

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

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



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



Taste and see that the Lord is good.
The Lord's words are sweeter to me than honey.
Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103



Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



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

Curate: Rev. Ian Williams
(day off - Monday)
Fenway, Station Road,
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 6th 4.00pm Tea time service
Sunday 13th 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 20th 10.30am Minsterley Praise
Sunday 27th 10.30am GROUP Pet service and
Harvest with
Holy Communion
at St Mary's Habberley

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

Regular weekday events in the church (see page 31)

Mondays 3.30pm Youth Café
Tuesdays 10.00am Foodbank (page 6)
Wednesdays 10.00am Coffee Hub
Thursdays 10.00am Trinity Tots

Other events this month

Thu 3rd Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (page 7)
Sat 5th Garden Tea (page 3)

Tues 8th Oasis (page 7)
Ichthus Bible Study (page 29)
Parish Council meeting (page 11)
Sat 12th Concert - Minsterley (page 3)

Mon 14th Crafty Monday (page 7)
Tue 15th The Gathering (page 4)
Wed 16th U3A Open Meeting (page 20)
Sat 19th Ride & Stride (page 11)
Concert - Leighton (page 19)

Sun 20th Wildlife Walk (page 7)
Tue 22nd Oasis (page 7)
Ichthus Bible study (page 29)
Thur 24th Messy Church (page 26)
Sat 26th Concert - Minsterley Parish Hall (pg 26)

Mon 28th Habberley public meeting (page 34)

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

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
5 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

A successful day was had on HTM's food stall at Minsterley Show on 15th August. It takes a huge amount of work to run - baking, making sandwiches, transporting, setting up and taking down, and hosting and running the stall all day.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen and to the fundraising and engagement committee for the months of preparation, lists and colour coded spreadsheets.

Sarah Edwards

You're invited to

GARDEN TEA

5TH SEPTEMBER
1PM - 4PM

AT MERRILEES, REABROOK

JOIN US FOR TEA, CAKE AND GOOD COMPANY!

HTM

Parking available at Hillcrest Nursing Home

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

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

Last month, my wife and I visited Warwick Castle in part to celebrate her birthday and in part to spend time with our granddaughter of 2½ years.

It is perhaps ironic that having lived no more than ten miles from Warwick for forty years that we waited until moving to Shropshire before paying a return visit. I say "return visit" having the dimmest recollection of having visited the castle thirty years ago when our children were young.

Much had changed in that time, with the castle itself having become almost secondary to the visitor experience. The first thing that struck me was the sheer size of the carpark, stretching over several acres and a twenty-minute walk from the entrance of the castle. Having endured the bag searches (of all the buildings a terrorist might want to blow up, castle ruins seem the least likely!) we entered the grounds. It was then that my suspicions were confirmed. This was unlike any castle that I had ever previously visited (and I've been to a fair few). This was a theme park. By the time we entered the castle building, we had witnessed a live re-enactment of a castle siege, complete with explosions, a children's live action drama featuring Zog the Dragon and picnicked with drinks supplemented by one of the many food and drink franchises. We could easily have omitted the castle altogether if we had chosen to see a re-enactment of the War of the Roses or a falconry display.

The point I am making is that Warwick Castle, which was in receipt of ten or twenty times more visitors than back in the day is no longer primarily a

castle, but a multi-faceted visitor experience. I kept wondering what all this might have to say to the Church? Is a building that plays host to a foodbank, tots' groups and community cafes maximising its potential or losing sight of its primary purpose?

I suspect that one of the key differences between us and Warwick Castle is that we still make the building central to everything we do, and encouraging people to come inside is one of the central purposes of our other ministries. This means that even if individuals are visiting for some other reason than worshipping God, they still cannot escape the fact of His presence. Our church buildings, lovingly built many years ago, testify to the glory of God by the sheer magnificence of their architecture, while at the same time radiating the prayers that have been offered by the Saints over the centuries. We want people to know there is much more to church than Sunday mornings but not to lose sight of the church's role in offering an invitation to meet with its master.

Greg

The church clock

The clock is running fine, but the chimes mechanism has gone haywire (to put it politely) which is why you have not heard the bell for nearly a year. Trying to get someone to look at it is not easy!

Anyway, we have now had a visit from an horologist from Nantwich and await his report/quote. Nothing seems to happen fast with anyone these days!

Sarah Edwards



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.**

**Tuesday 15th September
7.30pm start**



Marton Village Hall



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

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

Pakistan – Lahore court dismisses “blasphemy” charges against two Christians in separate cases

On 22nd June the Additional Sessions Court in Lahore, Punjab, ruled that the case against Nadeem Masih, 49, had been fabricated. He was falsely accused of “blasphemy” in August 2025 and has now been acquitted of any wrongdoing. Nadeem – who has been blind since birth and also has an iron rod in his leg to assist him in walking – was charged with defiling the name of Muhammad, an offence that carries the death penalty.

