

Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

30th October 2026

Dear friends,

A book I am reading at the moment celebrates some of the medical advances enjoyed at the beginning of the twentieth century at the same time as man was discovering how to fly. Those advances included the introduction of anaesthetic, much improved infection control and a better understanding of how the body works. It serves as a powerful reminder of how far we have come in a little over a century. I have no doubt that we will continue to move forward in ways that we can hardly imagine, with the help of AI and other modern technology. And yet our National Health service staffed by some of the world's most wonderful human beings has become a byword for frustration at cancelled operations, administrative errors and deep sighing.

This is what it is to be human, amazing capacity and potential brilliance, and yet liable to go astray in spite of that. It's worth reflecting that Jesus' disciples were both brilliant and fallible. But he still uses them, as he uses us and as he uses our NHS.

Greg

Services Nov 1st

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.

All Souls service at Pontesbury at 4 p.m.

Snailbeach & District Village Hall Newsletter

The latest quarterly Newsletter has just been published. You can find it on the webpage of St Luke's Church, at *www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk*.

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!

HTM Autumn Tidy Up

We need your help! It's our Autumn Tidy Up on Saturday 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 however 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.

HTM Messy Church

The next HTM Messy Church takes place on Wednesday 11th November at 3.30pm.

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.

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.

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.

People's Emergency Briefing film – 24th October

Thanks so much to everyone at HTM for your brilliant hospitality and refreshments for the People's Emergency Briefing film. The new screen proved its worth; it was great to see the church packed, and to hear lots of good discussion on such a vital topic, including with our MP Julia Buckley.

Local History

The first meeting of the Pontesbury and District History Group takes place at the Pavilion on **Monday Nov 16th at 7 p.m**. Please come along if you're interested, or contact Rebecca or Greg. This group will help to shape Project George, but will also have a life of its own.

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.

Make your own Christmas wreath!

Wreath-making workshop Monday 23rd November at St George's, 6.30pm. Refreshments available. Tickets £20 from Marianne mariannemccall.17@gmail.com or 07944 333830.

Barbara Ann Fraser

The older residents of Pontesbury may remember Barbara who lived in the village and belonged to St George's church until the 1990s. She died in September at the age of 82, having lived in Hanwood since leaving Pontesbury. A joyous well-attended funeral for a generous lady.

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 Nov 1st – All Saints Day

Revelations 7. 9-end
(1 John 3. 1-3)
Matthew 5. 1-12

Calendar

Fri 30th	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 31st	HTM Autumn Tidy Up 9.00-12 noon
Sun 1st Nov	Holy Communion at Shelve at 9 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
	Tea Service at Minsterley 4.00pm
	All Souls Service at Pontesbury 4.00pm
Mon 2nd	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 3rd	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
	Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
	St George's Eco-Group at 8 Yarlington Orchard 4.00pm
	Youth drop in at St George's at 7.30 p.m.
Weds 4th	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 5th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
	Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
Fri 6th	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 7th	St George's Big Church Cleaning Day 9.30-12 noon
Sun 8th	*Remembrance Sunday*
	Holy Communion at Hope at 9 a.m.
	Morning Worship at Pontesbury with Children's Church at 10.15 a.m.
	Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.50 a.m. (meet at War Memorial)
	Remembrance Service at Snailbeach at 3pm
	Evensong at Habberley at 5 p.m.