

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:
Habberley, Hope & Shelve, Snailbeach



See how the wild flowers grow! They don't work to earn, or craft their own clothes, but even King Solomon with all his wealth was not dressed as well as they are. Lk 12:27-28

August 2025

www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk

80p



Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



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

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

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(day off - Tuesday)
The New Vicarage, Minsterley
07922 830488
richardlonsdale1@gmail.com

Church Wardens
Susan Lockwood 07854 110271
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

Treasurer
Mike Bowen 07826 061054
mintreasure@btinternet.com

Church services this month

Sunday 1st	4.00pm	Tea-time service
Sunday 10th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	10.30am	Minsterley Praise
Sunday 24th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	10.30am	Group service of Holy Communion

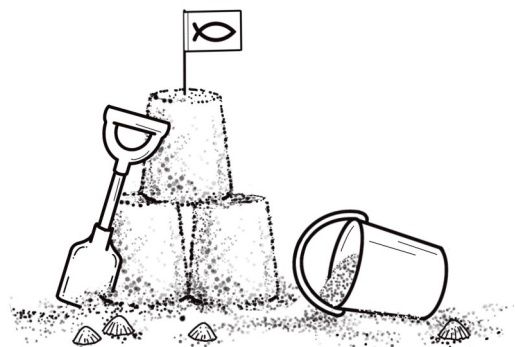
Please see page 30 for details of services in the other churches in our Stiperstones group

Weekly events in the church

Tuesdays	10.00am	Foodbank (p11)
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee Hub (p16)

Other events this month

Thu 7th	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p15)
Mon 11th	Crafty Monday (p15)
Tues 12th	Oasis meeting (p13) Parish Council meeting (p19)
Sat 16th	Minsterley Show (p7)
Tues 19th	The Gathering (p27)
Sat 23rd	Craft & Flower Show (p27)
Tues 26th	Oasis meeting (p13)



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

Does God have a purpose for my life?

In him we were chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1 v.11-14)

Since I became a Christian, I have understood that being a believer and a disciple of Jesus means living with purpose. I have always believed that I was not only loved by God but that he had a plan and purpose for my life, just as he has for every other human being on the planet. But what could that be? Whatever it was I was determined to find out. I thought that if I could, I would be the world's best at whatever it was.

For me, the path of discovery led eventually to full time missionary work and then ordination. I hasten to add that for others it could just as easily lead them into a life of craftsmanship, business, retail, the arts, social work, or sport, and the list goes on. My favourite line from the film "Chariots of Fire" is when the athlete Eric Liddell declares, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and when I run I feel his pleasure!"

But what does it feel like to live with a sense of purpose and God's calling in your life?

- ⇒ Does it mean having full confidence in your ability to accomplish everything you feel called to do?
- ⇒ Does it mean always being sure of what you're doing and how and why?
- ⇒ Does it mean always being the best, or at least on the way to being the best, at whatever role or job or vocation you find yourself in?

I'm afraid that kind of confidence has eluded me.

I used to believe that I was *not* God's first choice for the ministry he had called me to. I could look around and see capable people more effective and gifted than me. I was doing my best to keep up with what I believed God was calling me to do, but deep down I knew it was because the *really* good ones were already doing other things, so he was just having to make do with whoever was willing and available – and that was me.

It was a lie! I *was* his first choice! Don't get me wrong; it's not because I am somehow the best at everything I do. Truth be told, after all these years as a follower of Jesus I still feel like a rookie, and sometimes like an apprentice who might all too often be found looking for tins of tartan paint and left-handed screwdrivers.

No. I'm just saying that God didn't make a mistake when he called me to serve him. He meant to do it. He chose me. He predestined me to be for "*the praise of his glory*," even if that glory might simply be the fact that someone like me could be his choice at all.

I used to believe that I was doing my best, and hoped God would be pleased with that. There's a world of difference between that and the belief that God called and chose me and was pleased with *me*, long before I actually *did* anything.

Our purpose or vocation in life is God's gift, not his demand. We have been chosen according to his plan - not to do everything for him, but to "*be for the praise of his glory*." He invites us to live with and for him. Our responsibility is one of faith and obedience, so that he can do what he wants in and through us – that's all that matters. In the meantime, he will arrange and organise whatever difference that might mean for us or for the world.

The heartbeat of our calling is not what we may or may not achieve. It's the fact that God delights in us enough to include us, giving us the privilege of becoming fellow workers with him. We get to 'share his yoke' as Jesus puts it. That means living and pulling with him to plant and harvest for the Kingdom of God (a world of love, joy, peace and justice) in whatever place or position he puts us.

The specific service we engage in and the tasks undertaken may change over time, but God's intent to include you and me to play our part with him in his divine purposes remains the same. He delights in us – that's why we're here. He's done it on purpose. Each one of us is his first choice. Let that, not a list of past or future achievements, be your encouragement and joy as you serve him.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future."

