



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

20th March 2026

Dear Friends,

I was so pleased to hear last night that the Scottish Parliament voted against legalising assisted dying and that there seems no prospect of Westminster MPs doing anything different any time soon. I have always opposed assisted dying, partly on the grounds that I do not believe for a moment that we will be able to avoid the slippery slope of older people being pressured into surrendering their lives by relatives who are fed up with caring for them. And in greater part, because I believe that human life is a gift given by God and that it is His and His alone right to take it back. I say this in the wake of having had our beloved dog put to sleep just over a week ago. We trust it was the right thing to do, but we are not free from guilt. I can only begin to imagine how much worse it would be if this had been one of my parents.

I pray now that our governments will put as much time and energy into improving palliative care to reduce suffering in the final days as it has into trying to bring those days to an end.

Greg

Frank Butterworth

The wonderful Frank Butterworth passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of Wednesday morning. We give thanks to God for his life and pray for Val and her family at this time of loss. His funeral will be at St George's. Details will follow in due course.

Joyce Hinton

The family of Joyce Hinton has been in touch to announce Joyce's death and to invite anyone who wishes to attend her funeral, which takes place at Telford Crematorium next Weds 25th March at 4.30 p.m.

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, 29th March, there will be a Group Service in Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. This will entail a reenactment of the Passion Gospel. All those able to should meet in the bay outside the Deanery and we will process following the donkey into church. Please gather at 10.25. Those who prefer are welcome to wait in church for the procession to arrive.

Lent Lunches

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

Passover Supper

The Passover Supper, taking place on Tues 31st March is now fully booked. Thanks to everyone for their support.

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

Rea Valley Big Green Day

Please put Saturday May 2nd in your diaries when Pontesbury village will be celebrating the Rea Valley Big Green Day. The church has been the lead partner in bringing this event to the village, which will include a series of talks and exhibitions at the Public Hall; a range of children's activities at the church and in the churchyard; a plant sale at the Pavilion as well as a biodiversity workshop and a visit from an owl, courtesy of Battlefield Birds of Prey. If you are able to help with the children's activities or refreshments, please speak to Barbara or Mary.

Coventry Cathedral

The benefice visit to Coventry Cathedral is booked for Tuesday 28th April. We have two spare places on the coach at a cost of £20. To secure a place, please speak to Sadie Preece as soon as possible (there is an additional £10 charge if you would like to join the guided tour). Sadie may be contacted at preecesadie0@gmail.com

Good Friday Pilgrimage

The annual Good Friday Pilgrimage led by our clergy will commence at Middleton Church at 10 a.m. with services at Hope at 1pm and at Shelve at 2.45, concluding at the Marsh Chapel at 4.30 p.m. You are welcome to walk with us for some or all of the route or simply attend any of the services listed.

Electoral Roll

We will be revising our electoral rolls in the next few weeks. No one who has previously been a member needs to renew their membership. However, if you have never signed an electoral roll form, and are a regular worshipper with us, please get hold of the short form and complete it. Talk to Greg if you are unsure.

Easter Programme

Palm Sunday	Passion Drama	Pontesbury	10.30 a.m.
Tues March 31 st	Passover Supper	Pontesbury	7 p.m.
Maundy Thursday	Messy Church	Pontesbury	3.30 p.m.
	Footwashing	Minsterley	7 p.m.
Good Friday	Pilgrimage	Middleton	10 a.m.
		Hope	1.00pm
		Shelve	2.45pm
		Marsh	4.30pm

	Tenebrae	Pontesbury	7 p.m.
Easter Saturday	Easter Trail	Minsterley	1-4 p.m.
Easter Sunday	Sunrise Service	Lower Camp	6 a.m.
	Holy Communion	Snailbeach	9 a.m.
	Holy Communion	Hope	9 a.m.
	Holy Communion	Minsterley	10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion	Pontesbury	10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion	Habberley	5 p.m.

Readings for Sunday March 15th

Psalm 130

Romans 8. 6-11

John 8. 1-11

Calendar for the Week

Fri 20 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sun 22 nd	Morning Prayer at Hope at 9 a.m. Family Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m.
Mon 23 rd	Easter Experience at St George's 9-12 Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m. Palm Sunday rehearsal at 6 p.m. Baptism Preparation at St George's at 7.30 p.m.
Tues 24 th	Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m. Oasis at Minsterley Methodist Chapel from 12-1.30
Weds 25 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 Lent Lunch 12-1 at St George's Tea Break at St George's 2-4pm
Thurs 26 th	Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12 Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30 a.m.

Fri 27th Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 28th Palm Sunday rehearsal at 3 p.m.
Sun 29th Passion Play at St George's at 10.30 a.m.