

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

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



incorporating news from the Chirbury Hills benefice:
**Middleton, Leighton, Marton,
Corndon Marsh, Trelystan, Chirbury,**



December 2025

80p



Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



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

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

Church Wardens
Susan Lockwood 07854 110271
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

Treasurer
Mike Bowen 07826 061054
mintreasure@btinternet.com

Church services this month

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Sunday 7th | 4.00pm | Tea-time service |
| Sunday 14th | 10.30am | Minsterley Praise |
| Sunday 21st | 10.30am 7.00pm | Holy Communion Benefice Carol Service (at St. George's church) |
| Christmas Eve | 11.00pm | Midnight Communion |
| Christmas Day | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 28th | 10.30am | Holy Communion (Group service) |

Other events this month

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Thu 4th | Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p21) |
| Thur 4th | Community Meal (p15) |
| Fri 5-Sun 7 | Christmas Tree festival (p15) |
| Sat 6th | Charity coffee mornings (p13 & p25) Christmas Fair (p29) |
| Mon 8th | Crafty Monday (p21) |
| Tues 9th | Oasis meeting (p21) Ichthus Bible study (p15) Parish Council meeting (p11) |
| Wed 10th | Messy Church (p4) |
| Thu 11th | Time Out (p6,13) |
| Sat 13th | Hope Christmas Coffee & Cake (p34) |
| Sun 14th | Snailbeach Carols (p6) Carol Sing-a-long (p11) |
| Tues 16th | The Gathering (p4) |
| Wed 17th | Blue Christmas (p20) |
| Wed 19th | u3a Open Meeting (p20) |
| Tue 23rd | Oasis (p21) |
| Thur 25th | Festive Friends (p6) |

Weekly events in the church (see page 31)

| | | |
|------------|---------|--------------|
| Mondays | 3.30pm | Youth Café |
| Tuesdays | 10.00am | Foodbank |
| Wednesdays | 10.00am | Coffee Hub |
| Thursday | 10.00am | Trinity Tots |

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

* * * Copy date for January is the 15th December * * * * *

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A Gift Worth Searching For

It was early Christmas morning and already Wendy and I could hear the children pulling sweets and small presents out of their stockings and stuffing their faces with the contents of their chocolate selection boxes. Soon they piled onto our bed showing us what has arrived in the dead of night while they had, despite all their efforts to stay awake, remained fast asleep. The bigger presents were still to come - Oh, the agony of waiting!

Breakfast first, mostly more chocolate (who wants soggy cornflakes on Christmas Day?). Then get the turkey in the oven and vegetables peeled and ready to go. After that, off to Church for the Christmas Day Service – compulsory for me, of course, being a vicar. Singing the familiar carols, recounting the Christmas story, and prayers around the manger scene. Then home to gather round the Christmas tree and... PRESENTS!

Lucy's main present was nowhere to be seen. All she received was a piece of paper with a clue to follow. You see, her present that year was a new bicycle. It was far to big to wrap, except for a few token shreds of wrapping paper to decorate it. So it was hidden away in the garage with all the tools and boxes and junk.

What do you think Lucy did? Did she sit and wonder at the message written on the note? Did she spend some time talking to her brothers about what this all might mean and how wonderful the tree looked? No way! She tore off in a cloud of dust through the door and down the corridor, looking in every space until she stumbled through the garage door and discovered her present propped up against the shelves. Instantly the paper was stripped away and there it was all bright paint and chrome – her new bike!

I couldn't get the garage door open fast enough for her. Thirty seconds later she was in the saddle pushing at the pedals and wobbling along the pavement while I held her up and pushed at the same time. Balancing would take a little longer.

At Christmas Time we hear again the Good News of the greatest gift humanity has ever received. Not richly wreathed in pretty paper under a decorated tree but wrapped in swaddling clothes, waiting to be discovered in a shed in Bethlehem. Shepherds and Wise Men were given clues – an angel's message or a bright star – and they went on a search to find the gift – the Christ

Child. Jesus, the King of Heaven and Saviour of our souls, was to be found in the back yard of the world, present and accessible to shepherd and king alike.

Jesus is still near and accessible to those who seek him today. He is the gift that remains for us all. The one who has shared our life, our joys and our sorrows, and has carried the consequences of human failure and wickedness in his body on the Cross. He was born for us, and he died for us in his determination to draw us back into faith and fellowship with God. In love he lived and died, and in power he rose from the dead to lead us into a life and a future with him.

It's great news! The Christmas story presents us once again with the clue to discovering the gift of Jesus for ourselves. The question is, will we just talk about him as someone to wonder or speculate about? Or will we, thoughtfully and prayerfully, with excitement and hope, go searching for him until we find him or rediscover him for ourselves?

Let's hear again the song of the angels and respond: "*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*" (Luke 2:10)

If you are serious about this search, but don't know where to begin, talk to one of the ministers from the local churches, or keep your eyes open for an Alpha Course, or visit the following website: www.christianity.org.uk/the-basics.

Happy Christmas!

Rev Stuart Carter

Ian Williams

We are delighted to announce that Ian Williams is to be our new Curate from next summer. Ian will be a new name and face to some and well known to others. He will work as a "Self Supporting Minister," still living in his own house in Westbury, offering approximately 20 hours a week.

Those of you who know Ian may like to note Saturday 4th July in your diaries as the date of Ian's ordination at Hereford Cathedral. Do pray for him to successfully complete his training.

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

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

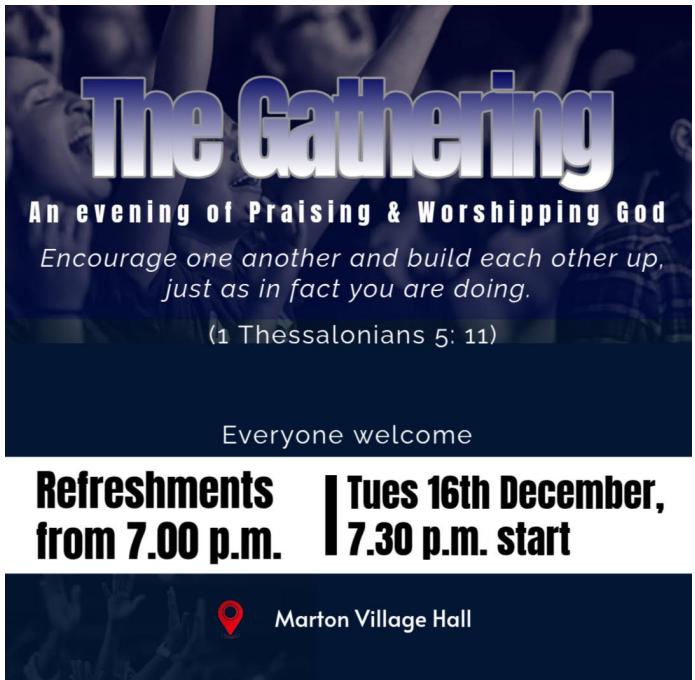
The season of Advent begins on 30th November this year, but as I write this on Remembrance Day many people are already well into the countdown to Christmas. One of my neighbours has candy cones and Christmas Elves decorating her front garden, and the television adverts are full of suggestions as to how we might spend our money to have an even better Christmas this year. In the church we are probably already swept up into planning carol services, Christmas fayres, Messy Christmases and Christmas trails.