(Jeremiah 29 v.11)

Rev Stuart Carter

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

telephone: 07902 794653 • email: rectorpontstip@gmail.com

A few years ago we visited Normandy in France and stayed in a place not far from the town of Lisieux renowned for the famous basilica dedicated to St Thérèse. Her's is a remarkable story of indefatigable faith against all the odds. Born in 1873 she died in 1897, aged just 24.

As a child she had often been ill, doctors unable to get to the root cause of her problems or neuroses, which is how we might describe them.

At the age of 15 she became a nun in the cloistered Carmelite community of Lisieux. There as a Carmelite religious she fulfilled various offices such as sacristan and assistant to the novice mistress.

In the final years of her life it was tuberculosis, then incurable, which caused her death. As her health deteriorated over her short life her spirituality and faith grew and developed. She was never heard to complain or blame God for any of her suffering.

Regardless of how you feel about the veneration of saints or their canonisation etc., it is very hard to ignore when you visit the Basilica, decorated with some of her writings, how very simply she saw things - that love, and only love, could ever be the answer.

Permission to build the Basilica was not universally approved of, but by September 1929 work was sufficiently advanced for the first stone of the building to be laid. In November 1929 Pope Pius XI informed the architect that he, "make it very big, very beautiful, and as quickly as possible!"



Closer to our house was the town of Vimoutiers. Not a particularly important place strategically, very rural, a bit like Pontesbury. Its claim to fame is that on 14th June 1944 during the

Battle of Normandy the town was bombarded by the US Airforce. The entire village was destroyed and 220 people died. It took just 20 minutes.

In the centre of the town there is a metal large bowl-shaped container, about 1 metre in diameter, rather like an old style upturned dustbin lid. You could well walk past it but there is a notice alongside it describing what it was used for. To all intents and purposes, everyone in Vimoutiers was made homeless after those 20 minutes on 14th June 1944. The place had been flattened. One of the nearby farmers used this receptacle to bring soup to the centre of the town every day for three months in order that survivors could at least have one meal a day. Imagine if that happened here! I suspect something along those lines would happen today.

What struck me about those events was that there is something about love, faith and community that always seems to come to the fore, particularly in and after adversity.

Thérèse said she loved simplicity; that spirituality need not necessarily be overcomplicated. The farmer in Normandy realised that his neighbours' need, initially at least, was simply to be fed.

In St Paul's letter to the Colossians, he confronts the issue of Gnosticism. The Gnostics were preaching that in order to be saved it was necessary to gain a certain kind of secret knowledge about the spiritual realm – knowledge only available to a select few.

Sometimes we feel our faith is not strong enough or effective enough. If we read those theology books or that commentary we would have all the answers. But faith is simple - there is no secret of success. There is only one secret which is Jesus Christ himself, now and always.

Enjoy your summer everyone.

Rev Ruth Leigh

Westbury, Worthen & Yockleton Benefice

Deanery News editor: Ann Jones (annmorganjones456@gmail.com)

Copy to be submitted by 10th of previous month please.

World News

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

Uganda – Suspected Islamist attack on Christian Martyrs’ Day thwarted

An attempt to kill Christians in Uganda was prevented by the intervention of security forces that resulted in the death of two suspected Islamist terrorists.

The pair were killed on 3rd June as they approached a memorial in the capital Kampala where Christians were gathering to remember martyred believers. They were riding a motorcycle close to the Munyonyo Martyrs’ Shrine which commemorates Christians killed for their faith in the nineteenth century. They were “intercepted and neutralised” by a Ugandan army counter-terrorism unit, said military spokesman Chris Magezi.

One of those killed was a female suicide bomber carrying powerful explosives. It is understood that these explosive devices were detonated during the operation, killing her and the motorcycle driver. The two terrorists are reported to be linked to Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP – formerly known as the Allied Democratic Forces), which is based in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2023, ISCAP carried out a massacre at a Christian boarding school in western Uganda and attempted to bomb a number of city churches.

Martyrs’ Day is a national holiday in Uganda and honours 45 Christians killed between 1885 and 1887 for refusing to renounce their faith and revert back to their traditional religion.

Myanmar – Nine killed in airstrike in Kayah State

Please continue in prayer for Christians in Myanmar after nine people were killed and 20 injured in an airstrike on a camp for displaced people in Kayah State on 15th May.

Air strikes by the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) increased in frequency in the aftermath of the earthquake 28th March, despite a pledge by Myanmar’s military government to observe a ceasefire until the end of May.

Kayah State has a large Christian population. Along with the Christian-majority states of Chin, Kachin and Karen it has suffered many attacks since the coup of February 2021. Thousands have been displaced, often more than once, owing to the bombing of internally displaced persons’ camps.

Nigeria – Attacks in Benue and Kwara states kill at least 250 Christians

The constant refrain of multiple deaths of Christians in Nigeria’s Middle Belt must drive us to prayer. In the most recent incident at least 200 people were killed and 6,500 displaced following attacks by gunmen on communities in Benue State, whose population is 98% Christian. It was feared that the death toll could rise above 300 as more bodies are recovered from the ashes of hundreds of burned-out homes or from the bush, where villagers fled for their lives. Militant Fulani Islamists are believed to have carried out the attacks, centred on communities in Guma Local Government Area (LGA), a region that has seen a surge in violence this year.