Nadeem’s defence lawyer, Lazar Allah Rakha, argued successfully that the false accusation was made because Nadeem had refused to allow Waqas Mazhar and Asif Mukhtar to take over his small business. Rakha also exposed discrepancies in the police report. The ruling is particularly significant, as lower courts in Pakistan often accept the word of Muslim witnesses and police in “blasphemy” cases.

The Additional Sessions Court in Lahore also acquitted 37-year-old rickshaw driver Danis Albert on 6th July and ordered his immediate release. The court ruled that there was insufficient evidence that the alleged offence constituted a deliberate or malicious act. Danis had been detained since April 2024 after being accused under Sections 295-A and 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code.

These sections concern acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or beliefs, and desecration or defilement of the Quran. Section 295-B – stipulates mandatory life imprisonment.

On 27th April 2024 the complainant Mobeen Ilyas alleged that he saw a man standing near a rickshaw at the Shadman Chowk roundabout in Lahore, with papers containing Quranic verses beneath his feet while other pages were scattered on the road. A hostile crowd quickly assembled. Police were called and arrested Danis, as well as seizing his rickshaw.

Following the incident Danis’ family abandoned their home and fled the district for their safety.

Praise God that the accusations against Nadeem were recognised as baseless. Ask the Lord to protect Nadeem, his widowed mother and other family members, and the Christian community from any retaliation resulting from this verdict. Praise God also for the just acquittal of Danis and dismissal of charges against him. Pray that he will be able to secure a viable livelihood after this long detention, and that his family will be kept safe from mob reprisals. Pray that both cases will act as powerful deterrents against those considering submitting false “blasphemy” accusations against Christians and other minorities in Pakistan.

Iran – church in seized by authorities

St Peter Evangelical Church was one of very few Protestant churches in Iran operating openly and with its own building; it is a historic church that has operated for 150 years but has been seized by the Iranian authorities.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps had already seized a 10,000 square metre area belonging to the church that housed around twenty families, mainly Armenian and Assyrian Christians. Church leaders’ fears that the next step was to seize the building and close the church have been realised.

St Peter Church was founded in 1876 by missionaries from the US, and was granted land by Naser al-Din, the fourth Shah of Qajar Iran. As a historic church serving primarily Armenian- and Assyrian-speaking Christians, the church has thus far escaped closure. Armenians and Assyrians are recognised by the Iranian authorities as Christian minority groups, and are permitted to worship in their own language, albeit under severe restrictions and government surveillance.

Worship in Farsi (Persian), and Christian evangelism in any language is forbidden. Farsi-speaking Christians are converts from Islam.

Rea Valley Food Bank

Community appeal for support

Rea Valley Food Bank helps a wide range of people with needs across our communities. This includes single pensioners on low, fixed incomes and families with young children. Whilst the number who use our service has stayed around the same the costs of buying in food and other items has increased with inflation. We greatly appreciate all the donations of food that we receive from the community. Our volunteers very carefully manage our stock, and limit what users can take, but we do want to have some nutritional foods that tend to cost more.

A regular monthly donation of £10 can really make a difference to our finances, and everything goes to local people who have been referred to our service by professionals. To help, please see the “donating” page on our website for details of our bank account and Gift Aid - which adds 25% to all

donations. One-off donations are also welcome, as well as community fundraising.

We do hope that you will be able to help us to continue with this much-needed local community service. If so, please do ensure that we have your contact details so that we can thank you and update you on any news or changes. Please contact our Treasurer, Jonathan Brown (07497 142485 or email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com)

Want to come to Rea Valley Food Bank?

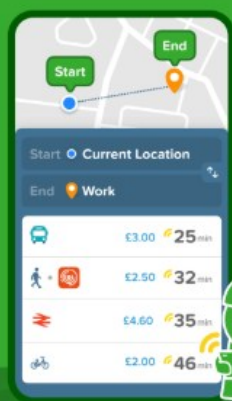
Get referred by your local clergy, GP practice, housing provider or other support agency, or call for a chat with Rev. Greg Smith 07902 794653, email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

See the “getting help” page on our website: www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk.



Jean Garner

Citymapper One app for all transport in Shropshire



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Official journey planning app of  Shropshire Council

Shropshire Council has partnered with Citymapper to provide a new official journey planning app, helping residents and visitors plan journeys more easily.

Launched last month Citymapper makes it easier to plan journeys across the county by bringing together buses, trains, walking and cycling in a single free app.

The app provides real-time journey information, service alerts and step-by-step directions, helping people travel with confidence and make informed choices.

Further information about Citymapper can be found on the Council's new Citymapper webpage, and the free app is available to download via the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. An online journey planner is also available for those who prefer not to use a mobile app. We have also created a step-by-step guide on how to download and use the app – for those that would like to try but are not sure how.