I want to shout, 'slow down, you move too fast!' In a previous job I never let the Christmas tree go up before Advent Sunday (I thought even that was a bit too early). It was an Anglican college, but I think my colleagues still thought I was being a Scrooge! The season of Advent is meant to be a time of quiet reflection and preparation of our hearts for the spiritual meaning of Christ's birth as a human baby. But we have to face the reality of our lives which can become a whirlwind of busyness and often stress at this time of year.

So this December why not seek God in the midst of our activity. After all the Christmas story has very few moments of quiet contemplation, even in the comforting sentimentality of many of our Christmas carols. Mary and Joseph's enforced journey to Bethlehem at the command of foreign rulers, their anxious search for a place to stay in a town overflowing with travellers, the birth itself (unlikely to have been exactly a restful experience!), and then a parade of enthusiastic but strange visitors. All culminating in a desperate flight to escape Herod's murderous intentions. Yet God was there in the midst of it all as he will be for us if we reach out to him.

It is the amazing truth of the incarnation – the Word becoming flesh, that God is with us, in the midst of the reality of our world. He is not far distant from us. He does not need to wait for a quiet moment to make himself known to us. And he understands all our troubles, anxieties and sadness. However we feel about Christmas this year may we know God's peace and love around and within us.

Rev Fran Brealey



The Gathering
An evening of Praising & Worshipping God
Encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.
(1 Thessalonians 5: 11)
Everyone welcome
Refreshments | Tues 16th December,
from 7.00 p.m. | 7.30 p.m. start
Marton Village Hall



CHRISTMAS
Messy Church
Craft . Food . Games. Story
Wednesday December 10th
at 3.30pm
HOLY TRINITY MINSTERLEY

Deanery News editor: Ann Jones (annmorganjones456@gmail.com)
Copy to be submitted by 10th of previous month please.

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

Thirty Chinese Christians arrested in crackdown on unofficial church

The pastor of a prominent underground church in China is among 30 Christians arrested in a crackdown on unofficial churches. Pastor Jin Mingri was arrested at his home in the southern region of Guangxi on 10th October on “suspicion of the illegal use of information networks.”



Pastor Jin Mingri (centre-right)
[Image credit: China Aid]

Several other pastors working for Zion Church – a network of unofficial congregations – were also arrested in cities including Shanghai, Beijing, Zhejiang, Guangxi, Shandong, Sichuan and Henan, and taken into custody the same night. Police searched their homes, confiscating their computers and mobile phones.

Some of those arrested have since been released, but around twenty pastors and church leaders remain in detention. According to a statement from Zion Church, which Pastor Jin founded in 2007, at least seven of the pastors may face criminal charges for “illegal dissemination of religious information via the internet.”

Jin’s daughter Grace confirmed that police barred lawyers from meeting detained church members in the city of Beihai in Guangxi on 13th October. She called the arrest of the church members and pastors “a blatant attack on religious freedom.” Grace and her mother, who are based in the United States, have not been able to contact Jin since 10th October; she said that her family was worried and scared for her father, but not surprised at his arrest. “In my mind, we’ve played out this scenario since I was a kid,” she said. “Being a Christian in China, I think you just know that something like this could happen.”

Jin founded Zion Church, a popular unregistered church that has members in many cities, in Beijing in 2007 where it grew to around 1,500 members. Authorities shuttered the church in 2018, pressuring hundreds of people to stop participating in it. But instead of depleting, Zion Church’s membership grew rapidly online, with services held on Zoom alongside smaller offline gatherings in forty cities throughout China.

This crackdown is the latest in a string of arrests which have targeted unofficial churches (also known as “house churches”) in China. In May 2025 Pastor Gao Quanfu of the Light of Zion Church was detained on charges of “using superstitious activities to undermine the implementation of justice.” The following month, multiple members of Golden Lampstand Church were jailed for fraud, and their pastor Yang Rongli was sentenced to 15 years in jail. Human rights groups have criticised these convictions as false.

Although China’s constitution guarantees its citizens religious freedom, only China’s official churches, including the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), are permitted to operate.



Zion Church in Beijing [Image credit: Zion Church/X]

In TSPM churches, Christian symbols are sometimes replaced with communist images. Christians who do not want to participate in these closely monitored services must attend unofficial “house churches” such as Zion, where they run the risk of being arrested. In 2022, China banned all online religious services without official licences.

In September 2025 new rules were unveiled which further restrict online religious activity. These rules ban preaching “via livestreams, short videos, online meetings, WeChat groups or WeChat Moments”. WeChat is China’s most popular social media platform.



Rea Valley Transport Scheme

The Rea Valley Transport Scheme is now fully operational, enabling residents of the area to access medical appointments including Pontesbury & Worthen surgeries, and Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry hospitals. The scheme also undertakes whenever we can to get people to opticians, dental and other wellbeing appointments e.g. support groups where possible.

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

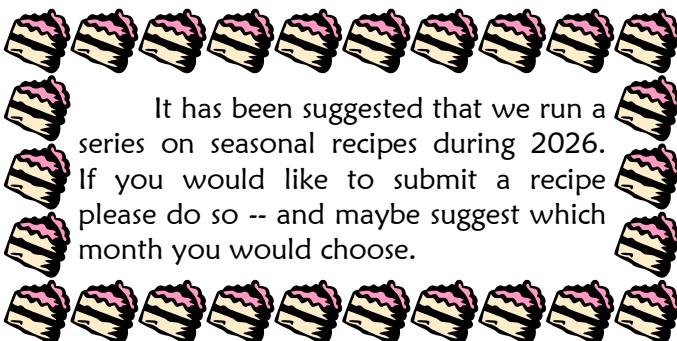
Our drivers are all volunteers, but are insured, DBS checked and safely recruited. However, they are not medical professionals. Your driver will collect you from your home address and take you in good time for your appointment. To request transport, please contact our scheme administrator, Emma (reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com)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



Time Out

A new support group for those struggling with the stresses and strains of life, sponsored by the local churches, has begun at St George's Church Pontesbury, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons of the month. We are deliberately a small, friendly group aimed at people who find large gatherings too daunting. You will be made very welcome, and there's always a listening ear, tea, coffee and biscuits. Feel free to bring a friend.

See poster on page 13.



It has been suggested that we run a series on seasonal recipes during 2026. If you would like to submit a recipe please do so -- and maybe suggest which month you would choose.



Festive Friends 2025

Will you be on your own this Christmas Day?

Cost: Suggested donation of £7 to help cover costs.

Contact: Linda on 01588 630409 for more information and booking.

If so, you are invited to join us for Christmas Lunch in Norbury!

Transport can be provided.

Arrive for drinks and mince pies.

Enjoy a two-course lunch.

Relax and enjoy some light entertainment and conversation.

All ages welcome

Time: 11:30am - 3pm

Venue: Norbury Village Hall



Colin and Marie wish all family and friends a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We are again supporting charities rather than sending cards.

