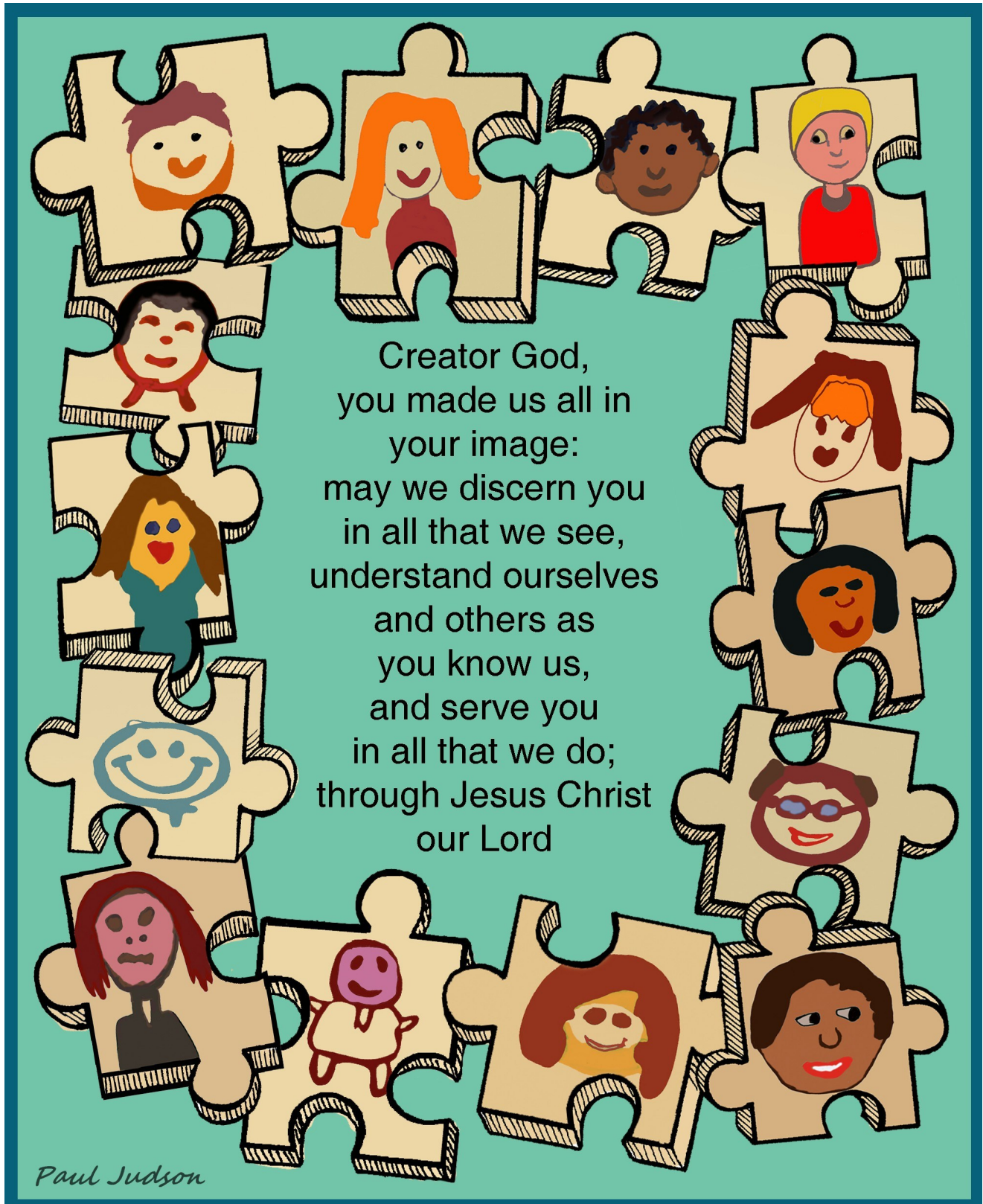


The Minsterley Parish Magazine

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





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

Curate: Rev. Richard Lonsdale
(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 6th	4.00pm	Tea-time service
Sunday 13th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	<u>10.00am</u>	Minsterley Praise at Minsterley Methodist Church
Sunday 27th	10.30am	Holy Communion

Weekly events in the church (page 16)

Mondays	3.30pm	Youth Café
Tuesdays	10.00am	Foodbank
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee Hub
Thursdays	10.00am	Trinity Tots

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

Other events this month

Thu 3rd	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p15)
Sat 5th	Garden Party (p7) Westbury Summer Fete (p27)
Mon 7th	Swift Walk (p21)
Fri 11th	Swift Walk (p21)
Mon 14th	Crafty Monday (p15)
Tues 8th	Oasis meeting (p13) Ichthus Bible Study (p11) Parish Council meeting (p19)
Thur 10th	Melody Makers' open evening (p13)
Tues 15th	The Gathering (p4)
Wed 16th	u3a open meeting (p7)
Sat 19th	Wildlife walk (p21)
Tues 22nd	Oasis meeting (p13) Ichthus (p11)
Fri 25th	Gardening Club meet (p3)
Sat 26th	Summer Fair (p19)

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

After all that lovely sunshine through late April and early May, the low cloud has returned and along with it the rain. While I'm sure this is great from a farming or gardening perspective, from a cutting the grass perspective it is less so. One has to try and snatch the right moment from when the wet has dried up enough to cut the grass but before the next bout of rain sweeps in! I managed to get the front done the other day and I pondered doing the back, but I was tired and it had been a long day so I decided to put the mower back into the shed. A terrible mistake as the back garden is looking increasingly wild and unkempt now.

