



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

22nd May 2026

Dear friends

This weekend we celebrate Whit Sunday, or Pentecost, when we recall the sending of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in Jerusalem, 10 days after Jesus had left them and ascended to heaven. For centuries it was a major festival in England, an opportunity for fairs, processions, feasting and fundraising. Well into the last century, Whit Walks were common, especially in the north, where the mills were closed and churches and Sunday Schools processed through the streets with music and banners.

Then in 1971, the government fixed the bank holiday weekend to the last Monday in May, often weeks away from Whitsun. But this year the two do coincide. We have the opportunity to gather on Whit Sunday as a Deanery to worship (and probably to feast on cake!), and to celebrate what happened to those first disciples.

Whether or not you are able to join us, why not take a moment over this weekend to ask God for a fresh touch of the Spirit in your own life and in the lives of our churches?

Rev Fran

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.

Holiday Club

We are planning to run a holiday club in Minsterley during the first week of the school holidays. We hope to staff this with volunteers from across the benefice. There is to be a planning meeting at HTM next Tuesday at 3.30 p.m. All welcome to attend. If you would like to help, but can't make that meeting, please let Rev Fran know at revfran@btinternet.com

Guest Speaker

Many appreciated what Nev Willerton, from Compassion, a charity that works to support children in the developing world by providing sponsorship for their education, had to say at St George's last Sunday and at Deanery Synod last Thursday. If anyone wants to follow this up, you are welcome to contact him at nevillew@compassionuk.org

Pentecost

There will be no services in the Benefice this Sunday, May 24th, but a Deanery Communion service at Worthen Village Hall at 3 p.m. to celebrate the Church's birthday at Pentecost. Please also find attached a resource from Liverpool Cathedral to help you engage with this Sunday's theme. Let Greg know if you find this helpful at all.

Time Out

We are going to relaunch Time Out, our friendship group for those struggling with anxiety, on Tues June 2nd at 2 p.m. at the Pavilion. We would like to recruit an additional volunteer for the third Tuesday of each month to supplement the team. Please speak to Allen Marsden, Stephen & Jackie Winwood or Helen Pitt if you would like to know more.

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. Or please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/minsterley-av-project> and donate online. All offers of sponsorship very gratefully received.

HTM Plant sale

Many thanks to all those who supported the Holy Trinity Plant Sale last Saturday despite unfriendly weather conditions. A total of £771 was raised towards church funds.

Minsterley Garage

Please note that Minsterley garage will be closed from 1st-12th June for a refit.

St George's Big Clean – fun and feather dusters!

On Saturday 30 May from 10am there will be a Big Clean at St George's, to put the church in fine fettle for the Bishop's Visitation on 3rd June. Plenty of hot drinks and biscuits to help us on our way! If you are a regular church cleaner and it is more convenient for you to clean your own area in advance, just let Lynda know, so we don't duplicate. Thanks all!

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 to celebrate the Patronal Festival of both Minsterley and Hope churches. 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. Please sign up for this in advance so that we can cater accordingly.

Rea Valley Foodbank AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Rea Valley Foodbank takes place next Thursday, May 28th at 2 p.m. at St George's Church. All welcome to attend and hear about the work of the Foodbank over the last 12 months.

Bake off winner

Jasmine Mitchell, winner of the 2025 Great British Bake Off, has posted an inspiring video as part of Thy Kingdom Come. This lasts 4 minutes and can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV-Rtlewsg>

Revd. Fergus Butler-Gallie

Rev Butler-Gallie will be at St George's Church, Pontesbury on Thursday 28th May at 7pm for the rescheduled talk about his book, *Twelve Churches: an unlikely history of the buildings that made Christianity*, and the thoughts behind it.

With his trademark reverence and revelry, The Revd. Fergus Butler-Gallie travels through time and place to get to the heart of the religion he is so passionate about.

Hope and Shelve Fete

This takes place on Saturday June 6th at Leigh Manor, SY5 0EG. If you have any books, plants or tombola prizes to donate, please let Fran know on 07982 324760.

Do put the date in your diary and join us for what we hope will be a most enjoyable afternoon.

The Minsterley Crowns

Rosie Morris has edited and published a book **Maidens' Garlands: Funeral Crowns and Wreaths Across Europe and Beyond**, which is now available on Archeopress.com and Amazon priced at £42. She has written 2 chapters, concentrating on the Minsterley Crowns. A social historian from Germany, archaeologists from Germany and Croatia, and a conservator from York have each written a chapter. It is the first book ever to be written on the Garlands and the first book in Europe to compare and contrast this fascinating funeral custom.

Minsterley Flood Consultation Event

The University of Chester and the River Severn Partnership are running a Flood Management consultation event in Minsterley Village Hall on Friday 29th May 5.30-8.30. See poster for how to book.

Carers Group

At the Carers group on May 29th at 10.30 - 12.00 Pontesbury Pavillion we will be having an informal workshop on Safe Moving and Handling for family carers.

This will be led by Martin George from Partners in Care who will be doing a short session on safe moving and handling for family / unpaid carers.

It will last for about 30 - 45 minutes with the rest of the time being available for questions and for a cuppa and chat.

Martin will be asking you to tell him about the situations you are managing at home which involve moving and handling (eg: getting up from sitting, using the stairs, getting into the car etc).and any issues that you encounter with these.

Songs of Praise

Pontesbury Methodist Church is hosting a Songs of Praise service this Sunday at 6 p.m. All are warmly invited to attend.

Readings for Sunday May 24th

Acts 2. 1-21

John 20. 19-23

Calendar for the Week -

Fri 22nd May Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Sat 23rd Organ Recital at St George's at 11 a.m. Refreshments from 10.15 a.m.

Sun 24th Deanery Pentecost Service at Worthen Village Hall at 3 p.m.

Tues 26th Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12

Holiday Club planning meeting at HTM at 3.30 p.m.

Weds 27th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12

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

Thurs 28th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12

Rea Valley Foodbank AGM at St George's at 2 p.m.

Fergus Bailey-Gallie at St George's at 7 p.m.

Sun 31st Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 (Group Service)

Benefice Lunch at Hope Village Hall at 12.30