The onslaught began late on 13th June and raged until the early hours of the following day. It was like a war,” said village elder Amos. “In my 57 years on earth, I’ve never witnessed this. I escaped with my third son. My wife and other children were not so lucky. My world ended that Friday night.” Another survivor, Tsegba Lucy, lost her mother and five siblings after their home was set ablaze by the gunmen. “My beloved mum and beautiful sisters,” she cried. “Go well till we meet again. I love you, but God loves you more.”

The killings followed an attack by gunmen on two other Christian communities in Benue State on Sunday 1st June, in which at least 43 people were murdered. More than 25 people were shot and killed in Edikwu Ankpati, Apa LGA, at around 7pm. The deaths of 18 others were reported in Tse Antswam, Gwer West, at around the same time.

The attacks were carried out by a newly formed terrorist group known as Mahmuda, understood to be an offshoot of Boko Haram. Mahmuda is operating across Kwara State, and has reportedly seized control of some communities in neighbouring Niger State. Attacks by Mahmuda have resulted in widespread displacement, as people flee their vulnerable home villages for the relative safety of larger towns.

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As part of
The Pontesbury Festival
27th - 29th June, 2025

The Gospel of St Luke

Performed by St Luke's Players

A packed house in Pontesbury Baptist Church enjoyed (almost) the full text of Luke's gospel performed by Robert Currie and Greg Smith. Congratulations to them for learning their script by heart, and to Jan Brain as prompter - she didn't have to work too hard! A very moving rendition, with Robert narrating and Greg taking the part of Jesus.

Thanks to Mike Wells and the team at the Baptist Church for their welcome and catering.

David Young



"We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again."



Celebrate the 150th

Minsterley Show
Saturday 16th August

at Manor Farm, Cruckton, SY5 8PW

Gates open at 8.30am.

More details: minsterleyshow.org.uk.

Would you like to help out at the Show? Holy Trinity Church Minsterley is once again providing cake and sandwiches in the tea tent; this involves baking and sandwich making in advance, and then needs people to man the stall in the food marquee.

If you would like more information or to offer to help please contact Sarah Edwards (07971 984925). Thank you.



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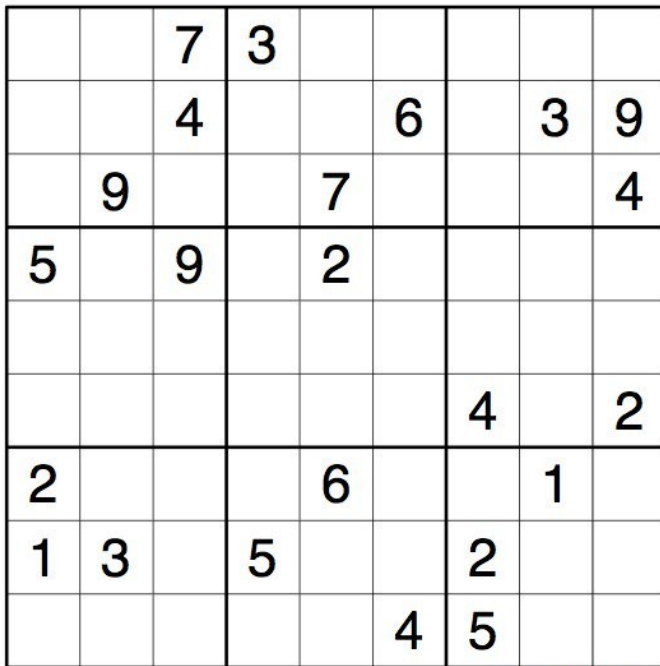
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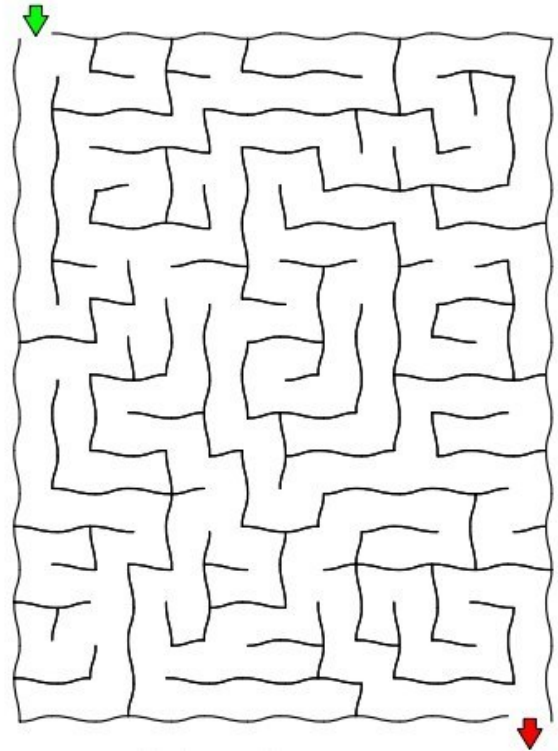
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Wordsearch – The Transfiguration

The story of the Transfiguration is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). On that day, high up on a mountain, Peter, James and John were given a glimpse of Jesus' true glory. For Jesus' face began to shine as the sun, and his garments became white and dazzling. Then Elijah and Moses suddenly appeared, talking with him.

