

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

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



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





Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



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

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

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(day off - Monday)
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Westbury
07557 340174
revian01@outlook.com

Church Warden
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

Treasurer
Mike Bowen 07826 061054
mintreasure@btinternet.com

Church services this month

Sunday 2nd 4.00pm Tea time service
Sunday 9th 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 16th **10.00am** Minsterley Praise at the
Methodist Church
Sunday 23rd 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 30th 10.30am GROUP SERVICE at
Shelve - Farewell to Fran

Other events this month

Thu 6th Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (page 7)
Mon 10th Crafty Monday (page 13)
Tues 11th Oasis (page 7)
Parish Council meeting (page 11)
Sat 15th Minsterley Show (page 3)
Wildlife Walk (page 7)
Tue 18th The Gathering (page 4)
Thur 20th Mountain Song (page 20)
Sat 22nd Vintage Vehicle Rally (page 11)
Tue 25th Oasis (page 7)

Please see page 34 -35 for details of services in
the other churches in our Stiperstones group

Weekly events in the church (see page 31)

Tuesdays 10.00am Foodbank (page 6)
Wednesdays 10.00am Coffee Hub

See also the diary of monthly events in
Chirbury Hills group on page 19

Cover photo by David Young:
Creation Panel 7 of "Threads Through the Bible"
exhibition recently at Chester Cathedral.
See www.jacqui-textile.com/bible/ for details of
where the exhibition can be seen.

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

Copy date for the next issue is the 20th of the month

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

e-mail: MinsterleyParishMagazine@gmail.com

To advertise: see details on page 23



What's On!

15 AUG	MINSTERLEY SHOW visit us at the refreshments tent for homemade sandwiches and cakes
12 SEPT	GARDEN TEA at Merrilees, Reabrook, with parking at Hillcrest Manor
12 SEPT	OF ONE ACCORD CONCERT with TOM BARNES of JOHNS' BOYS
12 & 19 SEPT	RIDE & STRIDE sponsored walk for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust
4 OCT	HARVEST LUNCH & AUCTION celebrating our rural community
14 NOV	SOUP AND A SANDWICH our take on a lunchtime coffee morning!
12 DEC	CHRISTMAS FAIR cakes, crafts, food, music and Santa
16 DEC	CHRISTINGLE & CAROLS with Stiperstones Brass Band
DEC	CHRISTMAS EVENTS more to follow...

CONCERT

Of One Accord

AND

TOM BARNES

of Johns' Boys

SATURDAY
12TH
SEPTEMBER
AT 7PM

AT
HOLY TRINITY MINSTERLEY



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RAFFLE
 AND
 REFRESHMENTS
 ON SALE

Minsterley Show refreshments



Holy Trinity Minsterley will be running the refreshments stall at Minsterley Show again this August (15th). Could anyone who is able to bake some cakes for us to sell (as slices or as whole cakes) please let me know asap.

We also have a freezer available to store anything that's made in advance. Thank you.

And of course, if you are at the Show, pop in and see us for homemade sandwiches and cakes.

Sarah Edwards

You're invited to

GARDEN TEA

5TH SEPTEMBER
 1PM - 4PM

AT MERRILEES, REABROOK



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Dear friends,

Is your faith ordinary or extraordinary? Well...the right answer is both! Responding to the call to follow Christ makes an amazing difference to our lives. It brings joys and challenges. His call takes us on a journey we could never have expected. Christ brings us into fellowship with a wide variety of people, takes us to new places, and equips us for tasks we would not have chosen or felt able to do. Like the miracle of water into wine, and the feeding of the 5,000, Christ takes up the ordinary elements of our lives and makes something extraordinary. We are caught up afresh in this miracle of transformation every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

As Hereford Diocese marks 1,350 years, we celebrate the extraordinary power of Christ to convert, equip and sustain his people in mission in this part of the world. But the ordinary stuff counts as well. Every time I officiate at a wedding I point out the chancel arch under which the couple stand. It points to God, but has its foundations deep in the ground. Our lives need to be inspired by God and rooted in reality. There is a wisdom which comes from heaven, writes James in his letter (ch.3 v.17), but it is made real in everyday living. I have been helped a lot over the years by the "Everyday Faith" material produced by the Church of England. It is available as a free app with daily bitesize Bible verses, teaching, prayers and

actions (and often an image to meditate on, and music to still the soul). It is more than a BLT (Blessed Little Thought), it is down-to-earth practical wisdom for the whole of life.

Our faith is at its best when it is rooted in the everyday things we do, not merely reserved for Sundays or special occasions. Our daily journeys can be a kind of pilgrimage, through places which prompt prayers, and landmarks which remind us of God's presence. Our daily tasks can be acts of devotion (try learning George Herbert's hymn 'Teach me, my God and King'). Our relationships at home, work, church and school, take us further into God's grace as we give and receive love and friendship. I am inspired by the rich tapestry of faith that exists on our doorstep - labyrinths, holy wells, ruined abbeys, preaching crosses, hermitages, and the farms connected to religious foundations.

Jesus models how the extraordinary and the ordinary meet. In him we find the crossroads of life in all its fullness.

