



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

### **Newsletter**

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

Dear friends

Our trip to Coventry Cathedral this week was a powerful reminder of how the new Cathedral, consecrated in 1964, was built in the shadow of the old cathedral, which had been reduced to ruins by Nazi bombs in 1940. A triumph of Hope over the darkness of despair. I suspect this was in part made possible by the Coventry litany, which we were invited to join in at noon, a litany that is repeated every day at that hour. The refrain used is “Father forgive”, not it was explained “Father forgive them,” for the litany recognizes that we all have our part to play in the troubles of the world.

If only the leaders of our world would reach for this prayer rather than the button to order the dropping of more bombs. The world lives with the scars of such bombing for generations afterwards and doesn't always learn the lesson that we are called to forgive and seek peace.

Greg

### **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.

### **Choral Evensong**

St Mary's Habberley is hosting Deanery Choral Evensong next Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Coventry Cathedral**

Thank you to Sadie to organising a wonderful coach trip to Coventry on Tuesday. A great time was had by all. Thanks also to Shaun, our excellent driver.

### **Habberley Coffee Morning**

Thanks to all those who supported the Habberley coffee morning last Saturday. Thanks also to the ladies who worked so hard in the kitchen to serve us. £252 was raised for church funds.

### **Rea Valley Big Green Day**

Takes place this Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10am – 3.30pm. See the attached poster for details of all the activities at School Green, the Pavilion, Community Garden, the Public Hall, St George's Church and Churchyard. All activities are free, with charges made for refreshments at some venues.

### **Eco-Service**

There will be a special "Eco-Service" in the St George's churchyard, outside church on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.30 a.m. There will also be a service of Holy Communion that morning at 9 a.m.

### **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 (14<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:PApontstip@outlook.com)) by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Pentecost**

There will be no services in the Benefice at Pentecost, Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 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.

### **HTM APCM reports**

If you would like to look at Holy Trinity Minsterley APCM report 25-26, there is a hard copy in the church or to email Caroline Holloway at [minsterleychurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:minsterleychurchsecretary@gmail.com) requesting a PDF.

### **SYFC Quiz**

Shrewsbury Youth for Christ is hosting a quiz night on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup> May 12.30 – 4.00 (in lieu of Open Gardens event).

### **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.

### **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>

### **Readings for Sunday May 3rd**

#### **Pontesbury**

Psalm 24

Matthew 25-34

#### **Stiperstones**

Acts 7.55-end

John 14.1-14

## Calendar for the Week -

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.  
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Rea Valley Big Green Day 10-3.30 p.m.
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.  
Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 9 a.m.  
Eco Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.  
Summer worship at Snailbeach at 3 p.m.  
Tea-time service at Minsterley at 4 p.m.
- Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
- Weds 6<sup>th</sup> Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12  
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
- Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 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.