



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

5th June 2026

Dear friends

One of the highlights of last Sunday (when the Bishop presided over a wonderful service to celebrate Hope and Minsterley's patronal festival) was the appearance of the Minsterley silver. Thanks to Sarah Edwards for retrieving this from the vault in Hereford Cathedral, where it has been safely stored for years on end. You will understand why such beautiful items, which are so incredibly valuable, are stored away where thieves cannot get in. The insurance alone would likely bankrupt the church if we were to retain it. Nevertheless, the flagon, the chalices and the plate were made for one purpose alone (did they really drink that much wine in the 18th century?): to be used in the administration of something even more precious – the body and blood of Christ.

In a similar way, we have something more precious than silver within each of us – the light of Christ. The Bible challenges us not to hide that light under a bushel (think Cathedral vault). I think it was Billy Graham who said, "if you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

Greg

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

Time Out

We have relaunched Time Out, our friendship group for those struggling with anxiety, our next session takes place on Tues June 16th 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.

Hope and Shelve Fete

This takes place this 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 join us for what we hope will be a most enjoyable afternoon.

Sponsored Run

Greg was successful in completing the Dun Holm Half Marathon. Sponsorship was for the Minsterley Audio-Visual project. Many thanks to those who have already donated. It's still not too late to sponsor him retrospectively. Contributions can be given directly to Greg or via <https://www.gofundme.com/f/minsterley-av-project>. All sponsorship very gratefully received.



Trinity Sunday

Thanks to all who supported the Bishop's visit last Sunday, especially those who provided such a wonderful spread for our patronal lunch at Hope Village Hall.

Bible Study

The next Bible Study will take place at 3 Earls Court on Monday June 15th at 7 p.m. We will then start a new study in the books of Ruth and Esther, starting Monday July 6th at 7 p.m. at The Deanery.

Volunteers' Week 2026 – Thank You!

As we celebrate Volunteers' Week 2026, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helps keep Holy Trinity Minsterley, St George's, St Luke's, St Mary's, All Saints and Holy Trinity Hope going. Whether you clean, arrange flowers, tidy the churchyard, wind the clock, bake cakes, fundraise, help at events, join in, or support the churches in any way, your contribution helps sustain the life of our churches and their place in the community.

We are so grateful for all you do. Our churches simply wouldn't be the same without you.

Thank you for your time, care, and commitment.

80th birthdays celebration at HTM

This year we have lots of our congregations celebrating their 80th birthdays. So we've picked a date somewhere in the middle to commemorate them all!

On Sunday 14th June we're holding a bring and share buffet lunch and have invited all the birthday girls and boys. Everyone is welcome to join us - it'll be around 12pm, after the post service coffee. If you'd like to bring a plate of something to share that would be great but all are welcome with or without a plate.

There might be a round of 'happy birthday' and there'll definitely be cake!

Clothes swap 20/6/26

Come and enjoy a chat and social afternoon at Snailbeach village hall on 20 June from 2-430pm. You can bring some clothes to swap or just come and browse and enjoy the company - entry is £5 which will cover your clothes bargains! Refreshments and raffle as well, plus local crafts and Avon stall.

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.

Prayer Breakfast

St George's is hosting the Shrewsbury Youth for Christ Prayer Breakfast next Saturday June 13th at 8.30 a.m. All welcome.

House for Duty

We are currently advertising for Fran Brealey's replacement with the closing date for applications June 14th. Please do pray that the right person will be prompted by God to apply.

Exploring the Sunday Gospel

Attached are further helpful notes from Liverpool Cathedral, focusing on the theme of this coming Sunday's Gospel. Please let Greg know if you find these notes useful?

Readings for Sunday June 7th

Hosea 5. 15-6.6

Romans 4. 13-25

Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

Calendar for the Week -

- Fri 5th June Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sat 6th Hope Summer Fete at Leigh Manor from 2 p.m.
- Sun 7th Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.
Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Tea-time service at Minsterley at 4 p.m.
- June 8th Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
- Tues 9th Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
Little Dragons at St George's from 10-11.30 a.m.
Pontesbury Finance Cttee at 10.30 a.m. at The Deanery
Oasis at Minsterley Methodist Chapel from 12-1.30 p.m.
- Weds 10th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
- Thurs 11th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
- Friday 12th Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sat 13th SYFC Prayer Breakfast at St George's at 8.30 a.m.
- Sun 14th Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m.
Morning Prayer at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.
Evensong at Habberley at 5 p.m.

Meditation service at Longden at 7 p.m.