Overwhelmed, Peter offered to build three tabernacles on that holy place, one for each. But God's 'tabernacling', or God's *dwelling* with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on being in the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a bright cloud covered them, and a voice spoke, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Why did Moses and Elijah appear?

They represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they were handing on the baton, if you like, for both the Law and the Prophets found their final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Transfiguration

High

Mountain

Glimpse

Glory

Shine

Sun

Garments

Dazzling

Appeared

Moses

Tabernacles

Holy

Dwelling

Shrine

Presence

Jesus

Bright

Cloud

Mankind

Listen

Law

Prophets

Handing

Fulfilment





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Open all Summer

We have been open all Summer every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This is all due to our local and loyal volunteers. Behind the scenes they are collecting donated items, sorting and transporting them. Also setting up and packing up on the days we are open. Thanks to a brilliant team.

Home deliveries across the area are carried out by volunteers to people who have financial or other needs but are housebound. A referral is needed before a decision on eligibility can be made.

The Cost of Food

Local people are very generous with their donations of food and other items. The biggest issue we face is the increasing cost of food, which has meant:

- Donations of items to us are considerably down. Minsterley Morrisons is no longer a donation collection point as our bin was often moved or removed.
- It costs the Foodbank more each month to buy in items. We do this very carefully, and to a budget, but also try to be responsive to people's needs.

Thank you, we appreciate the community's continued support for our service.

Good News

Along with other Foodbanks, we applied for

some specific financial support from Shropshire Council, via the Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance. We have had good news that this funding will be forthcoming in Autumn/Winter and must be used to provide vouchers for Foodbank users. This is good timing with increased energy and Christmas costs.

To use the Foodbank, or find out more:

Call for a chat with Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653) or Rev Richard Lonsdale (07922 830488) or email reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com or your



local clergy. You can also be referred by a GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See our website:

<https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook.

Jean Garner

Church Clock seeks friends

The clock at Holy Trinity Minsterley has been repaired thanks to a generous gift, and is now in full working order – all except one part. The missing component is a team of people who are able to climb up to the gallery and wind the mechanism on a regular basis. Just one person is presently doing this but it requires at least two other people on a regular or occasional basis to assist. If no one is available then sadly the clock will stop again. No previous winding experience required!

Please contact Susan Lockwood (07854 110271) if you might be able to assist. Thank you.

Bible Readings in Holy Trinity Church Minsterley this month

Date	OT Reading	Epistle	Gospel
3 rd August	Psalms 49:1-9	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
10 th August	Genesis 15:1-6	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
17 th August	Jeremiah 23:23-29	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
24 th August	Psalms 145:1-7	Acts 5:12-16	Luke 22:24-30
31 st August	Proverbs 25:6-7	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

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Answers

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for more information

BIBLE STUDY

7 - 8pm

Group meets every two weeks.
For information contact Greg
Smith 07902 794653



TUESDAY

REA VALLEY FOODBANK

10am - 12pm

For information contact Greg Smith
07902 794653 or go to
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ICTHUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

2.30 - 4.30pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each
month. For information contact
PApontstip@outlook.com



WEDNESDAY

COFFEE HUB

10am - 12pm

A drop-in community cafe where everyone is welcome.
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THURSDAY

TRINITY TOTS (term time)

10am - 11.30pm

A pre-school drop-in group for under 5s with their parents or carers.
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CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE 16th June 2025 – 15th July 2025

CRIME	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Stalking		Bromlow	
Burglary	Outbuildings broken into, a dark blue Ford Transit van (BD62AFK), Hitachi digger and trailer stolen. Occurred 01:50 5th July.	Rowley	Digger and trailer recovered the next day, van still outstanding. Suspicious vehicles seen at the time were a white Ford Transit and a dark coloured Nissan Navara
Burglary	Polaris Ranger 400 ATV stolen	Hampton Beech	Occurred the same night as the above

Sextortion Scams

'Sextortion' is a type of online blackmail, when criminals gain the trust of individuals in order to obtain sexually explicit material and then use it to coerce victims for the purposes of financial gain. Anyone can be a victim of sextortion, however young people, particularly males aged 15 to 17, are most at risk and it has been a key factor in suicides.

Criminals often target people through dating apps or social media. If a person you've just met online chats to you in a sexual way, or asks for sexual images, it might be an attempt at sextortion.

You should be wary if someone you've met:

- is trying to start a relationship with you very quickly (they may even send you a sexual image first)
- chats to you in a sexual way, or asks for sexual images, soon after you've met them
- sends friend requests to others, not just you
- repeatedly asks you to do sexual things that you're not comfortable with
- tells you they've hacked your account or have access to your contacts

Sextortion attempts can happen very quickly, or over a long time. Never share information or images if you are not comfortable. You should stop engaging with someone if you feel uncomfortable, or if someone contacts you online who you don't know. You can review your privacy settings: criminals are less likely to target you if they can't see who your friends and family are.

