

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

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



Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace in our hearts,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Special edition - delivered free to every home in Minsterley
What's on in the church - see pages 6 - 9.
Lead article by Tracy Jones - page 4
Also: what's on in and around the village
Puzzle page 15
Even an update on the A488!



Paul Judson



Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



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

Associate Minister: Rev. Fran Brealey
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Church Wardens
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Church services this month

Sunday 7th	4.00pm	Tea-time service
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	<u>10.00am</u>	Minsterley Praise - at the Methodist church
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Holy Communion - Group service - Holy Trinity Hope

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

Other events this month

Thu 4th	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p17)
Sat 6th	Garden Tea Party (p30)
Mon 8th	Crafty Monday (p17)
Tues 9th	Oasis meeting (p19) Ichthus Bible study (p9) Parish Council meeting (p11)
Tues 16th	The Gathering (p4)
Wed 17th	u3a Open Meeting (p11)
Sat 20th	Quiz Night (p17)
Tues 23rd	Oasis meeting (p19) Ichthus Bible Study (p9)
Thur 25th	Messy Church (p7, 27)
Sat 27th	Hillfest (p17) Eisteddfod concert (p11)
Sat 4th Oct	Harvest Supper (p30)

Weekly events in the church (see back cover)

Mondays	3.30pm	Youth Café (p7)
Tuesdays	10.00am	Foodbank (p13)
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee Hub (p8)
Thursday	10.00am	Trinity Tots (p6)

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

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

Copy date is the 20th of the preceding month

Dear friends

Welcome to this special edition of the Minsterley Parish Magazine which is being delivered free of charge to every home in the village.

Holy Trinity Church, which has been serving the parish of Minsterley since the 17th Century, wanted to take this opportunity to showcase its work. You may find yourself surprised at just how much goes on in this beautiful, historic building. A typical week features youth café on Monday afternoons; Foodbank on Tuesday mornings; Coffee Hub on Wednesday mornings and Trinity Tots on Thursday mornings. If you want to know more, read on!

It is also home to a wide variety of social events: quizzes, concerts and fairs. And of course we spend every Sunday in worship of our mighty God. We offer a mix of traditional communion services and more contemporary and informal worship; something we hope for everyone. Holy Trinity also hosts weddings, funerals and christenings, with all who live in the parish eligible.

The church's work is not confined to the building. We regularly visit Minsterley Primary School and Mary Webb Secondary School, as well as Hillcrest care home. We hold a variety of events at the Parish Hall, including a regular community meal, which is offered at no charge to our guests.

In spite of all the good things that are already in place, we have no plans to rest on our laurels. We are developing plans to upgrade the church building to introduce a large, retractable screen; a larger, more user-friendly kitchen and to bring the front entrance more fully into commission.

Holy Trinity is as much your church as it ours, and we are always glad to hear your hopes and dreams. Do feel free to get in touch with me at rectorpontstip@gmail.com.

If you enjoy reading this magazine, why not become a regular subscriber? See the box below for details.

Greg Smith
Vicar



If you have enjoyed reading this free issue why not subscribe to receive a copy each month delivered to your door? The subscription is £9 annually, or you can buy a copy in the church or Claire's flower shop for 80p. To subscribe simply contact the editor (details on page 2)!

Three friends decided to go deer hunting together. One was a lawyer, one a doctor, and the other a preacher. When along came a big stag, the three of them shot simultaneously. Immediately the stag dropped to the ground. It was dead but had only one bullet hole in it. So a debate broke out as to whose stag it was.

A few minutes later a gamekeeper came by and was told the reason for the debate. He examined the stag and said immediately: "It was the pastor." When the other two objected, he explained: "Easy. The bullet went in one ear and out the other."

Holy Trinity Church

HTM

SEPTEMBER SERVICES
10.30am

7th Sept **Tea Time Church (4pm)**
14th Sept **Holy Communion**
21st Sept **Minsterley Praise (10am)**
at Minsterley Methodist Church
28th Sept **Holy Communion Group Service**
at Holy Trinity Hope

Contact Rev'd Greg Smith
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07902 794653
www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk



Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

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

September has a unique feel about it. The air starts to carry that gentle crispness, leaves begin to hint at their autumn colours, and the long, unhurried days of summer, give way to a more purposeful rhythm.