Rev Stephen Griffiths
Ford benefice

"One Church" prayer meeting

Worthen Methodist Chapel

4.30-5.30pm every Wednesday

to pray for the Rea Valley

All are welcome to come and join, or to pray with us from wherever you are at that time.

Domini Lucas

A poster for 'The Gathering' event. The background is a dark blue image of people worshipping with their hands raised. The title 'The Gathering' is in large, white, stylized letters. Below it, the text 'An evening of Praising & Worshipping God' is in white. A quote in italics reads 'Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.' Below that, '(1 Thessalonians 5: 11)' is written. At the bottom, 'Everyone welcome' is written in white.

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 18th August,
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”

Nigeria – Report demonstrates Christian women and girls at risk of severe human rights abuses

Christian women and girls in northern and Middle Belt Nigeria are among those at risk of severe abuses, according to a report published by human rights experts. These abuses include abduction, sexual violence, forced marriage and forced conversion to Islam.

In just one horrific example, a 16-year-old Christian girl was reported to have had her hand cut off after her family rejected a proposal of marriage from an Islamist militant. “Violence targeting Christians and other religious minorities continues to be rampant,” read the report published 8th June.

The report highlighted “very specific and heightened risks of discrimination, violence and exploitation that Christian women and girls are exposed to,” citing, “grave cases of sexual violence, abductions, acts tantamount to enforced disappearances, forced conversion and child marriage amongst them.”

“These crimes took place within a broader pattern of violence disproportionately affecting Christian communities in some northern states,” it continues. This includes, “killings, attacks on churches and villages ... [and] mob violence linked to accusations of blasphemy.”

Twelve states in northern Nigeria have incorporated sharia (Islamic law) into their legal systems, including “blasphemy” laws that have led to human rights abuses.

Myanmar – Military kills two Christians

Two Christian civilians in Chin State were captured and killed in the village of Htin Chaung, Mindat Township, by the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) on 30th May. The two men, aged 16 and 60, were shot and killed by soldiers who also burned down ten houses in the area.

“They were ordinary villagers with no connection to any armed groups,” said a resident. More than 17,000 people forced from their homes by continual fighting have sought refuge in Mindat Township.

Iran/Turkey – Iranian convert couple’s custody of adopted daughter questioned by Turkish immigration officials

Iranian Christian converts Sam Khosravi and Maryam Falahi again face the threat of losing custody of their eight-year-old adopted daughter, Lydia, as they seek to remain in Turkey, where they have sought asylum.

On 2nd June Turkish immigration officials questioned Sam and Maryam’s right to legal custody of Lydia, who has chronic health issues. An order from a family court while the couple were still living in Iran ruled Lydia to be Muslim under sharia (Islamic law) and demanded Lydia’s removal from their care because of their faith.

In 2018 the couple adopted Lydia when she was three months old and living in a state orphanage. Welfare and Social Services in Iran then granted them custody rights.

In 2019 Iranian security forces raided a Christian gathering in Bushehr, in the south-west of Iran, arresting the couple. They were convicted the following year of “propaganda against the regime” due to their Christian faith and membership of a house church.

The judge at the family court in Bushehr acknowledged that Lydia had an “intense emotional attachment” to her adoptive parents. Nevertheless he ruled in July 2020 that because Lydia was born to unknown parents she is Muslim under Islamic law and cannot be raised by Christian parents.

The ruling was contested by more than 120 Iranian lawyers and civil activists, but to no avail.

The family fled Iran that year, before sentences of imprisonment, internal exile and fines could take effect, and applied for asylum in Turkey.

The Turkish immigration officials insisted that the couple apply to a Turkish court to seek the annulment of the 2020 ruling, but such a court has no jurisdiction over the Bushehr family court’s decision. They also mentioned that Turkish social welfare services could remove Lydia.



Do we need a Foodbank in Rea Valley?

We have found that there is a very wide range of people who need and use our local, community-run charity. The main challenge that individuals and families face is a fixed or low income, whether in work or on benefits, and the increased cost of living. We have higher travel costs and it's harder to get to the cheaper supermarkets.

As a locally run group we are flexible in how we meet different needs, so people can come once, every week or when they need to. We don't have a set number of visits. We do need people to be referred by a professional (see below). People do not like asking for help, and these agencies are better placed to know about their circumstances, which are often highly confidential. We respond to different needs:

Emergencies

That can be a discharge from hospital or a baby coming early. We try to meet emergency needs, so do contact us direct or come along when the Foodbank is open.

Short-term needs

This might be a sudden change, for example a relationship breakdown or losing a job. Some people are relocated because they are victims of domestic abuse or other crime. Others have claimed benefits and need the Foodbank as a stop gap until these are received. Some have an unexpected cost or bill, such as for a broken appliance, and on a fixed or low income, even in work, this can cause debts.

Ongoing needs

Some who use Foodbank have more than one difficulty that makes life harder to manage. This can be illness and disabilities, and those with learning disabilities and mental health issues. People don't like to ask for help but also struggle to deal with systems to get them the support that may be available. We regularly signpost people on to other services such as Citizens Advice and Shropshire Council's "Cost of Living Support" service. Our users update us on changes to our service and are very appreciative of the help they receive. We do regularly review the service to all our users.

