



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

15th August 2025

Dear Friends

Fran and I have been concerned for some time about the damp at our home in Wales, which has got steadily worse over the last couple of years. While we were on holiday there, we determined that we initiate doing something about it. We visited the local DIY store to enquire whether they could recommend anyone, and they warmly commended a builder that we had used previously and liked but had long since lost touch with. Driving back through Tywyn, we decided to stop for a coffee. As we approached the café, a car signalled to pull out, allowing us a parking space directly opposite. As I switched the engine off, to our astonishment, we spotted the builder whose telephone number we had just acquired and whom we hadn't seen for a long time. He is now scheduled to do the necessary work in the Spring.

Thus it is that we have discovered yet again the truth St Paul makes in Romans 8:28 "God works all things together for good". We don't always see it, but we can always rely upon it.

Rev Greg Smith

Rector of Pontesbury and Stiperstones



Lord Lieutenant's Visit

St George's and Holy Trinity Minsterley were delighted to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner, third from the left on a flying visit last week. Accompanying the Dean of Hereford and Archdeacon of Ludlow, she was much taken with our work with young people and on the issue of wellbeing. Thanks to Marianne and Alison for providing a wonderful spread.

Afternoon Tea

Thanks to all those who supported the Afternoon Tea at Plealey Farm; with special thanks to Helen McCall for her generous hospitality.

Transport Scheme

We will be launching the Rea Valley Transport Scheme to take people to medical appointments from September 1st. If you need a lift to a medical appointment, including opticians and dentists, please contact Emma at reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com. We are exceptionally grateful to all those who have volunteered to drive, but would be pleased to hear from anyone else willing to help. For further information, please speak to Greg.

Ride & Stride

As in previous years, a group will be walking as part of the Ride & Stride event organised by Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. This will take place on Saturday September 13th and will involve visiting ten historic churches in Shrewsbury. If you would like to take part in some or all of this, please speak to Stephen Winwood or Sarah Edwards.

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.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain 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

Deanery Picnic

There is to be a Deanery Picnic on the August Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August, at 12.30 at St George's. This is an event for all the churches in the Deanery. Please bring your own chairs/blankets and picnics (see attached poster)

Alpha

Our churches will be running an Alpha course Thursday lunchtimes in the autumn at Holy Trinity Minsterley. We are looking for kind volunteers who would be willing to provide a warm meal for up to 10 people on one of those Thursdays, commencing Oct 2nd. If you are able to help or want to know more, please speak to Greg or Fran Brealey.

Readings for this Sunday

Jeremiah 23. 23-29

Hebrews 11. 29- 12. 2

Luke 12. 49-56

Calendar for the Week

Fri 15 th	Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's
Sat 16 th	The Minsterley Show
Sun 17 th	Morning Prayer at Shelve at 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. with Children's Church Minsterley Praise at HTM at 10.30 a.m.
Mon 18 th	Rea Valley Prayer at 7 p.m. at Hove-to, The Gravels
Tues 19 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 The Gathering at Marton Village Hall at 7 p.m.
Weds 20 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon Standing Committee at St George's at 10 a.m. Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Thurs 21 st	Foodbank at St George's 10-12 Funeral of Richard Dale at HTM at 11 a.m. Youth Drop in WER at 7 p.m.
Sun 24 th	Morning Prayer at Hope at 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Family Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m.