you're feeling desperate,  
 reach out for some support now

**I offer a free 20 minute phone session  
 without obligation.**

working from Worthen

**Contact Susie**

Accredited Professional  
 No: NCS23-02148

07958 794265

office@presencecounselling.co.uk  
 www.presencecounselling.co.uk



## **STRENGTH & STABILITY CLASS FOR AGES 60+**



Tuesdays 9.30am—10.30am  
 at Minsterley Parish Hall

Thursdays 10.00am—11.00am  
 at The Pavilion Community Hub,  
 Pontesbury

Booking is essential.

Contact Dan Lewis on 07904 338 791

or

## Minsterley Parish Council

Flood Officers from Shropshire Council will be visiting the parish to meet with members from the Minsterley Flood Action Group, who will show them the areas and properties which were recently affected by flooding.

A consultation meeting is being arranged at Pontesbury in January 2024 to discuss proposed junction changes and parking around the centre of Pontesbury.

Fly-tipping and littering around Oak Drive car park would be reported to the Housing Association for their attention.

It was agreed a £3,000 increase in the precept would be requested for the next financial year to help cover the parish budget.

Highways would be contacted to ask if any road improvements are required on the Leigh Road between the cemetery and Reabrook.

John Campion, Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, has agreed to visit the Parish in January 2024, to view and discuss with Parish representatives speeding issues on the A488 between the School and The Waterwheel.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.00 pm at Minsterley Parish Hall.

**Geoff Rogers**  
Chairman, Minsterley Parish Council  
[www.minsterley.org.uk](http://www.minsterley.org.uk)

To contact the parish council please e-mail:  
[clerk@minsterley.org.uk](mailto:clerk@minsterley.org.uk)



**THE PONTESBURY PROJECT**  
Person Centred • Community • Kindness • Trust • Inclusion

The Pontesbury Project provides 24 hour care for 17 people who are in need of support. They live in houses owned by the Project but which are their homes. These homes are scattered through Pontesbury and Minsterley.

The Project has always been Christian led. Dr Ian Bradley and his wife Beryl had the vision; a vision brought to fruition with the assistance of people from different local churches.

We want to remain Christian-led and are now looking for volunteers to join the current Trustees. The Project provides homes and care to those in need of support, thus enabling them to stay local to their families and friends and giving the reassurance of excellent local care to their relatives.

Do you think you might be interested in joining us? If so, please take a look at our website ([www.pontesburyproject.com](http://www.pontesburyproject.com)). If you would like to chat informally please contact us on: [jane.cooke@pontesburyproject.com](mailto:jane.cooke@pontesburyproject.com) or [philip.bradley@pontesburyproject.com](mailto:philip.bradley@pontesburyproject.com)

**Jane Cooke**  
Chair of Pontesbury Project – Special Needs

**Philip Bradley**  
Chair of Pontesbury Project - Housing

## Minsterley 59 Club

Draw 47	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	No. 28	David Wainwright
Draw 48	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	No. 13	Christine Parry
Draw 49	6 <sup>th</sup> December	No. 47	Richard Semple
Draw 50	13 <sup>th</sup> December	No. 57	Roy Blakemore

## Bible Readings in Holy Trinity Church this month

Here are the Bible passages we plan to read in our church services this month:

Date	OT Reading	Epistle	Gospel
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Genesis 1:1-5	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
14 <sup>th</sup> January	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18	John 1:43-51
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Ecclesiasticus 47:2-11	Psalm 18:31-36,50	Mark 6:14-29



## S.P. GARDENING SERVICES

For all your gardening needs we offer a full service and we are Environment Agency Registered

Hedges

Shrubs

Weeding



Lawn Mowing

Lawn Treatment

Turfing



For a free quotation please contact Steve 01743791716 or 07868 701704  
[spgardenservices@outlook.com](mailto:spgardenservices@outlook.com). Local family business in Minsterley

Please support our advertisers



# STONEMASONS

of CHURCH STRETTON

-----  
**MEMORIALS**  
-----

Headstones  
Cremation tablets  
Traditional and modern  
Additional inscriptions

-----  
**HOME**  
-----

Kitchen worktops  
Fireplaces and hearths  
Bathroom and wet room  
Signs and general masonry

**01694 724 448** [www.strettonstonemasons.co.uk](http://www.strettonstonemasons.co.uk)

## Christmas Fair report

Our Christmas Fair was held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and what an afternoon it was!

The variety on display was astounding – from handmade crafts and homemade cakes, to children’s toys and the anticipation of winning prizes at the tombola. We also hosted some incredible local makers who showcased their talents and added a unique touch to the Christmas Fair.