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 ask your local clergy, GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See Facebook or our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/>.

Jean Garner



Hosepipe ban? Watch out for fraudsters too!

When major events hit the headlines, fraudsters are never far behind.

If you receive an unexpected call, text, or email claiming to be from your water company saying that your area is affected by a hosepipe ban, Stop, Think Fraud:

✗ Don't click links, people are being redirected to fake websites that look genuine.

✗ Don't share personal or banking details.

✗ Don't feel pressured into making a payment.

☒ Genuine water companies won't rush you into paying over the phone

Not sure if it's real? Contact your water company using the official number from a recent bill or log into your account using the app.

Forward texts to 7726, for calls send the word CALL followed by the number to 7726 and for emails forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk



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REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALKS : 2026

Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group at our monthly local walks - providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

Free to attend and no booking required.



Sun 17th May 10am - 1pm Buxton Hill Stroll Viewpoint Car Park Tankerville <i>games,cheeses,strongman</i>	Sat 20th Jun 10am - 1pm Minsterley Mooch On street, Minsterley <i>mush,harsh,factories</i>	Sun 19th Jul 10am - 1pm Hinton Hike Station Road Car Park, Pontesbury <i>irritated,swift,freedom</i>	Sat 15th Aug 10am - 1pm Pulverbatch Plod Pulverbatch Car Park <i>wriggle,disbelief,housework</i>
Sun 20th Sep 10am - 1pm The Hollies Bimble Snailbeach Car Park <i>works,plenty,ecologist</i>	Sat 17th Oct 10am - 1pm Hope Valley Amble Hope Valley Nature Reserve Car Park <i>movements,ankle,logs</i>	Sun 15th Nov 10am - 1pm Eastridge Excursion Eastridge Wood Car Park <i>buzzards,uniforms,swift</i>	Sat 12th Dec 10am - 1pm Stiperstones Stomp Stiperstones Inn Car Park <i>foods,grownup,overdone</i>

 Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg
 More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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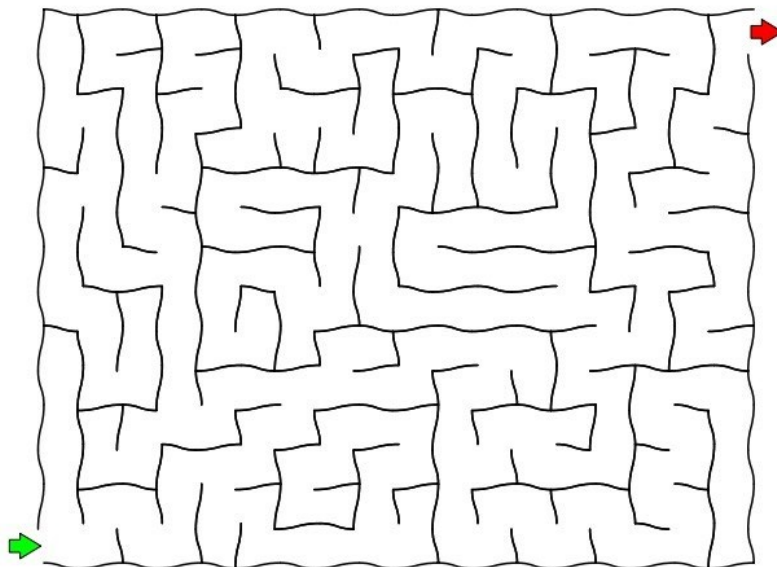


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Puzzle Page

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Wordsearch - John the Baptist

This month, on the 29th, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a

reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life.

Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of God's Son, Jesus.

Jesus did not have an easy life, either.



...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!

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John
Baptist
Rough
Obscurity
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Bugs
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Heat
Sun
Challenge
Muddy
Jordan
Arrested
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Cut
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Saturday: 9.00am – 12 noon

We look forward to seeing you.

MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw	Date	No	Winner
Draw 25	24 th June	10 16	Vicki Barton Jones Lynn Evans
Draw 26	1 st July	56 54	Keith Andrews Jan Gittins
Draw 27	8 th July	37 45	Beryl Allen Christine Parry
Draw 28	15 th July	56 34	Keith Andrews Sylvia Povey

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Minsterley Parish Council

The Parish supports concerns from residents regarding the proposal to close the Meole Brace Park & Ride service.

Further damage has occurred to the wall around the edge of the road island in the centre of the Square, Minsterley.

A report on the accessibility to the play areas, for disabled users, remains in progress.

The Parishes of Hanwood, Pontesbury and Minsterley continue to work as a cluster group towards the Rea Valley Nature Recovery Scheme.

Minsterley will share with Pontesbury the costs for the annual solar light cleaning between the two Parishes.

The next meeting of Minsterley Parish Council will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th August in Minsterley Parish Hall.

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

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



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."



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The first letter from the new archdeacon of Ludlow



“Journeys”

I wonder how many journeys you have planned in your lifetime: the daily trips and the longer adventures; the familiar routes we take almost on autopilot, and the journeys we plan carefully because of where we are going, or what we hope to do and see.