We understand that it might be difficult to report this type of crime; however if you are a victim or you are worried you are being targeted, it's never your fault and you have done nothing wrong. Stop all communication with the offender immediately. You should also never pay, as there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. Report it to police.

Music festival as parent drops off teenagers...

Daughter: "Did you ever hear anything so amazing as that band?"

Father: "Well, I once heard a collision between a milk float and a little van filled with ducks."

Drama

"Did the play have an unhappy ending?"

"Oh no – everyone was glad when it was over."

A rather longer article than usual, sent by the magazine editor at St George's Pontesbury, about a man many of you will have known.

Pontesbury - Muheza Link

Nearly 30 years ago, the Pontesbury-Muheza Link was created to support a local doctor in his efforts to improve health care in a remote area of Tanzania. 30 years on the Charity has now finally closed, having provided the people of Tanga with £230,000 of support, most of it raised locally through the fantastic efforts and generosity of a large number of people. This is a final newsletter, with the story of the Link, summarising what has been achieved and thanking everyone for their generous support.

In 1994 a GP from Pontesbury Medical Practice, Dr Ian Bradley, visited Muheza District in the Tanga region of Tanzania looking at provision of medical services in rural areas. In 1996 Ian took early retirement from the Practice and made a commitment to return to Muheza to help improve the medical provision in the villages and Health Centres.

Also in 1996 the Rector of Longden, Annscroft and Pulverbatch instigated a Tanzanian evening at Longden School to gain local support for enabling Dr Ian to achieve his aims. The meeting was a success; people from all over the Pontesbury Deanery were interested in supporting Dr Ian's work, thus the Pontesbury-Muheza Link was born. The objectives of the link were: "To enable the provision of medical services in the Tanga region of Tanzania including education and support of Medical Personnel and relief of hardship in the region." The Link obtained charity status in 1997.

Local support for this charity in the years since 1997 has been amazing. Local churches were very supportive, providing venues and refreshments for meetings and events, and circulating Link updates. Money was raised at garden parties, coffee mornings, lent lunches, sponsored walks, update meetings and various musical or drama events. People sold greeting cards, produce, preserves and plants. Donations, gifts from trusts, sponsorships and bequests also contributed over 25 years to the magnificent **£230,000**.

Ian never asked for expenses for his regular trips to Tanzania, monitoring how the various projects progressed, and in the year 2000 he was awarded an OBE for his charitable work in Tanzania

and The Pontesbury Project. Ian sent regular reports of progress while he was in Tanzania often with photographs. Trustees and committee members of the Link never claimed expenses. 22 people residing in different areas of South Shropshire served the committee over the 28 years of its existence. This number included three different chairpersons, three different treasurers, one secretary and a total of seven trustees, with committee members. A newsletter was produced for all donors each year.

It is very difficult to cover all the projects that the Link managed to support. The first venture was to pay a local builder to spend time in Tanzania constructing a rain water collection system at Mkuzi Health Centre which had no running water or electricity. Pontesbury scouts sent torches to the centre to help delivery of babies at night! Shortly afterwards we welcomed Grace, Julius and Agnes to visit Pontesbury to study our NHS. Later all three of them were sponsored to improve their medical qualifications, and have kept in touch over the years.

The Link paid expenses for village health workers to attend seminars training them to return to their villages to treat minor illnesses; sponsored the training of numerous nurses including Agnes who achieved a degree in nursing, four clinical officers, a teacher and hopefully Arnold Nathan Mwenga will qualify as a doctor in July 2025. Wards and an operating theatre were built at Maramba Health Centre and the roof of the maternity unit at Msejani was mended, helping to maintain the infra structure of the three health centres; travelling expenses were paid for mobile clinics; several bicycles were bought and a motor bike to help health workers and a supervisor.

Articles were sent out to help hardship in the area via a container that was organised by a Link between Hereford Hospital and Muheza Hospital. Members embraced this project with enthusiasm. Hundreds of teddies were knitted in Cardeston for AIDs orphans, schools in Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton gave textbooks, stationery, kits and footballs; members donated blankets and sheets and soaps for wards; hundreds of sewing machines were serviced in Bayston Hill each one containing a sewing kit; donated tools for carpentry, plumbing and gardening were mended and serviced in Pulverbatch. All were packed, the volume measured, labelled and transported to Hereford for each container going out to Tanga. Containers were discontinued when transport costs became prohibitive.

Local people visited Muheza and Ian hosted them and introduced them to people who worked

in the health service and they visited the schools and health centres the Link supported.

For many years the Link made annual donations towards the salaries of two medical attendants working at the Maramba Health Centre, Prisca and Musa. Musa retired some years ago and has now died, but we continued to pay Prisca up to and including this year, and she has also now retired. The last of the money left in the Link's bank accounts was transferred to Tanzania for Prisca and Arnold Nathan in July 2024 and the bank account then closed. Arnold Nathan should qualify as a Doctor this July.

