



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches Newsletter

18th September 2026

Dear friends

We have recently taken out a subscription with Netflix (other streaming services are available!) in conjunction with our son and daughter-in-law. We consider it good value for money but I hadn't quite anticipated how often now that I have given them my email address I would receive messages from them. I delete said messages quicker than AI can send them but it remains disconcerting that I can accidentally click onto a programme thereby watching 3 seconds of it, to be reminded by email the following day that I haven't finished watching it yet. Or asking me to rate it or recommending something else.

I guess some people feel a similar antipathy to an omnipotent divine being who is watching our every move and is every ready with His advice as to what we should do next. The difference, of course, is that our God has a trillion times more computing power available to Him and has only our best interests (rather than his own commercial agenda) at heart. However, we have to be still enough to listen, since He probably won't send us an email.

Greg

Harvest celebrations

Sunday September 27 th	10.30 a.m.	Harvest/Pet Service	St Mary's Habberley
Sunday October 4 th	9 a.m.	Harvest Service	All Saints Shelve
	10.30 a.m.	Snailbeach/Minsterley	St Luke's
	12 noon	Harvest Lunch	Snailbeach VH
Friday October 9 th	7 p.m.	Harvest Supper	Hope Village Hall
Sunday October 11 th	9 a.m.	Harvest Service	Holy Trinity Hope
	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Service	St George's Pontesbury
	12 noon	Harvest Lunch	St George's Church

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.

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.

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.

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 meet at Cound church at 10 a.m. if you would like to join us. Lifts can be provided at any point on route if you would prefer not to walk the full distance. Please sponsor those who are walking even retrospectively. 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 will reconvene on Monday September 21st 7pm at The Deanery to study the Book of Esther.

Ichthus

The next Ichthus meeting takes place on Tuesday 22nd September, at The Blessing, Snailbeach at 2.30pm.

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.

HTM and STL harvest lunch

Following our joint harvest service at St Luke's Snailbeach on Sunday 4th October we're getting together for two-course lunch at Snailbeach Village Hall. Tickets are £10. There's a sign up sheet in both churches and tickets are available from Marie Edwards and Helen Pitt (we need to know numbers for catering and planning so please add your name asap). Everyone is welcome

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.

Confirmation

A number of people from the Deanery are being confirmed at St Lawrence's Ludlow on Saturday October 10th at 2.30 p.m. including our own Sonja Crane. It promises to be a special occasion. Do join us if you can.

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.

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 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!

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.

Readings for Sept 20th

Jonah 3. 10-4.end

Philippians 1. 21-end

Matthew 20.1-16

Calendar

Fri 18 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 19 th	Ride & Stride at Cound at 10 a.m.
Sun 20 th	Morning Prayer 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.
Mon 21 st	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m. Bible Study at The Deanery at 7 p.m.
Tues 22 nd	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m. Oasis at Minsterley Methodist Chapel at 12 Habberley PCC at 1.30 p.m. Ichthus at 2.30 p.m. The Blessing, Snailbeach Pastoral Visitor training at 7 p.m. at HTM
Weds 23 rd	Coffee Hub from 10-12 at HTM

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

Messy Church at HTM at 3.30 p.m.

Benefice Council at HTM at 7 p.m.

Thurs 24th Foodbank at St George's 10-12

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

Rea Valley Prayer at Hove-to at 7 p.m.

Fri 25th Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Sat 26th Stuart's concert at Habberley VH at 7 p.m.

Sun 27th Group Service at Habberley at 10.30 a.m.

Deanery Choral Evensong at Yockleton at 6 p.m.