



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

5th December 2025

Dear Friends

Advent is upon us. In truth, the church has lost any control it might once have had over the way in which we prepare for Christmas. The shops and television adverts start much earlier than Dec 1st and in the Smith household, we have succumbed to the pressures of the season and bought the grandchildren's Christmas presents in November. I know that I should be ashamed of myself, but 24 days no longer seems long enough to get ready for the big day. There is a paradox in the midst of this. We should really be preparing for Jesus' return, and if He Himself didn't know when that would be, what chance we? And how can you prepare for something when you have no idea whether it will even happen in your lifetime?

The answer is that Jesus will welcome us into His life right now. We should take every opportunity to enter into that fullness of life. There is actually no need to wait.

Rev Greg Smith

Rector of Pontesbury and Stiperstones

Poonam's baby

Thank you all for your prayers for Poonam and her baby boy. Although he is still on oxygen, all his readings are now normal. Hopefully, he will be home soon.

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 final Monday night Bible Study of the year will take place on Dec 8th at 7 p.m. at 3 Earls Court. All welcome. We will be looking at Daniel Chapter 3.

Richard Lonsdale

Richard's placement in Bishops Castle is going well and will come to an end after Christmas. This will mark the official end of his curacy and leave him free to pursue a job as Vicar somewhere else. During this period, he will be back ministering in the Pontesbury and Stiperstones benefices.

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.

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.

Christingles and Carols at HTM

Join us for an evening of Christingles and carols with Stiperstones Brass Band at 7pm on 17th December at HTM. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served after the service.

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.

Snailbeach Village Fayre

Was very well supported and raised several hundred pounds for St Luke's. Thanks to all those who came along. See below the Fayre in full swing.



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.

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

Songs of Praise

We are warmly welcomed to the Pontesbury Baptist Church Songs of Praise service this Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

Readings for this Sunday, Advent 2

Isaiah 11.1-10

Romans 15.4-13

Matthew 3.1-12

Calendar for the Week

Fri 5 th	Pontesbury Xmas Tree Festival starts 5 th -7 th Friday Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Sat 6 th	Minsterley Xmas Fair at the Parish Hall 12-3.30 Stiperstones Brass band leading carols at St George's at 6 p.m.
Sun 7 th	Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Teatime service at Minsterley at 4 p.m. Songs of Praise at Pontesbury Baptist Church at 6.30 p.m.
Mon 8 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m. Bible Study at 3 Earls Court at 7 p.m.
Tues 9 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
Weds 10 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. Messy Church at Minsterley at 3.30 p.m.
Thurs 11 th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12 Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30 a.m. Messy Church Christingle at Pontesbury at 3.30 p.m.
Sat 13 th	Christmas Coffee Morning, Hope Village Hall 10-12
Sun 14 th	Morning Worship at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Minsterley Praise at HTM at 10.30am Carols by Candlelight at Holy Trinity Hope at 3pm Carols at Snailbeach Village Hall 3pm – 4.30pm Crown and Sceptre Carols at Minsterley 4pm Evensong at St Mary's Habberley at 5pm Meditation Service at Longden at 5 p.m.