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Public Transport Team
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For more information, contact Heather Ryder
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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 games,cheeses,strongman	Sat 20th Jun 10am - 1pm Minsterley Mooch On street, Minsterley mush,harsh,factories	Sun 19th Jul 10am - 1pm Hinton Hike Station Road Car Park, Pontesbury irritated,swift,freedom	Sat 15th Aug 10am - 1pm Pulverbatch Plod Pulverbatch Car Park wriggle,disbelief,housework
Sun 20th Sep 10am - 1pm The Hollies Bimble Snailbeach Car Park works,plenty,ecologist	Sat 17th Oct 10am - 1pm Hope Valley Amble Hope Valley Nature Reserve Car Park movements,ankle,logs	Sun 15th Nov 10am - 1pm Eastridge Excursion Eastridge Wood Car Park buzzards,uniforms,swift	Sat 12th Dec 10am - 1pm Stiperstones Stomp Stiperstones Inn Car Park foods,grownup,overdone



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



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I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love.
- Mother Teresa



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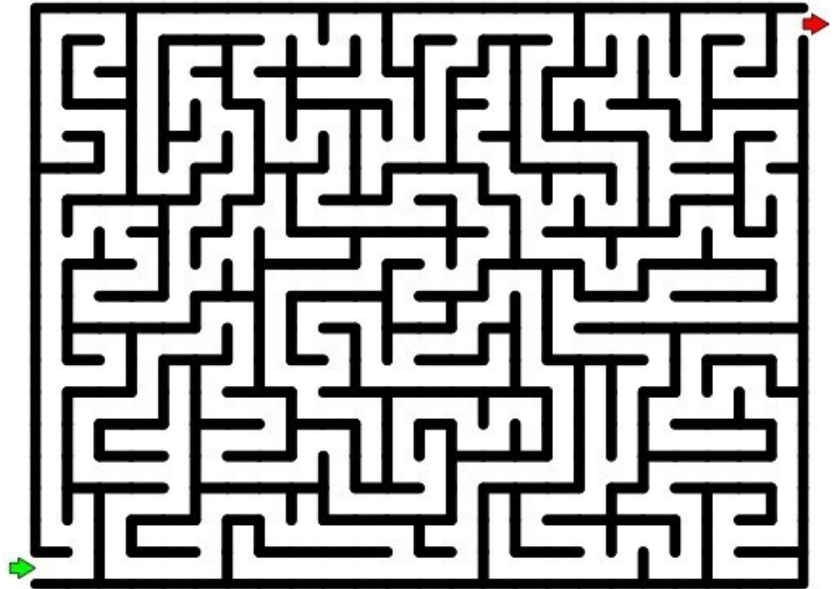
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Puzzle Page

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Wordsearch – The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds.

So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Kingdom	Enemy	Grow
Heaven	Servants	Together
Good	Master	Harvest
Seed	Sow	Bundles
Field	Gather	Barn
Sleeping	Reap	Burned
Grain	Root	
Weeds	Let	

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So, they picked one scientist to go and tell Him so.

The scientist walked up to God and said, “God, we’ve decided that we no longer need you. We’re to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things by ourselves.”

God listened very patiently and then replied: “Very well, how about this? Let’s say we have a man-making contest. We’re going to do this just like I did, back in the old days, with Adam.”

The scientist said, “Sure, no problem,” and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, “No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!”

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MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw	Date	No	Winner
29	22 July	46 11	Trevor Crook Jeannie Buckle
30	29 July	54 1	Jan Gittins Marie Edwards
31	5 August	8 58	Caro Bowen Miriam Nichol
32	12 August	52 44	Caroline Holloway Roy Blakemore

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Minsterley Parish Council

Shropshire Council continue to consult with Parishes with regard to the future services Shropshire Council will provide in the villages. This includes litter bins, grass cutting, and other Highway services which they currently provide. Any withdrawal of these services will leave the Parishes having to provide them or to accept their loss. If Minsterley is expected to provide them, an increase in the Parish Precept (Tax) would have to be implemented to fund the future provision of these services.

The next meeting of Minsterley Parish Council will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 8th September in Minsterley Parish Hall.

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

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



SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
www.shropshirehct.org.uk

“Ride & Stride”

On Saturday 19th September I shall be taking part in Ride & Stride, an annual event organised by Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT). We shall be walking approximately 10 miles to the southeast of Shrewsbury, visiting half a dozen churches, including Cound, Acton Burnell and Frodesley.

We are attempting to raise much-needed funds for St Luke's church Snailbeach as well as SHCT. Any money raised will be split 50-50. There is a sponsor form in St Luke's church, which is open 24/7. Donations may be given directly to me or our Treasurer, Cheryl Bromhead, or via bank transfer:

St Luke's Church Snailbeach
Sort code 30 97 62; Account 00276889

Please give generously to help keep this beautiful church alive.

