



## **Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches**

### **Newsletter**

**10th October 2025**

Dear Friends

Life throws challenges at us whether we want them or not. They might be physical, mental or spiritual but whatever they are it is rare for someone to avoid these things completely. Yet so much of our culture, whether through media or advertising or other forms, seems to suggest that it is not only possible to avoid challenges, but that we aren't really living properly if we ARE facing challenges, that somehow we can be insulated from them. It's everywhere, the constant reassurances that ever-increasing controls are put in place to "keep us safe", that we need to be protected from the violence of hearing opinions we don't like, that any bump or glitch in our smooth ride through life may induce trauma. A pillow of safetism smothers us so that it seems we are being encouraged to do nothing more than get to our death as safely as possible. Any idea of real life with challenges to be overcome, metaphorical mountains to be climbed or symbolic deep valleys to be negotiated is rejected and indeed feared.

This isn't the call of the Christian life. On the contrary, challenges are to be faced every day, internal challenges with our own sin, external challenges from evil powers; the challenge of living a life for God - but we don't face them in our own strength, but instead through the strength of the one who faced and conquered death. In facing them, and overcoming them, then we can live the life of champions, growing closer into God. It's exciting, exhilarating and hard, all at the same time, but it's real. If you find you are simply existing then get yourself to Church, confess your sins and get in the fight. It won't necessarily be easier, it might be a lot harder, but it can be exhilarating!

**Rev. Richard Lonsdale**

**Asst Curate at Pontesbury, Minsterley, Habberley and Hope with Shelve and Chirbury.**

### **Harvest Suppers**

Thanks to all those who supported the Minsterley/Snailbeach Harvest Supper last Saturday. Over 40 attended and enjoyed fabulous food and fellowship. Over £500 was raised through the auction wonderfully presided over by Alistair Bates and through ticket sales. Thanks to everyone who provided food and to Sarah for organizing us all.

It is the Hope/Shelve Harvest Supper this Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Hope Village Hall; and Pontesbury Harvest Lunch on Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 at St George's.

### **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](mailto:reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com). We have agreed a modification to the scheme, which will now include offering lifts connected to wellbeing (e.g. a support group). 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.

### **Stuart Carter Concert**

Stuart Carter will be performing at Habberley Village Hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7 p.m. Tickets are £8 and all monies raised will go to St Mary's Habberley, and its roof repairs. Last year saw a very well received concert, a mix of folk, pop, rock including some of Stuart's own songs. You may need to arrive early for a good seat.

### **HTM autumn tidy up**

The annual tidy up at HTM will take place on Saturday 1st November from 10am. We'll be tidying inside and outside the church so please come along, bring your tools of choice and in return we'll provide coffee and refreshments!

### **DBS checks**

You will be aware of a very serious data breach that has called into question the wisdom of continuing with the company who undertake DBS checks on behalf of Hereford Diocese. Consequently, the Diocese has decided to switch to 31:8. They have an extremely good reputation and are widely used by the Christian sector. However, DBS checking has not yet resumed, and we would be grateful for your patience.

### **Little Dragons**

Little Dragons is wanting to recruit at least one new leader. The need is now critical. Please speak to Greg or Mandy Thomas at [littledragonspontesbury@gmail.com](mailto:littledragonspontesbury@gmail.com) if you would like to know more.

### **Bible Study**

Bible Study resumes on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the home of Allen Marsden 3 Earls Court Pontesbury, 7pm.

### **Friday Prayer Group**

A new Friday morning prayer group is being commenced at Holy Trinity Minsterley on Fridays, at 9.30 a.m. just for 20 minutes each week. Please speak to Ruth Wadsworth for further details.

### **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.

### **Coventry Cathedral**

We are wanting to explore the possibility of a parish trip to Coventry Cathedral next Spring, probably w/c 27<sup>th</sup> April. 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.

### **Kitten**

There is a newborn kitten that is being offered free to a good home. Please contact Greg if you would like further details.

### **Readings for this Sunday**

2 Kings 5. 1-3, 7-15c

2 Timothy 2. 8-15

Luke 17. 11-19

### **Calendar for the Week**

Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's Funeral of Graham Wilson at 2 p.m. at HTM Hope/Shelve Harvest Supper at 7 p.m. at HVH
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	SYFC Prayer Breakfast at Elim Harlescott at 8.30 a.m.
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Hope Harvest at 9 a.m. Morning Prayer at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Harvest service at Habberley at 10.30 a.m. Service of Meditation at Longden at 7 p.m.
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m. Rea Valley Prayer Group at 7 p.m. at Bentlawnt
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m. Oasis Bereavement Group 12-1.30 p.m.
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon Youth Café at Pontesbury Baptist Church at 3.30 p.m. Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m. Minsterley Standing Ctte at 7 p.m.
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	Foodbank at St George's 10-12 Trinity Tots at HTM at 10-11.30 a.m. Alpha at HTM at 12.30
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Together at Shelve at 9 a.m. Minsterley Praise at HTM at 10 a.m. Harvest Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 Harvest Lunch at St George's at 12.30