Of course, no Christmas event would be complete without the man in the red suit himself – Father Christmas. Despite being inundated with wish lists, Santa took the time to bring joy to the little ones, and his fantastic car (courtesy of Andrew Tweedy) was a sight to behold!

We were also treated to delicious refreshments, and the music of our ukulele performers added a festive backdrop to the festivities. The raffles were a hit, offering attendees the chance to win fantastic prizes, and the various games and activities for children kept the youngsters entertained.

We extend our deepest thanks to the dedicated team of helpers who spent months meticulously planning and organising every detail of the fair. And to everyone who baked, crafted, sold tickets, donated prizes, helped set up the event and volunteered on the day... a huge thank you.

A special acknowledgment goes to our generous sponsors and supporters: Housing Group Plus, David Davies and company, Rea Valley Speciality Foods, Roger & Christine Parry, Tim & Chris Watson, Blueprint Travel Media, Tesco, The Crown & Sceptre, The Stiperstones Inn, The Flower Shop, Hair by Sue, Corbetts Butchers, The Works and Redan Publishing and Andrew Tweedy.

Last but certainly not least we express our gratitude to each and every person who attended the Christmas Fair. Your presence and support made it a very special community event.

Thank you.

**Sarah Edwards**

Opportunity knocks but once, but temptation leans on the doorbell.

- Anon

I have had more trouble with myself than with any other man I have ever met.

- Dwight Moody

Minsterley & District  
61st Annual Eisteddfod  
Saturday 16th March 2024



Details are now available; the closing date for applications and entries is early February. Ring 01743 791908 or email [minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com](mailto:minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com).



...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...

Middle Marches Community Land Trust

# SAVE OUR MINSTERLEY MEADOWS

**PUBLIC MEETING: SATURDAY 6 JANUARY 2024**  
**MINSTERLEY VILLAGE HALL, 10AM TO 12 NOON**

Join us for a public meeting to gauge interest amongst the local community for a fund-raising appeal to purchase this important site as a community asset forever.

Minsterley Meadows consists of two flower-rich hayfields (around 13.5 acres in all) on the eastern outskirts of Minsterley just off Habberley Lane. They are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England for their important plants.

Alongside a range of meadow plants is the striking feature of thousands of rare Green-winged Orchids which flower in late May - the largest Green-winged Orchid site in Shropshire.

The hedges are thick and full of birdlife and there are several large old oak trees on the boundaries which form a corridor through to Callow Hill woods, hillfort and quarry.

More information about the site can be found here:  
[Estate agent details](#) (Roger Parry)  
[Natural England designation](#)

Marches Meadow Group

**ALL WELCOME. PLEASE COME ALONG AND GIVE US YOUR VIEWS!**  
Contact: [info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk)

# **GRS CLEANING SERVICES**

**WINDOWS    CONSERVATORIES    GUTTER CLEANING**

**PATIOS / DRIVE WAYS    CARAVAN / MOTORHOMES**

**SOLAR PANELS                      CARPET CLEANING**

**DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL**

**FREE QUOTATIONS**

**Home 01743 791829; Mobile 07947114843**

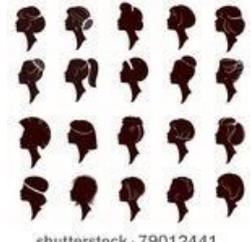
**LOCAL AND RELIABLE**

Please support our advertisers



## ***Hair by Jen***

***3 Station Road, Minsterley***



shutterstock - 79012441

*Jenny and Stacey offer a friendly service including  
foils, tints, perms, cut and blow dries, etc.*

***Open: Tuesday 9am-3pm***

***Wednesday 9am-6pm***

***Thursday 9am-9pm (late night!)***

***Friday 9am-4pm***

***Appointments advisable: call 01743 792548 or drop in.***

## Local organisations offering help and support

Here are some contact details you might find useful. This page was updated in January 2022, but if you find anything to be out of date, incorrect or not relevant please let the editor know. Likewise please share details of any other group which can offer support to local residents. Thank you.

**Rea Valley Foodbank** 07902 794653  
Food parcels available locally in Minsterley and Pontesbury. Referral needed.

**Community Good Neighbours, Rea Valley**  
07944 891953

Get in touch with a local Good Neighbour for a friendly chat, small errands and support to stay active and connected within the community.

**Pontesbury Community and Care Co-ordinator**  
01743 790325 or e-mail [h.tazewell@nhs.net](mailto:h.tazewell@nhs.net)  
Helen Tazewell can give assistance to patients of all ages in need of help, support and advice by signposting to other useful services. She works Monday and Wednesday locally.

