



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

26th June 2026

Dear friends

The British Prime Minister Harold Wilson coined the famous phrase, "A week is a long time in politics" in the 1960s to describe how quickly political fortunes and public opinion can change. It seems to be no different today, as we realise we are heading for our fifth prime minister within as many years, with perhaps little hope that whoever occupies Number 10, will make much difference to the lives of ordinary people. The huge issues of our society: including the economy, health and social care, education, and law and order (to name but a few), all seem as intractable as ever. It is possible to become despairing or cynical at such times.

St Paul, writing at a time when the Roman authorities were anything but sympathetic to his faith, still encouraged Christians to respect their rulers who, he argued, had been placed there by God. He wrote to Timothy: "I urge, then, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

So rather than joining the rush to criticise Keir Starmer, or place unrealistic hopes in Andy Burnham, this week let's pray for them, for our MPs and for all in government:

*Give wisdom to all in authority;
and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace;
that we may honour one another, and seek the common good. Amen.*

Rev Fran

Richard's Farewell

A date has now been set for Richard's installation as Rector of the Chirbury Hills Benefice and as Rural Chaplain, Monday October 5th at Chirbury Church. All will be welcome to attend. Travelling arrangements can be sorted nearer the time. On Tuesday July 21st, there will be a farewell supper at Holy Trinity Minsterley for Richard, Claire, Moray and Liv at 7 p.m. Sarah Edwards, sarahedwards90@hotmail.com and Caroline Holloway, carolineholloway1973@gmail.com are coordinating this, so please contact them if you are able to help. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Welcome Lunch

As one curate leaves, another arrives. Ian Williams will be ordained at Hereford Cathedral at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday 4th July. He will attend St George's Pontesbury for its morning service on July 5th. This will be followed by a welcome lunch for him and his wife Claire. Everyone is welcome to attend even if you have worshipped elsewhere that morning. If you are able to help, please contact Marianne McCall at mariannemccall.17@gmail.com

Sad News

We are sorry to announce the deaths of Jan Pither and Mary McCall this last week. Both were much loved, and in Mary's case a pillar of St George's for decades. Jan and Rob have been living in Haverhill, Cambridgeshire, for the last 9 months. We will announce details of funerals in due course. Please remember both families in your prayers.

Holiday Club

We are planning to run a holiday club in Minsterley from Monday 20th – Friday 24th July from 10-12 each morning. Anyone willing and able to help out for one or more days should let Rev Fran know at revfran@btinternet.com The next planning meeting is on Tuesday at 3.30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Minsterley.

Time Out

We have relaunched Time Out, our friendship group for those struggling with anxiety, our next session takes place on Tues July 21st 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.

Bible Study

The next Bible Study will see the start of a new study in the books of Ruth and Esther, starting Monday July 6th at 7 p.m. at The Deanery.

New Screen and Projector

We are expecting the new screen and projector to be installed at Holy Trinity Minsterley w/c 30th June. If anyone would like to learn how to operate these, please contact Greg as soon as convenient.

Save the date!

Bingo night at HTM 11th July. Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm. £10 a book. To pre-book contact Sarah on 07971984925. Refreshments and raffle too.

Ride & Stride

This year, as a benefice, we will be participating in walking for Ride & Stride on Saturday Sept 19th. We have planned a walk of approximately 8 miles of the churches in Shrewsbury and to the south east of it. If you would like to participate, please let Greg, Stephen Winwood or Sarah Edwards know.

Clothes swap

Thanks to all who supported the Clothes Swap at Snailbeach Village Hall last Saturday. £330 was raised for Minsterley church funds.

Project George

Good news! St George's has successfully completed an Expression of Interest for the National Lottery Heritage Fund and has been invited to apply for funds to repair stonework and stained glass, highlight the heritage of the church and village, install a new kitchen and create new vestry and storage spaces. We will be preparing a full bid over the next 9 months, and will be consulting throughout the process. If successful, we will also need to raise a contribution ourselves, through local fundraising and grant-making trusts. Watch this space!

Welcome to Connor

Connor, a Year 10 student at Mary Webb will be spending some time with us over the next couple of weeks, as part of a work placement. Please make him welcome if you happen to see him around.

HTM at Minsterley Show

HTM will be running the refreshments stall at Minsterley Show again this August (15th). Could anyone who is able to bake some cakes for us to sell (as slices or as whole cakes) please let Sarah know asap. We also have a freezer available to store anything that's made in advance.

First Aid Course

Yockleton Church is running a First Aid course in the near future, date to be determined. If you would like to participate in this, please let Greg know as soon as possible.

Readings for Sunday June 28th

Jeremiah 28.5-9

Romans 6. 12-end

Matthew 10.40-end

Calendar for the Week -

Fri 26 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sunday 28 th	Morning Prayer at Hope at 9 a.m.
	Family Service at St George's at 10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m.
Mon 29 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 30 th	Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
	Little Dragons at St George's from 10-11.30 a.m.
	Benefice Council at HTM at 7 p.m.
Weds July 1 st	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12

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

Rea Valley Prayer Group at 7 p.m. at Hove-to

Thurs 2nd

Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12

Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.

Messy Church at St George's at 3.30 p.m.

Friday 3rd

Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Sat 4th

Ian's Ordination at Hereford Cathedral at 3.30 p.m.

Sun 5th

Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.

Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.

Welcome Lunch for Ian & Claire at 12.30 at St George's

Tea-time Service at Minsterley at 4 p.m.