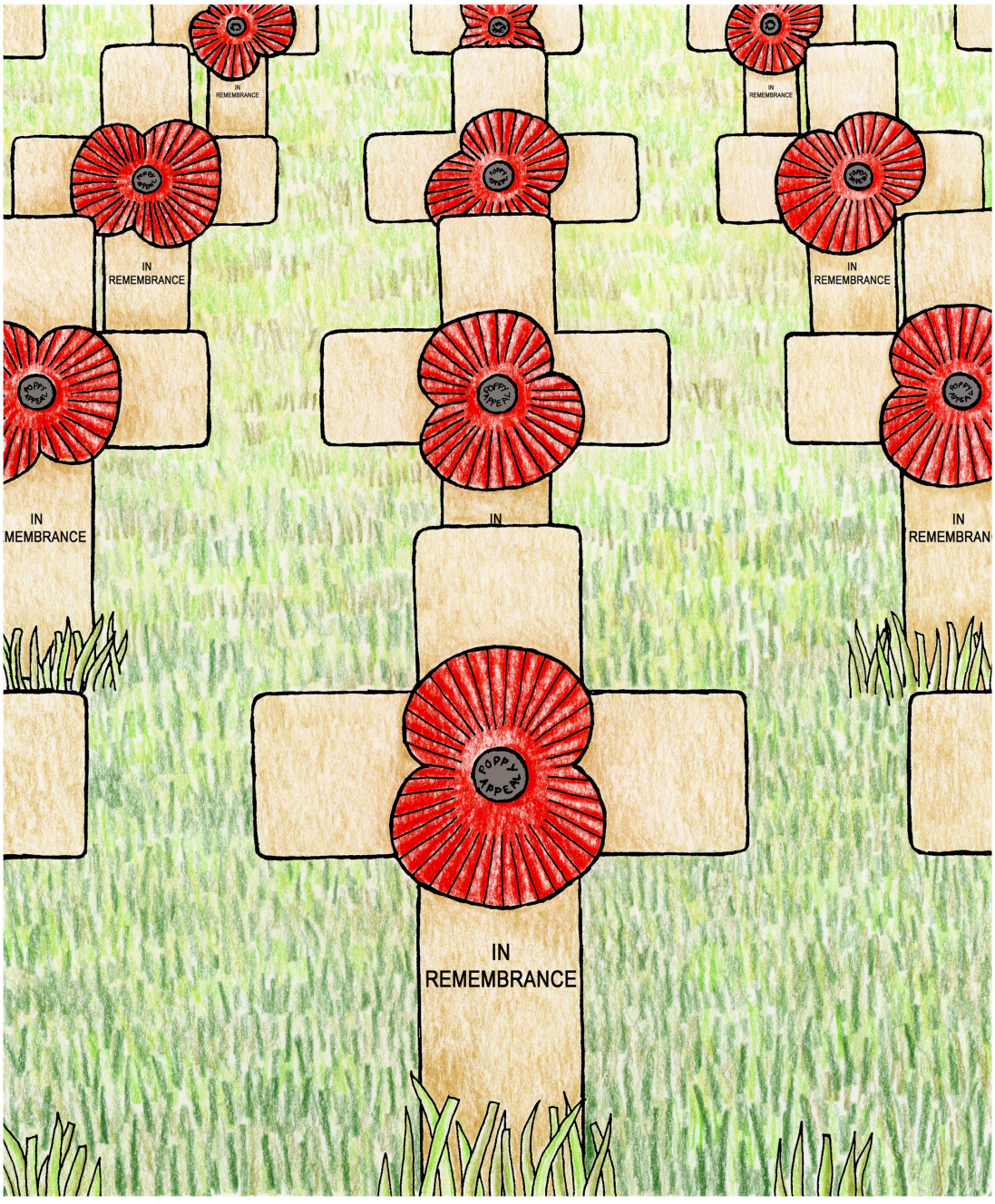
The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:

Habberley, Hope & Shelve, Snailbeach

incorporating news from the Chirbury Hills benefice:

Trelystan, Chirbury, Middleton,
Leighton, Marton, Corndon Marsh,



November 2026

80p

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

Warden: Sarah Edwards
07971 984925

Treasurer: Mike Bowen
07826 061054
mintreasure@btinternet.com

Church services this month

Sunday 1st	4.00pm	Tea time service
Sunday 8th	**10.50am**	Remembrance Day at the war memorial, followed by Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Minsterley Praise
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Group service at St George's Pontesbury

Regular weekday events in the church
(see page 35)

Mondays	3.30pm	Youth Café
Tuesdays	10.00am	Foodbank (also pg. 24)
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee Hub
Thursdays	10.00am	Trinity Tots

Money is like muck, no good unless it is spread.
- Francis Bacon

Other events this month

Wed 4th	'How to save Money' (page4)
Thu 5th	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (page 33)
Mon 9th	Crafty Monday (page 33)
Tues 10th	Oasis (page 33)
	Ichthus Bible Study (page 5)
	Parish Council meeting (page 31)
Wed 11th	Messy Church (page 13)
Sat 14th	Soup & a Roll (page 4)
Sun 15th	Wildlife Walk (page 33)
Tues 17th	The Gathering (page 6)
Wed 18th	U3A Open Meeting (page 13)
Sat 21st	Tin Soldiers concert (page 24)
	Hillcrest Christmas Fayre (page 24)
Tues 24th	Ichthus (page 5)
	Oasis (page 7)
Sat 28th	WestFest Craft Fair (page 14)
	Festive Brass & Voices (page 31)

See also the diary of 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

Our partner churches in the Stiperstones Group –

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 1st	9.00am	Shelve	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Hope	Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 15th	9.00am	Shelve	Worship Together
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	Hope	Morning Prayer
Sunday 29th	10.30am		Group service at St, George's Pontesbury



St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

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

Services this month



Sunday 8th	5.00pm	Evensong for Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 22nd	5.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Group service at St George's Pontesbury

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.

