



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

19th June 2026

Dear friends

I share many of Richard's emotions at the news that he is to be the next Rector of the Chirbury Hills benefice (date still to be confirmed). I am excited, relieved and sad in almost equal measure. Excited for him. It will be fascinating to see how the many gifts he has displayed in his time with us will be brought to bear when he has sole responsibility for the leadership of a benefice. It is relief that after 18 months of vacancy, we will no longer have to puzzle over how to cover their Sunday services, assemblies and weddings, christenings and funerals. It is sad to lose such an excellent colleague even if he is not moving as far away as he might have.

I console myself with the thought that God knew all this long before anyone else; that he is always ready to come alongside us whatever emotions are running riot and that He will always lift us up.

Greg

Richard's Farewell

Although (see above) we do not know when Richard and his family will move or when he will officially take up post as Rector of Chirbury Hills and as Rural Chaplain, we do know when he will cease all responsibilities in our benefices. 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

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.

Minsterley Praise

For the first time, this Sunday, the Minsterley Praise service at the Methodist Chapel is being led by the Anglicans as a sign of our deepening partnership with our sister church.

Time Out

We have relaunched Time Out, our friendship group for those struggling with anxiety, our next session takes place on Tues July 7th 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.

Sponsored Run

Thank you again to all those who sponsored Greg in the Durham Half Marathon. Just over £850 was raised for the installation of a large screen and projector at Holy Trinity Minsterley. Installation is scheduled for week commencing 29th June.

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.

Ride & Stride

This year, as a benefice, we will be participating in walking for Ride & Stride on Saturday Sept 19th. There is a planning meeting to decide where we will walk next Monday 22nd June at 7 p.m. at The Deanery. Anyone welcome to attend.

Clothes swap 20/6/26

Come and enjoy a chat and social afternoon at Snailbeach village hall on 20 June from 2-4.30pm. 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.

House for Duty

Sadly, no one applied for the House for Duty vacancy that is being created by Fran's retirement. We will be advertising again at the end of the summer. Please do pray.

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.

Happy 80th Birthdays

On Sunday 14th June HTM marked the 80th birthdays being celebrated this year within our Benefice. After our holy communion service we enjoyed a buffet lunch, two resounding renditions of 'happy birthday' and the joint cutting of a birthday cake. We also marked the occasion of Mike and Caro's diamond wedding anniversary.

We are grateful for all that each person brings to the life of both our churches and communities and are blessed to know them all.



Readings for Sunday June 21st

Jeremiah 20.7-13

Romans 6.1b-11

Matthew 10.24-39

Calendar for the Week -

- Fri 19th June Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sat 20th Clothes Swap at Snailbeach Village Hall 2-4.30 p.m.
- Sun 21st Worship Together at Shelve at 9 a.m.
Minsterley Praise at Methodist Chapel at 10 a.m.
Holy Communion with Children's Church at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
- Mon 22nd Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Ride & Stride planning meeting at The Deanery at 7 p.m.
- Tues 23rd Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
Little Dragons at St George's from 10-11.30 a.m.
Holiday Club planning meeting at 3.30 p.m. at HTM
- Weds 24th Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
- Thurs 25th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
- Friday 26th Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
- Sunday 28th 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.