



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

24th October 2025

Dear friends,

I was in Long Mountain School recently and heard that they had been marking International Dot Day. The children had spent some time hearing and reflecting on a book called *The Dot*. It tells the story of a little girl called Vashti who thinks she is no good at drawing. Her teacher tells her, 'just make a mark and see where it takes you', and so she makes a dot on the page. The teacher frames the dot and displays it in her office, and this encourages Vashti to draw more and more wonderful and colourful paintings.

This story reminded me of Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. The seed is not chastised for being small and insignificant, and it grows into a tree so big the birds can nest in its branches. Jesus does not scold us for the little faith we have. Instead he encourages us just to plant a seed, just to put a mark on a page, just to trust in him a little, and then God can do amazing things in and through us. Where could you make your mark this week? In a conversation, an act of kindness, or a prayer?

As Hudson Taylor, the 19th century missionary to China wrote, we do not need a great faith, but we do need a little faith in a great God.

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

All Souls

There will be two All Souls services in the Benefice this year: on Saturday 1st November at Holy Trinity Hope at 3 p.m. and on Sunday 2nd November at St George's Pontesbury at 4 p.m. All are welcome at either service. If there are names you would like read out, please ensure that either Greg [rectorpontstip@gmail.com or 07902794653] or Fran [revfran@btinternet.com or 07982324760] have them by the end of the morning this Sunday 26th. We will be reading from the lists being compiled in St George's and HTM, and will be including those who have had funeral services in the benefice this year, whose relatives have also been invited to the services.

Bible Yarns

Has arrived at St George's. This wonderful knitted exhibition created by Clun church members is not to be missed. It will be in situ for 2 weeks until Nov 4th, and there is no charge for just coming into church at any time and exploring this fun display.

Monday Night Bible Study

Is back, starting Monday 3rd November at 7 p.m. We will be looking at the first half of the book of Daniel. Allen Marsden has kindly agreed to host us this term at 3 Earls Court. All welcome from across the benefice to attend. Please speak to Greg or Allen if you would like to know more.

Holiday

Please note that Greg and Fran are on holiday over half-term. Other clergy are around as are churchwardens.

Transport Scheme

The Rea Valley Transport Scheme which takes people to medical appointments and wellbeing groups now has a telephone number **07468 115939** as well as an email address reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com. Please give as much notice as possible.

Stuart Carter Concert

Stuart Carter will be performing at Habberley Village Hall on Friday 7th 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.

Minsterley Messy Church

Fran is collecting small glass jars (honey pot size) for Messy Christmas if anyone has any. Do start collecting them now if you can!

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.

Community Garden

The Pontesbury Community Garden (on Cricketer's Meadow behind the Ark Nursery) provides food for the community all year long. Anyone is welcome to help themselves to whatever is going spare. The garden is also looking for volunteers to help tend it through the course of the year. This need not be very onerous, but does require some commitment. If you would like to know more, please contact Greg.

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 if you would like to know more.

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.

Readings for this Sunday celebrating Bible Sunday

Psalms 119. 129-136

Romans 15. 1-6

Calendar for the Week

Fri 24 th	Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's Friday Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Sun 26 th	Family Service at Hope at 9 a.m. Family Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m.
Tues 28 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
Weds 29 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Thurs 30 th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
Sat 1 st Nov	All Souls Service at Holy Trinity Hope at 3 p.m.
Sun 2 nd	Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 Christening of William Frith at St George's at 12.30 Tea-time service at Minsterley at 4 p.m. All Souls Service at St George's at 4 p.m.