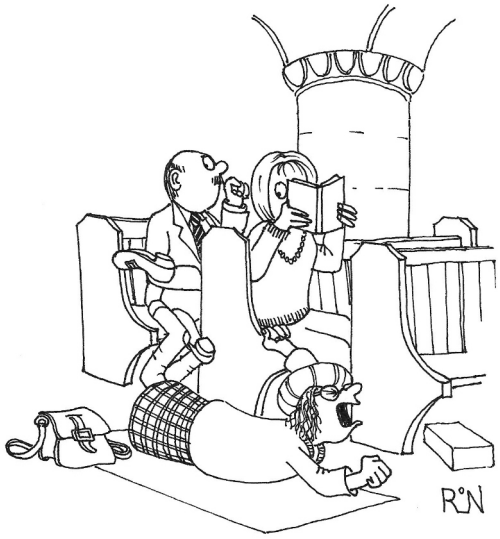


Next services

Sun 8th Nov	3.00pm	Remembrance Sunday service
Sun 29th Nov	10.30am	Group Service at St George's Pontesbury

Christian Aid week coordinator

Minsterley village is in need of a coordinator for Christian Week which takes place in May each year. Any member of the community is welcome to take on the role. Speak to Greg Smith on 07902 794653 for details.



Somebody sat in Minnie Hyssop's pew







New Screen & Projector

HTM is delighted that our new retractable screen and projector are fully operational. Already we have been able to supplement our worship with visual aids, as well as show the inspiring TV series "The Chosen" - the story of Jesus and his disciples. In addition we showed a "Climate Emergency and Nature briefing" with our MP in attendance.

We are grateful to the following for support:

Wynn Foundation	£1,000
Rowlands Trust	£3,000
SHCT	£8,500
Benefact Trust	£3,000
Shropshire Grassroots	£500
Sponsored Walk	£1,250
Total received	***£17,250***

This has meant that the total cost of the project, provided and fitted by Creative Audio-Visuals Solutions of £20,340 has only meant just over £3,000 required from our limited reserves. This was the amount we had hoped to claim back on VAT, but the government changed the scheme during the project's duration. We are grateful to all who supported the project financially.

If you have an idea of how the screen might be further used, please get in touch.

Rev Greg Smith

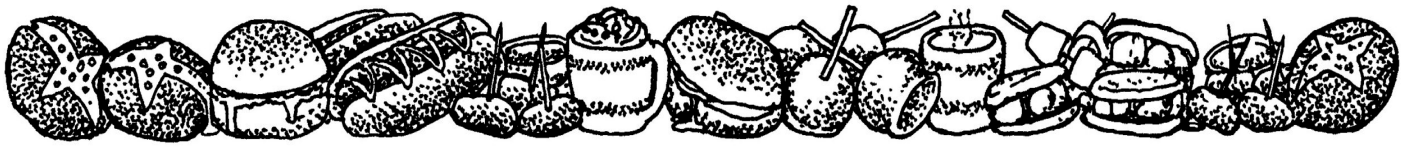
Hereford diocese announces new Area Dean roles

Six new roles come at a significant moment in the life of the Diocese. For generations, faithful lay people have sustained the life, worship and witness of local congregations, often in ways that have been informal, generous and quite extraordinary. We believe that the future health of the Church lies not in replacing that commitment but in recognising it and supporting it.

We are looking for clergy rooted in their relationship with Jesus and genuinely sustained by a life of prayer, who combine pastoral sensitivity with strong leadership and excellent interpersonal skills. It requires those who can encourage others, develop leaders, build trust, navigate change with wisdom and help people discover the gifts God has given them. Area Deans will work alongside local leaders and congregations, enabling ministry through others whilst providing support, accountability and encouragement across a number of churches. In vacant Benefices they will act as interim minister.

These six new Area Dean roles will each serve a combined cluster of our existing deaneries, including "Pontesbury & Clun Forest".

Diocesan website



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"

Psalm 119 v 105



Ichthus

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

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

Nov 10th	Brookfield Waterwheel	Matthew 25:14-30 1Thessalonians 5:1-11Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end
Nov 24th	The Blessing Snailbeach	Mark 13 :24-37 Isaiah 64:1-9 1Corinthians 1:1-9
Dec 8th	Brookfield Waterwheel	John 1:6-8,19-28 Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end 1Thessalonians 5:16-24

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith
telephone: 07902 794653 • email: rectorpontstip@gmail.com

November is the season of Remembrance, when at All Souls we remember the faithful departed, and on Remembrance Sunday those who lost their lives in armed combat.

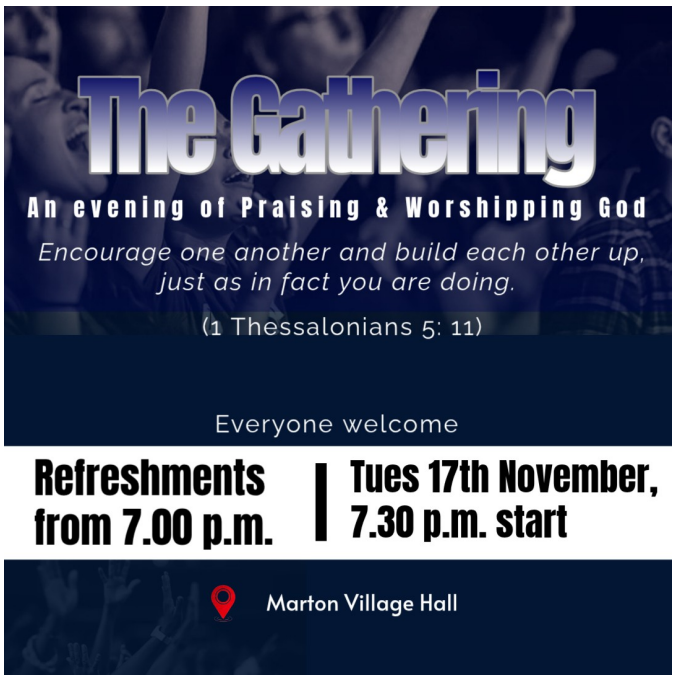
The spirit of such occasions is a mixture of gratitude and sadness. Their lives meant something to us personally and to the world more widely; and yet we wish that they had not been taken from us. However, I want to suggest that remembering ought to be a more vigorous activity than just lighting a candle or observing two minutes silence.