Greg Smith (Vicar)

Garden Tea

Ann Smith is holding her annual Garden Tea Party on Saturday 5th September from 1pm - 4pm at her home, Merilees, in Reabrook, Minsterley. Parking is available opposite at Hillcrest Manor. Everyone is welcome. (see page 3).

“Of One Accord” concert with soloist Tom Barnes of “Johns’ Boys”

HTM are holding a summer concert at 7pm on Saturday 12th September, featuring the choir “Of One Accord”. with musical director Alison Stevens, joined by baritone Tom Barnes of Johns’ Boys.

Tickets are £12 and need to be pre booked - they're selling fast and we have a seating limit.

Call Marie on 791508 to book. (see page 3).

“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



Ride & Stride for HTM

SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
www.shropshirehct.org.uk

Our team is undertaking Ride and Stride on 19th September this year raising money for Holy Trinity Minsterley.

We're completing a circular route starting at Cound which is around 10 miles in total. We'll be visiting some beautiful churches and raising funds for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (with 50% of what we raise going to our nominated church).

I'm joining the team with Erin and Cara, and we're walking for HTM. There is a sponsorship form in HTM - every penny helps, as the saying goes! - and we also have a “JustGiving” link if digital is more convenient; go to the JustGiving website and search for “Sarah Edwards” and select “Sarah, Erin & Cara do Ride & Stride.”

It's always a lovely day filled with chat, laughs, and new places. If you'd like to join us for some/all of it let me know.

Sarah

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NightWatch

As the sun sets over churchyards and burial grounds, a whole other world comes alive. Using some nifty technology, we can listen in on this hidden world to find out just what kind of wildlife is thriving there.

At Caring for God's Acre, we've acquired a fantastic bit of kit called a passive acoustic monitor. These little devices can be set up to record and monitor a whole range of sounds in environments that would otherwise be difficult to survey, helping you discover what species are about. For instance, we've been using our acoustic monitor to survey bats in local churchyards.

The devices can be left out for a few hours, days or even weeks. They use a small microphone to detect and convert incoming sound waves into a signal which can be recorded and stored for later analysis. Once back at home, you can download the data to analyse and see what species you've heard. Some models will do this for you, some won't; it entirely depends on the model.

Bats use echolocation to hunt for insects at high frequencies that humans can't hear. Individual species emit calls that correspond to their size, flight, behaviour, environment and prey types. Each will produce a distinctive call that can be recognised on the acoustic monitor or during sound analysis.

It can be difficult to navigate these tools for a first timer. Never fear; our friends at Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) have made surveying for bats accessible and easy for everyone.

BCT has been running the National Bat Monitoring Programme since 1996. Through its various mediums, all the recorded data helps inform bat conservation across the UK. One part of the programme is the NightWatch survey. Taking place between July and October, NightWatch is a community science project helping you discover the hidden world of nighttime nature living in your neighbourhood. No experience or previous

knowledge is needed to take part, just for you to be over 16 and have a windowsill, garden, churchyard or urban space you have permission to survey. They greatly encourage people in towns and cities to get involved, so we can monitor how bats are faring in urban areas.

The process is simple; choose a date and book your kit via the survey portal. Next, a free kit arrives in the post including an "AudioMoth." This is your mini passive acoustic monitoring device! Switch it on, secure in place and you're ready to go. At the same time, you'll sit with the detector watching and listening for any night wildlife. Whatever you spot, you make a record of. Once you're done, post the kit back and wait to hear back from BCT with your personalised report of the bats you discovered during the survey.

More information on how to sign up and book your kit is linked here: <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/science-research/passive-acoustic-surveys/nightwatch>

Between 60-90% of historic churches now have protected bat roosts, making the surrounding churchyard space even more important for bat conservation. Keeping churchyards chemical free, full of rich and diverse habitats that attract varied food sources, provides critical sanctuary for these nocturnal species. Consider getting involved in your local burial ground for bats and other wildlife in whatever way you can.

