



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

22nd August 2025

Dear Friends,

Recently a friend recommended an app to me. It's called Merlin, and when you have downloaded it onto your phone, you can use it to help you identify birds. Even when you can't see them, you can record their singing and the app suggests what species they might be. Then you can set up a 'life list' containing details of the species you've identified. I have always loved listening to the birds, but now I am beginning to learn some of their songs. There's plenty to listen to walking around the benefice, or sitting in the garden. On a recent visit to London there were a parakeet and a very noisy robin outside my bedroom window.

Sometimes I feel I'd like to have an app on my phone to help me understand what God is saying. Faced with a difficult decision, struggling with loss or ill-health, or just feeling we have missed our way a bit, it is not always easy to hear God's voice amongst the cacophony of our lives.

But Jesus promises to be with us always. He promises that if we take time to listen, we will hear his voice guiding, encouraging and challenging us. Sometimes we hear his voice as we read the Bible, as we pray, or as we talk to those we love and trust. It might be a whisper, or just an inward nudge. Sometimes it will be like the loud chatter of the robin, impossible to ignore.

Meeting with other Christians gives us the opportunity to talk about what we think we've heard from God, and what it might mean. The Alpha course is a good place to do that. We'll be running Alpha at Holy Trinity Minsterley in the autumn – watch out for details!

Rev Fran Brealey
Associate Minister in the Benefices 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.

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 and to sponsor people, please speak to Stephen Winwood or

Sarah Edwards. There is also a paper form in HTM and one in St Luke's, plus a link for sponsoring the HTM team: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sarah-edwards-11>

Community Meal



The latest Minsterley Community Meal. Thanks to Steve Guy, our chef; and to the Pontesbury Community Garden for the veg.

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

Minsterley Show



Clergy enjoying themselves at the Minsterley Show. Many, many thanks to all those who worked so hard on the day. Over £1200 was raised for Minsterley church funds.

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.

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.

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.

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

Psalm 145. 1-7

Acts 5. 12-16

Luke 22. 24-30

Calendar for the Week

Fri 22nd Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's

Sun 24th 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.

Mon 25th Deanery Picnic at St George's at 12.30

Tues 26th Foodbank at HTM 10-12

Weds 27th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon

Funeral of Paul Pritchard at HTM at 2 p.m.

Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.

Thurs 28th Foodbank at St George's 10-12

Time Out at St George's 1-3 p.m.

Minsterley Standing Ctte at 7 p.m.

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