Sadly, Dr Ian died last year; at the time of his funeral a tribute for his life was held in Muheza. The person speaking said 'Dr Ian was one of the good men.' This was followed by a tribute in Swahili.

So, nearly 30 years on, the Pontesbury-Muheza Link's bank accounts have been closed, and

the Charity Commission informed. We have closed through necessity, not because our work has been completed - there is an enormous amount that needs to be done to help improve medical services in the Tanga region of Tanzania. However, Link trustees realised that the charity could not continue without a Dr Ian making regular personal trips to the region to discover what needs to be done, and to put in place arrangements to securely handle our charitable donations. And despite there still being huge local support for, and interest in, the work of the Link, new faces would be needed to ensure its continuation. So three years ago at our final Update Evening we announced that the Link would now be closed to future donations, and its funds disbursed over the next three years. That three-year managed closure process has now concluded.

Sheila Waddington-Feather

Minsterley Parish Council

A visit by the House of Commons Environmental Audit committee to Minsterley will take place on 17th July. This will form part of their enquiry into flood resilience in England.

Shropshire Council would be contacted again for any updates regarding speed limit reduction proposals for the A488 from the school to the parish boundary at The Waterwheel.

The Parish has contacted Shropshire Council and the police regarding dangerous activity and damage which has taken place by the brook opposite the Parish Hall. (Safety warning on Parish website).

Following representations, it was agreed to try and arrange repairs to the BMX Track on the playing field.

Reports of motorbikes using the playing field and adjacent farmer's fields should be reported direct to the Police on 101 straight away.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 12th August in Minsterley Parish Hall.

Geoff Rogers
Chairman, Minsterley Parish Council
www.minsterley.org.uk

To contact the parish council, e-mail:
clerk@minsterley.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who supported our Garden Party on 5th July....those who baked, donated raffle and tombola prizes, helped set up and put away and those who attended on the day. We are delighted to say that £429 was raised for church funds.

Carol and Angus

Are you missing out?

Do you want to know what is happening around the parishes?

Our group of churches circulates a weekly bulletin with all the news and announcements you need. If you do not receive it, please email Greg's administrator Rebecca Maddox at PApontstip@outlook.com.

If you do not use email please ring Greg to request a paper copy.

MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw 25	18 th June	No. 59	Karen Buckley
Draw 26	25 th June	No. 41	Rollover
Draw 27	2 nd July	No. 57	Roy Blakemore
Draw 28	9 th July	No. 57	Roy Blakemore



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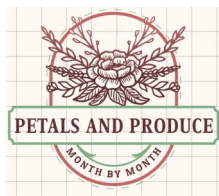
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For me the biggest question is when will it rain? I can't believe how much the soil has dried out, even in the last five days. Now we are forecast ten days of 27 to 30°C! Mind you we shouldn't complain, at least it's not snowing. Can you imagine shovelling snow in this heat?

Lots of crops can be harvested in August, including carrots, runner beans, beetroot, globe artichokes, cucumbers, courgettes, and second early potatoes. You can also harvest onions and shallots – leave them to dry in a sunny spot before storing. I have had great success with onions and garlic.

If you have summer fruiting raspberries, the canes can now be cut down to the floor, ready for them to reappear next year; nothing says summer like fresh fruit from the garden, with a cheeky bit of cream? Go on then.

If you are off on holiday this month, before you get down the drive with your spade and bucket remember to give the garden a thorough soaking. Try to be sensible with the water you have by using water butts to store any rainfall and water by hand where you can.

Right, that's it! Off on your holibobs you go and don't forget my stick of rock. Until next time my darlings.

Laura Davies
amateur gardener, treacle bender
and part time dungeon master

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS by Alan Bennett

Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform *The Wind in the Willows* on Wednesday 29th October to Saturday 1st November at 7.30pm and a matinee on Saturday 1st November at 2.30pm, at our usual venue St. Nicholas' Hall.

Ever since the publication of Kenneth Grahame's novel in 1908 the characters of Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger have delighted generations of readers. Now Alan Bennett has written an adaptation for the stage, a version which is both true to the original and yet carries the distinctive Bennett hallmark.

Tickets cost £12 and can be obtained through the Drama Group (info@abbeydrama.com or 07951 862881) or me.

Robert Currie
01743 790 123

Craft and Flower Show

23 August 2025



The Schedule for those wishing to enter the Show is available at the Trading Post and now in various shops in the village. For those wanting to visit and see the excellent displays of fruit, flowers, vegetables, woodcarving, needlework, art, photography and much more the Show, at the Public Hall in Pontesbury, opens at 2.30 pm on Saturday 23 August. Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

We have made a couple of small changes to the format of the afternoon: the raffle has been replaced by a Tombola, and there will no longer be an auction at the end of the afternoon; any edible produce left behind by exhibitors will be donated to a local food bank.

Completed entry forms can be handed in at the Trading Post on any Saturday morning, and instructions for entries during the week before the show can be found in the schedule.

The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon.