For many families this month marks an important milestone. Children in freshly pressed uniforms and slightly too big blazers and new shoes head through school gates for the first time or return to familiar classrooms with new teachers, new subjects, and new challenges. There's a mixture of excitement and nervousness in these moments, both for the children and the parents watching them, as they take another step forward. It's a reminder that life is full of seasons, and each season brings with it fresh beginnings. In the Christian life this rhythm of ending and beginning is woven deeply into our story.

Scripture is full of people stepping into new chapters. Abraham leaves his home to journey to an unknown land. Ruth begins a new life in Bethlehem. The disciples drop their nets to follow Jesus into an entirely different way of living. Each time there's a blend of uncertainty and hope in letting go and trusting in God's leading.

For children starting school there is so much that is unfamiliar. New faces, routines and expectations. For parents and carers there is the bittersweet letting go, entrusting our precious ones to the care of others. As Christians we can take comfort that God is present in every "first day." Psalm 139 tells us that God has gone before us, that he knows our comings and goings, our sitting down and our rising up. This means that before a child walks into the classroom, God is already there preparing the way.

New beginnings are also moments of spiritual renewal. Just as children learn their ABC and numbers, we're continually called to grow in our knowledge and love of God. September can be a time for all of us, whether we're in school or far beyond our school days, to consider what God might be inviting us to learn. This season, where is he calling us to step out in faith?

The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, the new is here!" Every day is an opportunity for us to live more fully as that "new creation". We do not need to wait for January to make resolutions. September offers an invitation to begin again with God's help whether that's in our prayer life, service to others or our relationships.

So as we wave goodbye to summer and step into a new term, let's pray for our children, teachers and families. Let's also open our own hearts to the fresh things God may want to do in our homes, in our parishes and in our lives.

Blessings.

Rev Tracy Jones
Hanwood Parish



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 7.00 p.m. | Tues 16th September,
7.30 p.m. start**

 Marton Village Hall

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.
- FP Jones

Don't give up on yourself. God doesn't. Even Moses was once a basket case.
- Anon

The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well.
- Foe Ancis

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”

Druze, Alawites and Christians killed in Syrian sectarian violence

The violence in Sweida first broke out on 13th July between the Sunni-majority Bedouin tribal group and the Druze, an Islamic sect regarded as heretical by many Sunnis. Syria's transitional government deployed the Syrian Armed Forces to the region, supposedly to restore peace. These forces are alleged to have carried out attacks on civilians, including the unlawful execution of 83 Druze as well as the killing of the believers at the Church of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Christians are also among 2,000 people displaced by the violence.

The current government, headed by interim president Ahmed al Sharaa, came to power in December 2024 following an armed rebellion. Al Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al Jolani, is the leader of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a designated terrorist organisation that was formerly affiliated to Al Qaeda. When he first returned to Syria from Iraq in 2011, al Sharaa worked closely with Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, who later declared himself the caliph of Islamic State (IS – also known as ISIS, ISIL, Daesh). After the split between IS and Al Qaeda, the HTS remained affiliated to Al Qaeda.

More recently, al Sharaa has sought to present himself as a moderate who will protect religious freedom. However, a Reuters investigation has uncovered evidence that Syrian government forces massacred 1,500 Alawites, another minority group, in western Syria in March 2025. At least 12 Christians were killed during this wave of violence.



Image credit:
Ali Haj Suleiman/
UNOCHA

Church leaders have criticised the government for failing to prevent an Islamist suicide bombing on 22nd June in Damascus, which claimed the lives of at least 25 worshippers and injured more than sixty during a church service.

