



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

3rd July 2026

Dear friends

It has been said that there is no such thing as the wrong weather, just the wrong clothing. It's a fair point. One of my earlier encounters with the Shropshire hills perhaps 15 years or so ago entailed being caught in the most torrential and relentless downpour that exposed the inadequacy of the raincoat that I was wearing. I went out the next day to buy a much better one! However, I'm not sure what the right clothing for last week's heatwave might be? No clothing at all might have been best, but that gives rise to a different set of problems!

Nevertheless, the Bible takes a cosmic view of our weather. The Psalms tell us that God is like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth (Ps 72) but also that the sun is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion (Ps 19). In other words, not the wrong weather or even the wrong clothes, just the wrong attitude. The heavens declare the glory of God even when it's raining!

Greg

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. this 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 marianнемccall.17@gmail.com

Mary McCall

Mary's funeral will take place at St George's on Monday, July 6th at 11.30 a.m. followed by light refreshments in the WER. All welcome to attend.

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 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.

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

The screen has now been installed at Holy Trinity Minsterley and will be in full operation very soon. If anyone would like to learn how to use it, please speak to Greg or Sarah Edwards.



Bingo

Bingo night at HTM 11th July. Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm. £10 a book.

Please pre-book with Sarah on 07971984925 or sign up on the sheet in HTM so we know how many tables to set up please. Refreshments and raffle too.

Snailbeach Summer Praise

There will be a summer service at St Luke's Snailbeach on Sunday July 12th at 3 p.m. followed by a welcome tea for Ian Williams, our new curate. Everyone is welcome to the service and for tea and cake at the village hall afterwards.

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 southeast of it. If you would like to participate, please let Greg, Stephen Winwood or Sarah Edwards know.

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.

Project George

Following a successful Expression of Interest, St George's has been invited to submit a full National Lottery Heritage Fund bid to repair stonework and stained glass windows; celebrate the heritage of the church and village; improve the kitchen; and create additional choir and clergy space. We will be asking for guidance from church members, users and local people as we develop the detailed bid, which will also require us to raise some of the funds locally and through smaller grants and trusts. Watch this space!

Readings for Sunday July 5th

Zechariah 9.9-12

Romans 7. 15-25a

Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end

Calendar for the Week -

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.

Mon 6th Mary McCall's Funeral
Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Bible Study at The Deanery at 7 p.m.

Tues 7th Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12
Little Dragons at St George's from 10-11.30 a.m.
Time Out at the Pavilion at 2 p.m.
Tea Service at St George's at 2.30 p.m.
Eco-committee at 8 Yarlington Orchard at 4.30 p.m.
Minsterley Standing Committee at The Deanery at 7 p.m.

Weds July 8th Pontesbury Standing Cttee at 10.15 in WER
Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12
Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Habberley PCC at 2 p.m. at St Mary's

Thurs 9th Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.

Friday 10th Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Sat 11th Bingo at HTM at 7 p.m.

Sun 12th Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m.
Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.
Morning Prayer at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Summer Praise at Snailbeach at 3 p.m.
Evening Prayer at Habberley at 5 p.m.
Service of Meditation at Pontesbury at 7 p.m.