

Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

13th November 2026

Dear friends,

The Church of England has been described as The National Trust with hymns. This is a reflection on the beauty and importance of so many of our buildings and the numbers who are attracted to visit by virtue of the wonder of the building rather than the activity inside, whether that be a service of worship or Foodbank. It is not unusual for a PCC meeting to feel as if the preservation of the building trumps all other considerations, while applications to the Diocese to make a small change to the building can be met with uncomprehending resistance.

The National Trust is a wonderful organisation (other heritage charities are available) and the Church is privileged to be gifted with such fine examples of human inventiveness and creativity. However, we entirely miss the point if we fail to recognize that what motivated those who built these glorious edifices was a desire to worship God.

Greg

Local History

We are trying to establish a local history group for Pontesbury and other villages in the area. To this end, an open meeting has been convened for this coming Monday, November 16th at 7 p.m. at The Pavilion. Anyone is welcome to attend. Come and share what you know and what you would like such a group to do. Come and learn what expertise and experience there is in our community.

Remembrance Sunday

Thanks to all those who led and contributed to Remembrance services last Sunday and on the 11th by leading or participating. Large turnouts at both Pontesbury and Minsterley attracted by the good weather and the worrying state of the world.

The Chosen

The final episode of The Chosen will be shown next Wednesday at Holy Trinity Minsterley at 7 p.m. The episode is entitled "I am He" and will be followed by Minsterley PCC. There is no expectation that guests who have come for the screening should stay for the meeting.

St George's Big Church Cleaning Day

Thanks to all those who came along to support St George's Big Cleaning Day last Saturday. A good time of fellowship for all.

St Mary's Church Habberley

Many thanks to those who turned up for the churchyard clean up on Saturday 31 October – also to those who came the following week to do other useful things.

Prizes for Grand Raffle at HTM Xmas Fair
Could all donations for the grand raffle at the HTM Christmas fair please be given to Helen Pitt or Marie Edwards by Sunday 6 December – thank you.

The Gathering

The next praise and worship evening takes place on Tuesday 17th November, at Marton Village Hall, 7:00pm for refreshments, 7:30pm start.

Lost Brooch at St George's

A brooch has been found in St George's and has been put in safe keeping. Do speak to Greg or Carolyn.

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.

Food Donations

Anyone who would like to make specifically Christmas focused food donations to Rea Valley Foodbank should do so before December 7th.

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. It may also be done face to face on Monday November 16th at Holy Trinity Minsterley from 10-1 p.m. 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.

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.

Oasis

Oasis is the very successful bereavement support group with volunteers from half a dozen churches across the area. With the departures of Fran Brealey and Jan Brain, there is a vacancy for new volunteers. The group meets fortnightly on Tuesday lunchtimes. Team members are only expected to attend once a month however. Further information may be obtained from Heather Ryder or Greg.

Readings for Nov 15th

Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-end

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

Matthew 25. 14-30

Calendar

Fri 13th	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 14th	Soup & Roll Social at HTM from 12-2
Sun 15th	Morning Prayer at Shelve at 9 a.m.
	Minsterley Praise at Holy Trinity at 10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion with Children's Church at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.
Mon 16th	Domestic Abuse training at HTM 10-1 p.m.
	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
	Local History Group at The Pavilion at 7 p.m.
Tues 17th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
	Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
	Memorial Service for Trevor Piggot-Foster at 1.30 at St George's
	Funeral for John Hill at 3.30 p.m. at St George's
	Benefice Council at HTM at 7 p.m.
	Youth drop in at St George's at 7.30 p.m.
	The Gathering at Marton Village Hall at 7 p.m.
Weds 18th	Pontesbury Standing Ctte at 9.15 a.m. in WER

	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.
	Followed by Minsterley PCC
Thurs 19th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
	Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
Fri 20th	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sun 22nd	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.