Pakistani Christian man freed after 23 years on death row for “blasphemy”

A mentally ill Christian man convicted of blasphemy in Pakistan has been released after 23 years on death row. Anwar Kenneth, now 72 years old, was cleared of the charge on 25th June after doctors confirmed that he was mentally ill when he committed the “blasphemy”. The court ruled that someone not of sound mind cannot be held criminally liable, so his conviction was overturned.



Image Credit: X

Anwar was arrested in 2001 for allegedly “blasphemous” letters he was accused of writing about Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. In 2002 a court in Lahore, Punjab, sentenced him under section 295-C of the Pakistan penal code, which stipulates the death penalty for anybody who “defiles the sacred name” of Muhammad, despite Anwar's mental illness being already confirmed. Anwar was also fined five million rupees (at that time around £55,250).

In 2014 when the sentence was appealed with medical reports confirming Anwar's mental illness, the court upheld the ruling. Anwar is due to be released in the next few days.

Anwar's lawyer, Rana Abdul Hameed – himself a Muslim – said that Anwar's family “will need to arrange for his protection” following his release from prison, as he will be facing death threats from Islamist extremists who consider it a religious duty to kill “blasphemers”. Hameed shared that following a press conference he held where he demanded an independent probe into misuse of “blasphemy” laws, he himself had received such severe threats that policemen have had to be stationed outside his office.

Mob violence following accusations of “blasphemy” in Pakistan is a common occurrence. Such accusations are often believed, even in the absence of evidence or following an acquittal.



What's on in church?

Four pages detailing
what is on offer at
Holy Trinity church

Trinity Tots

We are a happy Mother and Toddler group which meets in Holy Trinity Church on Thursday mornings between 10am and 11.30am (Term time only). The toddlers, babies and mums or dads have a lovely fun time together making new friends, and the toddlers enjoy learning new creative skills such as colouring, painting and gluing pictures to take home at the end of the day.

Through the year we learnt about the seasons by exploring with leaves in the autumn on a turf tray, feeling them and watching them fall out of our hands. In the summer we planted sunflower seeds in pots to take home. We have a selection of toys, bikes, push along toys, books to read, dolls, and cars which have been very kindly donated by parents throughout the years.

We also have done some fundraising, running a stall at the Christmas fair; with the money we bought some lovely rugs for the babies to crawl around on with comfy cushions to support them, which have been very much appreciated.

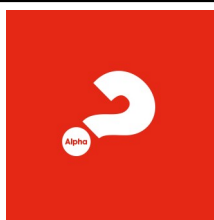
While all the children are enjoying themselves, mums, dads and carers are offered tea and coffee made by the lovely Carole. We have a short Bible story from our Toddler Bible, then sing some fun nursery songs and rhymes before our snack which consists of fruit (provided by Gawain, our local butcher) with drinks of milk, squash or water.

To celebrate the end of term we had a "Teddy Bears Picnic" – everyone enjoyed a chat and eating food which was shared by mums and staff; the tots had fun exploring and playing on the swings and slides; and we sadly said goodbye to five of our tots who were leaving for school or nursery,

The sessions are free but a small donation is very much appreciated and contributes towards buying our resources and toys. We welcome new babies and toddlers to come and enjoy our sessions. We start back after our summer break on Thursday 11th September. We look forward to meeting you.

Sarah, Anna and Carole.

What is Alpha?



Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited. And there's no charge to attend. Alpha is intended for you if you have never been to church, used to go to church or are part of a church already.

Alpha brings together people from all walks of life who are curious about faith. Each session starts with some time to eat and relax. Each week of the six sessions we look at a different topic. We explore some of the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity like prayer, the Bible and Jesus.

The last part of an Alpha session is a chance to share your thoughts on the topic and discuss it. It's a safe and welcoming space, no matter what your opinion. If you just want to listen, that's fine too!

We'll be running Alpha this autumn at Holy Trinity church Minsterley and we'd love you to join us. See the advert on page 27 for details or contact one of us to find out more.

Greg Smith 07902 794653
Fran Brealey 07982 324760



Messy Church

It's what it says on the tin.

It is messy! It's a group of people of all ages, from any background, who get together to have fun, eat and learn together.

