



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

3rd October 2025

Dear friends

Fran and I had four wonderful days in Vienna last week. The sights and sounds will mean nothing to you if you've never been, and everything if you have. Highlights included the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace, the Kunsthistorisches museum (Brueghel's paintings in particular), a Vivaldi concert and St Stephen's Cathedral. However, we both agreed that the thing we most appreciated was the atmosphere, sitting in cafes eating Viennese pastries, chatting to waiters and watching the hubbub of this glorious city go by. The atmosphere so hard to describe and yet so powerful and tangible.

I find myself wondering how true it is of our churches. The architecture may be striking, the music uplifting and the sermons inspiring (or not!) but I suspect it's the atmosphere that visitors take away with them. This may be arrived at through a myriad of tiny things, but it may be that just one kindness from the person sat next to you can make all the difference.

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.

Richard

As some of you will be aware, Richard's placement in Telford has fallen through because of a bereavement suffered by his supervisor. Therefore, the Diocese has arranged an alternative placement in Bishops Castle, which commences next week and runs through until Christmas. Please do pray for him, since this is a demanding undertaking to come quite so late in his curacy.

Ride & Stride

If you have been kind enough to sponsor the ride and stride walkers, 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.

Tea Time Service

Please note that there will be no Tea Time service at HTM this week because of the Harvest Festival taking place at St Luke's, Snailbeach at 10.30 a.m. for the two churches.

Harvest service at St Luke's Snailbeach - parking

Please park at Snailbeach village hall (if possible) and walk down to the church to avoid blocking the junction. The car park will be manned as there is another event sharing the car park. Just tell the steward that you are attending church and he will direct you where to park. Thank you.

Harvest Supper Auction items

If you're planning on donating something for the harvest supper auction this Saturday (4th Oct) please could you let Sarah know by Friday. We can accept items on the evening but it'll just make things easier if we know most of them ahead of the night. Thank you.

Deanery Evensong

Thanks to all those who attended the Deanery Evensong service hosted by St George's on Sunday, magnificently led by Barbara and the Benefice choir. There were over 40 in attendance and a very convivial atmosphere. The next service will be hosted by All Saints Worthen on Sunday November 30th at 5 p.m. Lifts can be arranged. Please speak to Greg.

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 pew bibles

Thanks to all who contributed towards the new NIV pew bibles at St George's. If you asked to include a dedication, these have been beautifully penned by Sheila Bower.

Concert for St Mary's Habberley

Stuart Carter is in concert at Habberley Village Hall on Friday 7th November at 7pm – see attached poster for more details.

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.

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.

Train a Priest Quiz

Thanks to all those who supported the Deanery Train a Priest quiz last Saturday, and congratulations to the Lonsdale team who were victorious. Over £600 has now been raised for this important charity. If you would still like to make a donation, please give it to a churchwarden or one of the clergy.

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.

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

Habakkuk 1.1-4;2.1-4

2 Timothy 1.1-14

Luke 17.5-10

Calendar for the Week

Fri 3 rd	Coffee Stop 10-12 at St George's
Sat 4 th	Minsterley/Snailbeach Harvest Supper at Snailbeach Village Hall at 7 p.m.
Sun 5 th	Harvest Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m. Harvest Communion at Snailbeach at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Mon 6 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 7 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 followed by team meeting at 12.15 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
Weds 8 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon Youth Café at Pontesbury Baptist Church at 3.30 p.m.
Thurs 9 th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12 Trinity Tots at HTM at 10-11.30 a.m. Alpha at HTM at 12.30
Fri 10 th	Funeral of Graham Wilson at 2 p.m. at HTM Hope/Shelve Harvest Supper at 7 p.m. at HVH
Sat 11 th	SYFC Prayer Breakfast at Elim Harlescott at 8.30 a.m.
Sun 12 th	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.