



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

26th September 2025

Dear friends

We had a few days away in Yorkshire last week and I had picked up a couple of novels in the Shrewsbury Oxfam bookshop to read while I was away. One was set on the Essex marshes in the 19th century, and told the story of a community overcome by the fear of a sea-monster they believed to be lurking just offshore. Throughout the novel the people's fear grew, as they blamed the monster for every ill that befell them. They turned in on themselves and refused all the rational explanations that were suggested for their troubles. At the end of the book the 'monster' was revealed as an old upturned boat which had become trapped on a mudbank, shifting with the ebbing and flowing tide.

The fears that beset our world today are different, often spreading through gossip, social media and the words of the powerful. We can still be tempted to look for others to blame for our worries and our troubles. It is even easier when those 'others' are not like us, when they are in-comers or strangers.

But Jesus calls us to see others, not as a threat, but as our neighbours. It is easy to be with our friends, more difficult to reach out to those who are unlike us in some way. In the story recorded in Matthew 25, Jesus says that when we welcome the stranger, we are serving our Lord himself. This week let's pray for an opportunity to do this, by making an effort to get to know someone very different to us, by listening to their story and making them feel welcome.

Rev Fran Brealey
Associate Minister in the Benefices of Pontesbury and Stiperstones

Deanery Evensong

A quarterly Deanery Choral Evensong service launches on Sunday 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 Hymn books

Holy Trinity Minsterley is looking to add to its stock of hymn books. 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 donations and names to Greg, Sarah or Marie.

St George's Harvest Flowers

Should anyone like to help or do flowers for the harvest service for the 19th October please contact Marianne McCall on 07944333830 .

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.

St George's Big Breakfast – message from Marianne

The St George's Big Breakfast made £363! Thank you everyone who supported us and especially those who donated the eggs and orange juice, it was very much appreciated.

A big thank you must go Marion, Mary, Caroline, Heather, Alison, Holly and Rob as without their support and help it would not have been possible.

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.

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.

Little Dragons/Trinity Tots

We would very much like to recruit additional volunteers for Little Dragons or Trinity Tots. 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 to the 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.

Diocesan Data Breach

Many of you will be aware that the company APCS who undertake safeguarding checks for the Diocese has had a serious data breach. A large number of individuals have had their data stolen. If you have NOT received an email from Hereford Diocese telling you that you have been personally affected, then this does not apply to you, and there is no need to be concerned further.

If you do receive a message, please take it seriously, and take the recommended actions. If you struggle to complete the security measures, please ask for help. PLEASE UNDERSTAND that no one else will be told that your data has been compromised, so the only way your clergy or safeguarding officers will know that you have been affected is if you tell us.

Readings for this Sunday

Amos 6. 1a, 4-7

1 Timothy 6. 6-19

Luke 16. 19-end

Calendar for the Week

Fri 26 th	Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's
Sun 28 th	Group Service at Hope at 10.30 a.m. Deanery Choral Evensong at St George's at 5 p.m.
Mon 29 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 30 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
Weds 1 st Oct	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 2 nd	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
Sat 4 th	HTM and STL harvest supper 7pm Snailbeach Village Hall
Sun 5 th	Harvest Holy Communion All Saints Shelve 9.00am Snailbeach/Minsterley Harvest Service at St Luke's Snailbeach 10.30am Holy Communion at St George's 10.30am