



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

27th March 2026

Dear friends

Last week I went to London to see an exhibition of paintings by the artists J.M.W Turner and John Constable, who were both born 250 years ago. My mother had a small print of one of Constable's pictures, 'The Hay Wain', hanging on her wall at home for many years. However, the originals of some of Constable's and Turner's best-known paintings are massive. When you get up close you see a blur of individual brush strokes. To take in the whole picture you have to stand well back (not always easy in a crowded gallery!). But when you do, you begin to understand the subject matter, and to appreciate the picture's beauty and the skill of the artist.

As we begin Holy Week, we will be hearing again the different parts of the story of Jesus' last week. On Palm Sunday at St George's we get the chance to get close up to the action as Jesus is betrayed, arrested and crucified. There will be other opportunities during the week to dwell on the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We will be drawn into the suffering of Jesus, the cruelty of his enemies, and the fickleness of the crowds. Yet these are all part of a much bigger story of God's faithfulness before all time, his love for the world, and his desire that each of us should know him as Lord, now and for eternity. This Holy Week and Easter may we grasp more strongly the reality of these things.

Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Rev Fran

Frank Butterworth

Frank's funeral will take place at St George's at 2 p.m. on Tuesday April 14th, followed by tea and cake in the West End Room. Please continue to pray for Val and her family at this time.

Susan Lockwood

Susan Lockwood's time as churchwarden of Minsterley and Lay co-chair of Pontesbury Deanery comes to an end on March 31st. We want to take this opportunity to thank her for her wonderful and faithful service over these last few years, and continue to pray for a speedy recovery from her knee replacement operation.

Palm Sunday

On 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.

Easter Lilies at HTM

As always we will have a display of Easter lilies in HTM on Easter Sunday in remembrance of loved ones. There is a sign-up sheet in HTM - if you would like to buy a Lily in memory of someone, please add their name to the sheet and give the suggested donation of £5 to Sarah, Marie or Caroline H.

Lent Lunches

The final Pontesbury Lent Lunch will take place at St George's on April 1st from 12-1 p.m. in the West End Room. All welcome.

Messy Church

There will be a Messy Church at St George's on Thurs April 2nd, including an Easter Egg hunt. All welcome.

HTM Plant sale plea

The annual HTM plant sale will be taking place on 16 May at the Crown and Sceptre car park. We need help with plants to sell - if you have extras from those you've grown or have perennials that you've taking cuttings from please pot them up and keep them for us to sell! If you need more info speak to Sarah or Margaret Wainwright

Scam Emails

It continues to be a popular past time for the scammers of Eastern Europe to impersonate the Rector of Pontesbury & Stiperstones and attempt to obtain money (usually in the form of gift cards) from the congregation. Please be assured that none of the clergy will ever ask you for money however plausible the reason. If any doubt, please telephone.

Passover Supper

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

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a prayer movement focused on the 10-day period between the Ascension and Pentecost (14th - 24th May), designed to encourage people to pray. The organisation produces excellent resources which can be sent to you daily through the ten day period.

If you would like to receive these prayer resources, please let Rebecca know by Tuesday 12th May.

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 10am – 3.30pm 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.

Reading for Sunday March 29th

Matthew Chapter 26 & 27

Calendar for the Week

- Fri 27th Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
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.
- Mon 30th Bible Study at 3 Earls Court at 7 p.m.
- Tues 31st Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
Passover Supper at St George's at 7 p.m.
- Weds 1st April Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
Lent Lunch 12-1 at St George's
Tea Break at St George's 2-4pm
- Thurs 2nd Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Messy Church at Pontesbury at 3.30 p.m.
Maundy Thurs at Minsterley at 7 p.m.
- Fri 3rd Services as above
- Sat 4th Minsterley Easter Trail 1-4 p.m.
- Sun 5th Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at Lower Camp
Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m.
Holy Communion at Snailbeach at 9 a.m.
Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.
Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m.