



Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

9th October 2026

Dear friends

Attending Richard's very powerful licensing service at Chirbury on Monday, when a church full of people welcomed their new Priest with rapturous applause, I could not help being reminded of my own more modest licensing service in February 2021. Since it was the days of lockdown, it had to take place via zoom, with perhaps 20 laptops and phones tuned in. It was somewhat underwhelming. This wasn't really anyone's fault, but it does serve as a reminder as to why we have these big events – 70th birthday parties, 60th wedding anniversary celebrations or a confirmation service. It's a way of telling ourselves as much as others that something important has happened. They work as watersheds so that thereafter time is measured as before and after.

Christian festivals work in much the same way, although because they arrive cyclically, we are always both before and after. Christ is always incarnated and resurrected, but we need to be reminded what the world would be like if he wasn't.

Greg

Harvest celebrations

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.

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 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!

Ride & Stride

If you were kind enough to sponsor our Ride & Stride walkers, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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!

Ichthus

There will be an Ichthus Bible Study meeting on Tuesday 13th October at Brookfield Waterwheel, 2.30pm, looking at Luke 10:1-9. More details from Liz Jackson jackson.liz8315@gmail.com

The Gathering

Please note that the monthly worship event at Marton Village Hall, The Gathering, has been brought forward a week to Tuesday Oct 13th at 7 p.m.

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 11th (at Minsterley)

Isaiah 25. 1-9

Philippians 4.1-9

Matthew 22.1-14

(at Pontesbury & Hope)

Psalms 46

Genesis 1. 20-28

Matthew 8.23-27

Calendar

Fri 9 th	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 10 th	Confirmation Service at St Lawrence's Ludlow at 2.30 p.m.
Sun 11 th	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.
Mon 12 th	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 13 th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12 Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m. Habberley PCC at St Mary's at 2 p.m. Ichthus at Brookfield Waterwheel at 2.30pm Pontesbury Safeguarding Cttee at 3.30 p.m.

The Gathering at 7 p.m. at Marton Village Hall

Weds 14th

Coffee Hub at HTM 10-12 noon

Tea Break at St George's 2-4 p.m.

Minsterley Messy Church at 3.30 p.m.

The Chosen at HTM at 7 p.m.

Thurs 15th

Foodbank at St George's 10-12

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

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.