



## **Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches**

### **Newsletter**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Dear friends

On my return from holiday, I came back to several messages from Rea Valley Foodbank (of which I am currently Chair) highlighting something of a crisis. The simple fact is that while donations have remained static (food and cash), the cost of buying the food (as you will all know only too well) has risen steeply. This means that foodbank staff are having to stretch the food parcels they supply further each month. If you are already a financial supporter of Rea Valley Foodbank, I would ask you to consider carefully whether you might be able to increase your standing order by an inflationary amount, and if you're not yet a supporter, whether you might consider becoming one.

Jesus taught us to pray: "give us this day our daily bread", but he also offered us the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which suggests a responsibility not just to notice those in need, but to attend to those needs. Meanwhile, as we pray that prayer, let us remind ourselves that the Lord's Prayer is not: "give me this day my daily bread."

Greg

#### **Choral Evensong**

Many thanks to Barbara and the Benefice Choir for their contribution to Deanery Choral Evensong at St Mary's Habberley last Sunday. It was much appreciated.

#### **Guest Speaker**

At St George's this Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, we have a guest speaker, Nev Willerton, who works for Compassion, a charity that works to support children in the developing world by providing sponsorship for their education.

#### **Pentecost**

There will be no services in the Benefice on Pentecost Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, but a Deanery Communion service at Worthen Village Hall at 3 p.m. that day.

#### **Sponsored Run**

Greg is going to be undertaking a sponsored half-marathon (13 miles) in Durham on May 21<sup>st</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to join a team. Let Greg know, or simply turn up on the night at 7 p.m. at Christ Church, Bayston Hill.

### **Minsterley Garage**

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

### **Cream Teas at St George's**

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

### **The Gathering**

Tuesday 19th May is the next meeting of The Gathering at Marton Village Hall, 7:00 for 7:30pm; come and join us as we bring our praise and worship to the Lord our God. More details from Rev David Moss [davidmosswy@gmail.com](mailto:davidmosswy@gmail.com)

### **Hope and Shelve APCM**

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

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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](mailto:jonathan.starfish@hotmail.com)

## **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 29<sup>th</sup> May 5.30-8.30. See poster for how to book.

## **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>

## **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.

### **Readings for Sunday May 17th**

Psalm 68.1-10

Acts 1.6-14

John 17.1-11

### **Calendar for the Week -**

- Fri 15th May Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.  
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
- Mon 18th Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.  
Rea Valley Prayer Group at 7 p.m. at Hove to
- Tues 19th Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12  
Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.  
The Gathering at Marton Village Hall at 7 p.m.
- Weds 20th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12  
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.  
Hope and Shelve APCM at All Saints Shelve 2pm
- Thurs 21st Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
- Friday 22nd Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sat 23rd Organ Recital at St George's at 10.30 a.m.
- Sun 24th Deanery Pentecost Service at Worthen Village Hall at 3 p.m.