

Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

16th October and 23rd October 2026

Dear friends

The film *The Lion King* popularised the song and the phrase "Don't worry, be happy!" It sounds like good advice, indeed sounds almost biblical. Well, that's half true. In Philippians chapter four, St Paul says: "Don't be anxious about anything (don't worry if you like)" before going on to say, "but in everything by prayer…present your requests to God and the Peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds". So, not just don't worry, but a recipe for achieving this desirable state of mind. To 'be happy' however is beyond our control. Happiness is dependent on external circumstances over which we have little or no influence. What St Pauls says (again in Philippians chapter four) is "Rejoice in the Lord always". You may think that that sounds even more difficult. But rejoicing is a choice (a command written by someone languishing in a prison cell remember). It is a decision to look for the victory of God in the face of whatever circumstances we face.

I wish you peace and joy in pursuing St Paul's advice.

Greg

Bible Study

On Monday evening, we will be continuing our study of the Book of Esther at The Deanery at 7 p.m. moving on to chapter 3. All welcome.

Harvest celebrations

Thanks to all those who made our harvest celebrations so joyous, whether by decorating our churches or providing wonderful and delicious harvest food.

Congratulations

To Sonja Crane who was confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury last Saturday in a joyous service.

All Souls Service

There will be an All Souls Benefice Service at St George's on Sunday November 1st at 4pm, to remember loved ones who have died. If you would like the name of your loved one to be read out during the service, please add their name to the lists in St George's or HTM by Friday 23rd October, or let Rebecca know on PApontstip@outlook.com.

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.

We are continuing to show the series on Wednesday evenings at Holy Trinity Minsterley via the new screen and projector. Episodes vary in length from 55 minutes to 40 minutes.

Episodes include:

- The call of Mary Magdalene
- 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 If you are not able to attend every episode, it's still fine to come along. The story still makes sense!

Christian Aid

The churches of Minsterley are looking for a new Christian Aid coordinator in advance of next May's Christian Aid week. If interested in this role, please speak to Greg about it.

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.

Musical Bingo evening

Thanks to all those who supported Robert Currie's musical bingo evening at Habberley Village Hall last week. Great fun was had by all, and £229 was raised for church funds.

Stretching £5

Those who were given £5 earlier in the year as an investment should return the £5 plus any returns on the investment to Mary Worrall at your earliest convenience.

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=oddtdtcreator or paper tickets are 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!

St George's Big Church Cleaning Day

Dusters at dawn!! Actually 9.30 – 12.00 on Saturday November 7th – do drop in for how ever long you can spare. Bring useful cleaning items. Refreshments and good fun guaranteed. If you can help, please inform Marianne 07944 333830 or Mary 01743 791069. Thank you.

Local History

We are trying to establish a Pontesbury and District History Group. We had hoped to meet on Monday 12th October. However, we have had to reschedule this for the Pavilion on **Monday Nov 16th at 7 p.m**. Please come along if you're at all interested, or contact Rebecca or Greg.

St George's Christmas Tree Festival

The St George's Christmas Tree Festival takes place this year on Friday 4th December to Sunday 6th December. If you would like to enter a tree, please contact Marianne on 07944 333830.

Recycling scheme for Against Breast Cancer

There is now a Bra Bank at The Flower Shop in Minsterley Organised by Bronwen Jones and her mum, Tracy Egby-Jones, through the charity Against Breast Cancer, the bra recycling scheme takes unwanted bras and raises vital funds for pioneering breast cancer research. For every tonne of bras collected, Against Breast Cancer receives £700 to fund their research.

You can take all donations of unwanted bras to Claire at The Flower Shop or drop them at Holy Trinity Minsterley and we'll let Claire or Bronwen have them

Readings for Oct 18th

Acts 16. 6-12a

2 Timothy 4. 5-17

Luke 10.1-9

Readings for Oct 25th

Nehemiah 8. 1-4a, 8-12

Colossians 3. 12-17

Matthew 24. 30-35

Calendar

Fri 16th	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sun 18th	Morning Worship at Shelve at 9 a.m.
	Minsterley Praise at Methodist Chapel at 10 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Mon 19th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
	Bible Study at The Deanery at 7 p.m.
Tues 20th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
	Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
	Rea Valley Prayer meeting at Hove-to at 7 p.m.
	Youth drop in at St George's at 7.30 p.m.
Weds 21st	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon
	Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
	Pontesbury Youth Café leaders meeting at 3.30 p.m.
	The Chosen at HTM at 7 p.m.
Thurs 22nd	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
	Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
Fri 23rd	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 24th	Climate Briefing Film at HTM at 1.30 p.m.

Sun 25th	Morning Prayer at Hope at 9 a.m.
	Family Service at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Habberley at 5 p.m.
Mon 26th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 27th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
	Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
	Ichthus at The Blessing, Snailbeach 2.30pm
	Youth drop in at St George's at 7.30 p.m.
Weds 28th	Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon
	Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.
	The Chosen at HTM at 7 p.m.
Thurs 29th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
	Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
Friday 30th	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 31st	HTM Autumn Tidy Up 9-12
Sun 1st	Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 am
	Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30am
	Tea Service at Minsterley at 4pm
	All Souls Service at Pontesbury at 4pm