When our loved ones are taken from us, the example of their lives should be an inspiration to us and a model of how we should live – the husband who faithfully worked for the same employer for fifty years; the mother who sacrificed her own ambitions for her family; the beloved grandmother whose baking treats were savoured by her grandchildren; the brother who would respond to the simplest or most complex DIY request immediately without ever complaining. As we thank God for them, so we must also strive to be like them in all the ways that they were like Jesus.

Meanwhile, surely the most eloquent way to honour those who died in war is to strive with every fibre of our being for peace. This remains profoundly challenging in a world where the majority will seek to justify the dropping of bombs and the making of IEDs provided it's our side that is doing the bombing on the grounds that the lives of our enemies somehow don't count in quite the same way that our side's lives matter. I am reminded of the old joke of the lifelong staunch Protestant who on his death bed tells his friend that he has converted to Catholicism; and when asked why responds by saying, "it's better that one of their side dies than ours!"

Working for Peace is a matter of prayer, a matter of taking Scripture seriously, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."(Colossians 3.15); a matter of challenging those who use Christ's name to justify hatred and animosity; it is a matter for action; it is a matter of really remembering.

Greg Smith





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"

Pakistan Supreme Court criticised as it upholds death sentence against Christian

Defence lawyers have criticised a decision by the Pakistan Supreme Court to uphold the death sentence for "blasphemy" against Christian father-of-three Qaiser Ayub, 49.

They described as "devastating" the court's dismissal on 7th October of Qaiser's appeal against his conviction under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code for allegedly defiling the name of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam.

The defence team welcomed the court's decision to acquit Qaiser's younger brother Amoon, 46, of an identical conviction but questioned how the same evidence could apply differently against the two men.

"If the evidence against one brother was insufficient, how can the other be sent to the gallows based on evidence from the same case?" asked Nasir Saeed, director of the Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS), which helped the brothers.

Qaiser and Amoon, from Lahore, were accused of publishing "blasphemous" content on a website registered in Qaiser's name in 2011. They were convicted and sentenced to death in 2018.

However, Qaiser, a computer science graduate, maintained that he shut the website in 2009. He said it was revived by a Muslim acquaintance who retained Qaiser's name in the copyright details.

Saeed said the brothers' conviction relied largely on digital evidence from a seized laptop, which required the highest standards of verification.

The lawyer urged the government to spare Qaiser's life. He also called for the strengthening of safeguards against the misuse of Pakistan's "blasphemy" laws and emphasised the need to hold accusers accountable in cases of wrongful implication.

The human cost of the brothers' case was also questioned by Voices for the Victims of Blasphemy Business Group, which supports families caught up in "blasphemy" allegations.

"If Amoon Ayub has been acquitted after such a prolonged legal ordeal, who will answer for the 16 years taken from his life?" asked the group in a statement.



The Pakistan Supreme Court
[Image Credit: Uroojmirza71/Wikipedia]

"Justice cannot be measured only by the final verdict. It must also consider the human cost of prolonged incarceration, the consequences of wrongful implication, the suffering of families, and the years of life that can never be returned," it said.

Pakistan's "blasphemy" laws are often used to make false accusations in order to settle personal grudges.

Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, which refers to defiling the name of Muhammad, carries the death penalty, although this sentence has never yet been carried out.

Christians acquitted under "blasphemy" laws are often forced to go into hiding following their release because of the risk of attack from extremists who will not accept the verdicts of the courts.

I have met only one perfect man, and he was a perfect nuisance! *- CH Spurgeon*

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won't.
- Henry Ward Beecher

There is nobody so irritating as somebody with less intelligence and more sense than we have.
- Don Herold

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552/553 Shrewsbury to Bishops Castle

Monday to Friday

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)														SCH			
BUS STATION, Stand N	07:35	08:10	08:50	10:05	10:25	11:00	12:00	12:30	13:30	14:00	14:35	15:45	16:25	16:25	17:00	17:40	18:10
Copthorne Rd, opp Barracks	07:42	08:17	08:57	10:12	10:32	11:07	12:07	12:37	13:37	14:07	14:42	15:52	16:32	16:32	17:07	17:47	18:17
Shrewsbury Hospital			09:02	10:17	10:37		12:12	12:42	13:42	14:12		15:57	16:37		17:12	17:52	
Radbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:47	08:22				11:12					14:47			16:37			18:22
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:52	08:27	09:07	10:22	10:42	11:17	12:17	12:47	13:47	14:17	14:52	16:02	16:42	16:42	17:17	17:57	18:27
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:54	08:29	09:09	10:24	10:44	11:19	12:19	12:49	13:49	14:19	14:54	16:04	16:44	16:44	17:19	17:59	18:29
Lea Cross, adj Jct	07:57	08:32	09:12	10:27	10:47	11:22	12:22	12:52	13:52	14:22	14:57	16:07	16:47	16:47	17:22	18:02	18:32
Mary Webb		08:36 SCH															
Pontesbury, opp Shop	08:03	08:38	09:18	10:33	10:53	11:28	12:28	12:58	13:58	14:28	15:03	16:13	16:53	16:53	17:28	18:08	18:38
Minsterley, adj crown & sceptre	08:07	08:42	09:22	10:37	10:57	11:32	12:32	13:02	14:02	14:32	15:07	16:17	16:57	16:57	17:32	18:12	18:42
Plox Green, Crossroads	08:09			10:39	10:59	11:34	12:34	13:04	14:04	14:34		16:19	16.59	16:59		18:14	18:44
Snailbeach, Village Hall					11:01				14:06			16:21		17:01			18:46
Stiperstones, adj Pub					11:05				14:10			16:25		17:05			18:50
Hope	08:15			10:45			12:40			14:40			17:05			18:20	
Gravels	08:19			10:49			12:44			14:44			17:09			18:24	
White Grit, Jct	08:23			10:53			12:48			14:48			17:13			18:28	
Llan Turn Jct	08:27			10:57			12:52			14:52			17:17			18:32	
Lydham Glebe Meadow Jct	08:31			11:01			12:56			14:56			17:21			18:36	
Bishops Castle Salop Street jct	08:33			11:03			12:58			14:58			17:23			18:38	
Bishops Castle, adj Boars Head	08:35			11:05			13:00			15:00			17:25			18:40	