Sometimes our lives are messy. We don't need to have everything sorted to come to Messy Church, we can come as we are and know that we are welcome. Our Messy Church is geared especially to primary school age children, and their parents and carers, but all ages are welcome to get involved.



Sometimes we do crafts which are messy too – with paint or glue. So don't come in your best clothes!

It is Church! Maybe not as you know it. But it's still church. That means we listen to a Bible story, and think about what it means to follow Jesus. It means that there will always be people there willing to pray with you or listen to your worries. We hope that you will enjoy Messy Church so much you will want to come again and bring your friends.

Our next Messy Church is on Thursday 25th September at 3.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley. There's no charge and a light tea is provided.

For more details contact me on email revfran@btinternet.com.

Rev Fran Brealey

*If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked,
doesn't it follow that. . .*

*electricians could be delighted, musicians denoted,
cowboys deranged, models deposed, and dry
cleaners depressed?*

*Likewise, bedmakers might be debunked, bulldozer
operators degraded, organ donors delivered,
software engineers detested, and underwear
manufacturers debriefed?*

*And won't all composers one day decompose? On
a more positive note, perhaps we can hope
politicians will someday be devoted...*

ICHTHUS



The fish sign, or "ichthus" (Greek for "fish") was a secret sign thought to be used by the early Christians in Rome to identify each other in times of persecution.

There is nothing secret about our Ichthus group! We meet twice monthly to discuss a passage of the Bible together. Some people think the Bible is out of date and irrelevant to our modern lives but we constantly discover how up to date and challenging it is.

The value of studying the Bible in a group is that we help each other to understand what God is saying and so seek to grow in our Christian faith.

This group is open to anyone who has a serious intention to learn from the Bible; details are available from Rev Greg Smith.

Liz Jackson

Youth café on a Monday

Every Monday afternoon, Minsterley church fills with laughter and chatter as a group of Years 7 and 8 students arrive for our after-school Youth Café. Each week between 8 and 11 young people come straight from school to enjoy pizza, games and a relaxed space to unwind and connect.

The café is open to everyone, no matter your background or beliefs. It's a lively, welcoming environment full of energy, fun and friendship. From board games to card games and plenty of conversation, it's become a much-loved part of the week for those who attend.

Over time, we have built strong relationships with the group, offering not just entertainment and food but also a space where they feel safe, supported, and genuinely valued.

Last term we also had the pleasure of taking some of the group for a weekend at Condover Hall, a local outdoor activity centre. The trip was packed with adventure, team challenges and shared experiences. It gave everyone the chance to bond, build confidence, and explore new ideas—including conversations around faith and belief. It was a brilliant time—and we're excited for what's still to come.

Joe Barnes

Youth Worker for St George's Church Pontesbury
and Shrewsbury Youth For Christ

Coffee Hub

Community, Cake, and Conversation

Every Wednesday, 10am - 12pm

in Holy Trinity Church

Looking for a warm welcome, a friendly face, and a good cuppa? Come along to **Coffee Hub**, a weekly community café. Whether you're new to the area or have lived here for years, everyone is welcome—no need to book, just drop in!

At Coffee Hub, we enjoy the simple things: a free cup of tea or coffee, a slice **of cake**, and the chance to sit down and enjoy a good chat.

Whether you're a regular, an occasional visitor, or just passing by, Coffee Hub is a place for everyone. However often you come—every week or once in a while—you'll find a friendly atmosphere and a warm welcome waiting for you.

So why not give it a try? Whether you're popping in for the first time or returning for another cuppa, we are always glad to see you. Come and have a brew and a chat—we'd love to have you with us.

Sarah Edwards

Rea Valley Transport Scheme

The churches of the Rea Valley have obtained National Lottery funding to operate a transport scheme to enable residents of the area to access medical appointments including Pontesbury & Worthen surgeries; and Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry hospitals. We also hope to get people to opticians and dental appointments where necessary.

Please note that the scheme is not set up to help with emergency appointments or to assist with other transport requests such as shopping.