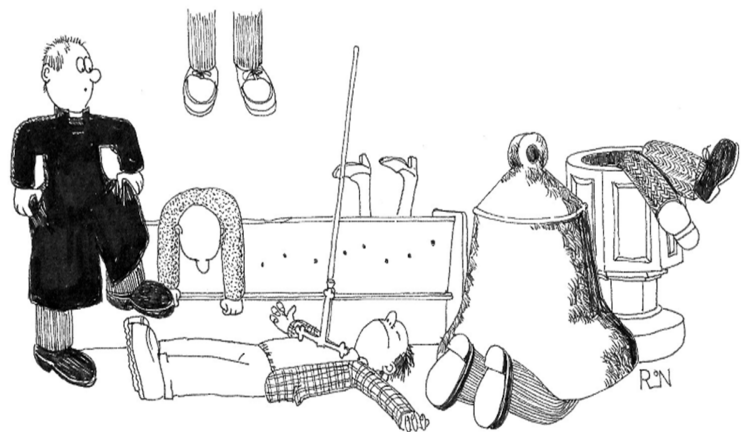
As I was cutting the front a host of wild flowers had stretched out and begun to open. At the last minute I pulled the mower to one side and looked at them. Probably all fairly common and unexciting but their colours were beautiful - oranges and reds and yellows, so I decided to leave them be and I'm glad I did. From my study window, even on darkening days like today, I can see them. They

shine out cheerful and bright and do a wonderful job of lifting the spirits.

The watchword of our past/current government(s) seems to be "efficiency" (even if there is little to show for it), and I suppose if I had been properly diligent along those lines then the flowers would have been chopped back and a flat, green surface would have remained. I suppose to be even more efficient I could have just concreted the whole place and then I wouldn't have to do any grass cutting again! I'm glad I didn't. It's good to let the flowers grow, to let the colours bloom - so I wonder, where are you cutting things back in a grimly efficient manner? Is it in your garden or in your heart? Do you really need to, or do we let God in through the concrete and allow the cracks to open up and the wildflowers to grow once again?

Richard Lonsdale

 * **Minsterley Gardening Club** *
 *
 * The Club meets 10am - 11am on the *
 * last Friday on each month at Holy Trinity *
 * Church Minsterley. Next date is Friday *
 * 25th July - do pop along - everyone is wel- *
 * come. It's a drop in club - no formal mem- *
 * bership needed, just come and you're a *
 * member :) *
 * There is cake! *
 * **Sarah Edwards** *



It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church

Are you missing out?

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

Our group of churches circulate 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.



On Sunday 25th May, Luke Prestwood was baptised in Holy Trinity Church. Although the family live in Cambridgeshire he wanted to be baptised in the church of his grandmother Margaret Prestwood.

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

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

Dear Friends,

I write in the wake of a wonderful Deanery Pentecost service at Worthen Village Hall on 8th June. It was a truly uplifting occasion. It's not often in the life of our Deanery that we find ourselves putting out extra rows of chairs in quite such number, in order to accommodate approximately 100 worshippers in total, drawn from every benefice in the Deanery.



Graham Phillips preached an outstanding sermon, and the warmth of the fellowship both during and afterwards was evident. Many people commented afterwards on how good and helpful they had found the service. My warmest thanks to all those involved up front and behind the scenes.

It begs the question: why was this act of worship so powerful? I want to suggest two reasons. First I believe there is a hunger for people to come together in larger numbers to worship God. There are advantages of small, rural congregations: we all know each other so well, and there is much to be said for worshipping alongside friends and neighbours that one has known for ever. However, while it is true that "where two or three are gathered, there Jesus is amongst us", worshipping as part of a crowd is often an encouragement in a world that seems indifferent to the Christian faith.

The second reason is similar. At the first Pentecost they came to Jerusalem from all over the known world to demonstrate their love of God. It was this moment in history that God chose to pour out in such measure the great gift of His Holy Spirit. Where there is unity between brothers and sisters, there God commands a blessing (c/f Psalm 133). In

our Pentecost service, people flooded in from every corner of our Deanery, and at least one gentleman from well beyond - an expression of our unity. While the Deanery may at times feel like an artificial construct, dreamed up in a remote Diocesan office, the Spirit is forever striving to make Christian unity an earthly reality.

There is a final question we must ask ourselves. What is all this for? Why did the Father send such anointing power on those first disciples and why might He be wanting to empower us in Pontesbury Deanery today? The answer suggested by Acts 2 is so that many might be brought into a living faith in Jesus. The gift of the Spirit isn't solely for our benefit that we might experience Love, Joy and Peace (although that is indeed a very good thing) but that we might be emboldened to tell others how they too might find these things.

A collection was taken at the end of the service for the Train a Priest initiative and this raised the sum of £287.53.

Every blessing

Greg Smith

P.S. Please see note by Freddie Strong on page 7



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 15th July, 7.30 p.m. start
Marton Village Hall

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”

Nicaragua – Government tightens control on churches during Easter

The government of Nicaragua escalated a campaign of intimidation against churches in the days leading up to Easter. Local police carried out “courtesy visits” to church ministers, warning them that leading public processions during Easter would lead to arrest. Churches were also instructed to refrain from prayers for the country, its people or its leaders during services.

One minister, speaking anonymously due to safety concerns, described this tactic as commonly used by authorities in previous years. The police, sometimes in civilian vehicles, deliver the threat subtly, aiming to suppress religious expression without alarming the public.

The government of Nicaragua has persisted in harassing churches and Christian organisations for several years. In March 2024, eleven pastors were arbitrarily arrested, tried, sentenced to 12-15 years’ imprisonment and subsequently exiled.

Laos – Four families expelled from village

Contacts report the eviction of four Christian families from their village in north-western Laos on 5th - 6th May. The believers’ homes were destroyed, and they had to abandon most of their possessions. Village leaders and residents of Huang Khan Village, Long District, Luang Namtha province, targeted the Christians to force their eviction.

Local partners quickly responded to pleas from the expelled villagers, who are from the Akha people group in the far north of Laos, close to the border with Thailand. Funds were sent to cover their immediate needs for rice, cooking oil, hygiene products and other essentials. Partners are now looking for safe accommodation for the families.