**Healthy Shropshire** 0345 678 9025  
Shropshire Council telephone line for information and advice on a healthy lifestyle, including smoking, alcohol, weight, exercise and other matters.

**Shrewsbury Food Hub** [Shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk](http://Shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk)  
Surplus food share tables across Shrewsbury.  
See Facebook page for venue details.

**Shrewsbury "foodbank PLUS"** 07421 745857  
Food parcels, debt advice, returning to work, digital Inclusion, life skills. Referral needed.

**Citizens Advice Shropshire** 0344 499 1100  
Confidential advice and help to solve problems with debt, benefits, housing, legal matters & employment.  
Need help claiming Universal Credit? Call their dedicated Help to Claim helpline, 0800 144 8444

**Keep Shropshire Warm** 0800 112 3743  
Advice and grants for people struggling with heating and energy bills.

**Shropshire Council Housing Support** 0345 678 9005  
Support on all housing matters particularly rentals and homelessness.

**Shropshire Mental Health Support** 01743 368647  
Mental health support.

**Shropshire Recovery Partnership** 01743 294700  
Drugs and alcohol support.

**Shropshire Rural Support** 0300 123 2825  
Confidential support during periods of anxiety and stress, and with problems relating to family and business. See website [shropshireruralsupport.org.uk](http://shropshireruralsupport.org.uk).

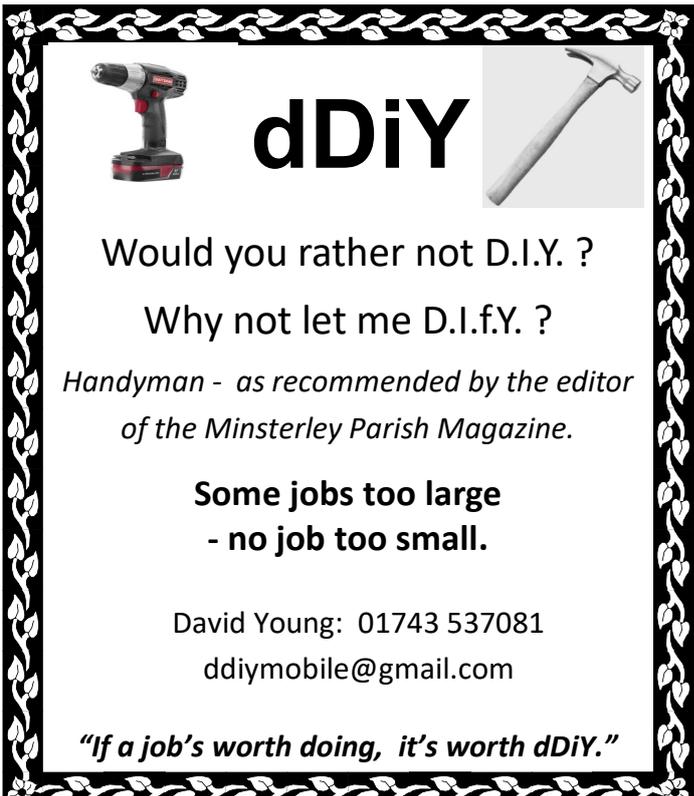
**Samaritans** 116 123  
Free 24/7 confidential support whatever you are going through.

**Shropshire Domestic Abuse Helpline** 0300 303 1191  
Support for anyone suffering from domestic violence.

**West Mercia Women's Aid** 0800 783 1359  
24hr helpline for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

**Shropshire Carers' Support Service** 01743 341995  
Wide range of support for unpaid carers.

**Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin** 01743 233123  
Confidential advice for older people, their families and carers.



**dDiY**

Would you rather not D.I.Y. ?  
Why not let me D.I.f.Y. ?

*Handyman - as recommended by the editor of the Minsterley Parish Magazine.*

**Some jobs too large  
- no job too small.**

David Young: 01743 537081  
[ddiymobile@gmail.com](mailto:ddiymobile@gmail.com)

**"If a job's worth doing, it's worth dDiY."**



---

**voted Shrewsbury's  
favourite estate agent**

---

**Call 01743 248351**  
**[www.zjandb.com](http://www.zjandb.com)**

Happy New Year and all the best for 2024 from **Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a!**

When I did this last year I suggested that for some of the newsletter readers, a good new year's resolution would be to join our wonderful organisation. I'm delighted to report that many of you did just that and our membership has just tipped over the 200 mark – a significant increase on last year.

The u3a is for the retired or semi-retired (or even those of you thinking about retirement and have the time) who want to continue learning, developing skills and socialising amongst like-minded individuals in their community. There are no exams and we learn together – when you join, we like to think you will make an active contribution to the running and development of the organisation and/or the groups you join.