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



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

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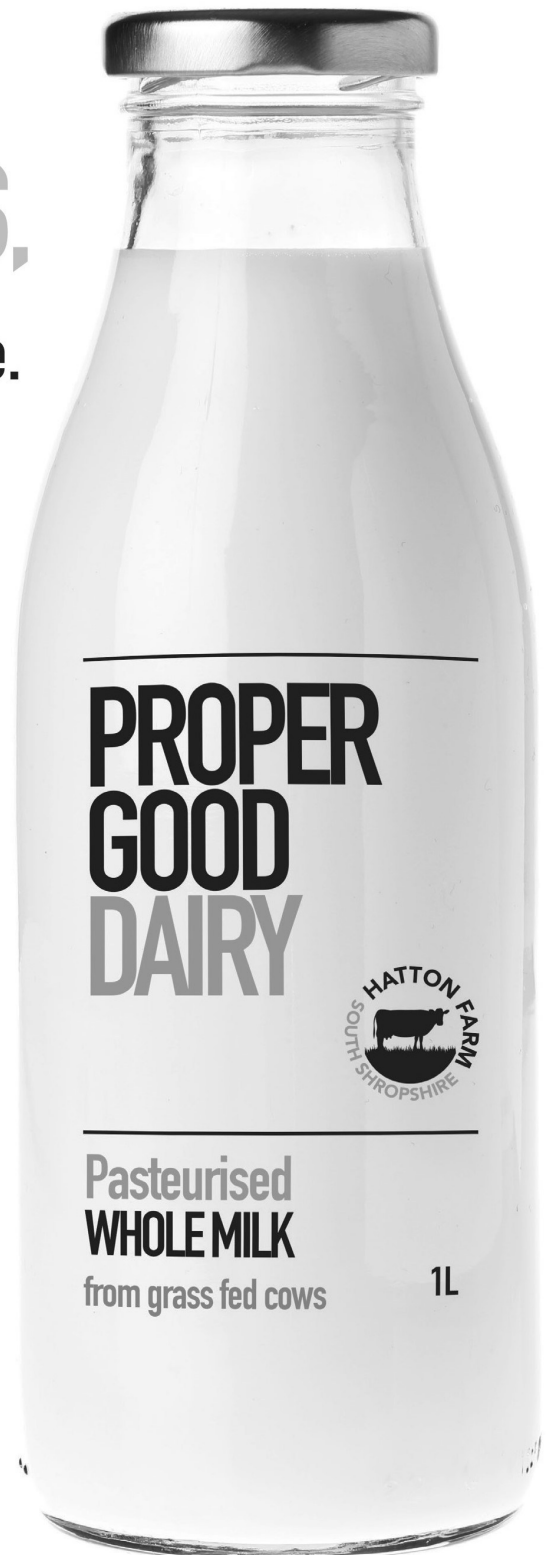
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Heather Kidd's Report for July

The latest updates on things happening over the summer:

1. Potholes are now being filled at a rate of 750-1000 a week (depending on the heat!). Please keep on reporting them on 'Fix My Street' so that we can get as many done before the autumn/winter.
2. The pool opening celebration event at SpArC is taking place on 4th September.
3. The new timetable for the 558 bus (Shrewsbury-Westbury- Worthen - Marton -Chirbury - Montgomery) will start in September with five buses instead of four at times more convenient for those going to work and college.

4. As we go to press, the road surface on Lower Lane in Chirbury is being repaired. Temporary fills will be followed up by permanent fills, drainage works and top dressing later.

5. The landslip on the A490. The land alongside the road is now in the final stages of purchase and the new road will be moved away from the unstable bank. Hedges will be removed pending the starting of the works.

6. The 20mph limit outside Norbury School. As we are reducing the speed limit from 60mph outside Norbury school, the law requires a consultation be held. More parking is also being provided on the school site.

Heather Kidd

Shropshire Councillor

Mobile: 07980 635518

heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

Questions you might ask

Question – What is Home from Hospital Support? I have an older relative who is due for discharge but will need some short-term care for a few weeks at home?

Answer – if a person is ready to leave hospital but will need some support when returning to their home there are systems in place to make sure that appropriate care support is there.

The NHS now uses a process called “**discharge to assess**”. This just means that a patient will go home as soon as medically well enough and any ongoing care or support needed will be arranged **at home**, not in the hospital. For a short period after discharge, help such as:

- Someone coming in to help with washing, dressing, or meals
- Help picking up shopping or medication
- Equipment in the home (like rails or a commode if needed)
- Someone checking a person is safe and coping

This short-term support is often called **re-ablement** and is usually **free for a few weeks**.

The hospital team, as part of the discharge, should:

- Talk to the patient and family before discharge
- Arrange any immediate support needed at home

- Contact the local council if longer-term care might be needed

Sometimes charities like Age UK or British Red Cross also provide extra “home from hospital” help, and private care agencies often provide this support on a fee-paying basis.

What families should expect:

Before their relative leaves hospital, they should:

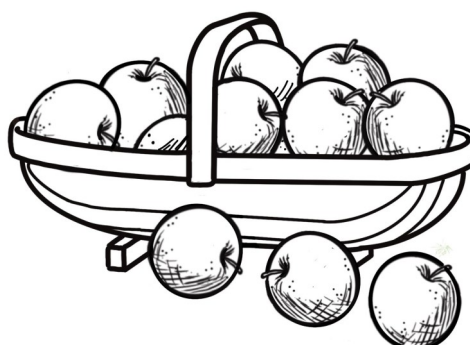
- Be told what support is being put in place
- Know who to contact if there are problems
- Feel confident your family member will be safe at home

In summary:

A patient shouldn't be discharged without a plan — short-term help should be arranged to support them safely at home.