Snailbeach Village Hall

Christmas Carols

3.00pm - 4.30pm

Sunday 14th December

Come singalong to your old favourites!

Complimentary hot drinks and mince pies!

World War II Memories

I was born on the 21st September 1941 during the Second World War. A few years later I recall that my dad, who was in the Royal Observer Corps, before going out most nights would study pictures from a large pack of aircraft cards. He would be going to the observation hut on a hill nearby to record movement of aircraft that passed over the district. My older sister and I would be in bed listening for any sounds from the sky....our gas masks were kept in the hall.

I also remember going to the local shop with mum clutching the ration books. The shopkeeper would cut 2ozs of butter and 2ozs of lard from large blocks.....no luxuries in the forties. We were brought up on rabbit stew and vegetables, my brothers going after school to catch the rabbits.

Joan Evans, Snailbeach



8th June, 1946
TO-DAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

George R.I.

IMPORTANT WAR DATES

| | 1939 | 1941 |
|---------------|--|---|
| SEP 1. | Germany invaded Poland | JAN 31. The remnants of the 6th German Army surrendered at Stalingrad |
| SEP 3. | Great Britain and France declared war on Germany; the B.E.F. began to leave for France | MAY Final victory over the U-Boats in the Atlantic |
| DEC 13. | Battle of the River Plate | MAY 13. Axis forces in Tunisia surrendered |
| | | JULY 10. Allies invaded Sicily |
| | | SEP 3. Allies invaded Italy |
| | | SEP 8. Italy capitulated |
| | | DEC 26. <i>Scharnhorst</i> sunk off North Cape |
| | | |
| | 1940 | 1944 |
| APR 9. | Germany invaded Denmark and Norway | JAN 22. Allied troops landed at Anzio |
| MAY 10. | Germany invaded the Low Countries | JUNE 4. Rome captured |
| JUNE 3. | Evacuation from Dunkirk completed | JUNE 6. Allies landed in Normandy |
| JUNE 8. | British troops evacuated from Norway | JUNE 13. Flying-bomb (V.1) attack on Britain started |
| JUNE 11. | Italy declared war on Great Britain | JUNE Defeat of Japanese invasion of India |
| JUNE 22. | France capitulated | AUG 25. Paris liberated |
| JUNE 29. | Germans occupied the Channel Isles | SEP 1. Brussels liberated |
| AUG 8-10. | Germany air offensive against Great Britain (Battle of Britain) | SEP 8. The first rocket-bomb (V.2) fell on England. |
| OCT 28. | Italy invaded Greece | SEP 17-26. The Battle of Arnhem |
| NOV 11-12. | Successful attack on the Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour. | OCT 20. The Americans re-landed in the Philippines |
| DEC 9-11. | Italian invasion of Egypt defeated at the battle of Sidi Barrani | |
| | | |
| | 1941 | 1945 |
| MAR 11. | Lease-Lend Bill passed in U.S.A. | JAN 17. Warsaw liberated |
| MAR 28. | Battle of Cape Matapan | MAR 20. British recaptured Mandalay |
| APR 6. | Germany invaded Greece | MAR 23. British crossed the Rhine |
| APR 12-DEC 9. | The Siege of Tobruk | APR 25. Opening of Conference of United Nations at San Francisco |
| MAY 20. | Formal surrender of remnants of Italian Army in Abyssinia | MAY 2. German forces in Italy surrendered |
| MAY 20-31. | Battle of Crete | MAY 3. Rangoon recaptured |
| MAY 27. | German battleship <i>Bismarck</i> sunk | MAY 5. All the German forces in Holland, N.W. Germany and Denmark surrendered unconditionally |
| JUNE 22. | Germany invaded Russia | MAY 9. Unconditional surrender of Germany to the Allies ratified in Berlin |
| AUG 12. | Terms of the Atlantic Charter agreed | JUNE 10. Australian troops landed in Borneo |
| NOV 18. | British offensive launched in the Western Desert | AUG 6. First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima |
| DEC 7. | Japanes attacked Pearl Harbour | AUG 8. Russia declared war on Japan |
| DEC 8. | Great Britain and United States of America declared war on Japan | AUG 9. Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki |
| NOV 8. | British and American forces landed in North Africa | AUG 14. The Emperor of Japan broadcast the unconditional surrender of his country |
| | | SEP 5. British forces re-entered Singapore |

MY FAMILY'S WAR RECORD

In January 1940 my father, mother and I lived in Liverpool. When the German bombing onslaught began my parents arranged for my mother and me to go and stay with my Auntie Vi, who was a district nurse in Withington in Gloucestershire in the Cotswolds. One day I was sent upstairs to watch out of the window for the stork. Sadly, I missed it, but my little sister arrived that day, April 26th. We were evacuated from 1940 until 1943.



Roy and a neighbour in Withington, 1944



Roy Bower,
St George's Pontesbury

A huge "thank you" from the editor to all those who have submitted wartime memories for this series. I have appreciated reading them and I hope you have too.

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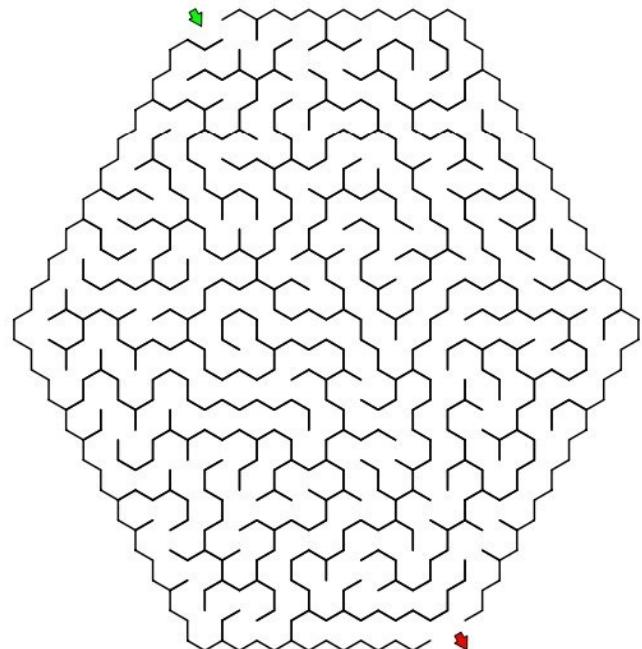
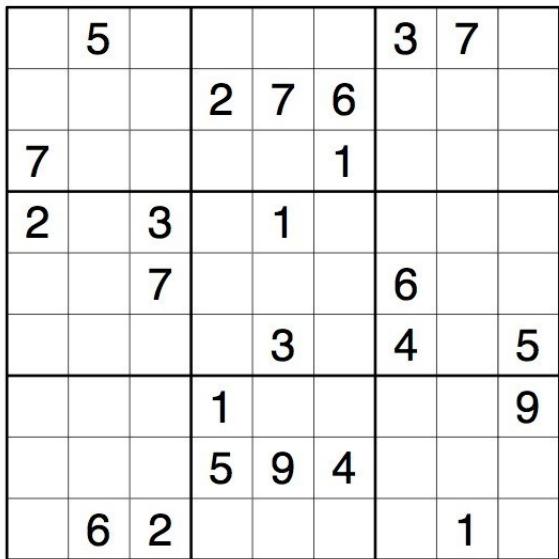
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Puzzle Page



Wordsearch clues and answers

Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to come?

