



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

7th August 2026

Dear friends

To celebrate my birthday last week, I went to see *The Odyssey*, a three-hour epic based on Homer's work. Someone asked me whether the film was faithful to the poem – a difficult question to answer, because it's not a literal rendering of the story but I felt the embellishments were within the spirit of the original piece, but that's very much a subjective judgement.

In the same way, at the Tea-time service at Minsterley last Sunday, I showed an excerpt from *The Chosen*, the modern television series retelling the story of the Gospel. The excerpt was a rendering of the Feeding of the 5,000, very well done I thought – although again that is a subjective opinion. Some would say that the Bible is the Word of God and therefore should not be messed with in any degree. While I agree that it is the Word of God, I believe some liberties may be taken in order to communicate its central truths. After all, Jesus himself told stories more than once, apparently altering details to suit his audience.

Greg

Jan Pither

Following the sad death of Jan Pither, St George's is hosting a Memorial Service for her on Friday August 28th at 2 p.m. All welcome to attend.

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.com (please note that the wrong address was given last week) and telephone number 07557 340174. Ian's day off is Monday.

Holiday

Please note that Greg and Fran will be on holiday from 14th-27th August inclusive. Any queries should be directed to one of the clergy or to your churchwarden.

Ride & Stride

This year, as a benefice, we will be participating in walking for Ride & Stride on Saturday Sept 19th. We have had a rethink about the route, and now plan to take in churches in Cound, Acton Burnell and Frodesley. The total distance is approximately 12 miles, but you are welcome to do as much or as little as you wish. Please speak to Sarah Edwards or Stephen Winwood if you would like to know more about it.

HTM at Minsterley Show – volunteers needed!

We need volunteers to serve at the refreshments stall at Minsterley Show on August 15th. A sign-up sheet is in HTM - please can anyone willing to help sign up asap. Thank you.

Bible Study

Our study in the book of Ruth continues on Monday August 10th at 7 p.m. at The Deanery, chapter 3. All welcome.

Deanery Picnic

St George's is hosting a Deanery Picnic on Bank Holiday Monday August 31st at 12 noon (see attached poster). Please bring your own picnic and chairs. All welcome.

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

Fran Brealey

There will be a farewell service with and for Fran on Sunday August 30th at 10.30 a.m. at All Saints Shelve. Please note that there will be refreshments afterwards but no lunch. Fran's last service in Pontesbury will be on Sunday August 16th at 10.30 a.m.

A message from the Bishop's Office

In September, Bishop Richard and Deborah will have the privilege of travelling to Tanzania to join in the celebrations marking the centenary of the Diocese of Masasi. It is a significant moment in the life of the Church in Masasi and a wonderful opportunity to express our friendship and partnership with our brothers and sisters there.

As part of their visit, we have offered to take a small number of gifts which will be distributed amongst churches and communities in the diocese. Bishop James Almasi has shared a list of some items that would be a real blessing to congregations and communities across the diocese.

The diocese has asked for donations of:

- Reading glasses
- First aid kits
- Blood pressure monitors
- Pulse oximeters
- Children's craft supplies
- Deflated footballs
- Football pumps and repair kits
- Small gifts and educational resources for children

If you would like to contribute, please could any donated items be delivered to your local church by Sunday 6 September. *Please don't stray beyond this list because we want to honour what they have asked for.*

One of the great joys of belonging to the worldwide Anglican Communion is the opportunity to support one another in faith, prayer and practical care. As the Diocese of Masasi celebrates this remarkable centenary, this is a small but meaningful way for us to share in their joy and strengthen the bonds of friendship between us!

Readings for Sunday August 9th

1 Kings 19. 9-18

Romans 10. 5-15

Matthew 14. 22-33

Calendar for the Week

Friday 7 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sun 9 th	Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m. Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship with Children's Church at Pontesbury 10.30am Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m. <i>[NB change from usual Evensong]</i>
Mon 10 th	Bible Study at 7 p.m. at The Deanery
Tues 11 th	Foodbank at Minsterley from 10-12 Rea Valley Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. at Bentlawnt
Weds 12 th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Thurs 13 th	Foodbank at Pontesbury 10-12
Fri 14 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 15 th	The Minsterley Show
Sun 16 th	Worship Together at Shelve at 9 a.m. Minsterley Praise at Minsterley Methodist Chapel at 10 a.m. Holy Communion with Children's Church at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.