The tearing down of Christian homes and eviction of Christians from villages has occurred repeatedly in country districts in Laos. A “Law on the Evangelical Church”, in force since December 2019, gives Christians the right to conduct services, preach throughout Laos and maintain contacts with believers in other countries. However, the law is not well enforced in rural areas.

Mauritania – Christian grave desecrated amid rising hostility

Christians in Sélibaby, southern Mauritania, urgently need prayer support following the desecration of a grave during a violent protest on 7th April.

A demonstration, fuelled by anti-Christian rhetoric on social media, turned violent when a mob exhumed the body of a recently deceased Christian man. The tombstone was destroyed, and the corpse dragged through the streets before being reburied in a village twelve miles away.

Threats against Christians circulated widely online in the days preceding the protest, which had been authorised by the authorities, with some calling for homes to be burned. The following day, incitement continued as Christians were labelled “infidels” and “apostates”, with calls for their complete social exclusion.

Local Christian leaders report facing growing isolation and hostility, including being shunned by extended family members. In response to the public outcry, regional authorities dismissed several senior security officials on 8th April following an internal investigation.

In late 2023, many church leaders and relatives were arrested, also in Sélibaby, sparking national attention. Though released in early 2024 they continue to suffer harassment, violence and displacement.

Mauritania is almost 100% Muslim and is one of the few countries in the world where apostasy is punishable by death in line with sharia (Islamic law), although no known executions for leaving Islam have occurred in recent years.

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.

- Abraham Lincoln

Only those who do not desire power are fit to hold it.

- Plato

It is easier to look wise than to talk wisely.

– Ambrose

MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL

Available for hire

Versatile space of 3 rooms that can be used separately or altogether.

Ideal for meetings, birthdays, weddings.

For more details or to book
contact Gill Gawthorne
Telephone: 07775 334661 or email
bookings@minsterleyparishhall.co.uk



The Flower Shop, Minsterley



3 Station Road, Minsterley
01743 791860

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

We are open as follows:

Tuesday – Friday: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am – 12 noon

We look forward to seeing you.

BCE Davies - General Builder

Extensions – Alterations

Plastering – Brickwork

Stonework – Building Maintenance

Tel: 01743 791784

Mobile: 07713 906263 or 07946 571726

42 Linley Avenue, Pontesbury, SY5 0TL

Email: bcedavies@btinternet.com

Website: www.Bcedavies.co.uk

Please support our advertisers

SHROPSHIRE HILLS GARDEN SERVICES

www.shropshirehillsgardenservices.co.uk

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



Tools powered
by renewable energy

Tel: 01743 632703 or 07971 679702

will@shropshirehillsgardenservices.co.uk

Rose Cottage, 16 Bromlow. SY5 0EA



“Train a Priest”

(supporting those training for ministry in our link dioceses in Tanzania)

Further to Greg’s item on page 4 - everyone was so generous at our deanery service! If anyone would like to give directly and missed the opportunity to do so at Pentecost, here’s the info you need:

Lloyds Bank

Account Name: Hereford Diocesan Board of Finance

Sort code: 30-94-14

Account number: 00201015

Use reference: TAP TZ

Please also send an email finance@hereford.anglican.org so that they can readily identify and allocate your gift to the correct account. Thank you.

Rev Freddie Strong

Asst. Curate of Great Hanwood,
Longden and Annscroft with Pulverbatch

It’s dangerous to try and be number one, because it’s next to nothing. - *Anon*

Nothing recedes like success. - *W Winchell*



SURVIVING & THRIVING IN RETIREMENT

Words of wisdom to entertain and amuse us from our u3a Chair, Janet Walsh, after the AGM.

AGM & OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

Wednesday
16 July 2025

Time
2.00 PM

Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

learn,
laugh,
live








On the 16th July 2025 at 2pm, Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a will be holding its AGM at Minsterley Parish Hall. The meeting will be brief and focused on essential business matters.

Afterward, we will enjoy an engaging talk from our outgoing Chair, **Janet Walsh**, on the topic of “**Surviving and Thriving in Retirement**,” – a subject close to all our hearts! Janet’s distinctive and concise insights are sure to entertain and captivate.

Both members and non-members are welcome.

Following the talk, refreshments will be served, providing an excellent opportunity to reconnect or learn more about our u3a.

Our u3a is part of a UK charity dedicated to bringing together individuals not in full-time employment for enjoyable learning or active experiences. We are local, friendly, and affordable, featuring over 20 interest groups covering a variety of activities, including history, literature and geology to walking, cycling, pickleball and table tennis.

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

tel: 07807 898404

email: gawain101@hotmail.com

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE



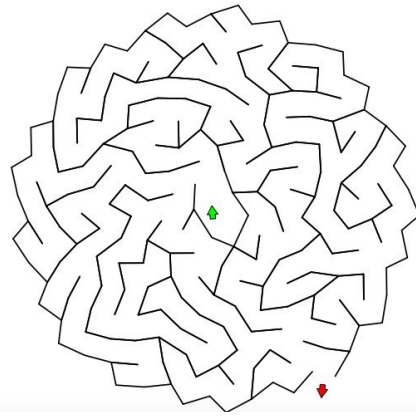
**WE ARE TAKING ORDERS WHICH CAN
BE DELIVERED FREE OF CHARGE.**

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

Puzzle Page



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"



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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

WORD SEARCH

If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month.

St Thomas just could NOT believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and dead on the cross could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest sceptic, because he really wanted to know the truth. Jesus could help such a man. And so He appeared to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply showed him the wounds. Thomas' immediate response was: "My Lord and my God" (John 20 v26).

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July 72AD in Mylapore, near Madras.

