



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

11th September 2026

Dear friends

Given the size of our garden and the limited amount of time I have to spend working in it, it should come as no surprise that often it is the wrong things that thrive, taking over like squatters who have sneaked into your house while you are on holiday. However, just occasionally, there is some encouragement. In one of the many storms we endured earlier this year, our much-loved damson tree came crashing down. So serious was the damage, that it could not be saved, and it was chopped down (whatever the chain saw equivalent of this is) and removed altogether. However, we have been astonished over the summer to see that in the same patch of our front garden, we have something in the region of 20 infant damson trees, some 8' in height, which have sprouted up while we haven't been looking.

It is a reminder that life will find a way. This is a story of resurrection. Jesus' life looked dead and over, but not only did his Father revive Him, but his new life has brought life to so many others. How much more fruit there will be!

Greg

Evensong with the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Revd Sarah Mulally is presiding over a service of Evensong at Hereford Cathedral on Sunday October 11th at 3.30 p.m. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Pastoral Care Workshops

Anyone wanting to know more about the church's pastoral care ministry and how to join in is warmly invited to two workshops at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays Sept 22nd and 29th at Holy Trinity Minsterley. Please let Greg know in advance if you are intending to come along.

Richard's licensing

Richard Lonsdale will be licensed as the new Rector of the Chirbury Hills Benefice on Monday October 5th at 7 p.m. at Chirbury. Everyone is warmly welcomed to attend the service presided over by the Bishop. However, would you confirm your attendance to Kay Yeates at km_yeates@yahoo.co.uk for catering purposes by 18th September please.

Of One Accord concert with soloist Tom Barnes of Johns' Boys

HTM are holding a summer concert on Saturday 12th September at 7pm featuring Of One Accord. with musical director Alison Stevens, and baritone Tom Barnes of Johns' Boys.

Tickets are £12 and need to be pre-booked- they're selling fast and we have a seating limit. Call Marie on 791508 to book.

Holy Trinity Minsterley opening times

Caroline Holloway is currently opening and locking up Minsterley church, usually opening around 9ish and locking up between 6.30 and 7pm.

If there is an issue please contact her on 07754 773 548.

Sad News

We learnt this week of the death of Maxine Belfield, a much-valued member of Hope Church and volunteer with Rea Valley Foodbank. We regret to report that Maxine will not have a funeral, her wishes. There will be a private woodland burial. However, there are plans for a Thanksgiving Service at Worthen in due course. Details will be shared when available.

The Gathering

The next Gathering praise and worship evening takes place on Tuesday 15th September at Marton Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Ride & Stride

This year, as a benefice, we will be participating in walking for Ride & Stride on Saturday Sept 19th. The route takes in churches in Cound, Acton Burnell and Frodesley. The total distance is 10.5 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. Please sponsor those who are walking. There should be a sponsor sheet at the back of your church.

Ride and stride for HTM.

Sarah, Erin and Cara are joining the Ride and Stride team on 19 September and walking for HTM. If you'd like to sponsor them there's a paper form inside HTM or you can go to this link and do it online.

[Sarah Edwards is fundraising for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust](#)

Bible Study

The Monday night Bible Study group is taking a late summer break and will reconvene on Monday September 21st to study the Book of Esther.

Deanery Synod

There is an open meeting of the next Deanery Synod at Holy Trinity, Leighton on Thurs September 17th at 6.45 p.m. The Archdeacon of Ludlow will be presenting the new Diocesan Strategy which will impact us all. Do come along if you are able (poster attached)

Afternoon Tea

Many thanks to Ann Smith for kindly opening her garden last Saturday afternoon for tea.

Domestic Abuse Training

Please be aware that it is now a requirement for all those working with children or vulnerable adults to undertake Domestic Abuse training. This may be done online. Please contact June Cribb at safeguardingstg@btinternet.com for details as to how to access this or to investigate alternative means of completing the training.

An Evening of Songs with Stuart Carter

On 26th September, Stuart will be giving a concert in aid of Minsterley Parish Hall (charity No 522551) which is used by many people and community groups in the neighbourhood. 7pm start. Tickets £10 in advance from Minsterley Flower Shop, Hignetts or Stuart (see attached poster) or £12 on the door. All proceeds going towards the Hall.