Rob Dixon
robedixon@btopenworld.com

A travel agent looked up from his desk to see an older lady and an older gentleman peering in the shop window at the posters showing the glamorous destinations around the world. The agent had had a good week and the dejected couple looking in the window gave him a feeling of generosity. He called them into his shop and said, "I have a surprise for you. I am sending you off to a fabulous resort at my expense, and I won't take no for an answer."

He booked two flights and a room in a five star hotel. They gladly accepted, and were on their way.

About a month later the little old lady came into his shop. "And how did you like your holiday?" he asked eagerly. "The flight was exciting, and the room was lovely," she said. "I've come to thank you. But just one thing puzzled me. Who was that old guy I had to share the room with?"

You know you're getting older when you begin to realize that your parents were right after all. You can learn many things from children, like how much patience you have.

The most fattening thing you can put in an ice cream sundae is a spoon.

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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
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
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.



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.



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David Young: 01743 537081
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World War II Memories

On 15th August 1945, Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced the end of World War II following the surrender of the Empire of Japan by Emperor Hirohito. My dad, Jack Overton - a life-long member of Holy Trinity - had been a prisoner of the Japanese since the Fall of Singapore in February 1942. As the UK celebrated the end of the war he was in a camp in Ubon, Thailand.

The following is an excerpt from the secret diary he kept during his captivity:

Aug 17th: orders received, 450 going back to main camp. We marched back 8km, arrived main camp 2pm. Everyone thinks the war is over, nothing official.

Aug 18th: Major Chida (through interpreter) announced on roll call that the war in Greater East Asia was ended. Everyone very quiet and orderly, seemed too good to be true. Concert in evening with British, American and Dutch national anthems sung. First time in 3½ years, scene very touching.

Aug 19th: RSM McTavish announced on morning roll call we were now under our own administration. All work for the Japanese would cease. Special thanksgiving services held. Choir sang appropriate music.

Aug 26th: Col Toosey and 29 other officers arrive from Bangkok. Gave us a few details of what was happening for our benefit. Choir gave a concert of anthems we have learned through our POW days.

Aug 28th: The Allied flags hoisted

Dad eventually left Ubon camp on 24th September arriving in Rangoon, via Bangkok, on 27th September where his diary notes that he received his first mail from home. On 11th October 1945 he boarded RMS *Orbita* bound for Liverpool. The ship docked in Liverpool on 9th November and Dad arrived home the following day. My mum was pregnant when he left for the war so this was the first time I would see my dad. When the letter arrived telling him that I'd been born (more than 12 months after the event) he was in Chungkai camp in Thailand suffering from Malaria and Beri Beri.

I remember Trevor Rowson from Snailbeach, who had also been a POW in the Far East but had arrived home earlier, put up flags and bunting in Little Minsterley, and my aunt and uncle went by taxi to meet dad at Shrewsbury Station. My abiding memory of his arrival home was my mum racing to the gate as the car pulled up. Not me, though – I looked with deep suspicion at the strange man that everyone said was 'Daddy'.

Marie Edwards



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A Question you might ask

Q – I need some help to get an older relative's feet looked after. Where can I get such help and does it have to be paid for?

A - If it is a foot condition that limits movement, then your relative may qualify for free chiropodist and podiatry services through the NHS.

Many Age UK branches also have trained workers who will provide a basic level of foot care, such as toenail cutting, and can offer general guidance. If such footcare is not freely available in the area in which your relative lives then you will have to pay a podiatrist, also known as a chiropodist, to get the help needed. To find one locally visit the website of the regulating body, the Royal College of Podiatry, for a list of their members.

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Under Your Feet

By August areas of long, flowery grassland should have been cut (unless you have late flowering species such as scabious or betony present, in which case these areas can be left a little longer). With the cutting and raking of long grass there is often an opportunity to spy onto the world of small rodents such as mice, shrews and voles who may have made routes through the sward that are revealed by the cut.

Small rodents are short lived and highly reproductive; wood mice for example tend to live for about a year during which time they may have up to six litters of between four and eight young. In a churchyard you may have several species of mice, shrews and voles, the most likely being wood mice, field vole and common shrew. Wood mice have large ears and eyes, useful for their mainly nocturnal life, whilst field voles have blunter noses and smaller ears and eyes and they can be active during the day and night. Shrews are distinctive with a long, pointed nose and tiny eyes. All of these animals need to feed frequently and are always on the move seeking food, with shrews eating 80 to 90% of their body weight each day. They feed on insects and other invertebrates but will also tackle quite large earthworms, far bigger than they are! Mice and voles seek out seeds, berries and fruits, some of which they may stash for later. Whilst mice can be agile climbers, voles tend to stick to the ground, following the trails they make through grassland that you can see after a cut.

Unfortunately for voles and mice, they are important prey items for a range of other species. Tawny owls, also often found in churchyards, hunt silently for small rodents as do kestrels, weasels, foxes and of course cats. If you are interested to find out more, look for owl pellets beneath a nest or roosting place; these are regurgitated bundles of the inedible parts of their food and often contain bones which can be teased out of the pellet and then identified, giving information on what they have been eating. Shrews by contrast are not such a staple food item - you may find a bitten and dead

shrew lying on a path suggesting that it has been hunted but was not very tasty.