Saturday

08:00	08:35	10:05	10:45	12:30	13:45	14:45	15:40	17:00	17:40
08:07	08:42	10:12	10:52	12:37	13:52	14:52	15:47	17:07	17:47
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08:22	08:57	10:27	11:07	12:52	14:07	15:07	16:02	17:22	18:02
08:28	09:03	10:33	11:13	12:58	14:13	15:13	16:08	17:28	18:08
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09:00		11:05				15:45			18:40

From September 2024

Minsterley Motors

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552/553 Bishops Castle to Shrewsbury

Monday to Friday

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)			SCH														
Bishops Castle, opp Boars Head				07:20			09:40			12:20		13:30			15:40		
Bishops Castle Salop Street Jct				07:22			09:42			12:22		13:32			15:42		
Lydham Glebe Meadow Jct				07:26			09:46			12:26		13:36			15:46		
Llan Turn Jct				07:30			09:50			12:30		13:40			15:50		
White Grit, Jct				07:34			09:54			12:34		13:44			15:54		
Gravels				07:37			09:57			12:37		13:47			15:57		
Hope				07:40			10:00			12:40		13:50			16:00		
Stiperstones, opp Pub	06:50	07:20	07:40					11:15					14:35			16:50	
Snailbeach, Village Hall	06:54	07:24	07:44					11:19					14:39			16:54	
Plox Green, Crossroads	06:56	07:26	07:46	07:46			10:06	11:21	11:55	12:46	13:05	13:56	14:41		16:06	16:53	
Minsterley, opp crown & sceptre	06:58	07:28		07:48	08:50	09:25	10:08	11:23	11:57	12:48	13:07	13:58	14:43	15:10	16:08	16:58	17:35
Pontesbury, Hall Bank	07:03	07:33		07:53	08:55	09:30	10:13	11:28	12:02	12:53	13:12	14:03	14:48	15:15	16:13	17:03	17:40
Mary Webb														15:26 SCH			
Lea Cross, Opp Jct	07:08	07:38		07:58	09:00	09:35	10:18	11:33	12:07	12:58	13:17	14:08	14:53	15:30	16:18	17:08	17:45
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:11	07:41		08:01	09:03	09:38	10:21	11:36	12:10	13:01	13:20	14:11	14:56	15:33	16:21	17:11	17:48
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:13	07:43		08:03	09:05	09:40	10:23	11:38	12:12	13:03	13:22	14:13	14:58	15:35	16:23	17:13	17:50
Radbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:18								12:17					15:40			
Shrewsbury Hospital		07:48		08:13	09:10	09:45	10:28	11:43		13:08	13:27	14:18	15:03		16:28	17:18	17:55
Copthorne Rd, adj Barracks	07:23	07:53		08:18	09:15	09:50	10:33	11:48	12:22	13:13	13:32	14:23	15:08	15:45	16:33	17:23	18:00
Bus Station Stand N	07:30	08:00		08:30	09:22	09:57	10:40	11:55	12:29	13:20	13:39	14:30	15:15	15:52	16:40	17:30	18:07

Saturday

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07:18	08:03	09:33	10:03	11:47	12:48	14:07	14:58	16:23	17:02
07:23	08:08	09:38	10:08	11:52	12:53	14:12	15:03	16:28	17:07
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From 4th November 2024



Hair by Jen

3 Station Road, Minsterley

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Puzzle Page

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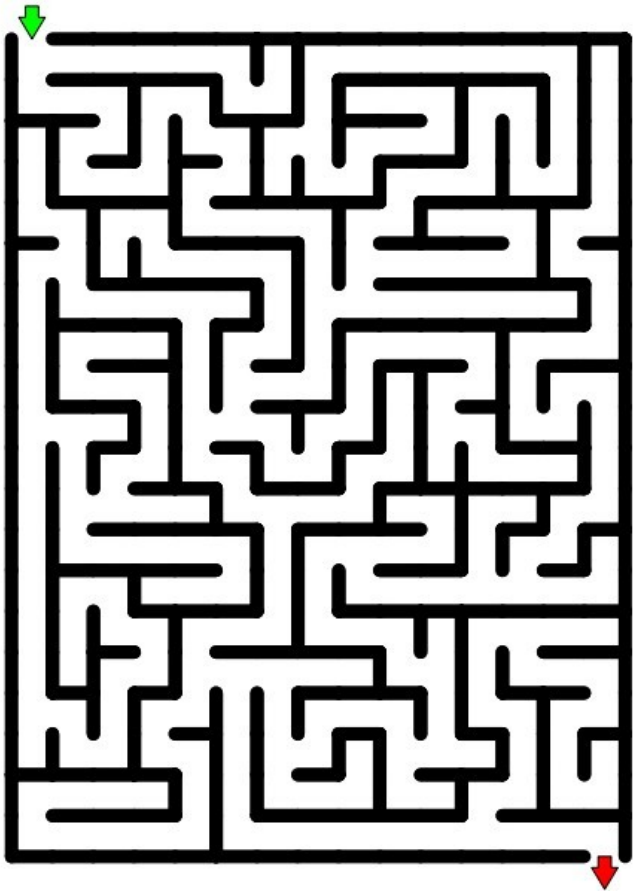


In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.
- Aron Kilbourn

War is a tragedy which commonly destroys the stage it is acted on.
- Matthew Henry

Wordsearch - The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

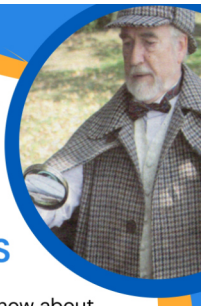
Those endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such horror, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'

