



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

8th May 2026

Dear friends

I don't know if you are aware but this Sunday is Rogation Sunday, a day which traditionally marks a period of prayer, fasting, and asking for God's blessing on agriculture, crops, and industry.

Our farmers are carrying a heavy load at the moment with costs of fuel and fertiliser especially affected by Middle-Eastern wars; to the extent that there's a question mark over whether it is worth planting Autumn crops. Do remember them in your prayers, it is a life of hard work and sacrifice at the best of times without all these added pressures.

Richard

Rea Valley Big Green Day

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the successful Big Green Day on 2nd May – those who ran activities, served refreshments, everyone who provided cake and those who came along! It was very much appreciated. Along with the other venues, the church and churchyard were full of children and families, and there were lots of positive comments for the whole event: “A really lovely day”, “The children so enjoyed the day”, “Really nice – reassuring to see people taking their time to promote nature”. Our moving outdoor service on May 3rd was a fitting completion to the event.

Choral Evensong

St Mary's Habberley is hosting Deanery Choral Evensong this 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.

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 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 Edwards or Margaret Wainwright.

There will also be a bucket collection for Christian Aid at the HTM plant sale on Saturday 16th May. All three Minsterley churches will have a retiring collection for Christian Aid at the end of their services on Sunday 17th 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).

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.

Hope and Shelve APCM

This takes place at All Saints' Shelve at 2pm on Wednesday May 20th.

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.

Trinity Sunday Post Group Service Lunch

After our group service at HTM on Trinity Sunday we are getting together for lunch at Hope Village Hall at 12.30pm. There are sign up sheets in each of the churches in our group - if you're planning on joining us please add your name to help with catering numbers.

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.

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.

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

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

Reflections from the Coventry trip

Coventry Cathedral was consecrated on 25 May 1962 in the presence of Queen Elizabeth. I was 11 at the time and in my final year at primary school. All the major buildings in the city were sandblasted clean in the weeks beforehand. Unfortunately they did not stay that way for long! There was a 3-week festival of arts afterwards. Understandably the visit brought back many memories, having been brought up in Coventry – Daphne.

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>

Clergy holiday

Fran is on leave next Monday - Saturday 11th - 16th May.

Readings for Sunday May 10th

Acts 17. 22-31

1 Peter 3.13-end

John 14. 15-21

Calendar for the Week -

- Fri 8th May Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sun 10th Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m.
Morning Worship at Pontesbury with Children's Church at 10.30 a.m.
Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.
Choral Evensong at Habberley at 5 p.m.
Meditation at Pontesbury at 7 p.m.
- Tues 12th Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
- Weds 13th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
- Thurs 14th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
- Friday 15th Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
SYFC Quiz at Christ Church Bayston Hill 6.30 for 7.00
- Sat 16th May HTM Plant Sale at Crown and Sceptre 10-12.30
- Sun 17th Worship Together at Shelve 9.00am
Minsterley Praise at HTM at 10.30
Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 (no Children's Church)
Cream Teas at Pontesbury 12.30 – 4.00