46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

Thomas
Doubt
Apostle
Cross
Dead

Truth
Sceptic
Wounds
Lord
God

Appeared
India
Patron
Martyred
Spear

Mylapore
Missionary
Showed
Saint
Madras

T	N	I	A	S	I	N	D	I	A	D
D	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	R	Y
D	A	O	M	Y	L	A	P	O	R	E
O	R	E	T	R	A	P	W	E	O	I
C	T	O	D	R	E	O	D	C	T	S
N	Y	D	L	A	U	S	I	P	B	R
A	R	T	R	N	A	T	S	A	U	A
R	E	E	D	M	P	L	H	T	O	E
O	D	S	O	E	D	E	G	R	D	P
R	E	H	C	P	D	E	W	O	H	S
W	T	S	A	R	D	A	M	N	D	O



W·R·R Pugh & Son

— established 1890 —

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

01743 344646

info@pughsfuneraldirectors.com

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

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



Local growers of fruit and veg.

If you have grown a little extra, please think of your local Foodbank. Only drop off when the Foodbank is OPEN (i.e. 10am-12pm on Tuesdays at Holy Trinity Minsterley and on Thursdays at St George's Pontesbury, or 8.30am-11am on the third Wednesday of each month at the donation session in Worthen Village Hall). Please do not leave fresh produce in our Donation boxes.

Everything donated goes to local people in need across the Rea Valley. Do contact us if you are able to help and have questions.

Items in Need

All donations are gratefully received and very helpful to us. We try to be responsive to people's needs and some items are more in demand. Donating these ITEMS does save the Foodbank money as we can reduce how much we must buy. It is especially helpful if you are able to check our "Items in Need" on Facebook or our website <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/donating/>.

Thank you so much to those who already donate, and to those who enable us by providing donation points, which are at:

- Minsterley – Holy Trinity and Methodist Churches.
- Pontesbury - the Co-op; St George's, Baptist and Congregational Churches.
- Worthen Village Hall - 8.30am - 11am on the third Wednesday of each month
- Annscroft and Longden - Longden Village Stores; Annscroft and Longden Churches.

Tea, coffee and a chat

Our local volunteers do offer tea, coffee and a chat with those who come into the Foodbank. This creates a friendly and welcoming environment which helps people overcome any anxiety about coming in, especially for the first time. If people prefer not to stop for a while that's absolutely fine too.

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



**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
July 8th	Brookfield, Waterwheel	Luke 10:25-37 Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 25:1-10
July 22nd	The Blessing, Snailbeach	Luke 11:1-13 Genesis 18:20-32 Colossians 2:6-19

Bible Readings in Holy Trinity Church Minsterley this month

6th July	Isaiah 66. 10-14	Galatians 6. 7-16	Luke 10. 1-11, 16-20
13th July	Psalm 25. 1-10	Colossians 1. 1-14	Luke 10. 25-37
20th July	Genesis 18. 1-10a	Colossians 1. 15-28	Luke 10. 38-end
27th July	Genesis 18. 20-32	Colossians 2. 6-15 [16-19]	Luke 11. 1-13

LOCAL MILK IN GLASS BOTTLES,

from our Milk Vending Machine.

AVAILABLE
AT HIGNETTS
OF PONTESBURY

£1.50 for 1 Litre

Empty bottle is £1.20.

Then simply refill
your bottle for £1.50
each time.



www.propergooddairy.co.uk

The Melody Makers

"Sing for your cuppa"

Open evening

Melody Makers ladies' choir
7.15pm - 9pm Thursday 10th July
Minsterley Methodist Church

For more details contact Karen at
themelodymakers.lc@aol.com

Slimming World

feel *real* good

PONTESBURY PUBLIC HALL

EVERY TUESDAY 5.30PM

WENDY 07734218619

real food, real support, real results *Slimming World*

Like Comment Share

Answers

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

Oasis

FREE lunch & companionship
for the bereaved

2nd & 4th Tuesdays • 12pm - 1.30pm

Minsterley Methodist Chapel,
Horsebridge Rd, Minsterley

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

Investment Planning
Retirement Planning
Inheritance Tax
Planning
Intergenerational
Planning
Mortgages

It's important you make
the right decisions.



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

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

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

Please support our advertisers

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



Tuesdays 9.30am—10.30am
at Minsterley Parish Hall

Thursdays 10.00am—
11.00am

at The Pavilion Community Hub,
Pontesbury

Booking is essential.

Contact Dan Lewis on 07904 338 791
or
danlewisfitness@btinternet.com

ZUMBA®

CLASS

**THURSDAYS 6.30PM
MINSTERLEY
PARISH HALL**



**Join Class with Grace P
£5 per class
No need to book
07803 862 076**

The Story of Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first Anglican woman priest

In 1907, in a little fishing village on Hong King island, a baby girl was born. At that time, in that local culture, a bowl of ash was often kept ready at a birth so that if the baby was a girl, and unwanted, it could be smothered. However, this baby was loved and wanted. Her parents were Christians and named her Tim-Oi, meaning 'much beloved'.

When Tim Oi grew older she joined an Anglican church where she was baptised, choosing the name Florence because her birthday was in May, a month of flowers, and because she admired the British nursing pioneer, Florence Nightingale.

As a young woman Tim-Oi attended the ordination of an English deaconess in Hong Kong, and she asked God if he was calling her too to serve in his church. After studying in Canton, where she led a team of students rescuing casualties from Japanese bombing, she was ordained deacon in the Anglican Chinese church in 1941. She served her curacy in Kowloon and was then appointed to the Portuguese territory of Macau, which was neutral in the war, and so full of refugees. Tim-Oi was busy with pastoral work, schools ministry and leading her parish church. Because of the war, it was impossible for priests to reach Macau and she was licensed to

preside at Holy Communion. However, in 1944, after much prayer and discussion, her diocesan bishop took the decision to ordain Tim-Oi priest. It was a controversial step, opposed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and going against centuries of tradition, and the Church of England's then understanding of God's will. Like Peter, in his meeting with Cornelius in Acts 11, the bishop maintained that in ordaining Tim-Oi, he was merely confirming what the Holy Spirit had already done in her ministry.

