



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

24th July 2026

Dear friends

It has been great to welcome children and their carers into Holy Trinity, Minsterley this week for our Holiday Club. After a slow Monday, we had nine children on Tuesday, and eleven on Wednesday. As I write I am gearing up for Thursday! We have learned to be flexible with the programme depending on who turns up. The parachute has been a hit with all ages. I hope and pray that everyone who comes through the doors will experience the church as a place of welcome and fun, and get a glimpse of what it means to be a friend of Jesus.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When Jesus spoke about the kingdom of heaven, I think he was encouraging us to see things as God sees them, rather than from our own perspective.

Making relationships through Messy Church, Open the Book, school visits, Youth Cafés and special Christmas and Easter events are small steps in sharing the good news of Jesus with local families. But if Jesus' words are true then children already have a special place in God's heart, and he welcomes them. How can we do any less?

Rev Fran

Richard's Farewell

Thanks to all those who attended Richard's farewell and especially those who provided food. We were able to present Richard with two clergy shirts and cash amounting to just over £300; flowers for Claire and Amazon Vouchers for Moray and Liv. We will miss them very much. Please understand that though the family will still be resident in Minsterley until they move to Chirbury towards the end of September, Richard is no longer our curate and therefore should not be troubled with ministry related questions.

Message from Richard

"Thank you to all who came to our leaving supper last night and for the many kind gifts that you gave. We shall miss Pontesbury and Stiperstones very much but as we aren't very far away then I am sure our paths will cross again soon enough. Thank you again. With love, Richard, Claire, Moray and Liv."

Ian Williams

We are delighted to have Revd Ian Williams as part of our team. The primary focus of Ian's ministry will be at Hope/Shelve. His email address is revian01@outlook.co.uk and telephone number 07557 340174

Sunday July 26th

To celebrate Holiday Club, we will be having a special service at Minsterley at the regular time of 10.30 a.m. to showcase what the children will have been learning through the week. We pray that the children and their families will receive as warm a welcome on Sunday morning as they have the other mornings this week. The Holy Communion service for the benefice this Sunday will be at Habberley at 5 p.m.

Time Out

We have relaunched Time Out, our friendship group for those struggling with anxiety, our next session takes place on Tues August 4th 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.

Bingo!

Thanks to all those who supported the Bingo at HTM on 11th July. Approximately £230 was raised for church funds.

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.

Soiree Evening at St George's

A lovely 3-course meal with menu choice and great company! Please note the date has changed from the 19th September to Saturday **26th September**. The evening begins at 6.30 pm, maximum 20 diners. Tickets £25 per person, payment due by 13th September, available from Marianne mariannemccall.17@gmail.com or Marion mepontesbury@gmail.com

Bible Study

Our study in the book of Ruth continues this coming Monday at 7 p.m. at The Deanery, chapter 2. All welcome.

Readings for Sunday July 26th

Psalm 119. 129-136

Romans 8. 26-end

Matthew 13. 31-33,44-52

Readings for Minsterley

Acts 3.1-10

Mark 4.25-41

Calendar for the Week -

Fri 24 th	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon Final Holiday Club at HTM 10-12
Sun 26 th	Morning Prayer at Hope at 9 a.m. Family Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. Holiday Club Celebration at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m.
Mon 27 th	Bible Study at The Deanery at 7 p.m.
Tues 28 th	Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12 Oasis at 12 noon at Minsterley Methodist Chapel
Weds 29 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Thurs 30 th	Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Friday 31 st	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sun 2 nd Aug	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.