World	Destroyed	Grow
War	Spring	Soil
France	Destruction	Cheerful
Flanders	Bright	Growing
Green	Red	Horror
Fields	Poppies	Doctor
Bombed	Mud	Poem
Barren	Chaos	
Bleak	Seeds	

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

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WELSH CONNECTION

WITH EURWYN PIERCE JONES



We all know Sherlock Holmes – but what do we know about the man who created him? Join us to discover the fascinating and surprisingly varied life of **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**: author, doctor, pioneer of forensic science, sportsman, traveller and much more. Eurwyn explores Doyle's remarkable achievements, his diverse interests and his **significant connections with Mid Wales**

OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome

Wednesday
18 November 2026

Time
2.00 PM

Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH



Free for members • Visitors: voluntary donations welcome
Refreshments available

pontesbury.u3asite.uk



learn, laugh, live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley



Festive Friends 2026

Date: 25th December 2026

Time: 11.30am to 3.00pm

Venue: Norbury Village Hall

Contact Linda on 01588 630409

If you are on your own or caring for someone, why not all join us for Christmas lunch in Norbury!

Let Linda know if you need transport to the venue.

Arrive at 11.30am for drinks and mince pies.

Enjoy a two-course lunch.

Relax and enjoy some light entertainment & have a chat to your companions.

Whatever your age, you are welcome.

Suggested donation of £7 each to help cover outgoings!

TRADING POST

Open February to October
Saturdays 9.30am to noon

Old Station Yard
Station Road, Pontesbury

what3words location - makeovers.stub.darling

The Pontesbury & District Gardeners Association Christmas meal will take place at The Lowfield Inn, Marton on December 2nd at 7.00pm for 7.30pm

If you would like to join us, a copy of the menu with cost and booking details is available to view in the display cabinet at the Trading Post, Station Road.

Menu selection and payment is required, at the latest, by November 22nd

The Trading Post is now closed, re-opening in February 2027

Details of our range of seed potatoes will be made available in January 2027

Thank you for your support during the year

Messy Church

Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday 11th November

3.30pm

Catherine Jones Music

For inspiration and encouragement

Whether you want to play the piano or cello, or sing

Catherine has years of experience teaching and playing and has a few vacancies for all ages and stages, whatever your ambitions!

Students have gone on to study music at university and college, been awarded music scholarships, take auditions, succeed in music festivals

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*Lessons online

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SINGING & CELLO

07407 260949
t2lpiano@gmail.com
www.catherinejonesmusic.co.uk

WestFest CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 28th November

Open 11am – 4pm

Hayford Farm, Westbury, SY5 9PF

Come and visit our fantastic local craft and gift stalls full of great ideas for Christmas!

We have tasty hot food, drinks and mince pies along with our legendary raffle.

Enjoy a mulled wiite and a great Christmas atmoiphere— it's a super event to support the WestFest summer celebration.

If you are a local crafter or small business, message us to find out more.

West Fest, Shropshire
westfestcommunityproject@gmail.com

Leaton Forest Christmas Tree Barn

Come and Choose your Perfect Christmas Tree
From 21st of November 2026

Mon - Wed 10.00am - 5.00pm
Thur - Fri 10.00am - 6.00pm
Sat - Sun 9.00am - 5.00pm

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please email us at trees@leatonforest.co.uk

Leaton Forest
SY4 3AP

LEATON FOREST

BRITISH CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION



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 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. call us free any time, from any phone

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.

STOP SCAMS UK

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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Police contact numbers
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Non Emergency: 101
Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
Website: www.westmercia.police.uk
Report online:
www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

BISHOPS CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

(covers all our magazine area except Minsterley)

Twitter: @SouthShropCops
Email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Facebook: Bishops Castle Policing Team Rural Watch

SHREWSBURY RURAL WEST Safer Neighbourhood team

(covers Minsterley)

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

Crime / Incidents to note reported

Reported	Details	Location	Notes
Assault		Pennerley	
Harassment		Stiperstones	Suspect identified
Suspicious vehicle	Reports of 3 persons in a white Ford Transit driving onto properties and attempting to take scrap metal without permission	Snailbeach and Ploxgreen areas	Marker added to vehicle
Blackmail		Hemford	
Unlawful importation of controlled substance			
Theft	Walking poles stolen from outside of property	Meadowtown	
Harassment		Blackmarsh	Suspect identified

Crime Prevention - Lighten up your home

It's that time of year again when the darker nights are upon us. A simple method of leaving a light on in your home during the evening or late at night can significantly reduce the chance of being a victim of a burglary. Although we thankfully get few house burglaries in our policing area, just having a light on will help deter any opportunist thieves looking to target a property or outbuilding.

The 'Lighten up' top security tips are:

- A well-lit home gives the impression someone is in and not unoccupied
- Use timer switches to turn lamps on when you are out
- Smart light bulbs let you control your home lighting remotely using a smartphone app or voice assistants like Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple HomeKit, they allow you to have automated schedules when the bulbs turn on
- We recommend dusk 'til dawn lighting, which is the type that stays on through the hours of darkness, switching off before the sun comes up.
- Don't just set a light on a timer in the hall or landing area, try and set the lights up in a room
- Consider other types of lighting, such as devices that simulate the light of a TV
- Invest in external lighting such as PIR lights to light up outbuildings and yards
- Always lock windows and doors and keep gates and side entrances well secured

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Sunday services in the Chirbury Hills Group of Parishes November 2026

within the Deanery of Pontesbury in Hereford Diocese

	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 1st All Saints	10.00am (AM) Morning Worship		11.15am (RL) Holy Communuion			6.00pm (RL) Holy Communion
Sun 8th Remembrance Sunday	10.50am (RL) Service of Remembrance				10.50am (KY) Service of Remembrance	
Sun 15th 2nd before Advent		3.00pm Holy (RL) Communion	11.15am (RL) Holy Communuion		10.00am (KY) Family Worship	
Sun 22nd Christ the King	11.15am (RL) Holy Communion			9.00am (RL) Holy Communuion		
Sun 29th Advent		10.30 am Benefice Communion				

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

THE CHIRBURY HILLS GROUP OF PARISHES

Chirbury Hills Benefice contacts

Rector Rev Richard Lonsdale
(day off - Tuesday)
The Vicarage, Chirbury, SY15 6BN.
07922 830488
richardlonsdale1@gmail.com

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

Richard writes:

As we go to press my family remains living in the Minsterley vicarage, but we move to Chirbury on the 4th November which will certainly make things easier in terms of getting out and about and being more "around." I don't have a landline yet, but when I do I'll publish that.