After the war Tim-Oi gave up her licence as a priest, and was put in charge, as a deacon, of a parish near Vietnam, where she started a large maternity home to ensure that new-born girls would not be smothered at birth. It would be 30 years before she was again able to exercise her vocation as a priest, after living through the Maoist Cultural Revolution in which she was persecuted as a counter-revolutionary.

After her death in 1992, the Li Tim-Oi Foundation was set up to offer grants to women in the Global Majority world, to equip them to serve in their churches and communities. If you want to find out more about their work go to www.ltof.org.uk.

Fran Brealey



CRAFTY MONDAYS

CRAFT AND CHAT

2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH
LOUNGE AREA
AT
MINSTERLEY METHODIST CHURCH
7 PM TO 9 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
LESLEY ON 01743-791045
OR SANDRA ON 01743-891861
OR
JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT
AND JOIN US!



The Crown & Sceptre Presents

KNITTER NATTER

EVERY THURSDAY

10am - 1pm

Hot drinks & cake available to buy
throughout the session!
All crafters welcome be it knitting or
crocheting & other crafts!
Free to join us, Just bring your
projects with you!





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
www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk

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.
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.stiperstonschurch.org.uk or follow us on **Facebook** (scan the QR code)





WEST MERCIA POLICE

Police contact numbers

Emergency: **999**

Non Emergency: **101**

Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

BISHOPS CASTLE & RURAL

Safer Neighbourhood Team

(covers all our magazine area except Minsterley)

SHREWSBURY RURAL WEST

Safer Neighbourhood team

(covers Minsterley)

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

Email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Facebook: [Bishops Castle Policing Team Rural Watch](#)

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

Email: shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE 16th May 2025 – 15th June 2025

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Burglary	Unoccupied property entered	Snailbeach	Occurred over 5 th – 8 th June
Malicious communications		Worthen	
Assault		Brockton	
Public order offence		Chirbury	
Dog dangerously out of control causing injury		Stiperstones	Dog seized
Theft from motor vehicle	Fuel siphoned from 3 tractors	Snailbeach	Occurred between 17 th – 18 th May
Assault	x3	Marton	Children's care home
Criminal damage		Marton	Linked to above
Stalking		Worthen	

Worry is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

- Anon

People who cannot bear to be alone are the worst company.

- A Guinon

You are only what you are when no one is looking.

- R C Edwards

You must not always expect the wind to be at your back all the way to heaven.

- William Tiptaft

Age: the only thing that comes to us without effort.

- Anon

If you will be cherished when you are old, be courteous while you are young.

- John Lyly



Illuminate
18 Wyle Cop
Shrewsbury
SY1 1XB

Bibles, Christian books,
greetings cards,
large second-hand bookstall.
01743 233657
www.illuminatebooks.org.uk

My story of life in the war years by Wilfred Overton

My experiences start in early 1939 when I was 8 years old. Soldiers marched up and down the road to the Gritt Camp; if we marched with them they would give us sweets which were a novelty because sweets were rationed. Corndon Hill was used as a practice area where live ammunition was used before the soldiers were sent abroad.

I remember my mum bought more food and put the extra in the pantry. This included tinned fruit, sugar, tea, coffee, tinned meats and flour: she said this was for an emergency.

During the summer of 1939 we all went to Hope School and were issued with gas masks. We tried them on and I hated mine, thinking I could not breathe. Mum made us exercise putting these on at home and leaving them on for a few minutes so that if the Germans dropped poisonous gas from the air we would not die. This frightened me but she made us do it.

On Sunday 3rd September we listened to the wireless at 11.15am. Mr. Chamberlain said, "We are at war with Germany." It was frightening because we thought that there would be bombs dropping, and from then we had to carry our gas masks whenever we left home.

The air raid siren was at Worthen on the fire station building; it was sounded each week to make sure it worked. This could be heard clearly at home at the Gravels. All Church bells were silenced and were only to be rung if German paratroopers were dropped from invading aircraft.

Things we needed such as food, clothes and petrol were rationed. We were all issued with a ration book with coupons inside. I well remember going to Gran Branford's shop at Bent Lont for food, sweets, cigarettes, poultry food, and paraffin either with mum or on my own. Everyone was issued with an identity document; our family number was OJIG 93 1-2-3-4-5; I was number 3.

Every window had to have a thick black curtain hung inside to be pulled across at nighttime. There was an ARP man to make sure no light was showing. If there was he would shout, "put that light out." Many nights my dad and I would walk to the top road at the Gravels and look towards Shrewsbury; there would not be any light showing anywhere.

Many a time we would hear the bombers going overhead on their way to Liverpool, and watch the red glow in the sky from the buildings on fire there and then hear them returning and our

fighters trying to intercept them. Most houses were issued with a stirrup pump in case of fire caused by incendiary bombs; we had one and used it to wash the car and the lorries!

Men who were too old (or too young) for service in the forces were told to enlist in the LDV (Local Defence Volunteers) later known as the Home Guard. They set up road blocks to make sure you were going about legal business. Dad was in the Home Guard; he was issued with a Sten gun and many a time I took it apart and cleaned it. Their headquarters was at Hope School; there was also an army cadet force, but dad would not let me join.

When the siren sounded dad had to turn out with the Home Guard. One night I remember when German bombers sounded very loudly, and Mum took us from bed to sit under the table in the sitting room. When the all clear sounded we went outside to see the Stiperstones hill on fire: it appeared that a bomber started dropping incendiary bombs from about the Gritt, and one landed on Mrs. Maughn's house setting the thatched roof on fire. The Home Guard did all they could to put the fire out without much effect. Dad said the bomber was dropping the incendiaries in a line and our house was right in line for a close hit but luckily a Spitfire attacked the bomber and it veered away. Many bombs dropped on Shropshire were from German bombers returning home to get rid of them.

The evacuees arrived here from Liverpool soon after the start of the war. Uncle Jim and Aunty Minnie who lived next to us had no family and had a spare bedroom so they took in a girl about 8 years old. She was there until after the war finished, and continued to visit regularly until Uncle Jim and Aunty Minnie died.

