



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

4th September 2026

Dear friends

One of the many qualities that I appreciated about the already much-lamented Revd Fran was her ability to correct me gently, allowing me to understand that she thought I'd got something wrong (generally she was right) without my feeling put down or undermined. I was reminded of this on holiday when kneeling at the communion rail in Aberdovey and being offered the chalice by the communion assistant, who I suspect was the churchwarden, with the words "the body of Christ." I thought at first that he had just misspoken but overheard him using the same words as he went along the line. I did for a moment wonder whether the theology of the Church in Wales was somehow different from our own but decided that the wine is recognized as the **blood** of Christ universally. How long had he been doing this and why had no one ever put him right were questions I asked myself.

But then, when the service finished and I spoke briefly to him, I too couldn't find the right words to interrogate him without sounding harshly critical and I bottled it, saying nothing. St Paul calls it "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4.15). It's easy to do one or other of those, but nowhere near so easy to do both.

Greg

Fran Brealey

Thanks to all who attended Fran's farewell service at Shelve on Sunday. The church was packed to the rafters in what was a very uplifting occasion despite the sadness of having to say farewell. Fran and Mike were presented with a large print of a sunset at Brook Vessons and a garden voucher for just over £200. Thanks to all who contributed so generously to her farewell gift. Fran will have a well-deserved break from all ministry before returning to take services at Hope & Shelve in November.

Message from Fran

Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts, cards and good wishes, which Mike and I have received over the last few weeks. It has been a joy to share in the ministry and mission of the benefice, and to get to know many of you. Mike and I are now in our new home, surrounded by boxes! Please pray for us, as we shall pray for you. With much love, Fran .



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.

Garden Tea

Ann Smith is holding her annual Garden Tea Party on Saturday 5th September from 1pm - 4pm at her home, Merilees, in Reabrook, Minsterley. Parking is available opposite at Hillcrest Manor. Everyone is welcome.

Ichthus

The next Ichthus Bible Study meeting takes place on Tuesday September 8th, Brookfield Watermill, 2.30pm, studying Matthew 18 v21-35.

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.

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.

Minsterley Show

A successful day was had on HTM's food stall at Minsterley Show on 15th August. It's takes a huge amount of work to run - baking, making sandwiches, transporting, setting up and taking down, and hosting and running the stall all day. Thank you to **everyone** who helped make it happen and to the fundraising and engagement committee for the months of preparation, lists and colour coded spreadsheets.

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.

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.

Soiree Evening at St George's

A lovely 3-course meal with menu choice and great company! Please note the date is 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

An 'Evening of Song' with Stuart Carter

Also 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.

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=oddttdtcreator> or paper tickets will be available from Hignetts.

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!

Greg would be pleased to hear from anyone who is planning to visit Church Stretton next week and who would be willing to deliver our contribution to this collection.

Readings for Sept 6th

Ezekiel 33.7-11

Romans 13.8-end

Matthew 18.15-20

Calendar

Fri 4 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 5 th	Habberley Produce Show from 1 p.m.
	Garden Party at Merrilees from 2-4.30 p.m.
Sun 6 th	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.
Mon 7 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.

	Project George at 6 p.m. in WER
Tues 8 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
	Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
Weds 9 th	Coffee Hub from 10-12 at HTM
	Hope/Shelve PCC at 2 p.m.
	Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
	Ride & Stride Planning meeting at 7.30 p.m. at The Deanery
Thurs 10 th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
	Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
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 13th	Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m.
	Morning Prayer at Snailbeach at 9 a.m.
	Morning Worship at Pontesbury (no Children's Church) at 10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.
	Evensong at Habberley at 5pm
	Service of Meditation at Pontesbury at 6 p.m.

St. George's Services and Readings for September 2026



Date		Readings
1 st September	Tea service 2.30pm	
3 rd September	Messy Church 3.30pm	
6 th September 14 th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion 10.30am	Ezekiel 33. 7-11 Romans 13. 8-end Matthew 18. 15-20
13 th September 15 th Sunday after Trinity	Morning Worship without Communion 10.30am	Genesis 50. 15-21 Romans 14. 1-12 Matthew 18. 21-35
20 th September 16 th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion With Children`s Church 10.30am	Jonah 3. 10-4.end Philippians 1. 21-end Matthew 20.1-16
27 th September 17 th Sunday after Trinity Group Service St.Mary`s Habberley	Pet Service and Harvest with Holy Communion 10.30am	Psalms 8 Matthew 10. 24-33