There are the journeys we make every day—to work, to school, or to see a neighbour. There are the journeys we make less often, but still regularly: visiting relatives, going to church, or attending commitments. And then there are the journeys we may make only once in a lifetime. Each journey has a purpose, a beginning and an end: to see a loved one, to celebrate, to earn a living, to shop for food, to visit the doctor, to take a holiday, or to explore somewhere new.

As a family, we recently spent hours planning the route and places to stay for a road trip through Italy—from Lake Como to Naples and back. We wanted to visit the places on our “we would really like to see” list, while also making time to rest, explore and enjoy being together. The planning resulted in a wonderful holiday: we saw amazing things, experienced busyness and rest, encountered a different culture, and came home refreshed—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Throughout the Bible there is a great deal of journeying, and often in those physical journeys we see God at work in the lives of those who travel. We see the Israelites rescued by God and formed as his people; Elijah running away and discovering that God is with him; Paul shipwrecked yet protected so that he can speak to others about Jesus; and Jesus journeying to the cross, revealing God’s ultimate love through his words and actions along the way.

At the beginning of July, I was part of two joyful services as Bishop Richard ordained our new

priests and deacons. As I sat through those services, I was reminded again of journeys—not physical journeys this time, but spiritual ones: the journeys we make with God as we respond to his call and leading. As followers of Jesus, we are called by God into his service, a calling that takes many shapes and forms. Like our physical journeys, our spiritual journeys have a purpose. Paul speaks of doing whatever we do to the glory of God, and Jesus teaches that in all we do we reveal God to others—his light, his life and his love. So, as we head into a season of holiday journeys, I wonder whether we might use the opportunity of a physical journey to reflect on our spiritual one, from beginning to end.

Venerable Sam Hustwayte
Archdeacon of Ludlow



"Yes" cried the stranger, "I am the Greek you forgot as soon as you left college!"

A young curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and, being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicarage bell, and the door was answered by a very attractive teenage daughter. “Is your dad here?” the curate managed to whisper. “No,” she whispered back, thinking she had got the message. “Come on in!”

The curate went to the building society about his investments, “We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday.” Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: “Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?”

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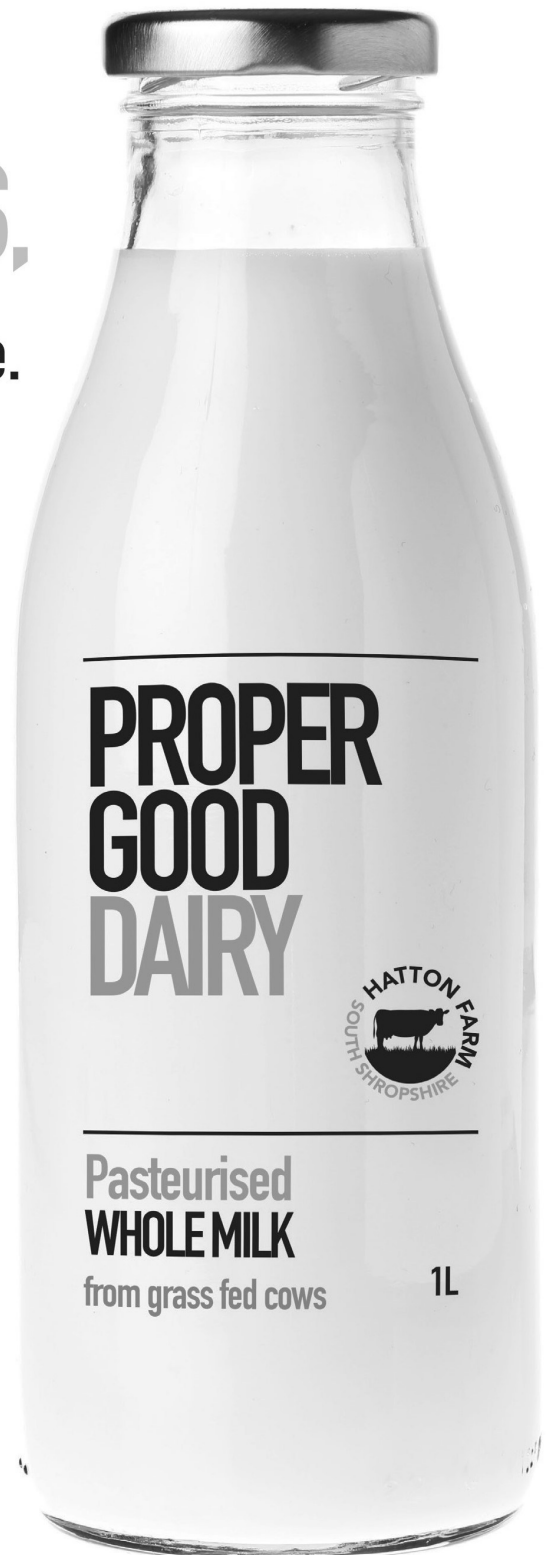
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Heather Kidd's Report for July

The Local Plan

The Local Plan (for housing development) under the Government's new guidelines has now gone out to consultation around the process. The maps of land attached to it are just those of pieces of land put forward for the last withdrawn plan. More land will be added for consideration and will go out for formal consultation in May. Many of those sites will not be approved at that stage. The whole process should take thirty months to complete.