Our drivers are all volunteers, but are insured, DBS checked and safely recruited. However they are not medical professionals. Your driver will collect you from your home address and take you in good time for your appointment. To request transport please contact our scheme administrator, Emma, at reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com or ring 07468 115939. If possible, please give us a minimum of a week's notice of when and where your appointment is.

Greg Smith



Oasis

There are few of us who will not experience the loss of a loved one during our lives. Whether that loss is sudden or expected, we are likely to be devastated, and then face a period of adjustment, of learning to live without the person who is so important to us. Family and friends can be helpful, but this can feel like a journey we are making alone.

Even though grief is universal, it is not always easy to find places where we can share our sorrow with others. Oasis was set up in March 2022 to be a safe place of anyone struggling with bereavement. A place where people are welcome to talk about their loss, their feelings, the ways they are coping (or not). No-one has to say anything unless they want to but even though everyone's grief is different, those who come may have had similar experiences and their speaking and listening can bring support. There are tears and laughter as friendships are built and strengthened which is done as we share a free lunch.

We do not provide counselling but can signpost you to helpful resources and organisations.

Oasis is run by volunteers from local churches and takes place from 12 noon – 1.30pm in Minsterley Methodist Church on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. It is open to those of all faiths and of none. For details see our advert (page 19), or contact ryder928@btinternet.com.

Sandra Lewis

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.

“Open The Book” team

Our Open the Book team has been presenting especially rewritten Bible stories to whole school assemblies at Minsterley Primary for over nine years. Ms Wilcox, the headteacher, joins us for Open the Book assemblies and is very supportive of our work. Both she and the children tell us how much they enjoy our visits.



Open the Book started as an independent charity but is now part of the Bible Society. Over 3,500 schools in England and Wales receive visits from teams of volunteers, and after twenty-six years numbers are still growing. In addition to this the scheme operates in schools in Ghana, Kenya and Albania, Argentina, The Gambia, Portugal and Uganda.

We present a story once a month on a Friday morning and meet during the week to rehearse.

We present Old and New Testament stories, without preaching or evangelism, so that children of all faiths and none can watch and interact with the stories in their own way. Open the Book hand-books provide clear guidelines and directions for presenting the stories and the messages within them. Amateur dramatics, make do props and costumes bring the stories to life. We try to present stories which reflect the School's theme of the week and give the children the opportunity to take part. Before the story we sing a song together.

The team is committed to bringing the Bible to God's children in Minsterley; if you would like to learn more about Open the Book go to <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/getinvolved/open-the-book> or contact me on 01743 891985. Acting experience is not required and for a couple of hours a month you could have great fun spreading the good news of the Bible!

Susan Bates (Team Leader)

Lord-Lieutenant's Visit to Holy Trinity

Last month Greg, Caro, Susan and Sarah welcomed Anna Turner, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire. She was joined by Katherine Garnier, Deputy Lieutenant, The Very Rev Sarah Brown, Dean of Hereford, and The Venerable Dr Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow. They came to hear about the youth and children's work HTM is doing.

During the visit, the group heard about the different ways we support young people—through weekly groups, messy church, school outreach and events throughout the year. They were very impressed by the scope, creativity, and long-term vision of the programme, and praised the church for our commitment to nurturing the next generation in our community.

Sarah Edwards



**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

Psalm 119 : 105

ICHTHUS



The summer session of 'Ichthus' meetings continues this month. Anyone with a desire to study the Bible with others is welcome to come. Meetings start at 2.30pm.

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

Date	Venue	Study
September 9th	The Blessing Snailbeach	Luke 15:1-10, Psalm 51 1 Timothy 1:12-17
September 23rd	Brookfield Waterwheel	Luke 16:19-31, Amos 6:1a,4-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19

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AND GUEST SOLOIST, BARITONE
Felix Ashley
Accompanied by Oliver Ashley

MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL
on
SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
6:30 pm start Tickets £15 - to include refreshments
Proceeds to Minsterley Eisteddfod and
Young at Heart Community Choir

For tickets, contact Jill Blyth: Tel 01743 791 908,
or email minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com
Charity No: 103 8356



Minsterley Parish Council

The Chairman from Shropshire Association of Local Councils attended the last Parish Council meeting to report on membership of S.A.L.C. The cost to Minsterley would be in the region of £1,000 per year, if it joined the organisation as a Member.