Our u3a has over 20 different interest groups, with several more in the pipeline.

And if we don't have what you fancy, a new group could most likely be organised if there is sufficient interest. We also hold monthly Open Meetings with visiting speakers.

Our u3a community is more than just groups though. Real friendships and support networks have developed and there really is something for everyone. Information about us is available at The Pavilion in Pontesbury and on our website ([u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley/welcome](http://u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley/welcome)).

So, forgive me for repeating myself, but why not add 'joining the u3a' to your new year resolutions. You can come along to a "taster session" or Open Meeting. Or send an email to our membership secretary, Steve Anderson ([steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com)), or myself ([japa.walsh1@btinternet.com](mailto:japa.walsh1@btinternet.com)) if you want to find out a bit more about us.

**Janet Walsh (Chair)**

## Make the most of life, join our u3a

Our u3a is part of a worldwide charity where retired and semi-retired people come together and learn for fun and friendship:

- 20 plus interest groups in our local u3a; something for everyone
- start at any level
- a warm welcome
- new groups are formed when sufficient members express interest



Art History



Cycling



History



Photography



Table Tennis 3 (Pontesbury)



Astronomy



Family History



Italian



Pickleball



Walking (long)



Badminton



Folk Music



Literature



Classical music



Walking (short)



Café Society



Gardening



Local History



Table Tennis 1 (Pontesbury)



Creative writing



Geology



Painting & Drawing



Table Tennis 2 (Minsterley)



**learn, laugh, live**

**Contact**

Steve Anderson

[steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:steve.anderson.u3a@gmail.com)

07861 531 186

[u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley](http://u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley) 

**u3a**  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Trusted & experienced property specialists since 1981

Roger Parry & Partners

Estate and Letting Agents

[www.rogerparry.net](http://www.rogerparry.net)

Thinking of selling  
THIS YEAR?

[www.rogerparry.net](http://www.rogerparry.net)  
01743 343343

Get in touch to arrange your  
FREE VALUATION

Please support our advertisers



Simplifying computers  
and technology  
across Shropshire



- Computer repairs • No fix, no fee
- Virus and Data Recovery, Back-up Service
- Installation service available
- Internet / WiFi problems fixed
- No call out charge • Backup Service
- Please check website for latest stock
- Are you considering a new TV or Audio equipment, new media subscription services, new broadband, new computer or technology in the home?
- ShropTech offer "best buys" research service with optional installation
- Sales of 3 grades of Electricals – New, "open box" or 2<sup>nd</sup> hand, all 1yr warranty

 01743 790968

 07971 480036

 [greg@shroptech.com](mailto:greg@shroptech.com)

Shropshire Technology is registered with ICO under the Data Protection Act 1998 – your data is safe with us



Police contact numbers

Emergency: **999**

Non Emergency: **101**

Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**

Website: [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

Report online: [www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/)

## BISHOPS CASTLE & RURAL

### Safer Neighbourhood Team

(covers all our magazine area except Minsterley)

## SHREWSBURY RURAL WEST

### Safer Neighbourhood team

(covers Minsterley)

Twitter: [@SouthShropCops](https://twitter.com/SouthShropCops)

Email: [bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Facebook: [Bishops Castle Policing Team Rural Watch](https://www.facebook.com/BishopsCastlePolicingTeamRuralWatch)

Twitter: [@ShrewsburyCops](https://twitter.com/ShrewsburyCops)

Email: [shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED			
CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE			
15th November 2023 – 15th December 2023			
CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Assault		Aston Pigott	
Allowing dog to be dangerously out of control	Jogger bitten	Worthen	Owner identified, investigation ongoing
Harassment		Worthen	
Assault	x 2	Snailbeach	
Allowing dog to be dangerously out of control	Delivery driver bitten	Snailbeach	

## Rogue Traders

Locally we have had an increase in suspect rogue traders offering 'services.' Rogue traders are people who call at your door pretending to be qualified tradespeople and offering to do work on your home. They may suggest urgent repairs need carrying out at your home. They may pressurise you to make quick decisions to have work done, pay in advance for materials or do poor work at highly inflated prices.

Doorstep cold-calling is not illegal, however our advice is to never employ traders who call at your door unannounced.

- Be cautious; if a trader knocks at your door, do not agree to on the spot house repairs without taking advice. Say 'no thank you' and close the door.
- Be wary of special offers. They will use tactics such as 'I am only in your area today and would need to do the work now'.
- Do not believe when told that guttering, roofing, gardening or paving work is in need of

urgent repair – this may cause you to panic and allow the work to take place.