Project Gigabit

Openreach has given me the following indicative timescales for the completion of the Project Gigabit-funded roll-out of full-fibre broadband networks in the five main telephone exchange areas that serve our area:

Chirbury 2027, Churchstoke 2027,
Worthen 2028, Pontesbury 2029,
Halfway House 2029.

If you have any queries, contact them on connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk

Potholes

The potholing crews are now permanently filling more than 500 more potholes per week than are being created.

There are many roads that need overlays and resurfacing and there are certainly some around Blackmore, Caus and Hem Lane (to name a few) that need more than potholing. Time and funding are issues but I am pressing for them to be put in the capital programme.

Teams out doing permanent pothole fixes can now add any more of the correct size on to their

tablets. They take a picture, fill it, take another picture and then they can be paid. Common sense at last.

Bins and Grass Cutting

Please report any full bins and uncut grass on FixMyStreet and let me know, please. I will chase them too.

Buses

The Government gave Shropshire £200k less this year and the retendering has meant that some buses have had to be stopped. We are lucky and as you know, the 558 will be an improved service with the later return for workers, but also an extra service in the day. The bus company will also change to D&M.

One of the services stopped is Meole Brace Park and Ride as its costs were just too great. Oxon continues and the Hospital shuttle will also continue from there to the hospital.

The Council Finances

The Council continues to work on balancing the books, and is gradually cutting overspends. Last year meant there were no reserves left and those are now gradually being replenished.

The Government is now putting pressure on the Council to sell all unused property. There will be more considered. This will reduce borrowing, which has to be paid back at approximately 11% (interest and repayment).

Heather Kidd

Shropshire Councillor

Mobile: 07980 635518

heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

When children write to their minister:

"Dear Mr. Minister.....

- I know God loves everybody but then He never met my sister. - Arnold, age 8.

- Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. - Pete, age 9.

- My father should be a minister. Every day he gives me a sermon about something. - Robert Anderson, age 11.

- I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? - Patty, age 10.

- My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week, even if she has a cold. - Annette, age 9.

- I would like to go to heaven someday, because I know my brother won't be there. - Stephen, age 8.

- I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. - Loreen, age 9.

- My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to, because we have enough rules already in my house. - Joshua, age 10

Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class. - Carla, age 10

Investment Planning
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Questions you might ask

Question – I have heard of Benevolent Funds, but what are they and can they help with care costs?

Answer - Benevolent funds in the UK are charitable organisations providing financial support, grants, and practical assistance to people facing hardship, often linked to specific professions, trades or industries that a person has worked in.

They can offer advice and practical help, including grants for items such as furniture, computers, and white goods, as well as assistance with everyday living costs. In addition, they may provide funding towards care home fees, top-up costs, or home care services, such as daily care visits during times of need.

If you are unsure whether your former employer or the industry you worked in has a benevolent fund, you can find out by contacting Turn2us. Turn2us is a UK-based national charity that helps people experiencing financial hardship access welfare benefits, charitable grants, and support services. Their helpline number is 0808 802 2000 and their website: www.turn2us.org.uk.

Question – How do you qualify for a Council Tax reduction?

Answer - Council Tax Reductions are underclaimed, with an estimated 2.4–2.7 million eligible people missing out—around 1 in 4 households.

People may qualify in several ways, including:

- A 25% single-person discount
- Full exemptions for full-time students
- Reductions for those with severe mental impairment; people diagnosed with conditions such as severe dementia may qualify for a reduction of between 25% and 100%, depending on circumstances and council rules.

In England, schemes are set by local councils, while Scotland and Wales have national systems. **Council Tax Reduction is not automatic—you must apply through your local council.**

Organisations like Citizens Advice and Age UK can help check eligibility and support applications.

Angela Gifford

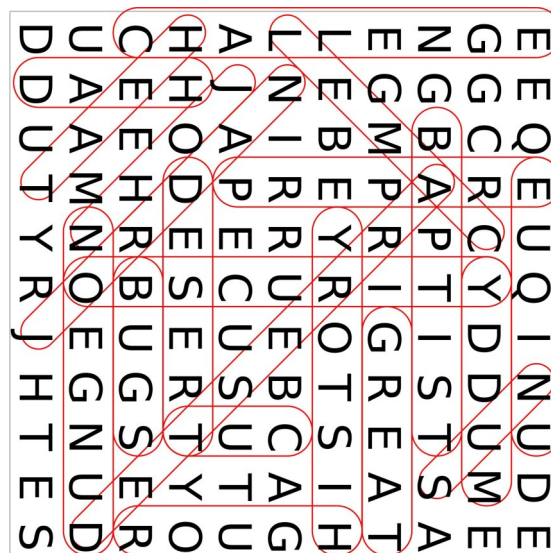
www.ablecommunitycare.com

Bible Readings in church this month



Why not read these at home if you are unable to join us for Sunday worship?