As part of the Environmental Act 2021, the Parish are in discussions with Pontesbury Parish Council regarding biodiversity issues.

The ongoing request by the Parish to obtain a reduction in the speed of traffic using the A488 from the School to the Waterwheel continues. The new Leader of Shropshire Council has been contacted regarding the issue.

The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee visited the Parish in July. They were shown and explained the difficult problems that occur in the village during storm periods.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Tuesday 9th September 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

MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw 29	16 th July	No. 56	Keith Andrews
Draw 30	23 rd July	No. 22	Tim Watson
Draw 31	30 th July	No. 38	Marie Edwards
Draw 32	6 th August	No. 35	Roll Over
Draw 33	13 th August	No. 54	Jan Gittins

To Join – Telephone 791508 or 791466.

£1 per week – 50% paid out in Prize Money.

-- 50% helps to run the Parish Church.

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

What do you get if you cross an atheist with a Jehovah's Witness?

Someone who knocks at your door for no apparent reason.



THE BLOODY MILLER OF HOGSTOW MILL
A TALK BY MARKO IVANOVIC

How a local Shropshire murder in 1683 inspired a musical genre still popular today and which has become central to the debate about songs "celebrating" violence against women

OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

 **Wednesday**
17 September 2025

 **Time**
2.00 PM

 **Minsterley Parish Hall**
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available
 pontesbury.u3asite.uk

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Harvest Time

Thank you to Pontesbury Community Garden, and other individuals in our community, who have donated fresh fruit and vegetables. It is much appreciated. Please do keep donating as we approach Harvest Festival, and drop off when the Foodbank is open, or contact us if you can help.

Donating in-date tinned and packaged food, toiletries and cleaning products on an ongoing basis really saves us money. Thank you to everyone who does this, it is vital to us being able to continue on a weekly basis at our two locations.

Autumn & Winter Voucher scheme

Shropshire Council have received funding from central Government's Household Support Fund, which is to help people "to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford household essentials." Along with other foodbanks Rea Valley Foodbank will be receiving money from this Fund for vouchers, for use in specific local shops and to meet some of our costs of buying in items.

The definition of food poverty is "the inability of individuals and households to obtain an adequate and nutritious diet because they cannot afford healthy food." Our Foodbank cannot store fresh food and so the vouchers will give our users an opportunity to get a wider range of food over the autumn and winter months.

Missing contact information from our donors

Thank you to all those who make monthly financial donations to our Foodbank. We know that we don't have everyone's email address to thank you personally and update you on our news and any changes. If you make financial donations but have never received an email from our Treasurer, Jonathan Brown, please do email us, it is very important! reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

To use the Foodbank, or find out more:



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

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

Bible Readings in Holy Trinity Church Minsterley this month

7th September	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14. 25-33
14th September	Psalm 51. 1-11	1 Timothy 1. 12-17	Luke 15. 1-10
21st September	Amos 8. 4-7	1 Timothy 2. 1-7	Luke 16. 1-13
28th September	Amos 6. 1a, 4-7	1 Timothy 6. 6-19	Luke 16. 19-end

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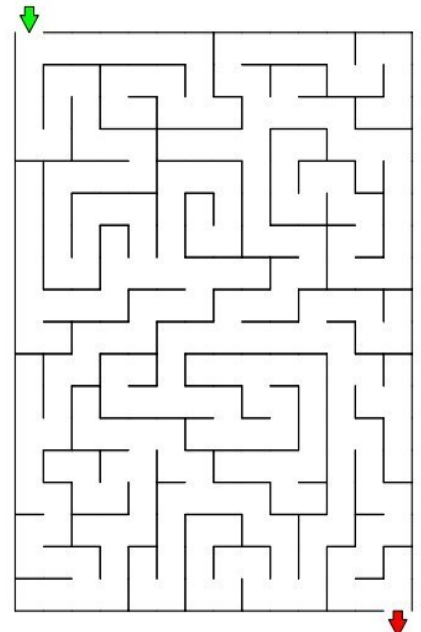
Puzzle Page

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"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."