One night a Whitley bomber towing a glider got into difficulty approaching our area from Welshpool. The glider was released and landed safely in a field at Wagbeach but the bomber hit the Stiperstones and all on board were killed. In 2010 I carried the Worthen RBL standard at a ceremony at that site when a plaque was dedicated as a memorial to all the crew.

**Condensed from a five-page memoir submitted
by Wilfred's daughter Sandra Lewis.
The full script is well worth reading and is
available on request to the editor;
(details on page 2).**



Back row - left to right

Harold Hillage, Fred Jones,
Ken Gunnery, Bill Farmer, Stan Jones

Middle row - left to right

Wilfred Overton, Jack Morris,
Alan Sambrook, Mr Richmond,
Corbet Swain

Front row - left to right

Bruce Tomlins, Tom(?) Powell,
J.H. Pedley (Minsterley postmaster),
C.R.E. Lehmann, Mr. Williams,
Mr Evans from Hemford, Bill Jones



Minsterley Parish Council

The A488 from Hope junction to Plox Green will operate a complete 24 hour closure to traffic from Monday 30th June to Friday 22nd August to enable landslip repair work to be carried out. Minsterley Motors will operate a shuttle bus service during this period covering the area affected by the closure.

The Parish is waiting for a site meeting with Highways to discuss the damage which has occurred to the roundabout in the centre of the village.

Concerns would be forwarded in regard to the proposals for 25 affordable houses to be developed next to Linden Fields. Pedestrian access from the site into the village is inadequate, requiring pedestrians to cross the busy A488. The existing entrance/exit from Linden Fields is already difficult and would require to be upgraded for the extra vehicles which the development would generate. The area suffers from storm water problems. Consideration of the poultry units close to the development requires assessment.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 8th July 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 21	21 st May	No. 2	Jeannie Buckle
Draw 22	28 th May	No. 13	Christine Parry
Draw 23	4 th June	No. 31	Bruce Norsworthy
Draw 24	11 th June	No. 39	Ann Smith

Prayer is the breath of faith. Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church. - *C H Spurgeon*

Humility, after the first shock, is a cheerful virtue. - *C S Lewis*

Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or bending His will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to His. - *John R W Stott.*



S.P. GARDENING SERVICES

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

Hedges

Shrubs

Weeding



Lawn Mowing

Lawn Treatment

Turfing



For a free quotation please contact Steve 01743791716 or 07868 701704
spgardenservices@outlook.com. Local family business in Minsterley

Please support our advertisers

STONEMASONS *of* CHURCH STRETTON

----- MEMORIALS -----

Headstones
Cremation tablets
Traditional and modern
Additional inscriptions

----- HOME -----

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

01694 724 448 www.strettonstonemasons.co.uk



This month, I wish to speak to you about something very close to my heart if I may.

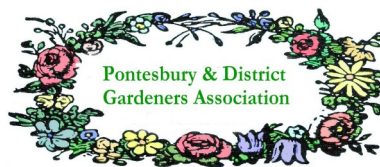
As some of you know I have suffered with mental health problems since a young age, I can't quite remember when the depression started or if the anxiety came first but regardless they have been with me now for over 20 years and in some sad way have become like old friends.

Gardening has saved my life, I know that sounds dramatic but it truly has. When I put my hands in the dirt, start new seedlings or pick a ripe anything my brain becomes calm and suddenly everything is slightly less overwhelming.

I know nature would go on without me, but it does feel nice to be part of something for a while.

I'm not going to give you a list of jobs or suggestions this month, I'm going to ask you to find a quiet space in your garden/green area and just take it all in; think about what you like about gardening, why is it important to you? I expect a 500 word essay on it by Monday morning....not really! But please do take time to check in with nature and yourselves.

Laura Davies



For those wanting to enter the Photography section of our Show (Wednesday 23rd August) the subjects this year are:

- Insects
- Footwear
- Water
- Children

All prints are to be a maximum size of 7x5" (18x13cm), and be unframed. There is a maximum of three entries per person per subject. Entry forms and details of how to enter and show will be in the Show Schedule which is available at the Trading Post and in various shops in the village.

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

Rob Dixon
robedixon@btopenworld.com

YOU'RE INVITED TO AN AFTERNOON TEA!



Saturday 23rd August At 1pm

The Lindens, Hem Lane, SY5 0AL

Join us for a delicious homemade afternoon tea for just £25 per person.

Booking is essential by 1st August

Please let us know of any dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Please call or text to book
Rene 07795212162






I'm holding an Afternoon Tea to help improve the lives of people affected by breast cancer, now and for generations to come.

breastcancernow.org/afternoontea





REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALKS AND EVENTS : JULY 2025

Saturday 19th July - Monthly Walk
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Hope Village Hall Car Park - mellons.tortoises.threaten

Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group (RVCWG) for a July Saturday walk, providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

Free to attend and no booking required

Please note that there is no designated leader for these monthly walks. A meeting point is listed for each walk and the group will decide together on the day where they would like to walk.

We are also excited to offer two special events this month that focus on Swifts!



Join us as we support Carol Wood from the Shropshire Swift Group to explore where Swifts might be nesting in our local villages:

Monday 7th July - Swift Walk
8pm - dusk
Ford Village Hall - shaver.songbirds.rare

Friday 11th July - Swift Walk
8pm - dusk
Hanwood - Caradoc View - hugs.possibly.lushly



Shropshire Hills National Landscape

These events are free, but donations are welcome. Pre-booking is essential as spaces limited. email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg

More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/




JOIN US TODAY!

Email: reavalleycwg@gmail.com

Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available

GRS CLEANING SERVICES

WINDOWS CONSERVATORIES GUTTER CLEANING

PATIOS / DRIVE WAYS CARAVAN / MOTORHOMES

SOLAR PANELS

CARPET CLEANING

DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL

FREE QUOTATIONS

Home 01743 791829; Mobile 07947114843

LOCAL AND RELIABLE

Please support our advertisers



Hair by Jen

3 Station Road, Minsterley



shutterstock - 79012441

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

Open: Tuesday 9am-3pm

Wednesday 9am-6pm

Thursday 9am-9pm (late night!)