Musical Bingo evening

There will be an evening of Musical Bingo in Habberley Village Hall on Thursday 8th October. Hall opens at 6.30 Eyes down at 7.00. Light refreshments during a mid-session interval. Tickets £10 available from: Robert Currie (robert.h.currie@gmail.com) Tel 01743 790123. Pearl Hannigan (pearlhannigan@gmx.co.uk) Tel 01743 790495. Pauline Stopford (pauline.stopford@outlook.com) Tel 01743 790784. Prizes for the winners, all proceeds to St Mary's Church.

Pastoral Visitors

There is to be a two-session course on Tuesdays Sept 22nd and 29th for anyone who is already or would like in the future to visit parishioners in their homes. You are welcome to attend without any additional commitment at this stage. Please ask Greg for further details.

Pet/Group Service

Our next Group Service will take place at St Mary's Habberley on Sunday 27th September at 10.30 a.m. The service will be Holy Communion but will also double as a Pet Service and Harvest. Please bring along your pets for a blessing. There will be no other service in the Benefice that day

Deanery Choral Evensong

The next Deanery Choral Evensong will take place at Holy Trinity Yockleton on Sunday 27th September at 6 p.m. If you would like a lift, please let Greg know.

Children's Church at St George's

Children's Church at St George's usually takes place on the second and third Sundays of the month – all children from pre-school upwards are warmly welcome. However, in September, Children's Church will **only** be running on the third Sunday 20th September; and in October will **only** run on the second Sunday 11th October, complementing the Harvest Service.

People's Emergency Briefing film – 24th October

St George's and Holy Trinity Minsterley are working with the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group to host a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing film on the climate and nature crisis at HTM on Saturday 24th October.

The aim of the film is to bring together people in local communities across the UK, to hear the evidence and discuss how to respond constructively. It is suitable for **ages 16+**, hard-hitting but with positive suggestions. Refreshments from 1.30pm; Film screening at 2.00pm; discussion; close at 3.30pm. Free but please book:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peoples-climate-emergency-briefing-film-tickets-1999159109713?aff=oddtcreator> or paper tickets will be available from Hignetts.

HTM Autumn Tidy Up

We need your help! It's our Autumn Tidy Up on 31 October at HTM. We'll be inside and outside the church so come along, bring your tools of choice and help us spruce up the church for the changing season. We start at 9am and finish around noon so stay as long or little as you're able. And it goes without saying that we'll feed you coffee and cake!

Bishop's Collection

Many thanks to who contributed spectacles and children's toys to the Bishop's collection for Tanzania. Special thanks to Kath & Haydn who kindly took our collection over to Church Stretton.

Readings for Sept 13th

Genesis 50. 15-21

Romans 14. 1-12

Matthew 18. 21-35

Calendar

Fri 11 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon Pat Caddick's funeral at HTM at 11.30 a.m.
Sat 12 th	Of One Accord at HTM at 7 p.m.
Sun 13 th	Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m. Morning Prayer at Snailbeach at 9 a.m. Morning Worship at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. (no Children's Church this week) Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m. Evensong at Habberley at 5pm Service of Meditation at Pontesbury at 6 p.m.
Mon 14 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 15 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.

Tots Leaders in WER at 11.45 a.m.

St George's Eco-Committee at 4.30 p.m. in church

Minsterley PCC at 7 p.m. at HTM

The Gathering at Marton Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm

Youth drop-in at St George's at 7.30 p.m.

Weds 16th

Coffee Hub from 10-12 at HTM

Hope/Shelve PCC at 2 p.m.

Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.

Pontesbury PCC at 7 p.m. in WER

Thurs 17th

Foodbank at St George's 10-12

Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.

Deanery Synod at Leighton at 6.45 p.m.

Sat 19th

Ride & Stride

Sun 20th

Morning Prayer/Worship Together at Shelve at 9 a.m.

Holy Communion at Pontesbury with Children's Church at 10.30 a.m.

Minsterley Praise at HTM at 10.30 a.m.