



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

25th September 2026

Dear friends

I was privileged to co-lead a pastoral care evening last night at Minsterley for the Deanery. I was struck by both the quality of the people who had been persuaded to come along as well as the reminder of how much caring goes on in the life of our churches, fulfilling the promise of Matthew 25 where Jesus commends all those who have fed the hungry, visited the sick and clothed the naked (these are sheep not goats!) The formal visits that are undertaken on behalf of the church and provision of Home Communion are extremely important, but it is all those conversations over coffee when one person takes five minutes to listen to the challenges of another person that when we take toll amount to so much – a fulfilment of Jesus' vision.

You may not think of yourself as a pastoral carer when you are having what you consider to be an ordinary conversation, but cumulatively we are a deeply caring and compassionate organisation and as such doing the work of Christ.

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 please.

The Chosen

"The Chosen" is the first ever multi-season TV series depicting the life of Jesus, with five series to date.

It gives each of the disciples a backstory and puts flesh on the bones of the episodes recorded in the Gospels. It uses creative imagination to develop the stories we have read there. About a third of the audience worldwide have not been church members. It is Hebrew rather than American in feel. It is authentic without being dry. It was crowdfunded and became the most successful crowdfunded TV series in history. People have been able to watch it via Amazon Prime, Netflix, Youtube and Facebook.

However, on Wednesday evenings from October 7th, you will be able to watch Series 1 of The Chosen at Holy Trinity Minsterley via our new screen and projector. Episodes vary in length from 55 minutes to 20 minutes.

Episodes include:

- The call of the disciples
- The wedding at Cana
- Let the Little children come to me
- The rock on which the church is built
- I am He
- The first Christmas

Screening starts at 7 p.m. Entrance is free, with drinks offered for a donation. Feel free to bring your own snacks. We will be showing every Wednesday with a break for half-term. If you want any further information, please contact Greg Smith at rectorpontstip@gmail.com

Ride & Stride

Congratulations to the Ride & Stride walkers and support crew who successfully completed the tour of churches in the Acton Burnell/Cound area last Saturday. If you were kind enough to sponsor them, please give your sponsorship either to one of the walkers or your church Treasurer.

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 URGENT

Our joint harvest lunch takes place at Snailbeach Village Hall on Sunday 4 October at 1230pm. Tickets are £10 (£5 for children) for a two-course meal and are available from Marie on 791508 or from Helen Pitt. Please let us know if you're planning on coming no later than this Sunday (27 September) when we'll make a decision whether we have enough interest to go ahead.

Hope and Shelve Harvest Supper

The Hope and Shelve Harvest Supper takes place on Friday October 9th, 6.30 for 7 p.m. at Hope Village Hall, including an auction and raffle. Two-course meal with tea and coffee (BYOB), tickets £10 adults £5 children from Wynford, 07970 955714. Limited places!

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.

Habberley Open Meeting

There is to be an open meeting in Habberley next Monday, 28th September, at 7 p.m. at Habberley Village Hall to discuss the future of St Mary's church. All welcome to attend.

Children's Church at St George's

Children's Church at St George's usually takes place every second and third Sunday of the month – all children from pre-school upwards are warmly welcome. However, in October, Children's Church will **only** be running 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=oddttdtcreator> 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!

Readings for Sept 27th

Psalm 8

Matthew 10.24-33

Calendar

Fri 25 th	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 26 th	Stuart's concert at Minsterley Village Hall at 7 p.m.
Sun 27 th	Group Service at Habberley at 10.30 a.m. Deanery Choral Evensong at Yockleton at 6 p.m.
Mon 28 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m. Habberley Public meeting at Habberley Village Hall at 7 p.m.
Tues 29 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m. Pastoral Visitor training at 7 p.m. at HTM
Weds 30 th	Coffee Hub from 10-12 at HTM Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
Thurs 1 st Oct	Foodbank at St George's 10-12

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

Messy Church at St George's at 3.30 p.m.

Fri 2nd Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Sun 4th Harvest Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.

Morning Worship at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m. [NB HC next week for Harvest]

Harvest Holy Communion at Snailbeach at 10.30 a.m.

Harvest Lunch at Snailbeach Village Hall at 12 noon

Mon 5th Richard's licensing at Chirbury at 7 p.m.