Yes indeed! Here are just some examples of OT prophesies:

He would be born of a virgin.

‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and will call Him Immanuel.’ (Isaiah 7:14)

He would be born in Bethlehem.

‘But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...’ (Micah 5:2)

His lineage would be of the line of David.

‘I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.’ (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

He would bring healing.

‘Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.’ (Isaiah 35:5-6)

He would be crucified.

They pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (Psalm 22)

He would rise from the dead.

‘You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay...’ (Psalm 16: 8-11)

If you pray for another, you will be helped yourself.

- *Yiddish proverb*

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

- *Duane Hulse*.

| Born | King | Mute | Dead |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Virgin | Just | Crucified | Abandon |
| Immanuel | Right | Pierce | Decay |
| Bethlehem | Healing | Hands | Realm |
| Ruler | Blind | Feet | |
| Israel | Deaf | Gloat | |
| David | Lame | Rise | |



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Minsterley Parish Council

Residents of The Grove have arranged and financed the cutting of the hedge and banks of the flood alleviation ditch near their properties.

The Severn Rivers Trust have carried out work to slow the flow of the water at Wagbeach. They have also repaired damage to the brook bank next to The Grove footpath.

The Parish is still waiting for a reply from Shropshire Council, requesting the cleaning and repairing of the grill on the culvert under the A488 by the junction to Callow Crescent.

Problems with stormwater at the Park Turn, Leigh Road would be reported.

Christmas trees and lights are planned to be installed on the Parish Hall adjacent to the A488.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Tuesday 9th December 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 No. | Date (2025) | No. | Winner |
|----------|---------------------------|-----|---------------|
| 43 | 22 nd October | 9 | Sarah Edwards |
| 44 | 29 th October | 32 | Steve Jones |
| 45 | 5 th November | 16 | Lynn Evans |
| 46 | 12 th November | 7 | Margy Rogers |

To Join – Telephone 791508 or 791466.

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

50% helps to run the Parish Church

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree. When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said very seriously, "No, that's not possible. T-shirts don't rattle."

Four-year-old to her two-year-old sister:
"Let's play Christmas. I'll be Father Christmas, and you can be a present and I'll give you away."



Do you enjoy writing? Is there a story buzzing around in your head, a poem perhaps, or do you love a limerick? Minsterley Eisteddfod has classes for all ages for stories, poems, creative writing, hymn words and limericks.

On these dark winter nights why not put pen to paper, finger to keypad or drag out that old typewriter?

For full details of all our classes go to our website (minsterleyeisteddfod.com) or phone 01743 791045.



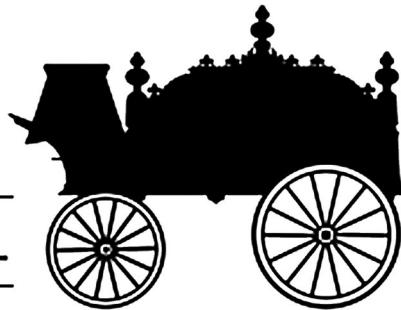
The closing date for entries is 5th February; we would love to hear what you have to say!

Father Christmas nervously went for his sleighdriving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer and pulled up in front of the toy factory. "At last!" he shouted, "No-el plates!"

A football supporter's favourite Christmas song?
"Yule never walk alone."

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinselitus.

FUNERAL



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Rea Valley Foodbank wishes everyone in our local communities a Happy Christmas and New Year – we couldn't do it without our donors, supporters and volunteers.

Christmas and New Year opening times are:

| Holy Trinity, Minsterley TUESDAY | St George's, Pontesbury THURSDAY |
|--|--|
| 16 December Open (Xmas extras) | 18 December Open (Xmas extras) |
| 23 December Open (Xmas extras) | 25 December CLOSED |
| 30 December Open as usual | 1 January Open NEW YEAR'S DAY |

Extra Funds help bring some Winter cheer

The Foodbank was successful in gaining £750 from an Asda Foundation Grant. This was presented by Anne-Marie Eggby, Asda Community Champion, who met our volunteers in October. The money will go towards our ongoing costs of buying in some items, and for vouchers for fresh produce for use in specific local shops.

The Callow Club, Worthen, kindly donated £300 from their raffle at a performance by local band Tin Soldiers. We are so grateful for this local support, and it is much appreciated.

Harvest Festivals – Thank you. Over the autumn the Foodbank has greatly benefitted from generous donations from Harvest Festivals at our schools, churches, and other organisations. All items go to local people in need and reduce our costs.

To use the Foodbank, or find out more: call for a chat with Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653) or Rev Richard Lonsdale (07922 8304880) or ask your GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook.

Jean Garner

Remember, Christ was not a deified man,
neither was he a humanized God.
He was perfectly God and at the same time
perfectly man.

- C H Spurgeon

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th December 2025

10.00am – 12.00noon

Hope Village Hall

In aid of Hospice at Home

Stalls: Cakes



Raffle



Christmas Stall

Lucky Squares

Seasonal Refreshments

Donations welcome beforehand, please contact

Clare Bennett – 01743 790419 or Deborah Davies – 01743 891414

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Why not take Time Out from
the stresses and worries of
life for an hour?

2nd & 4th Thursdays of
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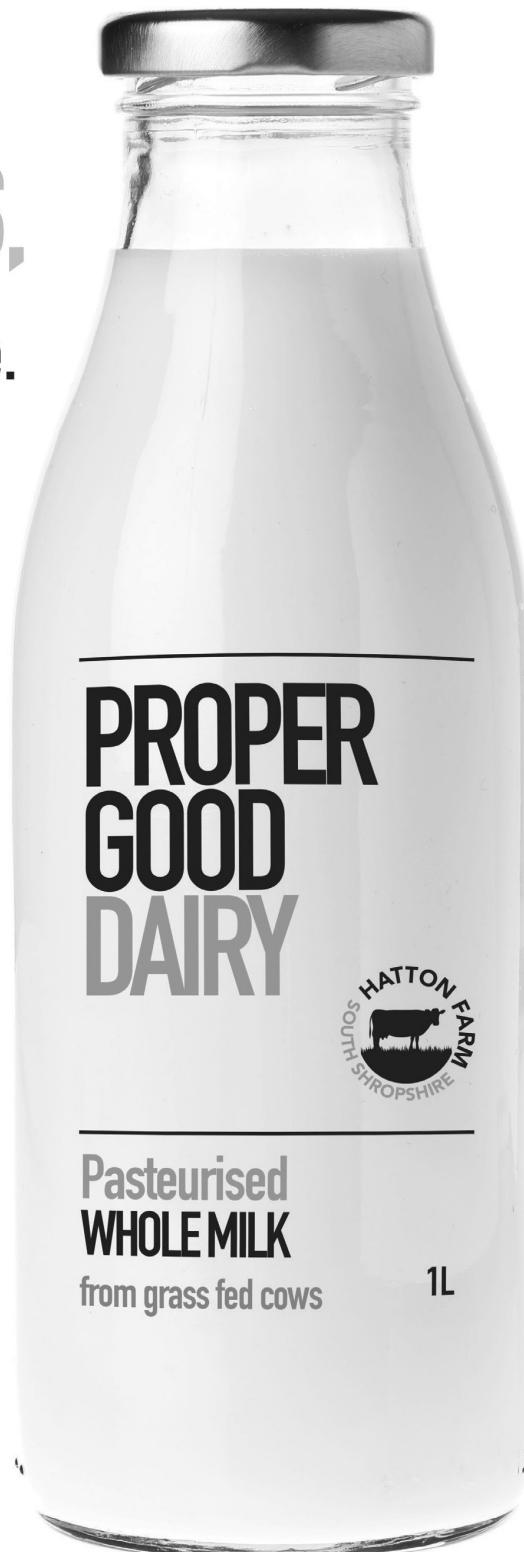
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Christmas fair 2026 (see page 29)