Wordsearch

On 3rd September the church remembers St. Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory	Poor
History	Monk
Son	English
Roman	Slaves
Senator	Angels
Converted	Angles
Young	Plague
Estates	Pope
Monasteries	Apostle
Generous	elected

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Answers

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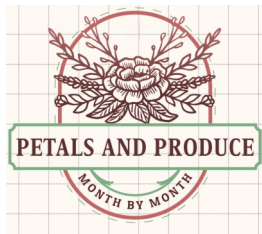
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September is here and I find that this often signals the end of the gardening season for some people. Whether this is due to the changing weather or because we're knackered and our backs have gone from all that weeding and unrelenting watering!

However, do not look so defeated my friends there is still plenty to do, are you with me? Course you are, let's wait for the ibuprofen to kick in and back out we go. Lovely.

If you are not completely fed up of salads yet, September is definitely a good time to sow a few more to enjoy later in autumn and into winter. Spinach, lettuce such as 'salad bowl' and rocket are ideal as they are hardier to changing temperatures, also lambs lettuce, pak choi and spring cabbages are ideal. Spuds ready for Christmas are definitely an option!

It's that time of year where I also like to fit as much of the garden into jars as I can; also foraging along our glorious hedgerows is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. What is your most favourite jam or chutney recipe? Answers on postcards please. Until next time my darlings.

Laura Davies
amateur gardener,
late night lemonade drinker,
level 3 swimming certificate holder.

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

Minsterley Rounders



Minsterley Rounders team has been bringing laughter, competition and a healthy dose of mischief to the village for over 40 years. Originally a WI team, we've grown alongside the Minsterley & District Rounders League and turned Wednesday nights into a celebration of community and good sport.

From mid-April to late-August, you'll find us on the Minsterley football pitch come rain, shine, or gale-force winds, having a blast and catching up with friends. Our team is made up of mainly local girls with strong ties to Minsterley, united by a love of rounders and an even greater love of fun.

Leading the charge are our brilliant captain, Mollie Betton, and vice-captain, Kirsty Davies, true Minsterley originals whose energy lifts the team week after week. And holding the heart of it all is the incredible Christine Savin, a local legend, longest-standing member, and source of endless laughs and inspiration.

We're currently riding high at 2nd in Division 2, with plenty of wins under our belts. Our most recent game was a 16v11 win against The Black Lion at Oswestry school, where they nominated Kirsty Jackson as our player's player.

Recruitment for 2026 kicks off in March. Contact jaynesmallman@outlook.com to register your interest.

Jayne Rowson

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

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Friday 9am-4pm

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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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World War II Memories

Continuing our series of reflection on the war by those of our village who endured it

I was born in Rugby on 19th December 1936 in a village called Brownsover which is a few miles from Coventry. I remember the bombers flying over to Coventry which was very frightening to a child. There were eight children so we kept ourselves amused.

I remember during the raids and we had to go into the shelters. Ours was a big brick one with a solid concrete roofs we were not too scared – we kept ourselves busy by singing or playing games.

My father, being older than my mum, used to go out doing ARP duty.

We were well fed as we had an allotment and bred rabbits which we cooked and had rabbit stew three days on the go.

I remember going to school with our gas masks. We had to walk to school which was about a mile each way. Growing up I remember ration books and later the street parties. We had two railway stations, LMS and LNER; Rugby was very famous. We had happy and sad times and how people were rejoicing when the war ended and helped one another.

I moved to Minsterley in 2012 with my husband John who I met in Rugby at the RBL. John was born in Old Churchstoke in Wales and wanted to come back. Sadly he passed away in 2014. Memories will always stay with me.

