



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

17th April 2026

Dear friends

The Bible doesn't call him "Doubting Thomas", although in his other occasional appearances (John 11) St Thomas does come over as a hard-headed realist. Expect the worst and then you won't be disappointed appears to be his philosophy of life. It is not obvious from the Gospels that the disciples were very changed by the three years that they spent with Jesus. They acquired a lot of head-knowledge about the Kingdom of God, but their lack of faith constantly had Jesus shaking his head. However, they were entirely transformed by the 40 days they spent with him after his resurrection – Thomas not least. In the upper room, we find a man saying not "I'll believe it when I see it" but "My Lord and my God" prostrate in worship.

May we too be transformed by the resurrection of Jesus, who says "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed".

Greg

Apologies

That there was no communion service in the Benefice last Sunday. This was entirely an oversight on my part rather than deliberate. I hope no one was too inconvenienced by this. Similarly, apologies for any confusion over the timing of the service at Minsterley – the newsletter was correct, but the rota hadn't been updated. Greg

Frank Butterworth

Grateful thanks to all those who attended St George's on Tuesday to say farewell to Frank Butterworth. It is a mark of the man that almost the entire St George's congregation were present. Thanks also to the wonderful team of ladies who provided such a magnificent spread afterwards. A warm welcome in true Frank style.

Coffee Morning Habberley Village Hall

This Saturday 18th April 10.00am – 12.00pm

Cake stall

Cards by Wendy Carter

All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church ongoing renovations

This Sunday 19th April at St George's

We will be celebrating St George's Day this Sunday at St George's at 10.30 a.m. with the uniformed organisations in attendance. We have brought this forward because the following Sunday will be the Pontesbury APCM. The service will **not** be Holy Communion in light of the many children and non-regulars who will be attending. There will however be a service of Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m.

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.

The Gathering

The next praise evening, The Gathering, takes place on Tuesday 21st April at Marton Village Hall, 7:00pm for refreshments, 7:30pm start. All welcome.

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.

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

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.

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 one spare place 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.

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.

Readings for Sunday April 19th

Acts 2. 14a.36-41

Luke 24, 13-35

Calendar for the week

Fri 17th April Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Sat 18th April Coffee morning and card sale at Habberley Village Hall 10-12

Sun 19th Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.

Minsterley Praise at 10 a.m. at Methodist Chapel

St George's Day service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.

Mon 20th Minsterley Finance Cttee at 10.30 a.m.

Youth Café at HTM from 3.30-5 p.m.

Tues 21st Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12

The Gathering at Marton Village Hall at 7 p.m.

Weds 22nd Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12

Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.

Thurs 23rd Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12

APCM at Minsterley at 7 p.m.

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 10.30 a.m. and APCM at 11.30am

Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 pm.