



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

### **Newsletter**

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

Dear Friends

This week we marked Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The first, now marketed as Pancake Day, is traditionally a day of feasting when we use up the rich food in the larder prior to the start of Lent. Or, as I confess I did, you can just buy your pancakes ready made!

Ash Wednesday is an altogether more sombre occasion, and even the supermarkets have yet to find its money-making angle. Lent is a time for spiritual self-examination, as we ask ourselves questions - How is my relationship with God going? What is prayer like at the moment? How am I (and others) seeing my character refined and changed by the Holy Spirit?

Challenging questions for sure, but Lent is not a time to lose heart and throw in the towel, because we fear we are not making the grade. It is a time to acknowledge our need, and to trust even more in God's love and power, when our own efforts are so clearly insufficient.

As we go through Lent, accompanying Jesus on his journey towards the cross, and all that came after, let's fix our eyes on him, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who endured the cross for us. Let's consider him and then we will not grow weary and lose heart.

Rev Fran

#### **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.

#### **Deanery Synod**

St George's is hosting the next meeting of Deanery Synod, which will be addressed by Revd Andy Ackroyd, the Diocesan Disability Adviser, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. Anyone is welcome to come along and hear what he has to say about how people with disabilities might be welcomed into the church.

#### **Lent Lunches**

St George's will be hosting Lent Lunches in Pontesbury on Wednesdays throughout Lent, continuing on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 p.m. in the West End Room. All welcome.

## **Beetle Drive with Pancakes**

A joyous time was had at the Beetle Drive on Tuesday. Pancakes were eaten in very large number, and some very strange beetles were drawn. Congratulations to Marion Elliot on her victory!

## **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.

## **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!

## **World Day of Prayer**

Organised jointly by the Pontesbury churches, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm at Pontesbury Congregational Church, Minsterley Road, with a focus on Nigeria.

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

Come and have some cake and coffee with us at Holy Trinity Minsterley on 7th 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!

## **Seed Swap Day**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 11-3 St Mary's Shrewsbury – seeds for all plus stalls and talks

## **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)

## **Songs of Praise**

Pontesbury Baptist Church is hosting its bimonthly Songs of Praise service on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6.30 p.m. and we are all warmly invited to attend.

## Diary Date – Organ Recital at St George’s 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Richard Walker, Assistant Director of Music at St Chad’s, Shrewsbury, will be performing an Organ Recital on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 11am (refreshments from 10.15am). Retiring collection for St George’s.

## 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).

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup>

Genesis 2. 15-17; 3. 1-7

Romans 5. 12-19

Matthew 4.1-11

## Calendar for the Week

- Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Coffee Stop at St George’s
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Pontesbury PCC Away Day at Snailbeach Village Hall
- 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
- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Funeral of Kate Jones at Habberley at 2 p.m.  
Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.  
Project George at 7.30 p.m. in WER
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12  
Little Dragons at St George’s 10-11.30 a.m.

Ichthus bible study at 2.30 p.m. at The Blessing

Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Pontesbury Standing Committee at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12

Lent Lunch 12-1 at St George's

Tea Break at St George's 2-4pm

Minsterley Standing Ctte at 7 p.m.

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12

Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30 a.m.

Deanery Synod at St George's at 7 p.m.

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.

Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.

Tea-time Service at Minsterley at 4 p.m.

Songs of Praise at PBC at 6.30 p.m.