Do stick your head in for a cup of tea although watch out for lots of boxes and mess. At the risk of wishing my life away, I'll be very happy once we are 6 months down the line with (hopefully!) everything squared away, pictures on the wall and all feeling much more settled. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us all!

With my prayers and best wishes.

Fr. Richard



Saturday November 14th

10.30am to 12noon Chirbury church

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

All welcome, we look forward to seeing you



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

Craft Fair

At Priest Weston Village Hall
In aid of

Middleton & the Marsh Churches
10.30am – 1.00pm
Saturday 21st November

Admission £3.00
Under 16 Free
To include refreshments

Bacon baps, and vegetarian option, also available

Stalls include:-
beauty products, crochet, cards, jewellery, Christmas crafts and more, plus our renowned cake stall, and a raffiola!

Chirbury Hills diary dates - November

1st All Saints Day – regular Sunday Services

2nd All Souls Day – 7pm service at Chirbury, please write names of those to be remembered on the list at the back of each church - an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance

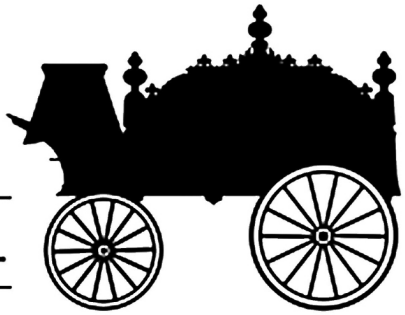
8th November – Remembrance Sunday – services at 10.50 am at Leighton and Middleton

10th November – Coffee, Cake and Chat at Chirbury Café 10am

14th November – Messy Church – see poster (left)

21st November – Middleton and the Marsh Christmas Craft Fair at Priest Weston village hall – see poster above

29th November – Pottery Crib Figure making for the Crib Service, Priest Weston Village hall, 11.30am.



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STRENGTH & STABILITY CLASS FOR AGES 60+

Tuesdays 9.30am—10.30am
at Minsterley Parish Hall

Thursdays 10.00am—11.00am
at The Pavilion Community Hub, Pontesbury

Booking is essential.

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

Snailbeach WI

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



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

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

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Rea Valley Food Bank

THANK YOU for all Harvest Festival Donations

Harvest Festival donations have made a real difference to our Food Bank. We really appreciate all the people involved in organising and donating to these events during the Autumn. Everything donated goes to local people who have been referred by professionals as being in need of our service.

NEW Getting to Advice project

Rea Valley Food Bank has been successful in our bid to Shropshire Council for Crisis Resilience Funding (CRF). The aim of the government's CRF money is to move from emergency food support to connected, long-term help, so the funds cannot be used to buy in food. Since we became independent from Foodbank Plus at Barnabas, we are aware that access to specialist advice services is needed for many of our users. Our project is about information and advice:

- **Energy Bills**: come along to our event to find out how to save money at 2.00 - 3.30pm Wednesday 4th November at Holy Trinity Church Minsterley, with Marches Energy Agency. **FREE EVENT, OPEN TO ALL.** Do come along, and tell others you know.

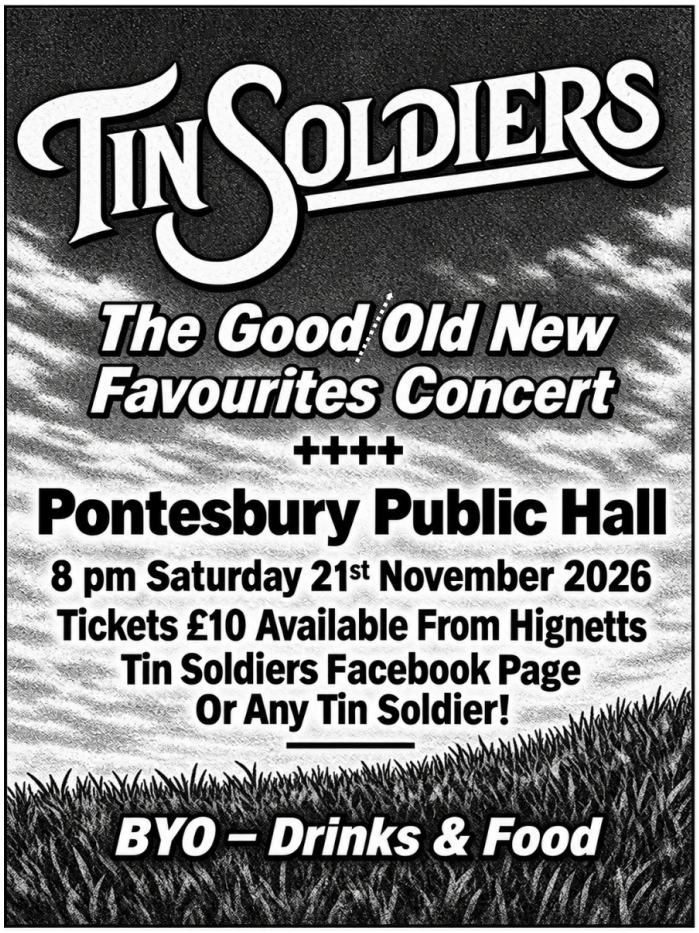
For Food Bank service users:

- Trying out, on a small scale, some cookery skills and nutrition sessions; linking with Pontesbury Community Gardeners who already supply their produce to our Food Bank.
- Access to Advice Services: giving our service users the opportunity to take up specialist advice services such as Citizens Advice, Age UK, Marches Energy Agency and others, working with Rea Valley Transport Scheme.

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: www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk.