Friday 9am-4pm

Appointments advisable: call 01743 792548 or drop in.

Local organisations offering help and support

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

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

Community Good Neighbours, Rea Valley 07944 891953

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

Pontesbury Community and Care Co-ordinator 01743 790325
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.



dDiY

Would you rather not D.I.Y. ?
Why not let me D.I.f.Y. ?
*Handyman - as recommended by the editor
of the Minsterley Parish Magazine.*

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

David Young: 01743 537081
ddiymobile@gmail.com

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



**Organic produce, eggs, dairy
& much more
delivered to your door!**

**"Working together to make
supporting local easy"**



GB-ORG-02
UK/non-UK Agriculture

www.shropshireorganics.co.uk
shropshireorganics@gmail.com
07939 199672

Snailbeach WI

**Be inspired & widen your
circle of friends
Come and see what we have to offer.
Give it a try—
you might be surprised!**



**We meet in Snailbeach Village Hall, SY5 0NX,
on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm
(2pm Dec, & Jan)**

**For more information contact Sue:
tel: 07375 463536
e-mail: suexjohnson@gmail.com**



Please support our advertisers



Shire Stairlifts

SHROPSHIRE BASED STAIRLIFT COMPANY

**INSTALLATION
SERVICE & REPAIR
FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION
2yr warranty on new stairlifts**

**Contact us for details
07725 337918**

**Crown House, Lancaster Rd
Shrewsbury, SY1 3LG
Email: info@shirestairlifts.co.uk**

www.shirestairlifts.co.uk

NATURAL ENGLAND

Notes from the hill

With the summer having properly arrived on the hill, many of our birds become less obvious. Now that their territories are established, attention is focused on the important job of feeding the chicks rather than defending their boundaries and so there is less bird song filling the air. Some birds will continue to sing, but to a lesser extent than in the spring, while others will cease altogether and this may depend upon whether one or two broods are raised in a year.

The cuckoo is no longer to be heard, having left his eggs to be brought up by foster parents, he either already left or will be getting ready to depart for Africa. According to recent studies over half of the UK population of cuckoos have left the country by the end of June, reinforcing the view that these are a truly African species that only spends 15% of the year in Britain and the rest either migrating or in their homelands around the forests of Congo.

July is also the traditional time for haymaking on and around the Stiperstones although this is always very weather dependant, and in our case is complicated by other factors such as whether there are any nesting birds such as curlews around.

There are a couple of places left on the Introduction to Scything Course on the 27th July and this year we are hoping to hold the first ever bracken scything competition on the 1st August. Between these two dates we have a week of scything both bracken and grass for any volunteers proficient at using a scythe.

Bracken is becoming an increasing problem in upland areas for a variety of reasons. Farmers and commoners would have once harvested this resource to provide bedding for animals instead of straw and this would have limited its spread. Until recently it could be controlled through a specific herbicide, but that option is no longer available. To make matters worse warmer winters and increased airborne nitrogen is favouring its growth and spread. Much of the bracken on the Stiperstones is on steep rocky slopes and above heather which makes it almost impossible to control, so the more people we can encourage to cut it with scythes the better.



Scything, particularly with Austrian scythes is a very enjoyable pastime, and as Levin said to his brother after a day's mowing, in Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, *"You can't imagine what an effectual remedy it is for every sort of foolishness."*

Anyone interested should get in touch through our events email. And if you would like to join us for our family wildlife walk and picnic on Tuesday 12th August please book through Eventbrite using the QR code. Bookings can also be made for our Stiperstones Stomp walk on Sunday 17th August.



Simon Cooter
and the Natural England staff at Rigmoreoak.

E-mail: Stiperstones.events@naturalengland.org.uk.

Church Notices that didn't quite 'make it'...

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

Baptism

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect she's studying for her final exams," came the reply.

Make the least ado about your greatest gifts. Be content to act, and leave the talking to others.
- *Baltasar Gracian*

The quality of life is determined by its activities.
- *Aristotle*

No great achievement is possible without persistent work.
- *Bertrand Russell*

Shattered dreams are a hallmark of our mortal life.
- *Martin Luther King*

If you can't shine, at least twinkle!
- *Alistair Begg*

Trusted & experienced property
specialists since 1981

Roger
Parry
& Partners

Estate and Letting Agents

www.rogerparry.net

Thinking of selling
THIS YEAR?

www.rogerparry.net
01743 343343

Get in touch to arrange your
FREE VALUATION

Please support our advertisers



Simplifying Computers
and Technology
across Shropshire



ShropTech help local businesses and home users with:

- Backing up your data – e.g. emails and photos from your computers and mobile phones, etc. – the best protection from ransomware
- Computer upgrades and repairs, no fix, no fee
- Upgrading to Windows 11
- Fixing internet / WiFi problems
- Data recovery, transfer to new devices
- Domain, Website and Email from £49 per year, £299 setup

We sell 3 grades of Electronics – New, Open Box or 2nd User, all minimum 1 year warranty: Laptops, Desktops, TVs, Mobiles, Tablets, Security Cameras, WiFi



01743 790968



office@shroptech.com

Data Protection Act 2018: Shropshire Technology Ltd. is registered with the ICO, your data is safe with us



Darkness and light are often a shorthand in our western popular culture for the forces of good and evil. We know instantly in films and television who the heroes and villains are often by the colour of their clothes. So often arguments in our culture are often presented as binary choices between right and wrong, good and bad, left wing or right wing, etc. Just look at the reporting in our news media about world events and you quickly see that we are presented with clear choices rather than any sense of nuance. I was listening on the radio as I prepared to write this, and what was being suggested was that when it comes to political debate most people would prefer nuance over bold binary statements.