The annual church Christmas Fair is on 6th December in Minsterley Parish Hall. Could all donations of tombola items, cakes (for cake stall and refreshments) and raffle prizes all be dropped off with Marie before Thursday 4th December, or at the hall in the afternoon of Friday 5th?

Thank you.



Sarah Edwards

St George's Pontesbury and St Ruthen's Longden have been working in partnership over the last year to offer a service of meditation on the second Sunday of each month. This is just an hour to stop and reflect.

We listen to Taize music, keep silent and meditate, with nothing asked of you.

The next services are:

St Ruthen's 5pm Sunday 14th December
St George's 4pm Sunday 11th January 2026

Community Meal

The fifth (and possibly final) Community Meal takes place at Minsterley Parish Hall on Thursday 4th December at 4.45pm. If you would like to come please let me know so that we can allocate tickets accordingly. You can reserve places by texting 07902 794653 or emailing rectorpontstip@gmail.com.

Greg Smith

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
Psalm 119 : 105

The Autumn session of 'Ichthus' meetings concludes this month. Anyone with a desire to study the Bible with others is welcome to come. Meetings start at 2.30pm on Tuesday afternoons.

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| December 9th | The Blessing Snailbeach | Matthew 11:2-11 | Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|

Bible Readings in church this month

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 7th December | Isaiah 11. 1-10 | Romans 15. 4-13 | Matthew 3. 1-12 |
| 14th | Isaiah 35.1-10 | James 5. 7-10 | Matthew 11. 2-11 |
| 21st | Isaiah 7. 10-16 | Romans 1. 1-7 | Matthew 1. 18-end |
| Christmas Eve | Isaiah 52. 7-10 | Hebrews 1. 1-4 | Hebrews 1. 1-4 |
| Christmas Day | Isaiah 62. 6-end | Titus 3. 4-7 | Luke 2 1-20 |
| 28th | Jeremiah 31. 15-17 | 1 Corinthians 1. 26-29 | Matthew 2. 13-18 |



Christmas Tree Festival, December 5th - 7th

Entrance £3, children under 16 free

The Theme This Year is:

"Family at Christmas"

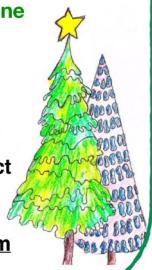
Set up Wed 3rd 9:00am - 6:00pm
Opening times

Friday 5th 10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday 6th 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday 7th 12:30pm - 4:30pm

Featuring on SAT 6th, 6pm - 8pm
Sing-Along Among The Trees,
with Stiperstones Brass Band and St George's Choir.
£3 includes Mince pie and mulled wine

Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments,
Toilets, Disabled Facilities

If you would like to enter a tree contact
Marianne McCall
Phone: 07944 333830
Email: mariannemccall.17@gmail.com



FESTIVE FRIENDS

Each year Festive Friends join together on Christmas Day to enjoy each other's company and consume an excellent festive lunch. If you are on your own this Christmas Day, for whatever reason and whatever age you are, do come and celebrate with us. Or if you are a carer or cared for and the day will be much like the other 364, do get in touch.

See poster on page 6 for contact details.



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or
danlewisfitness@btinternet.com

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Services in the Chirbury Hills Group of Parishes

December 2025

within the Deanery of Pontesbury and the Diocese of Hereford
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064761604289>

| | Holy Trinity Leighton | St Mary's Trelystan | St Michael's Chirbury | St Mark's Marton-in-Chirbury | Holy Trinity Middleton-in-Chirbury | Corndon Marsh Chapel |
|--|--|------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Sunday 7th December Advent 2 (Purple) | 10.00am Morning Worship Kay Yeates | | 11.15am Holy Communion Maxine Neal | | | 6pm Holy Communion Fran Brealey |
| Friday 12 th | 7.00pm Carol Service Greg Smith | | | | | |
| Sunday 14 th Advent 3 (Purple) | 4:30pm Evening Prayer Aster Meyer | | | 9:00am Holy Communion Greg Smith | 11:15am Family Worship Kay Yeates | |
| Friday 19 th | | | 6:30pm Lessons and Carols External minister | | | |
| Sunday 21 st Advent 4 (Purple) | | | 11.15am Holy Communion Ruth Leigh | 3pm Lessons & Carols Greg Smith | 10:00am Family Worship Aster Meyer | |
| Tuesday 23 rd | | | | | 4:30pm Crib Service Kay Yeates and Emma Beech | |
| Wed 24 th Christmas Eve | | | | | | 6:30pm Holy Communion Fran Brealey |
| Thur 25th Christmas Day | | | 11.30 am Holy Communion Fran Brealey | | | |
| Sunday 28 th 1 st Sunday of Christmas (White) | 10am Benefice-wide Morning Prayer St Michael's Chirbury Kay Yeates | | | | | |

You are warmly invited
to join us at any of our
churches!



Chirbury Hills Benefice contacts

Local Lay Minister: Kay Yeates
01938 561 640
km_yeates@yahoo.co.uk

Lay Worship Leader: Aster Meyer
aster.meyer@pm.me

Safeguarding Officers:
Kay Yeates (as above)
Chris Jerman
chrisjerman@yahoo.co.uk

Churchwardens:

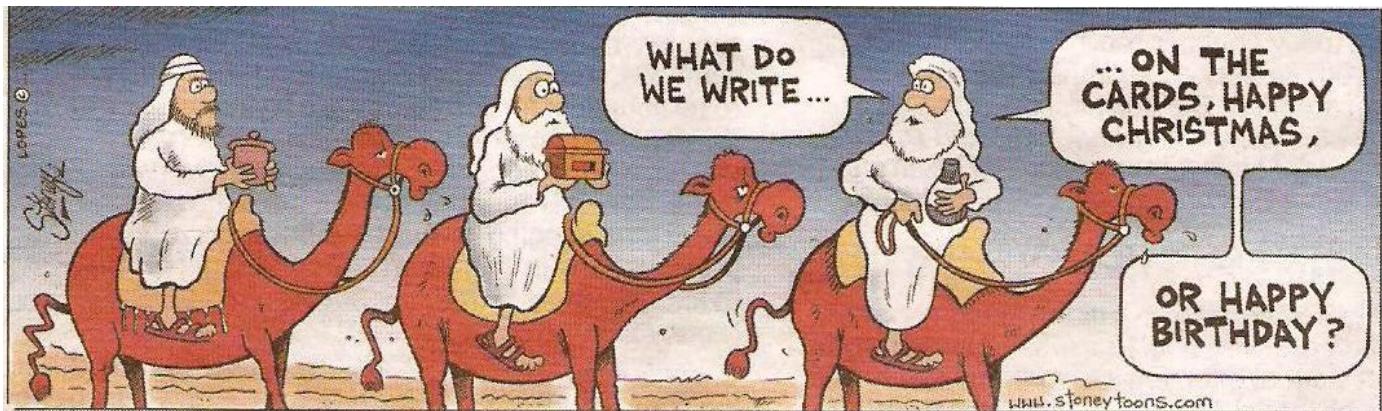
St. Michael's Chirbury
Tony Sheppard 01938 561821

St. Mark's Marton
Maureen Jenkins 01938 561645

Holy Trinity Middleton and The Marsh
Kay Yeates 01938 561640
Emma Bailey-Beech 01686 669971

Holy Trinity Leighton
John Markwick 01938 555043
Sally Beech 01938 554942

St. Mary's Trelystan
Janet Jones 07967 312460



8

Welcome to the second edition
of Chirbury Hills benefice news
within the Minsterley Parish
Magazine.

Please let Kay Yeates or the
editor have any comments or
feedback.

If you belong to a parish in
Chirbury Hills benefice and
would like to submit an article
or announcement for
publication please do so.
Contact details for the editor
on page 2.

December diary dates for Chirbury Hills Benefice

Wishing everyone in the Deanery a joyful and peaceful Christmas

Friday 12th 7.00pm
Carol Service at Holy Trinity Leighton

Saturday 13th 10.30am
Messy Church - join us in Chirbury church for crafting for Christmas, angels will be involved plus the usual biscuit decorating! NB. no charge for entry to Messy Church

10.30am -12noon
also in Chirbury church, the Christmas coffee morning; entry £2.50 to include coffee and mince pie. Punch, stalls and raffle.

Sunday 14th 2.30pm
Marton Church are joining with Marton Chapel for an afternoon carol service to be followed by tea and cakes in Marton Village Hall.

Friday 19th 6.30pm
Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Michaels Chirbury led by the Rev Justin Parker

Saturday 20th

Middleton and the Marsh Coffee Morning at Montgomery Town Hall, magnificent seasonal cake stall, raffle and textiles.

Sunday 21st 3.00pm
Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Marks Marton

Tuesday 23rd 4.30pm
Crib Service at Middleton church; come and place your pottery figures in the crib. Mince pies and star biscuits to follow, collection will be in aid of the local food bank.

A couple of thoughts for Advent :-

Our gospel readings have been from Luke and I think it is sometimes helpful to know the context for the passage. There are 24 days in December before Christmas and there are 24 chapters in Luke – why not read a chapter a day?

A Reverse Advent - this has been suggested before but I think is worth mentioning again. Each of the 24 days before Christmas an item can be put aside for the food bank to be donated after Christmas which can be a very lean time for those in need.

Question - How did the disciples build a growing church without a car, computer or mobile phone?

A clue perhaps -

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and enquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of his father's car.

The father offered his son the following deal: "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little more and get your haircut, then we'll talk about the car." The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your haircut.

The boy said, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's evidence that Jesus had long hair.

His dad replied, "Did you also notice that they walked everywhere they went?"



SCAM WARNING**Fraudsters target public with winter fuel payment scams**

Between April and September Action Fraud has received 2,790 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payment scams, with victims reporting losses totalling over £27,000. Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, you do not need to do anything. If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam.

Not sure if a message is real? Contact the organisation directly using the contact details on their official website, not the number or web address in the message. Your bank (or any other official source) won't ask you to supply personal information by email or text message.

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately

For some finding the joy at Christmas can feel very hard and lonely, but you are not alone. If you are struggling for whatever reason then come and join us at our

Blue Christmas Event

a gentle, contemplative time of reflection at
Minsterley Methodist Church

Wednesday December 17th

4-5pm in the church,
5pm onwards refreshments in the lounge
and the church will be open for private
quiet time

Join us when it suits you for as long as you
wish

End-of-year Greetings from Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a

As 2025 comes to a close, Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a would like to wish all our members — past, present, and future — a warm and wonderful Christmas, and a happy and healthy 2026.

This year has been filled with energy, friendship, and discovery. Our membership has grown again, we've welcomed new faces, and our groups have been busy as usual — learning, laughing, and living life to the full.

We have **over 25 interest groups** — there's something for everyone to enjoy and explore! And more are started if there is sufficient interest.

- Art History
- Family History
- Pickleball (2)
- Astronomy
- Folk Music
- Play Reading
- Board Games
- Gardening
- Poetry (Full)
- Café Society
- Geology
- Table Tennis (3)
- Creative Writing
- History
- Walking (Long)
- Cycling
- Literature
- Walking (Short)
- Embroidery
- Local History
- Wine Tasting
- Photography
- Wood Carving



pontesbury.u3asite.uk



u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

u3a activities are geared towards those no longer in full time employment. So if you have spare time and would like to stay active, curious, and connected, why not make u3a part of your new year?

Or come and meet us in person at our **Christmas Party** on the **17th December**, 2pm at The Pavilion.

From all of us at u3a — have a wonderful Christmas, and here's to a year ahead filled with new experiences, new friends, and laughter!



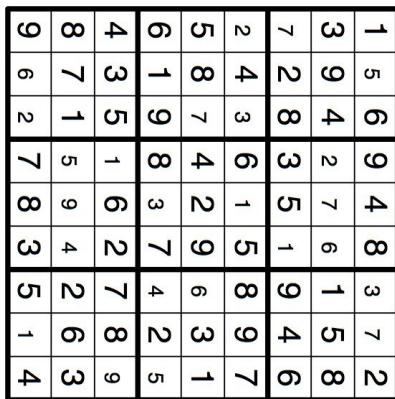
Check out our website for more details or contact **Steve** our Membership Secretary and Chair:
Phone: 07861 531 186

CRAFTY MONDAYS

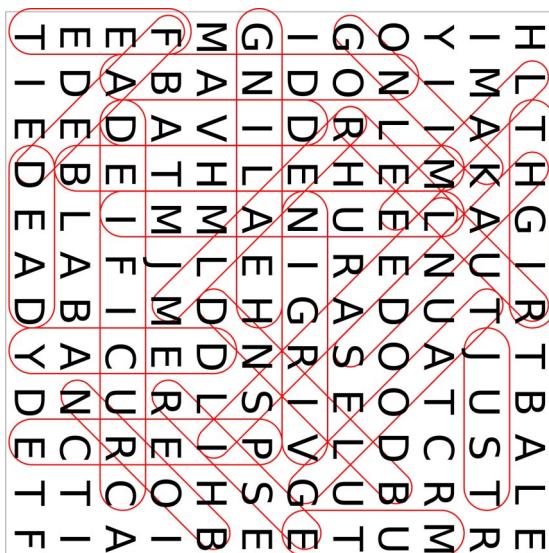
CRAFT AND CHAT

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
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AND JOIN US!



