



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

19th September 2025

Dear friends

I was driving towards Hanwood on Tuesday when I spotted a car coming the other way flashing its lights at me. Within a couple of hundred yards, half a dozen other cars had also flashed their lights as an evident warning. My first thought was that the police were on patrol looking for speeding motorists. My second thought was that this is Shropshire and on Sunday we had been focusing on the parable of the Lost Sheep, and we might well be having a live reenactment! But no, it proved to be an Officer of the Law with a speed gun, having a pretty fruitless time of it, I suspect. I found myself reflecting how this bond of camaraderie forms between motorists who don't otherwise know each other, as if we were playing out a latter-day version of Smokey and the Bandit. There are very few of us who haven't lamented the idiocy of someone driving too fast on our roads or mourned tragic accidents caused by dangerous driving. Why, therefore, do we seek to impede the police trying to do something about this?

I suspect that most of us have entered Hanwood driving at 35 mph and therefore reckon that this is an excusable sin, and that therefore our fellow drivers ought to be protected from the consequences of it, while really dangerous drivers are a different order from us. The Bible warns us against this. Judge not lest ye be judged (Matthew 7.1) and remove the log from your own eye before seeking to remove the speck of sawdust from your brother's eye (Luke 6.42)

Rev Greg Smith
Rector of Pontesbury and Stiperstones

Transport Scheme

We have now launched the Rea Valley Transport Scheme to take people to medical appointments. 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.

Holiday

Please note that Fran and Greg are on holiday from this Saturday 20th September until the following Friday. Any queries should be addressed to Revd Fran Brealey or your churchwardens.

Group Service

Please note that our next Group Service takes place at Holy Trinity Hope on Sunday 28th September at 10.30 a.m. This will be Holy Communion.

Ride & Stride

Congratulations to the 14 walkers who visited up to 11 churches in Shrewsbury last Saturday as part of Ride and Stride. If you have been kind enough to sponsor them, would you provide your gift as soon as convenient. If you haven't had the opportunity to write your name on a sponsor form, any gift would be still much appreciated. All monies are divided equally between your local church and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. As can be seen over, it wasn't all hard work!



Ichthus Bible Study

The next Ichthus session is on Tuesday 23rd September 2.30pm at Brookfield Waterwheel. More details from Liz Jackson on 01743 791352.

Deanery Evensong

A quarterly Deanery Choral Evensong service launches on September 28th at St George's Pontesbury at 5 p.m. led by our Benefice Choir. All welcome

Friday Prayer Group

A new Friday morning prayer group is being launched at Holy Trinity Minsterley next Friday, September 26th at 9.30 a.m. just for 20 minutes each week. Please speak to Ruth Wadsworth for further details.

HTM harvest supper sign up

Are you coming to the HTM and STL harvest supper on 4 October? If so, can you sign up on the sheet in either church or let Sarah know asap. Payment can be later, we just need to know numbers!

Minsterley Outreach and Fundraising Committee

We are looking for new members to join the small outreach and fundraising committee for Holy Trinity Minsterley. The group meets approximately quarterly to plan events (but not necessarily to run them). For further information, please contact Sarah Edwards.

Train a Priest Quiz

Westbury Church is hosting a quiz evening on Saturday 20th September at 7 p.m. to raise funds for training priests in Africa where there is a huge need for more clergy. Bring a team or come as an individual and a team will be found for you.

Little Dragons/Trinity Tots

Please note that there will be no Little Dragons or Trinity Tots this coming week because of staff shortages. We would very much like to recruit additional volunteers so that this doesn't happen in the future. Please contact Greg or Mandy Thomas at littledragonspontesbury@gmail.com or Sarah Young at sstewart958@gmail.com if you think you might be interested in helping.

HTM Autumn Tidy Up

It's the annual autumn tidy up at HTM on Saturday 1st November from 10am. We'll be cleaning the church and sorting out the churchyard ready for winter. There's lots to do so we need volunteers to come armed with tools and cleaning implements! As always there'll be refreshments to keep us going. Please speak to Sarah if you need any information.

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

We are now recruiting 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

Amos 8. 4-7

1Timothy 2. 1-7

Luke 16. 1-13

Calendar for the Week

Fri 19th Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's

Sat 20th Big Breakfast at St George's 9-11.30

	Train a priest Quiz at St Mary's Westbury at 7 p.m.
Sun 21 st	Morning Prayer at Shelve at 9 a.m.
	Minsterley Praise at 10 a.m. at Minsterley Methodist Church
	Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Mon 22 nd	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 23 rd	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
	Ichthus Bible Study at Brookfield Waterwheel 2.30pm
Weds 24 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon
	Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
	Youth Café at Pontesbury Baptist Church at 3.30 p.m.
Thurs 25 th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
Sun 28 th	Group Service at Hope at 10.30 a.m.
	Choral Evensong at Pontesbury at 5 p.m.