



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

29th August 2025

Dear Friends

What's in a word? I have recently been trying to find a non-alcoholic drink that I like (other than a cup of tea obviously) and have a hit upon Thatcher 0% which is rather good (other non-alcoholic ciders are available). Imagine my surprise when I arrived at Sainsbury's checkout to discover that I had to have my age verified. Do you have to be over 18 to buy non-alcoholic cider?! By a similar token, when I was on holiday in Barmouth, Fran and I saw a sign for a Medieval house and decided to go and investigate. We discovered a quaint round house built in the 1800s as a lock up to house the drunkards of Barmouth overnight, one cell for a man and one for a woman. I found myself frantically googling to check whether my understanding of the word 'Medieval' was awry. However, while scholars seem to disagree about the exact dating of the Medieval period, none has it any later than 1500. Perhaps the Middle Ages arrived in Wales 300 years later than everywhere else!

Meanwhile, the word of God is absolutely reliable, and its guidance depended upon at all times. "The word of our God stands forever" Isaiah 40.

Rev Greg Smith

Rector of Pontesbury and Stiperstones

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.

Messy Church

The first Messy Church of a new school year takes place at St George's on Thurs Sept 4th at 3.30 p.m. All welcome.

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. We will meet at Holy Trinity, Meole Brace at 10 a.m. You are welcome to participate in as much or as little of the day as you see fit. For further information, please speak to Stephen Winwood or Sarah Edwards.

Tea Service

Please note that our monthly Tea Service will be hosted by St George's at 2.30 p.m. next Tuesday, Sept 2nd. All welcome.

Sofa and Armchair

Does anyone have a sofa/armchair that they are looking to dispose of? A lady in Minsterley is desperate to acquire something comfortable to sit on, having recently moved to the area, having left a women's refuge. Please let Greg know if you can help.

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

Autism Awareness

St George's is hosting an Autism Awareness training session on Weds Sept 17th from 9.30 a.m.-12.30. This is for anyone interfaces with the public. Places must be reserved in advance. Please contact Greg if you would like to attend.

Deanery Picnic



A good time was had by all at the Deanery picnic, hosted by St George's on the Bank Holiday Monday when all six benefices were represented. Shade was very much at a premium!

Minsterley Show

A massive thanks from Sarah to everyone who baked and made sandwiches, set up and down, and volunteered on the day for our Minsterley Show refreshments stall. It's a huge amount of work beforehand, not to mention over the weekend and I really appreciate everything you all did to make the day such a success for us again.

Garden tea party cancellation

Sadly the garden tea party scheduled for 6 September for HTM has been cancelled.

Coventry Cathedral

We are wanting to explore the possibility of a parish trip to Coventry Cathedral next Spring. At this stage, it would be helpful to know how many people might be interested in joining us. Please speak to Greg or Sadie Preece if you think you might like to come along.

Summer Celebration at Snailbeach

There will be a service of celebration at St Luke's Snailbeach on Sunday 7th September, followed by afternoon tea at Snailbeach Village Hall. All welcome.

Alpha

Our churches will be running an Alpha course on 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.

Revd Stephen Griffiths

Do pray for the Revd Stephen Griffiths, who is to be licensed as the new Rector of the Ford Group, and as Assistant Archdeacon next Thursday.

Group Services

Please note the dates and venues for the next two Group Services.

Sun Aug 31st at Holy Trinity Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.

Sun Sept 14th at Habberley Village Hall (a pet service) at 3 p.m.

Readings for this Sunday

Proverbs 25. 6-7

Hebrews 13. 1-8,15-16

Luke 14. 1. 7-14

Calendar for the Week

Fri 29th Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's

Sun 31st Group Service at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.

Tues 2nd Foodbank at HTM 10-12
Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
Tea Service at St George's at 2.30 p.m.

Weds 3rd Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Pontesbury PCC at 7 p.m. in WER

Thurs 4th Foodbank at St George's 10-12
Messy Church at 3.30 p.m. at St George's

Sun 7th Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.
Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Summer Celebration at Snailbeach at 3 p.m.
Tea-time Service at Minsterley at 4 p.m.