Answers





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



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Facebook: Bishops Castle Policing Team Rural Watch

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Non Emergency: 101

Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

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

SHREWSBURY RURAL WEST Safer Neighbourhood team (covers Minsterley)

Twitter: [@ShrewsburyCops](#)

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

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED

CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE

15th October 2025 – 15th November 2025

| CRIME REPORTED | DETAILS | LOCATION | NOTES |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Harassment | | Worthen | |
| Taking vehicle without consent | Vehicle taken from children's care home by resident | | Vehicle stopped and suspect arrested |
| Assault | x2 | Leigh | |
| Harassment | | Marton | |
| Harassment | | The Bog | |

20mph limits for schools

After years of campaigning 20mph speed limits will be introduced by Shropshire Council outside schools across Shropshire over the next two years. Chirbury, Worthen and Norbury Schools should all have the limits in place hopefully by April 2026. Chirbury School has already been contacted by the team that will do the work.

Flooding on the B4386

During heavy prolonged rain the Shrewsbury to Montgomery road (B4386 – including Marton, Brockton, Worthen and Westbury) floods in many places. Shropshire Council is looking to use this as a pilot to find ways to reduce the flooding along its length to make it possible to get home during periods of heavy rain. Local people's knowledge will be vital to do this.

Best wishes

Heather Kidd
Leader, Shropshire Council

As we were putting out cookies for Father Christmas one Christmas Eve, I accidentally dropped one. I picked it up and dusted it off before placing it back on the plate. "You can't do that," argued my four-year-old. But I assured him that Father Christmas would never know. He shot me a dubious look: "So, he knows if I've been bad or good all year, but he doesn't know if you dropped a cookie on the floor?"

Charity Coffee

Morning

Saturday 6th December

at Montgomery Town Hall

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12 noon for coffee/cakes/

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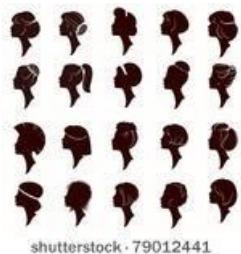
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Friday 9am-4pm

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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
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ddiymobile@gmail.com

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St Mary's church roof Habberley

This is an extract from the open letter from the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's church to residents of Habberley and surrounds. Its purpose is to outline the activities and financial state of the church, to thank those who contribute time or money and to appeal for active participants in our work.

A recent inspection of the church reveals that some work is needed on the roof. We do not yet know what will be required, but it will of course be another drain on our resources.

In 2024 our total income was £6,420 and expenditure £8.487; meaning we had a deficit of £2,067. At this rate it costs £163 per week to keep the church going. We try to expunge the deficit each year by fund-raising, but we are hampered by the paucity of active members. We hope that some of you will recognize that an active and thriving church is good for the whole community and will come forward to help us to achieve our objectives.

If you would like more information, or (better still) wish to volunteer your time or offer a donation, please contact me.

Robert Currie
Treasurer, PCC Habberley
robert.h.currie@gmail.com



Community Resource Oil Buying Club

Now is the time to take advantage of cheaper heating oil. The price of oil is usually at its highest during December to February. You can save even more by being a part of our oil club. Community Resource is a local charity that runs an Oil Buying Club to reduce the heating costs of those living without gas.

By bringing communities throughout Shropshire together and making the most of joint buying power, we can make savings for people like you whose fuel costs are high simply because you aren't on mains gas.

Being a member not only gives you great savings on your bills but removes the often time-consuming task of ringing around suppliers for the best price. With local coordinators to help those without email, and access to suppliers who can deliver to remote properties, the scheme can cater for everyone.

Membership of the scheme is £27 per year which covers our costs. For more information please visit our website. Next order deadlines are Tuesday 2nd December and Tuesday 6th January

Nickie Long
Affordable Fuel Project Officer (01743 342167)
www.community-resource.org.uk
4 The Creative Quarter, Shrewsbury Business Park,
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| | |
|--|---|
| | <h2>MONDAY</h2> <p>YOUTH CAFE (term time) 3.30 - 5pm Years 7 - 10 activities snacks free Wi-Fi music Contact Joe on 07387 578230 for more information</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 7 - 8pm Group meets every two weeks. For information contact Greg Smith 07902 794653</p> |
| | <h2>TUESDAY</h2> <p>REA VALLEY FOODBANK 10am - 12pm For information contact Greg Smith 07902 794653 or go to www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk</p> <p>ICTHUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP 2.30 - 4.30pm 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. For information contact PApontstip@outlook.com</p> |
| | <h2>WEDNESDAY</h2> <p>COFFEE HUB 10am - 12pm</p> <p>A drop-in community cafe where everyone is welcome. FREE tea and coffee cake and biscuits chat and companionship</p> |
| | <h2>THURSDAY</h2> <p>TRINITY TOTS (term time) 10am - 11.30pm</p> <p>A pre-school drop-in group for under 5s with their parents or carers. Activities crafts toys stories songs snacks</p> |

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)