In many other cultures too, darkness represents evil or hidden unsavoury activities. Alongside this we may find that many of our human fears revolve around darkness and what hides in it. Yet what has struck me recently is that in scripture the idea of darkness is not always so binary. I want to challenge you to look again at what the writers of the Bible say, and begin to understand darkness with the eyes of faith rather than through the lens of culture. In Psalm 139 v12 the psalmist talks about darkness from God's perspective:

"Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You."

God does not differentiate light and dark in the way we do - after all he created both of them. We do not live in a 'ying and yang' universe of two equal powers of good and evil or opposing forces of light and dark like a celestial chess set. We don't live in a Star Wars-like universe with mystical forces at play that are held in balance with a constant struggle of the dark side and the light side!

The Bible however does use the ideas of light and dark to differentiate between those who love and follow God and those who do not. Isaiah in his prophecy about the coming Messiah reminds them that when God comes to live amongst them then the light of the kingdom will shine on them. The prophet reminds them in a powerful metaphor that the light of the kingdom will dispel and overcome the darkness. Isaiah 9v2:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."

We should however never equate that with two equal and opposite powers. Instead, it is an analogy which helps us understand that we have choices and God represents the best choice available to us. Many of the

New Testament writers talk about the Christian faith as choosing to live in the daylight rather than in the night. They want the early church to understand that we need to live consistently, transparently and in the open so that people can see the difference our faith makes to the way we live our lives. John in the great prologue to his Gospel uses exactly this picture reminding us that God cannot be overwhelmed or swept away by the darkness.

"What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.."
John 1v5 ["The Message" translation]

It reminds us too that even at the very darkest moments of our lives God has not walked away from us, he is not absent, and he stands alongside us. Matthew in his Gospel recognises this when he records these words from Jesus to his disciples. Matthew 10v27:

"What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops."

Jesus wants the disciples to know that he is with them and alongside them at every stage and he will not turn his back or walk away from us. It is the Holy Spirit given to us at Pentecost who whispers to our hearts and guides us in our daily lives, it is the Spirit who will give us the words to speak when we don't know how to pray. If as you read this because of life's circumstances you feel trapped in the darkness, remember that God stands in it with you.

**The Venerable Derek Chedzey
Archdeacon of Hereford**

St Mary's Church, Westbury
Summer Fete
Saturday 5th July
2 p.m - 5 p.m.
in Westbury Village Hall



Our annual fete will have several stalls including:
cakes, flowers, nearly new items, tombola, raffle, games
and
races for the children and of course tea/coffee etc.
Please come along and support this popular event

More details from Dianne Tomlins-Davies 8844330
or Jill Jones 884414

www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

Monday to Friday

Saturday

[illegible]

www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

Saturday

From September 2024

In the UK we have 59 species of butterfly, but did you know that we also have over 2,500 species of moth, many with fabulous names. Some give a clue to their markings including Hebrew Character, China Mark, Garden Tiger or Orange Underwing. Others suggest possible frustration at identifying them: Uncertain or Clouded Drab for instance! Others give a clue to the food plant of the caterpillar: Appletree Skeletoniser or Bird-Cherry Ermine. And then there are names to let your imagination fly: Hoary Footman, Snout, Dusky Brocade, Scarce Dagger and Clifden Nonpareil for starters.



Most moths have evolved to fly at night in order to avoid predation, although they are the main food of bats, who have also evolved to fly at night. To avoid bats some moth species can hear their eco-location and will zig-zag away or drop to the ground from mid-air when bats are close, to 'play dead' until the threat has passed. Whilst daytime predation of night-flying moths is reduced, moths and their caterpillars are an important food item for creatures active in the day. Small moth caterpillars are fed in great number to the chicks of

many of our common birds including blue tit, great tit, robin, wren and blackbird.

As with so much of our wildlife, moths are in trouble, down 28% overall since 1968. This is likely to be due to a combination of factors; agricultural change, increased use of garden and farming chemicals, development and also light pollution which has a profound effect on the lifecycle of moths. Churchyards can be a moth-haven however, usually free of herbicides and pesticides which benefits all insects, including moths.

There are also small management changes that will encourage moths; similar to gardening for wildlife, be a little untidy! How about leaving areas with leaf litter, dead plant stems and tussocks for overwintering caterpillars and eggs. If you have flowerbeds or planters, how about introducing some night-scented flowers including honeysuckle, tobacco plant, evening primrose and stocks. Is there an area of turf that can be allowed to grow long for 3 to 4 spring and summer months, providing meadow flowers and flowering native grasses for pollinators including moths? A particularly helpful change might be to reduce light pollution by keeping any outdoor lights low, pointing downwards and not on all night long.

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



6th July

Family Service led by members of the congregation

13th July

Preacher – Mrs Helen Pearson

20th July

Minsterley Praise. Preacher – Mr Nigel Gibbon

27th July

Preacher – Rev Brian Spencer. 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

Running a moth light trap overnight makes an interesting public event, the trap is opened in the morning, moths admired, identified and then released, but even if you do not manage to see these spectacular nighttime visitors, remember that our blue tit population need an estimated 35 million moth caterpillars every year and many people enjoy watching bluetits!

N.B If you are starting to identify moths, take a look at Moths Flying Tonight on the Butterfly Conservation website and put in your postcode to narrow down the moths you are likely to find.

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

Sunday July 6th - Rev Richard Hall

Sunday July 20th - Nigel Gibbon

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 13th

Sunday 27th

5.00pm

5.00pm

Evensong

Holy Communion



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 13th July

Sunday 27th

9.00am

9.00am

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer



All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 6th July

Sunday 20th

9.00am

9.00am

Holy Communion

Informal all-age service

Advertising in The Minsterley Parish Magazine

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

Our annual rates are:

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



SCAN ME

For up-to-date information about our churches,
past copies of the magazine
and everything else you need to know
please visit our website:
stiperstoneschurches.org.uk