Jean Garner





Questions you might ask

Question - We have disabled friends who sometimes come to stay for a few days. Is it possible to borrow or hire disability equipment, such as a wheelchair, just for a short period?

Answer - Yes. You do not necessarily need to buy equipment that is only going to be needed for a few days.

The British Red Cross is one of the best-known providers of short-term wheelchair hire, with wheelchairs available from some locations for around £22 a week. For other equipment, such as rollators, walking frames and shower chairs, it is worth contacting local mobility shops and equipment-hire companies.

If you are going away, search for mobility equipment hire near your holiday destination. Many companies can arrange for equipment to be delivered to your accommodation before you arrive and collected again afterwards. This can be particularly useful when travelling with a wheelchair would be difficult.

Angela Gifford
www.ablecommunitycare.com



The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

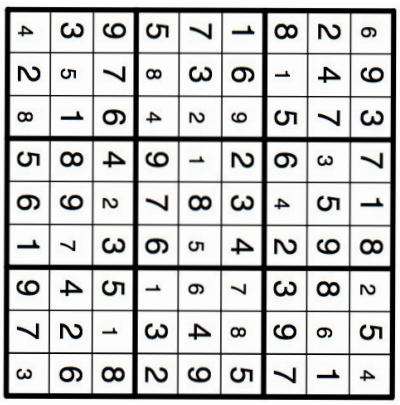


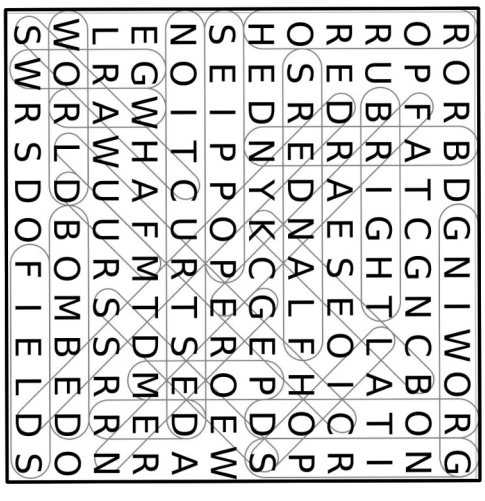
Bible Readings in church this month

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

1st November	Revelations 7. 9-end
	(1 John 3. 1-3)
	Matthew 5. 1-12
8th November	(Amos 5. 18-24)
	1 Thessalonians 4. 13-end
	Matthew 25. 1-13
15th November	(Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-end)
	1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11
	Matthew 25. 14-30
22rd November	(Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24)
	Ephesians 1. 15-end
	Matthew 25. 31-end
29th November	Isaiah 64. 1-9
	(1 Corinthians 1. 3-9)
	Mark 13. 24-end

Answers





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Heather's Village Report October 2026

We're very pleased to confirm that Meole Brace Park and Ride is to continue for a further three years. Funding from parking has increased and this will fund this and the other services mentioned here.

From 1st November, buses from Meole Brace will operate every 20 minutes, Monday to Saturday, with the first bus into town at 7.20am and the last bus leaving the town at approx. 6.20pm.

From 1st November buses from Harlescott and Oxon will continue to run every 12 minutes between 8am and 5pm. There will be a new evening service from Oxon and Harlescott every 20 minutes from 5pm to around 10pm, Monday to Saturday. All Park and Ride services will be operated by Hotspur Buses from 1 November.

We are taking a longer-term look at how the town's overall Park and Ride network should operate in future.

Telegraph poles and poor service from utilities.

A few weeks ago a driver hit a telegraph pole outside Chirbury School severing all phone and internet connection, severely impacting on the childrens' education.

Initially Openreach were suggesting it would take weeks to replace the pole. After a great deal of pressure from me I eventually got them to fix the pole pretty quickly.

Unfortunately, some utility companies have a poor reputation in rural areas like ours for addressing problems like this, often leaving vulnerable people unconnected. If you are having problems then contact me.

Grit Bins

The Council is starting to fill grit bins in advance of the cold weather. If yours need to be refilled then drop me a line and put it on 'Fix my street'. Each grit bin should have a serial number

New Bus Service.

Shropshire with Powys Council has established a new bus service (X81) using money largely from the Welsh Government. It will run four times a day, connecting the station at Newtown with Craven Arms station, via Chirbury, Bishop's Castle and Clun.

Heather Kidd
Shropshire Councillor
Mobile: 07980 635518
heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

The bishop needed to call one of his clergy about an urgent problem within the diocese. But when he rang the vicar's number, he was greeted with a child's whispered, "Hello?"

Feeling impatient, the bishop asked, "Is your Daddy home?"

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

"May I talk with him?" the bishop asked. To his surprise, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, is your Mummy there?" asked the bishop. The small voice said "Yes."

"May I talk with her?" Again, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, who else is in your house?" the bishop demanded.

"A policeman," whispered the child. Startled, the bishop asked to speak with him.

"No, he's busy," whispered the child. "He's talking to Daddy and Mummy and the search team."

"What is going on there? Who are they searching for?" demanded the bishop, now thoroughly alarmed.

Still whispering, the young voice replied, along with a muffled giggle: "Me."

Catherine Jones Art Workshops

with Catherine Jones

Workshops for everyone, many suitable for age 14+ with an adult

At Priest Weston Village Hall

including ink wash style, family Christmas gelli printing, our annual "snow" day

At Border Lights Bishop's Castle

vintage travel poster style

At *Hyssington*

decorating furniture

At Old Bell Gallery Montgomery

including abstract watercolour, lino printing

Lots of new workshops in 2027

www.catherinejonesart.co.uk

catherinejjartist@gmail.com

07407260949

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/catherine-jones-10959560639

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Fantastic Fungi and where to find them!

As autumn settles across Shropshire, the county's ancient landscapes transform into a mycological wonderland. Cooler, damp conditions make this the perfect time of year to explore local woodlands and unimproved grasslands for spectacular fungal displays.