2 nd August	Isaiah 55. 1-5 Romans 9. 1-5 Matthew 14. 13-21
9 th August	1 Kings 19. 9-18 Romans 10. 5-15 Matthew 14. 22-33
16 th August	Psalms 67 Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15. [10-20] 21-28
23 rd August	Isaiah 51. 1-6 Romans 12. 1-8 Matthew 16. 13-20
30 th August	Jeremiah 15.15-21 Romans 12. 9-end Matthew 16. 21-end



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

Answers



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Sunday services in the Chirbury Hills Group of Parishes July 2026

within the Deanery of Pontesbury and the Diocese of Hereford

	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
Sun 2nd	10.00am Morning Worship Aster		No service			6.00pm Holy Communion Fran
Sun 9th	4.00pm Evensong Aster			No service	No service	
Sun 16th	* see below	No service * see below	No service * see below	* see below	10.00am Family Worship Kay	
Sun 23rd	No service			9.00am Holy Communion Freddie		
Sun 30th			10.30am Holy Communion Richard			

** * St Michael's Church, Ford, SY5 9LZ, has given
an open Invitation to everyone in
Chirbury Hills Group to join in their service of
Holy Communion at 11am on Sunday 16th August.*

*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

Chirbury Hills group of churches Dates for your diary - August

Tuesday 11th Coffee, cake and chat at Chirbury
café

Sunday 30th Benefice Service 10.30am at
St. Michael's Chirbury

Monday 31st Deanery picnic 2 noon at
St. George's Pontesbury

Sun 4th October

Licencing of Richard Lonsdale at
St Michael's Chirbury



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- French Conversation
- Gardening
- Geology
- History
- Literature
- Local History
- Photography
- Pickleball
- Play Reading
- Poetry (Full)
- Table Tennis
- Tech Made Easy
- Walking (Long)
- Walking (Short)
- Wine Tasting
- Wood Carving



Join us at our next Open Meeting!

Visitors welcome

When: Wednesday 16th September 2026 2pm

Where: Minsterley Parish Hall

Talk: **Hokey Pokey Hedgehog Rescue** with
Heather Chave

*Please note: There is no Open Meeting in August,
though many of our individual interest groups
continue to meet.*

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a would like to wish all
our members an enjoyable summer break with
friends and family.

Interested?

Scan the QR code, visit our website
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Secretary & Chair) on
07861 531 186.



pontesbury.u3asite.uk

Just another butterfly on the Wall



As August rolls in, you might start to see some new wings fluttering in your local churchyard. The Wall Brown or Wall butterfly is named after its habit of basking casually on walls or rocky places. This behaviour allows the butterfly to raise its temperature enough to fly around comfortably. Perfectly camouflaged against stones, the best way to identify the species is by checking the eyespots on its wings. One large eyespot on the forewing and four smaller ones on the hindwing is a dead giveaway that you have a Wall on your hands.

The Wall's habitat is diverse across England and Wales, spanning coastal zones, open grassland, disused quarries, railway edges, gardens, field edges and even churchyards and cemeteries. They may be found in sunny spots, basking on warm stone monuments, walls surrounding the churchyard, or the gravel of kerbed graves. Walls lay their eggs on grass tussocks and the broader leaves of coarse grasses such as Yorkshire Fog. Larvae and caterpillars will munch away on the grasses, while the butterflies rely on a variety of grassland wildflowers for nectar.

Inland Wall populations saw dramatic decreases in the 1980s, but not for the reasons you might expect. Habitat loss and degradation or abandonment of traditional farming or forestry practices didn't fit the bill for the Wall, so researchers instead had to come up with other theories.

Belgian researchers discovered they were witnessing similar decline with their Wall populations, so decided to do some digging. They proposed that warming climates were causing the species to have a third brood late in the year, leaving little time for the caterpillars to develop before winter. This brood was then unfortunately lost, causing the downward spiral.

However this might not be the end for the

inland populations. Many butterfly species can change their voltinism (the number of generations produced per year). This flexibility allows species to respond quickly and often unexpectedly to years with favourable conditions, producing more broods than would be typical. Based on this principle, we can expect inland Wall populations to experience strong natural selection as climates warm, eventually recovering and becoming as resilient as their coastal relatives, where temperatures are more consistent.

It's a waiting game for the Wall, but in the meantime, we can be doing our part to support the species. Leaving coarse, grassy and sunny patches in your churchyard or garden gives them places to do their sunbathing. Creating gorgeous wildflower meadow areas gives the Wall, as well as many other pollinators and invertebrates, lots of variety for food. If you spot a Wall, be sure to record it in your iNaturalist app or send us a photo, especially if you see one in your local churchyard or burial ground. Every record builds a picture of just how important burial grounds are for wildlife.