Angela Gifford

www.ablecommunitycare.com



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e-mail: suexjohnson@gmail.com



How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general

principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be ‘very good’ (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz,
Church Engagement Director
Faraday Institute for Science & Religion, Cambridge.

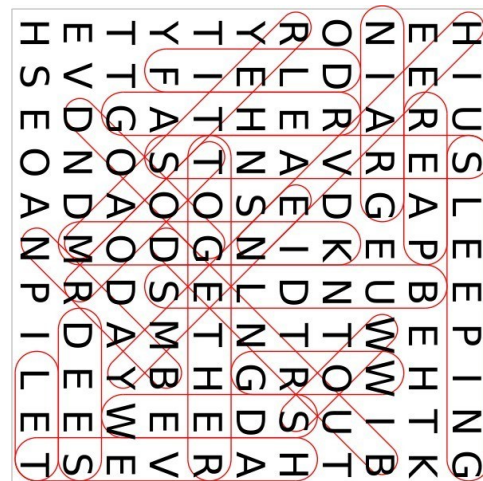
Bible Readings in church

this month



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

6th September	Ezekiel 33. 7-11 Romans 13. 8-end Matthew 18. 15-20
13 th September	Genesis 50. 15-21 Romans 14. 1-12 Matthew 18. 21-35
20 th September	Jonah 3. 10-4.end Philippians 1. 21-end Matthew 20.1-16
27 th September	Psalms 25. 1-8 Philippians 2. 1-13 Matthew 21. 23-32



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

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 6 th	10.00 am Morning Worship Allen		11.15 am Holy Communion Richard			6.00 pm Evening Prayer Aster
Sun 13 th	4.00pm Evensong Aster			9.00 am Holy Communion Richard	11.15 am Holy Communion Richard	
Sun 20 th		3.00 pm Holy Communion Richard	11.15 am Holy Communion Richard		10.00 am Family Worship Kay	
Sun 27 th	11.15 am Holy Communion Richard			9.00 am Holy Communion Richard		

*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 - September

Tuesday 8 th	Coffee, cake & chat, Chirbury café
Friday 18 th	Harvest Service, supper and auction at St. Mary's Trelystan
Saturday 19 th	Messy church – see poster below.
Friday 25 th	6.30pm; Combined Harvest service for St. Marks, Marton and the Congregational Chapel, in their chapel . Further details tbc.
Sunday 27 th	6pm: Combined Harvest evensong for Holy Trinity Middleton and The Marsh.
Mon Oct 5 TH	7pm, ST. MICHAEL'S CHIRBURY: RICHARD'S INSTALLATION AS OUR NEW RECTOR AND RURAL CHAPLAIN, PLEASE DO COME AND SUPPORT HIM.

**SONGS FOR A
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WITH
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Tickets from Christine Walton (tel
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and committee members
£15 - incl a glass of Pimms
PROCEEDS TO LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL AND CHURCH

100 YEARS CPRE Campaign to Protect Rural England Shropshire
"A celebration of the Shropshire countryside"

Hedgerows in the Hills

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October 2026, 10-4
Acton Scott Heritage Farm, Church Stretton

- Walks Talks Country crafts
- Hedgelaying demos Films
- Children's activities & Big Hedge Hunt
- Hedgerow exhibition Border Poets
- Bob's Tree Quiz Heavy Horses
- Marches Artists for Nature
- Sense of Place winners
- Geology exhibit & More!

Come to a weekend celebration of our countryside and the hedgerows that criss-cross it. Talk to a hedgelayer, try Bob's famously tricky Tree Quiz, go on a fungi or tree walk, see a hedgelaying demo, listen to talks, browse the stalls! There will be fun nature activities for children on both days. This one-off event also celebrates the Hedgerow Heroes project in CPRE's Centenary year in the beautiful setting of Acton Scott Heritage Farm.

More information and booking link at:
www.wcpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerows-in-the-hills

One-day ticket (adult): £6.00
Under 16s go free. Includes free parking and all activities. Please book your ticket to avoid disappointment!



