



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

6th February 2026

Dear Friends

I asked my six-year-old grandson last weekend whether he would be helping to change the nappies of his baby sister who is due to arrive next month. He laughed in derision but then said: “I will give her lots of cuddles”. There is little more endearing for a parent to see the love of their children for each other. Sadly, but entirely realistically, there is little of this in the Bible. Cain murdered Abel. Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery before announcing to their father that he was dead; that same father Jacob had stolen the birthright of his brother Esau. Meanwhile, in the New Testament, Peter bounds up to Jesus and demands to know how many more times he might have to forgive his brother, Andrew, confident that he must have long since reached the limit.

In the Church, we are encouraged to regard all Christians as our brothers and sisters and to bear love for them in the way Christ loved us. The Bible is under no illusions as to how hard this can be sometimes, but the Holy Spirit may be called upon to aid us. “The fruit of the Spirit is Love” (Galatians 5.22)

Revd. Greg Smith

Revd. Fergus Butler-Gallie

Sadly, the talk and book signing scheduled for this Thursday, 5th Feb has been postponed until 28th May because of difficulties with transport via the trains.

Palm Crosses

Please return any palm crosses to church this Sunday so that they be used in the Ash Wednesday service.

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 18th from 12-1 p.m. in the West End Room. All welcome.

Bingo

Thanks to all those who supported the Bingo evening at St George's last Saturday. We raised £325 for church funds.

Service of Meditation

The monthly service of meditation will take place at Longden at 7 p.m. on Sunday 8th February. All welcome to this reflective, quiet service.

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.

Coffee Morning HTM

The first HTM social event of 2026 is a coffee morning, to be held at Holy Trinity Minsterley on 7th February from 10am - noon. Everyone is welcome so come along and bring a friend! We also need cakes to sell, raffle prizes and helpers so please speak to Sarah if you can help. Look forward to seeing you on the 7th!

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 17th 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 19th February, 7pm for the fun and informative Green Day on Saturday 2nd May. Do come if you have ideas to share or things you would like to do on the day!

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, 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

Palm Sunday

We will be enacting the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday, March 29th, 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.

Ash Wednesday

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

Coventry Cathedral

The benefice visit to Coventry Cathedral is booked for Tuesday 28th 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).

Items currently required by the Foodbank

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

Readings for Sunday Feb 1st

Genesis 1. 1-2.3
Romans 8. 18-25
Matthew 6.25-end

Calendar for the Week

Fri 6 th	Coffee Stop at St George's
Sat 7 th	Coffee Morning at HTM 10-12
Sun 8 th	Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship and Children's Church at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Evensong at Habberley at 5 p.m. Service of Meditation at Longden at 7 p.m.
Mon 9 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 10 th	Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.

Weds 11th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
 Tea Break at St George's 2-4pm

Thurs 12th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
 Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30 a.m.

Sun 15th Worship Together at Shelve at 9 a.m.
 Minsterley Praise at Methodist Chapel at 10 a.m.
 Holy Communion and Children's Church at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.