Kaitlyn Elverson
Engagement Officer,
Nature in Sacred Places Project (NiSP)

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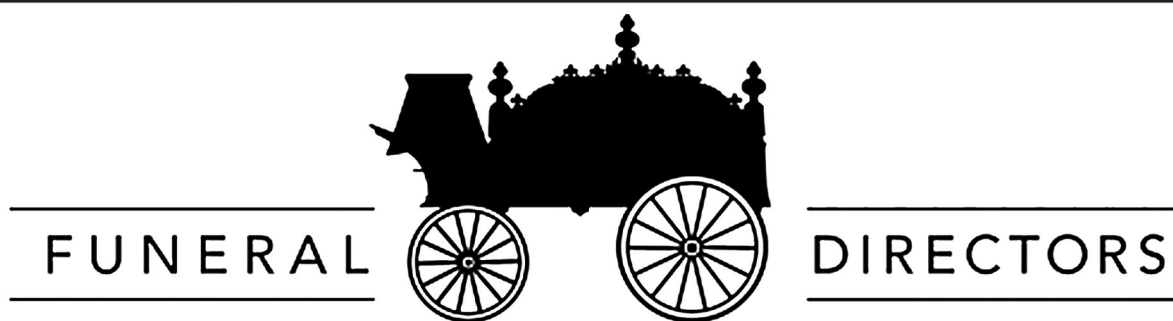
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Email: shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE 16th June 2026 – 16th July 2026

CRIME	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Theft of livestock	40 ewes stolen from farmland	Rorrington	Occurred between May and 15 th July
Harassment		Meadowtown	
Harassment		Marton	
Malicious communications		Priest Weston	
Assault		Brockton	Suspect arrested
Assault		Leigh	Suspect identified
Assault		Bentlawnt	Suspect identified
Assault	Following a road rage incident that started in Churchstoke	Chirbury	Picture obtained of the suspect
GBH		Brockton	Suspect arrested

Seven arrests in crackdown on serious organised crime

Six men were arrested on Thursday 25th June during a pre-planned operation in Shropshire linked to modern slavery, rural burglary and drugs supply.

Officers carried out nine warrants at addresses in Donnington, Lightmoor, Madeley and Broseley, following a two-year investigation into an organised criminal gang that was targeting Shropshire. West Mercia Police officers were joined by teams from Dyfed-Powys Police, Cheshire Police and Northumbria Police across the addresses.

A total of six men, aged between 24 and 45, were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglary and theft. Five of the men were also arrested on suspicion of human trafficking. One man was further arrested on suspicion of being

concerned in the supply of drugs and on suspicion of possession of a firearm, and one man was also arrested on suspicion of being in possession of class A drugs.

A seventh man was later arrested on 29th June for burglary, conspiracy to steal and conspiracy to conceal / disguise / convert / transfer / remove criminal property. All have now been charged with the offences which relate to incidents between September 2024 and December 2025 in Shropshire and elsewhere in the country.

During the operation, a quantity of drugs and criminal property was seized from the addresses.

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong.

“My problem,” explained the curate, “is that I sleep very slowly.”



WHATSAPP scams

As with so many features and apps on the internet, WhatsApp was set up so users could freely contact friends and family at home and abroad, with the added benefit of the use of video, audio and images in your messages.

However, criminals have also seized on an opportunity and made use of WhatsApp as a vehicle to defraud unsuspecting victims for several years now. The commonest fraud recently has probably been the *"Hi, Mum/Dad"* message. Fraudsters have also made use of WhatsApp as a dating app by contacting victims out of the blue with messages of friendship and longer term relationships.

Other messages used by opportunist criminals have included:

- **FAKE GIVEAWAYS** – these may appear to be tempting offers of vouchers and free products and apparently from well-known high street brands simply by completing a "survey" – never click on these links in messages from unknown sources
- **EXCLUSIVE GROUPS** – usually used to set up fake profiles in a group then sending over a passcode which lets them take over the victim's account, impersonate them and scam other Group members
- **VERIFICATION CODES** – once a criminal has sourced your phone number, they can use the log-in page to send a text message from WhatsApp with a verification code. By persuading the victim to pass on the code they will be able to take over their account
- **WHATSAPP JOB OFFERS** – Fraudsters contact users offering non-existent jobs with tempting salaries and appearing to come from genuine companies. They sometimes ask for up-front payments or may ask for personal details to steal your identity. So only use recognised recruiters and check back on their genuine websites first

Another current WhatsApp scam to be wary of is the **WHATSAPP GOLD UPGRADE** message. This is a non-existent upgrade supposedly offering enhanced features and security and may even claim

a celebrity endorsement. If you follow the "sign up" message there is then a danger that you will download malware onto your phone, and then the criminals can steal your personal data.

Always treat unexpected messages on WhatsApp with caution and beware of:

- Too good to be true offers
- Messages from unknown contacts
- Pressure to act too quickly
- Requests for money or personal details

And finally, never click on any links in these suspect messages. You can report a message by selecting it in your conversation and tapping "Report".

Suspect senders can be reported by opening the chat, click on the sender details and select "Block and Report."



Congratulations! You've won..... ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

Fraudsters are exploiting interest in the football World Cup and other events to manipulate people into replying to scam lottery letters.

West Mercia residents are urged to be vigilant after a local resident received a scam letter promising prize money of £900,000 from the International FIFA World Cup Online Lottery

The letter which was addressed to the resident and had their surname within the lottery reference number and asked the resident to make contact to begin the 'claims process.' Fortunately the letter was spotted by the resident as a scam.

If you receive a letter, please **DO NOT RESPOND**; don't call the number, email or provide personal details. If you have already paid money, provided banking or personal details, contact your bank immediately and report the scam to Report Fraud

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.

Rea Valley Transport Scheme 07468 115939
Enabling residents to access medical appointments. Please give a minimum of a week's notice.

