



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

2nd October 2026

Dear friends

Richard Lonsdale's departure from Minsterley has been a bit like "beam me up, Scottie", a repeated line from the Star Trek series back in the day. He seems to have been leaving for a very long time so gradually that it has been hard to say for definite when he has left and when he has arrived. Nevertheless, although he is very kindly taking a funeral at Holy Trinity next week, Monday evening would seem to mark the moment of his arriving in Chirbury (church not Rectory just yet). In light of this, I wanted to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a wonderful colleague, above all his willingness to do anything asked of him, and much more besides. Very few people have such a knack for seeing what needs to be done, and then just getting on with it. The Chirbury Hills benefice is very blessed to have him.

He has been an inspiration to us all: that we might be counted as problem solvers rather than problem causers. After all, the parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25) is a reminder to us that whenever we see a need and respond to it, we are doing it for Christ. Do pray for him and the family on Monday evening if you are not able to attend the licensing service.

Greg

Harvest celebrations

Sunday October 4 th	9 a.m.	Harvest Service	All Saints Shelve
	10.30 a.m.	Snailbeach/Minsterley	St Luke's
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 on the 19th September. If you were kind enough to sponsor them, please give your sponsorship either to one of the walkers or your church Treasurer.

Christian Aid

Holy Trinity Minsterley is 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.

HTM and STL harvest lunch

Due to the lack of take up, the Minsterley/Snailbeach Harvest Lunch has been cancelled. Tea and coffee will be served at Snailbeach Village Hall after the morning Harvest Service.

No HTM Community Café 7 October

Due to the funeral of Ann Andrews, there will be no Community Café at HTM on the morning of Wednesday 7 October.

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.

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.

Tea Service

Our monthly Tea Service will take place at St George's on Tuesday Oct 6th at 2.30 p.m. A short service of Holy Communion in West End Room will be followed by tea and cake.

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 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=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!

Shrewsbury Youth for Christ

We have been working in partnership with Shrewsbury Youth for Christ for a number of years now. If you would like to support their work in prayer, you can sign up for their monthly newsletter by visiting: <https://s-yfc.org/monthly-newsletters/>

Readings for Oct 4th (at Pontesbury)

Isaiah 5. 1-7

Philippians 3.4b-14

Matthew 21. 33-end

(at Snailbeach/Shelve)

Psalm 46

Matthew 8.23-27

Calendar

Fri 2 nd	Prayers at HTM at 9.30 a.m. Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sun 4 th	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.
Mon 5 th	Funeral of George Corfield at St George's at 11 a.m. Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m. Richard's licensing at Chirbury at 7 p.m.
Tues 6 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m. Tea Service at St George's at 2.30 p.m.
Weds 7 th	Funeral of Ann Andrews at HTM at 11.30 a.m. Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.

The Chosen at HTM at 7 p.m.

Thurs 8th

Foodbank at St George's 10-12

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

Musical Bingo at Habberley Village Hall at 7 p.m.

Fri 9th

Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.

Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon

Hope/Shelve Harvest Supper at Hope Village Hall at 7 p.m.

Sat 10th

Confirmation Service at St Lawrence's Ludlow at 2.30 p.m.

Sun 11th

Hope Harvest Holy communion at 9 a.m.

Holy Communion at Minsterley at 10.30 a.m.

Pontesbury Harvest Communion at 10.30 a.m. with Children's Church

Harvest Lunch at St George's at 12.30 p.m.

Evensong at Habberley at 5 p.m.