Pink Ballerinas, Toadstools and Fairy Rings

Venture out to historic estate grounds or short-turf pastures like the Natural England Blakemoor Cottages to find vibrant grassland fungi. Look closely in the grass for the rare pink ballerina—known as the pink waxcap—which sports a delicate, flared pink cap resembling a dancer's skirt. Nearby, you might spot fairy rings, so called magical circles of mushrooms generated by an advancing underground mycelium network.

If you prefer a canopy walk at spots like Poles Coppice or the Hope Valley Nature Reserve, look down through the leaf litter to uncover fascinating woodland fungi. The most iconic among them is the fly agaric, a classic crimson toadstool speckled with white warts, famously nesting beneath birch trees.

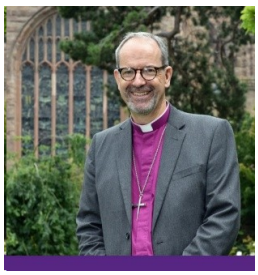
From hidden forest floors to open meadows, Shropshire's autumn canvas is alive with these spectacular structures and there's plenty to be found right on our doorstep!

Laura

Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group

Photo: ballerina waxcap - Steve Hindle

Letter from the bishop



Dear Friends

I have just returned from a visit to Tanzania. We visited the Diocese of Masasi in the south of the country, celebrating its 100th anniversary. It was an experience both joyful and gruelling in equal measure. I'm not sure the Church of England is quite yet ready for four-hour ordination services in 85ºC heat. The celebration service for the anniversary was an hour longer laced with local music, ululation, joyful singing and a nun playing the vuvuzela! She played it again when we went to the convent for dinner one evening as part of the nuns' dancing and singing welcome – you had to be there really.

Alongside the joy is grinding poverty and a huge disparity of wealth. Whilst Tanzania is one of the most stable democracies in Africa, there is still widespread corruption and a poorly maintained infrastructure. It took us 13 hours to drive the 600 km from Dar Es Salaam to our Masasi hostel.

It is easy to look at the Church in Tanzania with its spectacular growth, driven by genuine conversions to Jesus rather than church hopping, and think if only we transferred their patterns here we could have a similar experience. A simple transfer of methodology is unlikely to be successful. Culturally, English people are not as expressive. Similarly, we have such busy lives that 3-4 hour services with preaching of 45 minutes may not gain much traction.

The Christian message has always had to adapt as it moved from one culture to another through its history. Even the churches described in the New Testament were very different from one another. There was conformity of belief, but great diversity of practice. The same is actually true in Tanzania depending on which UK missionary agency first brought the gospel to each part of the country. Even in the Church of England, there is now a huge variation in congregational worship, even in the same parish. Perhaps the greatest lesson was not about a particular style, but the motivating question. In Tanzania it was, "How can we adapt our practice to make the message more accessible to those outside the Church so they can become followers of Jesus?"

Congregations are agents of community transformation. God is the one on whom they depend for everything, not a spiritual lifestyle accessory. I think all of us who visited found this profoundly challenging. I hope we all might also.

+Richard

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MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS			
Draw No.	**Date**	**No**	**Winner**
38	23rd Sep	29	Colin Edwards
		16	Lynn Evans
39	30th Sep	33	Dave Leeson
		26	Chris Watson
40	7th Oct	39	Ann Smith
		50	Sarah Edwards
41	14th Oct	34	Sylvia Povey
		59	Karen Buckley

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Minsterley Parish Council

A planning application to build 25 dwellings next to Linden Fields will go to the Planning Committee on 27th October 2026.

A proposal by The Middle Marches Group to install Meadow murals inside the three bus shelters was agreed.

The arrangements for Remembrance Sunday (8th November 2026) will be: meet at the War Memorial in The Square at 10.45am for Remembrance, followed by a service held in Holy Trinity church.

The next meeting of Minsterley Parish Council will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 10th November 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



On Thursday 8th October at Habberley Village Hall we held an evening of musical bingo to raise money for St. Mary's Habberley. Despite the poor weather, which affected the turnout, we had an enjoyable evening and raised £229. Our thanks go to Pearl, Pauline, Helen and Kate for refreshments, setting up and clearing the hall, and for help during the bingo. Also, thanks to those who generously donated cash or prizes.

Robert Currie

A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the minister went to see him.

He found him in excellent health, so the minister asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man lowered his voice. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and now I don't want to remind Him





Recycling scheme starts

There is now a Bra Bank in the Minsterley Flower Shop, organised by Bronwen Jones and her mum Tracy Eggby-Jones, for the charity Against Breast Cancer. The scheme takes unwanted bras and raises vital funds for pioneering breast cancer research. For every tonne of bras collected, Against Breast Cancer receives £700 to fund their research.

You can take all donations of unwanted bras to Claire at The Flower Shop or drop them at Holy Trinity Minsterley and we'll let Claire or Bronwen have them

Sarah Edwards



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CRAFTY MONDAYS

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

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For more information, contact Heather Ryder
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REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALKS : 2026

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

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

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg

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

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Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available

It was Dad's turn to read young Jamie a bedtime story. After 20 minutes, Mum called up the stairs, "Is he asleep?"

Young Jamie called softly, "Yes, finally."



Snailbeach Methodist Church

Services this month:

Sunday 1st Helen Pearson

Sunday 15th Domini Lucas.

Services are held in the schoolroom adjacent to the church at 2:45 pm.

All are welcome.

Contact details:
Sue Priddey
01743790913

Remembrance Day

There is a group service at All Saints Worthen, on 8th November at 3.00pm, for those wishing to share this occasion

Carol service

at 2.45pm in Snailbeach Chapel on Sunday 20th December, followed by light refreshments.

Minsterley Methodist Church
Sunday services - 10.00am



1st **9.45am – CAFÉ PRAISE**. Come and grab a cuppa, some cake 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.

8th No service at the chapel. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**. Meeting at the War Memorial at **10.45am** and then retiring for service of remembrance at Holy Trinity Church

15th **10.30am – MINSTERLEY PRAISE** at Holy Trinity Church

22nd Service led by Rev Brain Spencer and will include Holy Communion

29th Service led by Rev Kim Stilwell

All are welcome to come and join us at any of our services and for refreshments afterwards.

Sandra Lewis



HTM

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)

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