Saturday September 19th

10.30am to 12noon Chirbury church

Lots of crafts, icing biscuits, snacks and a story,

talking about harvest and the parable of the

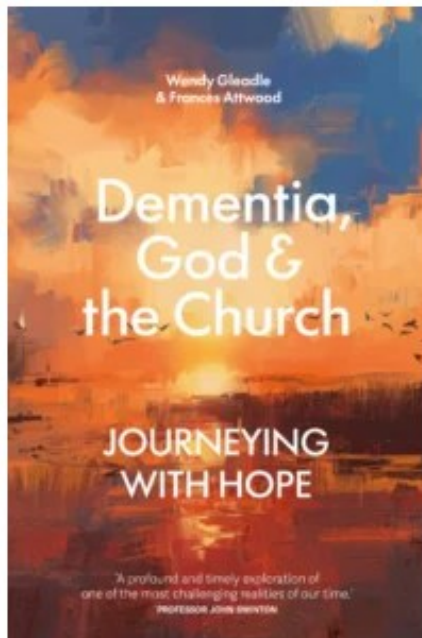
Sower and the Seed.

All welcome, we look forward to seeing you

Book review

“Dementia, God and the Church: Journeying with hope”

Wendy Gleadle & Frances Attwood
BRF, £12.99



Dementia is one of today's most feared health conditions, and Christians with the condition may also worry about losing their faith and their connection to God. However, there is still hope: those living with dementia can still find meaning in their life and their faith.

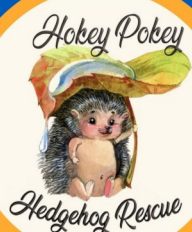
Written by two practitioners in this field, *Dementia, God and the Church* aims to show how person-centred approaches to dementia can provide hope. Wendy Gleadle first examines the difficulties of maintaining religious beliefs as cognition declines, and the implications of this if faith is equally emotional as cognitive. She explores other forms of spiritual awareness, such as relationships, the arts and creativity.

Frances Attwood asks how churches can better support those living with dementia, through examining what they and their families and carers find helpful and want most. Throughout, space is given to first-hand stories of those with dementia, those working with them and those caring for them.

HOKEY POKEY HEDGEHOG RESCUE

A PRICKLY TALE BY HEATHER CHAVE

Discover the fascinating world of one of Britain's best-loved native mammals. Heather Chave, founder of Hokey Pokey Hedgehog Rescue, shares her experiences of rescuing, rehabilitating and caring for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs.



OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome



Wednesday

16 September 2026



Time

2.00 PM



Minsterley Parish Hall

A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

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laugh,
live

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u3a Pontesbury
& Rea Valley

Our September meeting features **Heather Chave** from **Hokey Pokey Hedgehog Rescue**, who will share stories and photographs from her work rescuing and rehabilitating sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs. It promises to be an entertaining and informative afternoon.

Our monthly meetings are just one part of Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a. The u3a is all about staying active, curious, and connected if you are no longer in full-time employment.

We have over 25 interest groups – there's something for everyone to enjoy and explore at an affordable level! And more are started if there is sufficient interest.

- Art History
- Astronomy
- Board Games
- Creative Writing
- Cycling
- Dining Club
- Embroidery
- Family History
- Folk Music
- 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

Interested?

Come along to an open meeting, scan the QR code, visit our website or call **Steve** (Membership Secretary) on **07861 531 186**



pontesbury.u3asite.uk

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

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

Doorstep Scams

These were around long before scammers took to the internet but still exist today, and reports of residents being defrauded in this way continue to appear.

Basically these are cold callers on your doorstep either selling goods and services, or attempting to buy high value items on the doorstep such as gold, silver, jewellery or antiques.

Most of us have come across people trying to sell cleaning materials backed up by a story of being an ex-offender and trying to make a new life. Or it may have been the “tradesman” offering to repair or clean your roof, clean your block paving or relay your tarmac drive. Dealing with someone on the doorstep puts you under pressure, and these fraudsters will try to smooth talk you into agreeing to something you never really wanted.

So how can you protect yourself?

- Firstly, always be on your guard and be suspicious of anyone turning up out of the blue – a sign saying uninvited callers are not welcome may help.
- Never let a stranger into your home, and be aware of distraction callers when one person keeps you talking whilst the other goes round the back to gain entry; so make sure doors are secured.
- Use of Smart Doorbells with cameras are a good deterrent, and also give you the facility to talk to them without opening the door.
- Anyone selling goods door to door should have a “Pedlar’s Licence” which you can ask to see.
- Always ask for an ID to prove they, and their business, are genuine.
- Never sign up for a ‘deal,’ and always ask for written quotations on company headed notepaper so you can check they are genuine; it is also helpful to ask for references from previous customers
- Beware of requests for upfront payments before a job has been completed

• You can get your utility providers to set up a password so you know when someone claiming to be from the electric, gas, telephone or water company is genuine.

• If the caller remains persistent then call the police, either 999 if you feel in immediate danger, or 101 if you do not feel in immediate danger.

Counterfeit banknotes

Recently there has been an upsurge of payments made with counterfeit banknotes. These have been mainly in £20. This has not just affected mainstream retailers but also private sellers online as well who are using such sites as Facebook, eBay and Marketplace so everyone should be aware.

