



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

### **Newsletter**

**13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Dear friends,

So yesterday I woke up slightly before the alarm was due to go off and marvelled at how light it was getting. "Fantastic" I thought, "Spring is really starting to arrive now". Got up, got dressed and made a coffee and sent a message to my brother commenting on how light it was. I felt great.

Then I looked at the message again and the "time sent" on it, and I looked again. 7.50am!!! Que a mad panic, shaking the kids awake, quick bit of toast and bundled them into the car to get them to school/college on time. It was all rather breathless!

Apparently there had been a power cut and when the electricity came back on the alarm clock carried on merrily as before, only an hour and a half behind the actual time!

It's always a shock to one's sense of balance when things like this happen. Our Gospel reading from last Sunday was a reminder from our Lord not to worry, not to panic but instead focus on how the world in its created order carries on regardless and quite happily. How can we take the focus off ourselves and our commitment to the daily grind and instead take a step back and look up at the heavens and to give thanks to God for all he has given us?

**Revd. Richard Lonsdale**

#### **Ash Wednesday**

There will be a service of Ashing with Holy Communion on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at St George's Pontesbury. If you have palm crosses from last year, please return these by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.

#### **PCC Officers**

From next Spring's APCMs, we are still 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.

#### **Lent Lunches**

St George's will be hosting Lent Lunches in Pontesbury throughout Lent, commencing on February 18<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 p.m. in the West End Room. All welcome.

## **Beetle Drive with Pancakes**

Come and have fun and tasty pancakes on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, at St. George's Church at 7pm! £5 per ticket – available from Mary tel 791069 or Marianne 07944 333830.

## **Minsterley Coffee Morning**

The HTM Coffee Morning on 7<sup>th</sup> February raised £375. Many Thanks to Sarah Edwards and her team.

## **Beware Scam Emails**

Please note that one popular email scam is to tell the recipient that the sender would like an email conversation with them (sometimes claiming to be suffering from laryngitis to avoid a phone call). If you respond to this, you will be asked either for money or to buy vouchers. Such emails should be deleted. It may be helpful to advise the purported sender that this scam is being perpetrated in their name.

## **Holiday**

Please note that Greg & Fran are on holiday from 9-13 February.

## **The Gathering**

The next praise and worship evening at Marton village hall, the Gathering, is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 beginning at 7:30pm. More details from Revd. David Moss 01743 884165

## **Rea Valley Green Day in Pontesbury – open planning meeting**

Organised by St George's Eco-Group and the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group, there will be an open planning meeting at Pontesbury Library on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm for the fun and informative Green Day on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Do come if you have ideas to share, or things you would like to do on the day!

## **Coffee morning at HTM in March**

Come and have some cake and coffee with us at Holy Trinity Minsterley on 7<sup>th</sup> March from 10am - 12pm. If you can bake for the cake stall or refreshments stall please contact Sarah. Everyone is welcome to come along for delicious cake, a hot drink and plenty of chat.

## **Recipe corner in Minsterley Parish Magazine**

After a successful year of featuring World War 2 memories to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War we're launching Recipe Corner - a selection of favourite recipes from you! If you have a family or favourite recipe that you can share with us, along with a short description of why it's important or some background please contact Sarah (church warden) or David (magazine editor) on [minsterleyparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:minsterleyparishmagazine@gmail.com). Watch out for the church warden's Nan's cake recipe in an upcoming issue... though she's convinced there's a secret ingredient as she can't make it nearly as well as her mum or daughter!

## **Snailbeach Newsletter**

The Snailbeach & District Village Hall newsletter is published quarterly, and the new issue is just out. If you are interested in Snailbeach news you can find a link to it on the church website. Go to [www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk](http://www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk), and select "St. Luke's Snailbeach" then click the "News and notices" button

on the left hand side, then click on the “Notice sheets” button. A little long-winded – sorry about that! This is also the place to find back issues of the Minsterley Parish Magazine.

### **Youth Café**

Both Youth Cafes (in Minsterley on Mondays and Pontesbury on Wednesdays) would benefit from additional volunteers. It is not necessary to commit to every week. If you would like to know more about the role, please contact Joe Barnes at [joe@s-yfc.org](mailto:joe@s-yfc.org)

### **Palm Sunday**

We will be enacting the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, as a Group Service. If you would like to participate in this in any way (non-speaking parts are available), please let Greg know as soon as possible.

### **Coventry Cathedral**

The benefice visit to Coventry Cathedral is booked for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. We have booked a coach, but places are at a premium. To reserve your place, please pay £20 to Sadie Preece as soon as possible (there is an additional £10 charge if you would like to join the guided tour). If you are not able to make payment at a service, you can post/deliver to Sadie at 1, Jubilee Cottages, Main Road, Pontesbury (next to the pharmacy).

### **Revd. Fergus Butler-Gallie**

The talk and book signing *Twelve Churches: an unlikely history of the buildings that made Christianity* is now on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at St George’s.

### **Items currently required by the Foodbank**

Tin meat for sandwiches	Jam/Marmalade
Sweet Biscuits	Tinned fruit
Custard	375g packs of cereal or smaller
Rice pudding	Small packs of Porridge
Tinned fish	Rice
Tinned potatoes	

### **Readings for Sunday Feb 15th**

Exodus 24.12-end  
2 Peter 1. 16-end  
Matthew 17.1-9

## Calendar for the Week

- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Coffee Stop at St George's
- Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Worship Together at Shelve at 9 a.m.  
Minsterley Praise at Minsterley Methodist Church at 10.00 a.m.  
Holy Communion and Children's Church at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12  
Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.  
Beetle Drive with Pancakes at St George's at 7pm  
The Gathering at Marton Village Hall at 7:30pm.
- Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12  
Lent Lunch 12-1 at St George's  
Tea Break at St George's 2-4pm  
Ash Wednesday Service at St George's 7pm
- Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12  
Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30 a.m.  
Green Day Open Planning Meeting at the Pavilion, 7pm
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Morning Prayer at Hope at 9 a.m.  
Holy Communion at HTM at 10.30 a.m.  
Family Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.  
Holy Communion at Habberley at 5.00pm