



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

3rd and 10th April 2026

Dear friends

As one songwriter puts it, Easter Day is the greatest day in history. We live in a world much given to hyperbole (poetic exaggeration), but if what Christians claim about the resurrection is true, and I have no doubt that it is, then the day that death was conquered by the Son of God, must surely be the most important of all days. It's worth remarking on the fact that it follows so hard on what Jesus' friends must have thought at the time was the worst day of their lives if not in the whole of history. The joy of Easter is somehow more profound for coming only 48 hours after of the heartbreak of Good Friday – called "Good" because we know why it happened (for our sakes) and how the story turns out.

Do pray for all those who don't know or understand the reality of that triumphant joy.

Every blessing for this holy season

Greg

Palm Sunday

A huge thanks to the cast and crew of the passion drama which unfolded on Palm Sunday. Everyone worked so hard to realize the passion story in word and song, and it was such an encouragement to see so many families in attendance.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 (PApontstip@outlook.com) by Tuesday 12th May.

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

Details of the day: 10 am pick up opposite One Stop in Pontesbury; Arrive at Coventry 11.45; Leave for home 3 pm. Coffee shop and toilets in Cathedral. There are some places to eat near the Cathedral.

Pray everyone has an enjoyable time. Coventry Cathedral was bombed in 1940, the new Cathedral has emerged bringing reconciliation and peace to all.

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.

Newsletter

Please note that there will be no newsletter next week.

Clergy leave

Greg and Revd Fran will be on leave immediately after Easter, while Revd Richard will have the following week off.

Easter Programme

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 April 5th

Acts 10.34-43

Colossians 3.1-4

Matthew 28.1-10

Readings for Sunday April 12th

Acts 2. 14a. 22-32

1 Peter 1. 3-9

John 20. 19-end

Calendar for the Fortnight

- Fri 3rd April Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Services as above
- Sat 4th Easter Trail in Minsterley 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.
- Tues 7th Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
- Weds 8th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
- Thurs 9th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
- Sun 12th Family service with baptism at Shelve 9am
Morning Worship at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Tea-time service at Minsterley at 4 p.m.
Meditation service at Longden at 7 p.m.
- Mon 13th Bible Study at 3 Earls Court at 7 p.m.
- Tues 14th Foodbank at Minsterley 10-12
Little Dragons at Pontesbury 10-11.30
Frank Butterworth's Funeral at St George's at 2 p.m.
Benefice Council at 7 p.m. in WER
- Weds 15th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
Habberley APCM at 2 p.m. in church
- Thurs 16th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Trinity Tots at HTM 10-11.30
- Sun 19th Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.
St George's Day service at Pontesbury at 10.30
Minsterley Praise at 10 a.m. at Minsterley Methodist Chapel