Remember that if you receive any counterfeit notes, you cannot be reimbursed so you will carry the loss on that transaction. If you do receive a fake note, then hand it in to your local police station and make a report of the incident.

How do you check if a bank note is genuine?

- *Check the holographic window* – inside you should see an image of King Charles III or Queen Elizabeth II and the value of the note around the edge, as well as the wording “Bank of England”
- *Check the foil* – if you tilt the note the words change between the value of the note and the word “Pounds”
- *Raised Print* – you should be able to feel the print such as the words “Bank of England” in the bottom right-hand corner
- *Compare with a genuine note* - small differences in colour, print clarity and the overall feel of the note should be obvious

If you are unsure then do not accept the note, and ask for an alternative method of payment such as a bank transfer.

Musical Bingo - fundraiser

There will be a Musical Bingo evening
in Habberley Village Hall on
Thursday 8th October.
Hall opens at 6.30pm
Eyes down at 7.00.

Light refreshments during a mid-session
interval. Tickets £10 available from:

- Robert Currie 01743 79012
robert.h.currie@gmail.com
- Pearl Hannigan 01743 790495
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- Pauline Stopford 01743 790784
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Reg Charity No. 522551. *Account 41658557. Sort Code: 40-41-30 ref: "concert-sc"

Tickets available from: The Flower Shop (Minsterley) & **Hignetts** (Pontesbury)
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Thursday September 24th
HOLY TRINITY
MINSTERLEY

3.30pm

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

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the timberyard where he worked. "What did you take?" his priest asked.

"Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."

"This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No, Father, I haven't," the man replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the timber".

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

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

ICHTHUS



Enjoy learning from the Bible together; looking at the passages we will study in church the following Sunday! Meetings start at 2.30pm on Tuesday afternoons.

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

Date	Venue	Study
September 8th	Brookfield Waterwheel	Matthew 18:21-35 Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12
September 22nd	The Blessing Snailbeach	Matthew 21:23-32 Psalm 25:1-8 Philippians 2:1-13



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Thursday 9am-9pm (late night!)

Friday 9am-4pm

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WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

YOUTH CAFE (term time)

3.30 - 5pm

Years 7 - 10 | activities |
snacks | free Wi-Fi | music
Contact Joe on 07387 578230
for more information

BIBLE STUDY

7 - 8pm

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



TUESDAY

REA VALLEY FOODBANK

10am - 12pm

For information contact Greg Smith
07902 794653 or go to
www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk

ICTHUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

2.30 - 4.30pm

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



WEDNESDAY

COFFEE HUB

10am - 12pm

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



THURSDAY

TRINITY TOTS (term time)

10am - 11.30pm

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

ALL OUR WEEKLY GROUPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

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



www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

Monday to Friday

Saturday

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		</
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Saturday

From 4th November 2024

St Mary's church

Habberley

Group Holy communion service

including

Harvest / pet service

10.30am

Sunday 27th September

Light refreshments afterwards
in Habberley village hall

There will be a table at the back of the
hall for donations to the Foodbank

Habberley Public Meeting Monday 28th September

St Mary's Habberley is facing serious, potentially terminal, challenges that its current membership feels unable to meet. The challenges are twofold, although interlinked. First and foremost, our small congregation is unable to meet the cost of our regular bills. Having lost several members in recent years to death, illness and house moves, we are too small in number to meet the rising costs. Second, we no longer have the manpower for all the tasks that need to be done.

We are therefore calling a public meeting on Monday 28th September at 7.00p.m. in Habberley Village Hall. We fully appreciate that no resident of the village should feel obliged to attend or respond to this appeal, but we are hoping that sufficient residents might feel that there is added value in having an open church at the centre of the community and would wish to support us. Do come if you can to this open meeting and feel free to ask any questions that arise.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but have a comment to make please contact Rev Greg Smith at rectorpontstip@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Pauline Stopford
Churchwarden

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



6th Sep. CAFÉ PRAISE. Everyone is welcome to come and grab a cuppa and some cake from 9.45am and then relax with us as we have a time of praise, reflection of a passage of Scripture and discuss what it means for us in today's world.

13th Sep. Led by members of the congregation.

20th Sep. MINSTERLEY PRAISE @ Holy Trinity – 10.30am start

27th Sep. Led by Rev Richard Hall and will include Holy Communion.

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

Sandra Lewis



Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

6th September Wes Morris
20th September Rev Shalome Cooper

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	Morning prayer
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 13th	5.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 27th	10.30am	Pet Service and Harvest with Holy Communion - GROUP service for all the churches



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 6th	9.00am	Shelve	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	9.00am	Hope	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	9.00am	Shelve	Worship Together
Sunday 27th	10.30am	Habberley	GROUP Pet service & Harvest with Holy Communion



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