



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

24th April 2026

Dear Friends,

Recently I have retold the parable of the wise and foolish builders to a number of different groups of children. It is always fun to get them to build a tower of boxes or bricks. They are quick to learn that the tower won't stand up unless it has a good foundation, though some do want to try and put the smallest brick right at the bottom of a tower - perhaps so they can see the whole building come crashing down!

Jesus' story has a message for all of us, challenging us to ensure our lives are built on the right foundations, so that we can stand firm when the storms of life hit us. That's why we encourage each other, not only to *hear* the words of Jesus, but to put them into practice. It is a message for our churches too, in this season of annual meetings. How do we keep our faith and trust in Jesus strong, so we can serve God and our communities in this time and place?

Rev Fran

HTM spring tidy up

It's the HTM annual spring tidy up on Saturday 25th April 9.30am - 12pm. If you can spare a few hours to help us - both inside and outside the church - we'll provide plenty of laughs and a decent helping of cake!

Eco-Service

There will be a special "Eco-Service" in the St George's churchyard, outside church on Sunday May 3rd at 10.30 a.m. There will also be a service of Holy Communion that morning at 9 a.m.

Pentecost

There will be no services in the Benefice at Pentecost, Sunday May 24th. Instead, everyone is warmly invited to a Deanery Pentecost celebration with Holy Communion at Worthen Village Hall at 3 p.m.

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday falls on a fifth Sunday, May 31st. We are therefore having a Group Service at Holy Trinity Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. presided over by the Bishop of Hereford. This will be followed by lunch at Hope Village Hall at 12.30. People are welcome to attend the lunch even if they have been unable to attend the prior service.

HTM APCM reports

If you would like to look at Holy Trinity Minsterley APCM report 25-26, there is a hard copy in the church or to email Caroline Holloway at minsterleychurchsecretary@gmail.com requesting a PDF.

Christian Aid in Minsterley

A coffee morning to raise funds for Christian Aid is being held at Minsterley Congregational chapel on Saturday 25th April from 10am-12pm.

There will also be a bucket collection for Christian Aid at the HTM plant sale on Saturday 15th May.

Finally, all three churches will have a retiring collection for Christian Aid at the end of their services on Sunday 16th May.

This year Susan Bates has stepped down as the Minsterley churches Christian Aid Coordinator. We are very grateful for the sterling job Susan has done over many years, raising much needed funds. Thank you so much Susan, your efforts are much appreciated.

Rea Valley Big Green Day

On Saturday May 2nd 10am – 3.30pm Pontesbury village will be celebrating the Rea Valley Big Green Day – fun and informative for all. St George’s has been the lead partner in bringing this event to the village, which will include talks and exhibitions plus a visit from an owl, courtesy of Battlefield Birds of Prey, at the Public Hall; children’s activities at the church and in the churchyard; a plant sale at the Pavilion as well as a biodiversity workshop and stalls on School Green. If you are able to help with the children’s activities or refreshments, please speak to Barbara or Mary.

Sponsored Run

Greg is going to be undertaking a sponsored half-marathon (13 miles) in Durham on May 21st in aid of the Minsterley Audio-Visual project. Each church in the Benefice should have its own sponsor form. All offers of sponsorship very gratefully received.

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.

Choral Evensong

St Mary’s Habberley is hosting Deanery Choral Evensong on Sunday May 10th, which will be led by our clergy and benefice choir. The service will take place at 5 p.m. All very welcome. Refreshments will be served at the Village Hall afterwards.

Rea Valley Foodbank

Please note that Rea Valley Foodbank is now a registered charity. This will enable us to reclaim gift aid from taxpayers who donate to us. However, if you are kind enough to donate on a regular basis, please ensure that you amend your direct debit since we have had to open a new bank account. Contact Jonathan Brown at jonathan.starfish@hotmail.com

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 via email.

If you would like to receive these prayer resources, please let Rebecca know (PApontstip@outlook.com) by Tuesday 12th May.

SYFC Quiz

Shrewsbury Youth for Christ is hosting a quiz night on Friday May 15th. If anyone would be interested in joining a church or benefice team, please let Greg know.

Cream Teas at St George's

Come and enjoy cream teas served at St George's on Sunday 17th May 12.30 – 4.00 (in lieu of Open Gardens event).

Organ Recital

There will be a free organ recital at St George's on Saturday 23rd May with Richard Walker, Assistant Director of Music at St Chad's. Refreshments from 10.15, recital starts at 11.00.

Coventry Cathedral

Those participating in the Parish outing to Coventry Cathedral next Tuesday 28th April should be ready to board the coach at 10 a.m. opposite the One-Stop shop in Pontesbury.

Tenbury Wells Church 'Come and Sing' – future diary date!

On 20th June 2026 'Come and Sing' Zadok the Priest and Vivaldi's Gloria and listen to the Octavo Choir at St. Michaels Church, Tenbury Wells to celebrate the 1350th anniversary of the Hereford Diocese.

The 'Come and Sing' choir will be conducted by John Moore.

Rehearsals for the 'Come and Sing' event start at 11am with a short break for lunch (bring your own). Light refreshments will be provided. The concert starts at 6pm and will finish approx 8.30pm

A collaboration between Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcester Historic Churches Trusts.

Full details can be found here <https://www.shropshirehct.org.uk/Events/FutureEvents.aspx>

Readings for Sunday April 26th

Acts 2. 42-end

Psalm 23

John 10.1-10

Calendar for the Week

Fri 24th April Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Sat 25th Churchyard tidy up at Minsterley from 9.30-12.30

Sun 26th Morning Worship at Hope at 9 a.m.

Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30am, APCM at 11.30am

Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 pm.

Mon 27th Youth Café at HTM from 3.30-5 p.m.
Bible Study at 3 Earls Court at 7 p.m.

Tues 28th Parish Trip to Coventry Cathedral at 10 a.m.
Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
Oasis at Minsterley Methodist Chapel 12-1.30 p.m.

Weds 29th Pontesbury Standing Ctte at 9 a.m.
Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.

Thurs 30th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Pontesbury Safeguarding ctte at 3.30 p.m.
Minsterley Standing Committee at 7 p.m. at 21 Willow Park

Sat 2nd May Rea Valley Big Green Day in Pontesbury 10-3.30 p.m.

Sun 3rd Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.
Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 9 a.m.
Eco Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Summer worship at Snailbeach at 3 p.m.
Tea-time service at Minsterley at 4 p.m.