Elsie Evans

PONTESBURY MONDAY NIGHT BADMINTON CLUB



7pm – 9pm every Monday; £35 per term
Sports Hall, Mary Webb School, SY5 0TG

A fun social club, for people aged 18 or over.
A small amount of Badminton experience required.

Please come and join us on a Monday evening
Any questions - contact pontesburymnbc@aol.com

David Johnstone



As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had
disturbed nothing in the vestry

Questions you might ask

Q – I have an elderly relative who lives several hundred miles away from me and we rely mainly on phone calls to keep in touch, but apart from me, she has little contact with anyone else. Someone mentioned that the Silver Line is a support service for older people in her situation, what do they do?

A – The Silver Line Helpline run by Age UK is a free, confidential telephone service for older people. The following comes from their website:

“We offer friendship, conversation, and support to people aged 55 and over. Whatever the day or time, you can pick up the phone and speak to one of our friendly Silver Line team members. Whether you’d like to exchange a quick “Good Morning” with someone, fancy a chat about how your day has gone, or need a trusted listening ear to share your thoughts and feelings with, we’re here to talk.”

Calls are free on 0800 470 80 90

Q – Will Age UK help an older person with debts?

A - Yes, Age UK can help older individuals struggling with debts. They offer a free Advice Line and have specialist advisors at local Age UK branches who can provide support and guidance. The free Advice Line telephone number is 0800 678 1602, open 8am-7pm 365 days a year, and you can get help with debt and other financial issues.

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A free lunch is included.

We're sorry we're not able to provide
childcare.

For more info contact:

Greg 07902 794653 or Fran 07982 324760

Join us for our next



at Holy Trinity Church
Minsterley

3.30pm on Thursday

September 25th!

News from the A488

It would be nice to think that by the time this issue is distributed the Hope Valley will be open again. We'll wait, but not with baited breath. Meanwhile here are some photos taken in late July by Heather Kidd, leader of Shropshire Council.



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Saturday

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Stiperstones group of churches - recent 'life event' services

August 9th Marriage at Hope:
Abigail Pritchard and Jamie Daniel

August 22nd Marriage at Shelve:
Megan Weerdmeester-Price and Gwyn
Pierce

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

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

Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



7th September. Family Service led by members of the congregation

14th September. Preacher – Rev Sheila MacInally. Service will include Holy Communion

21st September. **Minsterley Praise.** Preacher – Rev Jon Chesworth

28th September. Disability Awareness Sunday. Service will be led by members of the church and will start at 11am. Details of this special service will be shared on Facebook and posters on notice boards.

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

Holy Trinity Minsterley and St Luke's Snailbeach invite you to their

HARVEST SUPPER & auction

Snailbeach Village Hall
4th Oct, 7-10pm

2-course meal
BYO drinks
£10 adults
£5 children

For tickets or to donate auction items contact Sarah on 07971 984925 or sarahedwards90@hotmail.com



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	Summer Celebration
10.30am	Sunday 5th October	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 14th September 3.00pm
Sunday 28th 10.30am

Pet service in the village hall
Group Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity Hope



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 14th September 9.00am
Sunday 28th 10.30am

Family service with baptism
Group Holy Communion
with the other churches joining us



All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 7th September	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	9.00am	"Worship Together"
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Group Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Hope



WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

YOUTH CAFE (term time)

3.30 - 5pm

Years 7 - 10 | activities |
snacks | free Wi-Fi | music
Contact Joe on 07387 578230
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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ICHTHUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

2.30 - 4.30pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each
month. For information contact
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WEDNESDAY

COFFEE HUB

10am - 12pm

A drop-in community cafe where everyone is welcome.
FREE tea and coffee | cake and biscuits | chat and companionship



THURSDAY

TRINITY TOTS (term time)

10am - 11.30pm

A pre-school drop-in group for under 5s with their parents or carers.
Activities | crafts | toys | stories | songs | snacks

ALL OUR WEEKLY GROUPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

For more details about these events please visit
www.stiperstoneschurch.org.uk or follow us on **Facebook** (scan the QR code)



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