Telephone 01743 791208

52/53

Shrewsbury to Bishops Castle

www.minsterleymotors.co.uk



| Notes (SCH - School Days Only) | Monday to Friday | | | | | | | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | SCH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BUS STATION, Stand N | 07:35 | 08:10 | 08:50 | 09:05 | 10:25 | 11:00 | 12:00 | 12:30 | 13:30 | 14:00 | 14:35 | 15:45 | 16:25 | 17:00 | 17:40 | 18:10 | 08:00 | 08:35 | 10:05 | 10:45 | 12:30 | 13:45 | 14:45 | 15:40 | 17:00 | 17:40 | | | | |
| Copthorne Rd, opp Barracks | 07:42 | 08:17 | 08:57 | 10:12 | 10:32 | 11:07 | 12:07 | 12:37 | 13:37 | 14:07 | 14:42 | 15:52 | 16:32 | 16:32 | 17:07 | 17:47 | 18:17 | 08:07 | 08:42 | 10:12 | 10:52 | 12:37 | 13:52 | 14:52 | 15:47 | 17:07 | 17:47 | | | |
| Shrewsbury Hospital | | | 09:02 | 10:17 | 10:37 | 12:12 | 12:42 | 13:42 | 14:12 | 15:57 | 16:37 | 17:12 | 17:52 | | 08:12 | 08:47 | 10:17 | 10:57 | 12:42 | 13:57 | 14:57 | 15:52 | 17:12 | 17:52 | | | | | | |
| Radbrook, Oakfield Rd Jct | 07:47 | 08:22 | | | 11:12 | | | | 14:47 | | 16:37 | | 18:22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanwood, Canadoc View Jct | 07:52 | 08:27 | 09:07 | 10:22 | 10:42 | 11:17 | 12:17 | 12:47 | 13:47 | 14:17 | 14:52 | 16:02 | 16:42 | 16:42 | 17:17 | 17:57 | 18:27 | 08:17 | 08:52 | 10:22 | 11:02 | 12:47 | 14:02 | 15:02 | 15:57 | 17:17 | 17:57 | | | |
| Hanwood, Cock Inn | 07:54 | 08:29 | 09:09 | 10:24 | 10:44 | 11:19 | 12:19 | 12:49 | 13:49 | 14:19 | 14:54 | 16:04 | 16:44 | 16:44 | 17:19 | 17:59 | 18:29 | 08:19 | 08:54 | 10:24 | 11:04 | 12:49 | 14:04 | 15:04 | 15:59 | 17:19 | 17:59 | | | |
| Lea Cross, adj Jct | 07:57 | 08:32 | 09:12 | 10:27 | 10:47 | 11:22 | 12:22 | 12:52 | 13:52 | 14:22 | 14:57 | 16:07 | 16:47 | 16:47 | 17:22 | 18:02 | 18:32 | 08:22 | 08:57 | 10:27 | 11:07 | 12:52 | 14:07 | 15:07 | 16:02 | 17:22 | 18:02 | | | |
| Mary Webb SH | 08:38 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pontesbury, opp Shop | 08:03 | 08:38 | 09:18 | 10:33 | 10:53 | 11:28 | 12:28 | 12:58 | 13:58 | 14:28 | 15:03 | 16:13 | 16:53 | 16:53 | 17:28 | 18:08 | 18:38 | 08:28 | 09:03 | 10:33 | 11:13 | 12:53 | 14:13 | 15:13 | 16:08 | 17:28 | 18:08 | | | |
| Minsterley, adj crown & sceptre | 08:07 | 08:42 | 09:22 | 10:37 | 10:57 | 11:32 | 12:32 | 13:02 | 14:02 | 14:32 | 15:07 | 16:17 | 16:57 | 16:57 | 17:32 | 18:12 | 18:42 | 08:32 | 09:07 | 10:37 | 11:17 | 13:02 | 14:17 | 15:17 | 16:12 | 17:32 | 18:12 | | | |
| Plax Green, Crossroads | 08:09 | | | | 10:39 | 10:59 | 11:34 | 12:34 | 13:04 | 14:04 | 14:34 | 16:19 | 16:59 | 16:59 | 18:14 | 18:44 | 08:34 | 09:09 | 10:39 | 11:21 | 13:04 | 14:19 | 15:19 | 16:16 | 17:38 | 18:14 | | | | |
| Shalcombe, Village Hall | | | | | 11:01 | | | | 14:05 | | 16:21 | | 17:01 | | 18:46 | | 09:12 | | | | 14:21 | | | | 17:40 | | | | | |
| Stiperstones, adj Pub | | | | | 11:05 | | | | 14:10 | | 16:26 | | 17:05 | | 18:50 | | 09:15 | | | | 14:25 | | | | 17:45 | | | | | |
| Hope | 08:15 | | 10:45 | | 12:40 | | 14:40 | | 17:05 | | 18:20 | | 18:20 | | 08:40 | | 10:45 | | | 15:25 | | | | 18:20 | | | | | | |
| Graves | 08:19 | | 10:49 | | 12:44 | | 14:44 | | 17:09 | | 18:24 | | 08:44 | | 10:49 | | | 15:29 | | | 18:24 | | | | | | | | | |
| White Grit, Jct | 08:23 | | 10:53 | | 12:48 | | 14:48 | | 17:13 | | 18:28 | | 08:48 | | 10:53 | | | 15:33 | | | 18:28 | | | | | | | | | |
| Llan Tum Jct | 08:27 | | 10:57 | | 12:52 | | 14:52 | | 17:17 | | 18:32 | | 08:52 | | 10:57 | | | 15:37 | | | 18:32 | | | | | | | | | |
| Lydbham Glebe Meadow Jct | 08:31 | | 11:01 | | 12:56 | | 14:56 | | 17:21 | | 18:36 | | 08:56 | | 11:01 | | | 15:41 | | | 18:36 | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishops Castle Salop Street, [ct] | 08:33 | | 11:03 | | 12:58 | | 14:58 | | 17:23 | | 18:38 | | 08:58 | | 11:03 | | | 15:43 | | | 18:38 | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishops Castle, adj Boars Head | 08:35 | | 11:05 | | 13:00 | | 15:00 | | 17:25 | | 18:40 | | 09:00 | | 11:05 | | | 15:45 | | | 18:40 | | | | | | | | | |

From September 2024



Telephone 01743 791208

552/553 Bishops Castle to Shrewsbury

www.minsterleymotors.co.uk



Celebrate Christmas!

Sunday 14th December

3pm at Hope Church

Traditional Candlelit Carol Service

Sunday 21st December

4pm at Shelve Church

All-Age Christingle Service

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

10am at Hope Church

Christmas Day Holy Communion

9.30am at Shelve Church.

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services in December



7th. Second Sunday of Advent Service led by members of the congregation.

14th. 10.30am Minsterley Praise at Holy Trinity Church.

Wed 17th. 4 - 6pm "Blue Christmas": a gentle, contemplative time of reflection for those who find the Christmas season hard.

21st. Carol Service led by the congregation

24th. 4pm: Carols by Candlelight.

25th. Christmas Day Service. Preacher Rev Brian Spencer. You are welcome to bring along a gift that you have received

28th. Local Arrangement

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

Stuart Carter Concert

Thank you to Stuart for performing so wonderfully at Habberley Village Hall on 7th December, and for his supporting crew.

A magnificent £433 was raised for St Mary's funds.

Greg Smith



Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

7th December Mike Hallworth

With Holy Communion

21st December Carol service

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

Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

HOPE AND SHELVE PARISH

Christmas Coffee and Cake with children's activities

Saturday December 13th

10a.m - 12 noon

**Hope Village Hall
SY5 0JB**



Our partner churches in the Stiperstones Group —

St Luke's Festival Church Snailbeach



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 Stiperstones churches website.

Next service:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|--|
| Christmas Day | 9.00am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 28th Dec | 10.30am | Group Communion service at Minsterley |

St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

Church Wardens

Pauline Stopford, The Kennels, Habberley (01743 790784)

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

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---|
| Sunday 14th Dec | 5.00pm | Evensong |
| Christmas Eve | 5.00pm | Carol Service |
| Christmas Day | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 28th | 10.30am | Holy Communion (Group service at Minsterley) |



Hope & Shelve Parish

(services at Holy Trinity Church Hope
And All Saints' Church Shelve)

Church Warden

Barbara Venables

Refreshments are served at all our services!



December

| | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday 7th | 9.00am | Shelve | Advent Holy Communion |
| Sunday 14th | 3.00pm | Hope | Carols by Candlelight |
| Sunday 21st | 4.00pm | Shelve | all-age Christingle Service |

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| Christmas Eve | 10.00am | Hope | Holy Communion |
| Christmas Day | 9.30am | Shelve | Holy Communion |

Sunday 28th 10.30am

Holy Communion
(Group service at Minsterley)

E S T 1 9 3 6

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