



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

27th June 2025

Dear friends,

On Monday the long-awaited road repairs in the Hope Valley are due to start. We face an extended period with the road closed. On the one hand it's good to see that the work is being done at last, and to anticipate the end of the 4 sets of traffic lights between Minsterley and Hope. On the other it will involve those of us who use that route some inconvenience. My purple pass from Shropshire Highways will allow me to make pastoral calls to those living in the closed area itself, with hazard lights on and travelling at 5 MPH. Otherwise like everyone else I will need to find an alternative route.

Our lives as Christians can be a bit like that. Mostly we use prayer and the Bible, the wisdom of friends and a bit of common sense to find our way along the road of life. Sometimes we need to find a different way, like drivers avoiding potholes and dead ends, but we usually end up in the right place.

At other times we just find ourselves going straight into the middle of a tricky situation. If that's you this week then don't give up, for God has promised he will never leave you. His presence (the purple pass!) will help you get through.

Rev Fran Brealey

Associate Minister in the Benefices of Pontesbury and Stiperstones

Dave Ewells

It is with much sadness that we announce the death of Dave Ewells very suddenly last Friday, following a major stroke. We pray for his four children, who only lost their mum, Carol, 12 weeks before. Dave was a very much loved member of the benefice choir. His funeral will take place at Yockleton on Weds July 9th at 2 p.m.

Archdeacon's Visitation

The next gathering of the Deanery to worship is at Annscroft at 7 p.m. on Monday 30th June when the Archdeacon will be licensing all the churchwardens from across the Deanery. It is both good to get together as a Deanery to worship, as well as an important opportunity to show our support for our wonderful churchwardens and acknowledge their generous service. Lifts can be arranged.

Bibles

St George's is looking to replenish its stock of bibles. We are inviting members of the congregation to sponsor a copy at a cost of £15. If you wish, these can be dedicated to a loved one. Please give names to Greg or a churchwarden.

Eucharistic Assistants

Both Pontesbury and Minsterley are looking to recruit eucharistic assistants. Full training will be given. If you would like to take part in this valuable ministry, please speak to one of the clergy or a churchwarden.

June 29th

On Sunday 29th, there will be a Group Service at St Luke's, Snailbeach at 10.30 a.m. and an ecumenical service of celebration on School Green in Pontesbury at 12.30 as part of the Pontesbury Festival.

St Luke's Gospel

Please see the attached poster, advertising a performance of St Luke's Gospel, as performed by Robert Currie and Greg Smith at Pontesbury Baptist Church, with incidental music provided by David Young at Pontesbury Baptist Church on Friday June 27th at 4 p.m. Tickets are available from Rebecca Maddox at PApontstip@outlook.com at a cost of £5 each; Greg also has tickets; and tickets will be available on the door from 3.30pm.

Tea Service

The monthly service at St George's takes place next week on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. A short service of Holy Communion

Pontesbury Primary CofE School Governor

Pontesbury Primary School is looking for a new foundation governor (a representative of the church) when June Cribb retires in September. June has served the school and the church magnificently over many years. If you are interested in this role, please speak to Greg or June about what it entails.

Confirmation

Thanks to all those who supported the Confirmation Service at St George's last Sunday and our two candidates, Lily and George. Do continue to pray for them as they begin this next stage of their Christian journey

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain previously operated by Revd Shirley Small is being revived under Mary Worrall's leadership. In the first instance, we would like to recruit a small handful of people who would be willing to pray for those in need as requests come through. If you would like to do this, please contact Mary at maryew15mp@gmail.com or on 01743 791069

Poetry Afternoon

As part of the Pontesbury Festival, we are organising a poetry afternoon at the Pavilion at 2 p.m. on Saturday June 28th. This is an opportunity for people to bring along their favourite piece of poetry (comic or serious) or even prose and read it; or indeed read something they have written themselves. Please contact Greg if you would like to offer something. The event will also feature the winners of the village writing competition.

Pontesbury Festival Volunteers

The Pontesbury Festival is almost upon us. We are looking for volunteers who are able to help out over the course of the weekend, perhaps giving a couple of hours on Saturday June 28th or Sunday June 29th to act as a steward or look after a stall. Please speak to Greg or Joe if you are able to help.

St George's Meadow in the cemetery

The church eco-group has received a grant from the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund to undertake further work on the Meadow area of the cemetery. As part of this work, pupils from Pontesbury Primary School (Reception, Yr3

and Yr6) have created brilliant artworks of meadow wildlife, which will be on display in St George's Meadow during the Pontesbury Festival 27th-29th June. Do pop in to have a look.

There will also be an open-air Service in St George's Meadow at 3pm on Sunday 13th July – bring a rug and a picnic.

Benefice Social

There is to be a social evening for the whole benefice on Saturday 26th July at 7 p.m. at Minsterley Parish Hall. Please put the date in your diaries. This is not a fundraising event, but a chance for us to get together and hopefully have a good time!

Readings for this Sunday

Psalm 125

Acts 12. 1-11

Matthew 16. 13-19

Calendar for the Week

Fri 27 th	Arts Festival at St George's 10-6 (also Sat & Sun) St Luke's Players at Pontesbury Baptist Church at 4 p.m. Meadow Wildlife Exhibition in the Cemetery (also Sat & Sun)
Sat 28 th	Poetry afternoon at the Pavilion at 2 p.m.
Sun 29 th	Group Service at Snailbeach at 10.30 a.m. Ecumenical Celebration on School Green at 12.30 p.m. Family Fun afternoon at Mary Webb 1.30-4.30 p.m.
Mon 30 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m. at HTM Archdeacon's Visitation at 7 p.m. at Annscroft
Tues 1 st	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 Tea Service at 2.30 p.m. at St George's
Weds 2 nd	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Thurs 3 rd	Foodbank at St George's 10-12 Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30 Messy Church at St George's at 3.30 p.m.
Sat 5 th	Afternoon Tea at Kensington Gardens (opposite HTM)
Sun 6 th	Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Tea-time Church at Minsterley at 4 p.m.