



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

12th December 2025

Dear friends,

I caught up with an old friend last week. I had been invited down to London for a tour of the House of Lords by Bishop Richard (with others) and the timings meant I couldn't get back in the same day, so there was an opportunity to lay over at the flat of a friend from university. It was good to see him again, we hadn't met up much since the late 90's and it was curious to see both the same person from university days, but who was also much older as well - life had taken its toll on both of us.

Moments like this are good opportunities to take stock, to contrast the attitudes and hopes we had when we were young and life was before us and compare to now, when we have all travelled a bit further down the road.

Advent is a great time for thoughts of this nature - what early hopes and dreams we had, that we invested so much time in but turned out to be pointless wastes of time. What has stayed the course and proven true? From my own experience God has been solidly there all my life, even when I haven't been paying much attention to him. In this time of preparation for the coming of Christ, maybe use the time to chew on these things and let our meditations take us to the arms of Jesus who remains constant and true even after many years.

Rev. Richard Lonsdale

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

PCC Officers

From next Spring's APCMs, we will be looking for new church officers. St George's is seeking a PCC Secretary and Holy Trinity Minsterley a new churchwarden. If you would like to know more about either role, please speak to Greg about this.

Monday Night Bible Study

The Monday night Bible Study will recommence on Jan 5th at 7 p.m. at 3 Earls Court. All welcome. We will be looking at Daniel Chapter 4.

Xmas Tree Festival

Many thanks to all those who supported the Pontesbury Christmas Tree Festival last weekend. The trees were so beautifully decorated and all the volunteers worked incredibly hard. Special thanks to Marianne for her leadership of the whole thing.

Minsterley Xmas Fair

£2300 was raised for church funds last Saturday at the Minsterley Christmas Fair. Thanks to all volunteers who worked long hours to make the Fair such a success. Particular thanks to Sarah Edwards, organiser-in-chief. And thanks to Santa for putting in such a long stint.



Rea Valley Foodbank

Rea Valley Foodbank would be pleased to receive any Christmas treats that you feel able to donate. We are not offering Christmas parcels this year but are seeking to supplement the ordinary food parcels to our clients. The foodbank which will only be closed on Christmas Day, also requires Tim tomatoes - whole and chopped

Biscuits

Long life milk

Tin veg

Meat for sandwiches and for meals

Tin fruit

Tin fish

Hope Carols

The Hope Carol Service takes place at 3pm on Sunday 14th. A traditional candlelit carol service of readings and carols followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Carols at The Crown

Members of HTM are joining our friends at The Crown and Sceptre this Sunday (14 December) from 4pm for a Christmas Carol Singalong accompanied by the children from Minsterley Primary School. Everyone is welcome so please come along and support Caron, Ellie and the local children.

Youth Carols

There will be a youth carol service at St George's on Thurs Dec 18th at 4 p.m. We are hoping lots of young people will come along, but the service is open to older regulars too. Please support our youth team if you're able.

The Gathering

The next Gathering takes place at Marton Village Hall, Tuesday 16th December at 7.00 for 7.30 - an opportunity for a break, some spiritual refreshment and a chance to bellow out some praise - or just sit quietly in contemplative worship.

Christmas Donation Appeal

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS) protects and supports victims of domestic abuse and violence.

To help ensure the families staying in SDAS refuges have a special Christmas, we are asking for donations, and the easiest way to support is through the Amazon Wish list. Items purchased from the wish list are delivered directly to SDAS, making donating simple and stress-free.

Amazon Wish list (preferred option): <https://bit.ly/4rp2R6s>

More information / alternative donation options: <https://bit.ly/4odV0G1>

When you go to the check out, the delivery option will be Emma Price, Craven Arms, Gift Registry.

Alternatively you can donate towards the gifts needed by giving cash to Sarah or Marie who will liaise with SDAS.

Thank you for helping us bring joy and comfort to families who need it most this Christmas. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

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.

Christmas Services

Sun Dec 14 th at 3 p.m.	Carol Service at Hope
Weds Dec 17 th at 7 p.m.	Christingle & Carols at Minsterley
Thurs Dec 18 th at 4 p.m.	Youth Carols at Pontesbury
Sun Dec 21 st at 4 p.m.	Christingle at Shelve
Sun Dec 21 st at 7 p.m.	Benefice Carol Service at Pontesbury
Weds Dec 24 th at 10 a.m.	Holy Communion at Hope
Weds Dec 24 th at 5 p.m.	Carol Service at Habberley
Weds Dec 24 th at 6 p.m.	Carols on School Green
Weds Dec 24 th at 11 p.m.	Midnight Communion at Minsterley
Thurs Dec 25 th at 9 a.m.	Holy Communion at Snailbeach
Thurs Dec 25 th at 9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at Shelve

Thurs Dec 25th at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Pontesbury

Readings for this Sunday, Advent 3

Isaiah 35.1-10

James 5. 7-10

Matthew 11. 2-11

Calendar for the Week

Fri 12 th	Coffee Stop from 10-12 noon Friday Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Sun 14 th	Morning Worship at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Minsterley Praise at 10.30 a.m. at HTM Carol Service at Hope at 3 p.m. Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m. Meditation Service at Longden at 5 p.m.
Mon 15 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 16 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons Xmas Party at St George's 10-11.30 a.m. The Gathering at 7 p.m. at Marton Village Hall
Weds 17 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m. Pontesbury Youth Café at Baptist Church at 3.30 p.m. Christingle & Carols at HTM at 7 p.m. led by Stiperstones Brass Band
Thurs 18 th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12 Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30 a.m. Youth Carols at St George's at 4 p.m.
Sun 21 st	Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Christingle at Shelve at 3 p.m. Benefice Carol Service at St George's at 7 p.m.