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.

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

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. 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 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.

SOME SHORT NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

101 to contact the police in a non-emergency
111 NHS non-emergency number
159 to contact your bank if you suspect fraud.

159 is our first public-facing initiative. Intended for use by consumers, 159 provides an easy route back to safety when you get an unexpected phone call about a financial matter. Easy to remember, the short code number now connects customers of more than 99% of the UK's retail bank current accounts safely and directly with their bank. Unlike many long-form numbers, 159 cannot be spoofed or impersonated.





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PRESENT LAUGHTER by Noel Coward



Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform *Present Laughter* on Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th October at 7.30pm, and a matinee on Saturday 31st October at 2.30pm at our usual venue, St. Nicholas' Hall.

Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* is a sparkling comedy of wit and sophistication. Set in 1939 it follows the charming yet self-absorbed actor matinee idol Garry Essendine: suave, full of charm and charisma, and too old, says his ex-wife, to be having numerous affairs. His line in harmless, infatuated debutantes is largely tolerated but playing closer to home is not. With sharp dialogue, larger-than-life characters, and plenty of farcical moments, this delightful play offers a hilarious glimpse into the world of show business and the

chaos of celebrity life. With his birthday rapidly approaching, Essendine is poised to set off on a literal tour of Africa and a figurative midlife crisis, and his entire team—including an indifferent staff of servants, a wry personal secretary, a set of entangled business associates and a bemused ex-wife—is in hurried preparation for both. The actor's expertly assembled life is upended when a predatory fan, an obsessed playwright and a young woman with more than Essendine's resume on her mind are simultaneously thrown into the mix, all vying for the self-obsessed actor's attention. As things spin wildly out of control, Essendine must scramble to keep his house of cards standing—and decide whether there's room in his life to love anyone but himself.

Tickets cost £12 (£6 for under 18s). I cannot buy tickets for you as I shall be away, but they can be obtained through the Drama Group website on info@abbeydrama.com or by telephoning 01743 247450.

Robert Currie

Water tankers unloading near the parish hall in Minsterley



A Severn Trent statement read:

"We have been using tankers in the area, moving water around our network during periods of prolonged dry and warm weather to help keep all of our customers on supply.

"Over the past week we have seen demand for water hit record high levels, so we're encouraging customers to be mindful of their water use and save water where they can by using watering cans instead of sprinklers, reusing paddling pool water on plants and running dishwashers and washing machines on full loads. Small changes made by lots of people make a massive difference."

Or as the tanker driver told me - the reservoirs are down to about 35% and the tankers will be used for local water usage and to back-fill reservoirs until they reach 65%. The infrastructure cannot cope with demand during hot dry weather.

Editor

Music is given us with our existence. Above other arts it can be possessed without knowledge.

- Yehudi Menuhin

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

- Aldous Huxley

Crooner: a fellow who uses his mouth to sing through his nose.

- Groucho Marx

Music: the speech of angels.

- Thomas Carlyle

There are certain things in which mediocrity is not to be endured, such as poetry, music, painting, public speaking.

- LaBruyere

No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come.

- Victor Hugo

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished.

- Anon

On the headstone of a hypochondriac: "See?"



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WEEKLY EVENTS



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



www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

Monday to Friday

[illegible]

Saturday

552/553 Bishops Castle to Shrewsbury

Saturday

From 4th November 2024

Farewell to the Lonsdale family

On Tuesday 21st July over fifty members of our various congregations met for tea in Holy Trinity Church Minsterley to bid farewell to Richard & Claire with Moray and Liv; and to pay tribute to their ministry over the last four years.

They were presented with gifts from the church; Greg gave a short speech and then Richard and Claire and family were commended to God's blessing at Chirbury Hills benefice.



There is presently only one key to the church, which Richard has held for the past two years. He ceremonially returned it to the church warden.

Thank you, Richard and Claire.



Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



2nd August 9.45am CAFÉ PRAISE. Everyone is welcome to come and grab a cuppa and some cake and then relax with us as we have a time of praise, reflection on a passage of Scripture and discuss what it means for us in today's world.

9th August Led by Rev Richard Hall

16th August MINSTERLEY PRAISE –
led by Rev Brian Spencer

23rd August Led by members of the congregation

30th August Led by members of the congregation

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

Stiperstones group of churches - recent 'life event' services

11th July, Hope Cemetery
Burial of ashes of Jeremy Bayliss

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

2nd August. Dr. John Woolley
16th August. Sheila MacInally

Later dates can be found on the Chapel notice board.

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



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 services:

13th September	9.00am	Holy Communion
4th October	10.30am	GROUP Harvest Thanksgiving service - followed by refreshments in the village hall.

St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

Church Wardens Pauline Stopford, The Kennels, Habberley (01743 790784)
Pearl Hannigan, 9 Yarlington Orchard, Pontesbury (01743 790495)

Sunday 9th	5.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	5.00pm	Evensong



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



Services this month

Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Shelve	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	9.00am	Hope	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Shelve	Worship Together
Sunday 23rd	9.00am	Hope	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30th	10.30am	Shelve	GROUP SERVICE and farewell to Fran & Mike



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