- Don't allow anyone to pressure you into agreeing to have work carried out. If you ask them to leave and they don't, they commit a criminal offence - contact the police on 999.
- Do not make snap decisions. If you feel that any work needs carrying out on your property, take time to talk to family or neighbours before you make a decision.
- Don't ever go to a bank or cash point with a trader; legitimate traders would never do this!
- Remember.....it's OK to say no!

If you feel you have been a victim of rogue traders, you can report suspicious callers to Trading Standards, the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline number at **0808 223 1133**, or West Mercia Police on 101 or 999 in the event of an emergency.

**Bishop's Castle Policing Team send you our best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!**





# COFFEE HUB

Every Wednesday  
10am - 12pm

FREE tea  
& coffee

Everyone welcome!




A community cafe at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

## Holy Trinity Minsterley Sunday Services during January/February

During January and February, Holy Trinity will worship at Minsterley Parish Hall in order to save on energy costs. This is a temporary change for the coldest months. The pattern will be as follows:

Jan 7th Holy Communion at 10.30am  
 Jan 14th Holy Communion at 10.30am  
 Jan 21st "Minsterley Praise" at 10.00am, joint with the Methodist congregation, in their Chapel.  
 Jan 28th Tea Time Church at 4pm

Feb 4th Holy Communion at 10.30am  
 Feb 11th Holy Communion at 10.30am  
 Feb 18th "Minsterley Praise" at 10.30am joint with the Methodist congregation, in Holy Trinity.  
 Feb 25th Tea Time Church at 4pm

### Tea Time Church

A new service, starting at 4pm on the fourth Sunday of each month, is being launched by Holy Trinity Minsterley. The service will begin with refreshments and fellowship, followed by a time of worship; a talk; table discussion and prayers. All welcome.

### Minsterley Methodist Church

#### 10am Sunday services



7<sup>th</sup> January – Family Service led by members of the congregation.

14<sup>th</sup> January – Cluster service for the Rea Valley Methodist Churches led by Rev Rachel Parkinson, District Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District.

21<sup>st</sup> January – Minsterley Praise - the first of the new "Third Sunday" combined services with the congregation of Holy Trinity. The service will be led by Rev Richard Hall and include the annual Covenant Service.

28<sup>th</sup> January – led by Mrs Helen Pearson.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to come and join us at any of our services and for refreshments afterwards.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Sandra Lewis



St George's Church  
Pontesbury

## Plough Service

28 Jan 2024  
7pm

Praying for blessings on our farming community in the coming year.

Service followed by light supper

Made with PosterMyWall.com

www.st-george.org.uk

## Our partner churches in the Stiperstones Group —

### St Luke's Festival Church Snailbeach



Treasurer

Cheryl Bromhead

St Luke's is a "Festival Church". Services are held on six festival days: Christmas, Easter, St Luke's day, Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday.

### St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

Church Wardens

Pauline Stopford, The Kennels, Habberley (01743 790784)

Pearl Hannigan, 9 Yarlington Orchard, Pontesbury (01743 790495)

Treasurer

Robert Currie

Sunday 14th January	5.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 21st	5.00pm	Holy Communion

\* \* Please note the change of time for the Communion service



### Hope & Shelve Parish

Church Warden

Barbara Venables

Secretary

Sara Young

Treasurer

Kevin Bowers

#### Holy Trinity Church Hope

Sunday 14th January	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th	9.00am	Candlemas Holy Communion



#### All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 7th January	9.00am	Epiphany Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	9.00am	Holy Communion

# We're over the moon about our NEW lower prices

Lightning fast full fibre broadband from  
**£26/month\***

Find out more and check your postcode at  
**[www.swsbroadband.net/overthemoon](http://www.swsbroadband.net/overthemoon)**

\*Terms and conditions apply. Prices include VAT. £26/month for the first 12 months for 150Mbps package on a 24 month min contract. Visit the website for further information.

**SWS**  
BROADBAND

Connecting Rural  
Communities since 2005



## Advertising in

## The Minsterley Parish Magazine

Please do support our advertisers where possible - and if you run a local business or would like to advertise something in these pages, please contact Colin Edwards on 01743 791508 or at [marieandcol@icloud.com](mailto:marieandcol@icloud.com).

Our annual rates are:

Full page	£120.00
Half page	£60.00
Quarter page	£30.00
Eighth page	£15.00



SCAN ME

For up-to-date information about our churches,

past copies of the magazine

and everything else you need to know

please visit our website:

**[stiperstoneschurches.org.uk](http://stiperstoneschurches.org.uk)**