Churchyards and other burial grounds are havens for rodents, containing a mosaic of grassland, shrubs, woodland and lots of places to make burrows or use existing cracks, nooks and crannies. Free of herbicides and pesticides they are full of food, both invertebrates and plant material whilst areas of long meadow and tussocky coarse grass provide perfect cover.

See if you can spot their burrows and runways and imagine their busy lives in the fast lane!

All the best,

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

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 | **Tues 19th August,**
from 7.00 p.m. | **7.30 p.m. start**

 **Marston Village Hall**

There was a clergyman who was an avid golfer. One Sunday was a perfect day for golf and the minister could not resist the temptation. He rang his curate and told him he was too ill to attend church. Then he drove 30 miles to a golf course, and began to play.

But an angel watching the minister was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, "Look at that minister. He should be punished."

God nodded in agreement as the minister teed up on the tenth hole. He swung, and the ball sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup, 350 yards away. A perfect hole-in-one.

The minister was overjoyed. The angel turned to God and said: "Begging your pardon, but I thought You were going to punish him."

And God smiled. "Think about it; who can he tell?"



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Saturday

[illegible]



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Saturday

From September 2024

Flush not busted!

It is too easy to have our perception of the Church of England prejudiced by media accounts of our general awfulness, our dismal failures and our decline. It is also extremely hard - and sometimes demoralising - work keeping on with a much loved but apparently unsustainable model of ministry. Are we - we might wonder - doing that against all the odds because it is right and God's will or because we of a certain generation can't bear to let it go and no obvious replacement is evident? Whether you are part of a tiny church in the middle of a farm or a larger church, priory or cathedral these uncomfortable questions might occur to you from time to time.

I want to offer two rebuttals to the general sense of the weakness of the church. The first is simply that the gospel rather stands on weakness and apparent defeat! Some might say that the Church thrives on it because it stops trying to please the world and focuses on being faithful to the Lord. That is a very hard path - and for churches in places like North Korea, India and Sub-Saharan Africa is a devastating one. But small and weak keeps on



keeping on with its eyes on Jesus. Perhaps most of us are not small and weak enough to let go and rely totally on God. I am not brave enough to incite you all to cast aside wealth and community popularity although I'm pretty sure that Jesus was fairly clear about such things - not least because in today's compliance-laden society it would incite breaking the law of the land in many ways and He didn't recommend that. But I am sure that we are less small and weak than we think. Remember Elijah thinking he was the only servant of God left in Israel and then God telling him to get a grip because he actually had a sizeable number of faithful Israelites on standby?

The second rebuttal reinforces the point. I sit on the board of trustees of the Benefact Trust, which owns a financial services company that you might recognise as Ecclesiastical Insurance. Benefact gives a significant proportion of its annual profits to the Trust for the sole purpose of providing churches and church organisations with grants to assist with building projects and community transformation work. I am on the board to represent and articulate the broad needs of parishes and cathedrals, and I love the days when we consider applications and see what is going on across the church. What is going on is phenomenal!

Ladies and gentlemen, the Church is not dead or even dying. Where there is missional vision and aspiration for community there is life. Where there is nothing but steady prayer and faith God can and will work for the good of those who love him and for the coming of His Kingdom.

The Very Rev Sarah Brown
Dean of Hereford

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



3rd August. Family Service led by members of the congregation

10th August. Preacher – Dr John Woolley

17th August. Minsterley Praise @ Holy Trinity –
10.30am

24th August. Service will be led by members of the congregation

31st August. Preacher – Rev Richard Hall. Service will include Holy Communion

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

Sandra Lewis

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

- 3rd August led by Rev Brian Spencer
- 17th August led by Helen Pearson

We meet in the schoolroom adjacent to the chapel. All are welcome to come.

Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

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 usually held on five festival days: Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas day. A few other services are planned too. See "A Church Near You" website.

Next services:

3.00am Sunday 7th September

10.30am Sunday 5th October

Summer Celebration

Harvest Thanksgiving

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 10th August

5.00pm

Evensong

Sunday 24th

5.00pm

Holy Communion

Sunday 31st

10.30am

Group Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity Minsterley



Hope & Shelve Parish

Church Warden

Barbara Venables

Secretary

Sara Young

Treasurer

Kevin Bowers

Refreshments are served at all our services !

Holy Trinity Church Hope

Sunday 10th August

9.00am

Holy Communion

Sunday 24th

9.00am

Morning Prayer

Sunday 31st

10.30am

Group Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity Minsterley



All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 3rd August

9.00am

Holy Communion

Sunday 17th

9.00am

"Worship for Everyone" -
all-age service

Sunday 31st

10.30am

Group Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity Minsterley



Holy Trinity Church

AUGUST SERVICES

10.30am

3rd August	Tea Time Church (4pm)
10th August	Holy Communion
17th August	Minsterley Praise
24th August	Holy Communion
31st August	Holy Communion Group Service with the churches from our benefice

Contact Rev'd Greg Smith
rectorpontstip@gmail.com
07902 794653
www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk



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