

Pontesbury & Stiperstones Family of Churches

Newsletter

20th November 2026

Dear friends,

Many, many years ago, I undertook history A Level (European History from 1648-1870 and British History from 1815-1914 if you must know). I can't say that the experience did much for me, and though getting a perfectly acceptable pass, I never entertained the thought of pursuing an interest. I think now that the reason for my disregard for the discipline was that I failed to see any relevance to my real life. However, having attended an extremely lively first meeting of the Pontesbury & District Local History Group this week, I must review my attitude. History matters when you can see the buildings and artefacts still with us now; when the people that are being discussed have relatives still alive or where they have left a visible mark on their environment.

One can easily read the Bible as a history book that has little to say to our modern day lives. However, look around at the buildings and artefacts that it gave birth to; speak to the people whose lives have been changed by it; and remember that its author is still here with us now.

Greg

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.

Emmanuel's Party

Poonam and Matthew have extended a very warm invitation to anyone who would like to come along to their son, Emmanuel's first birthday party this Sunday, November 22nd at 5 p.m. at Pontesbury Public Hall.

Ichthus

The next Ichthus Bible Study session takes place on 24th November, 2.30pm, at The Blessing, Snailbeach. All welcome.

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.

St George's Christmas Raffle

Several luxurious hampers and other items are the prizes for this year's St George's Christmas Hamper raffle! Tickets only £1 each, or £5 for a book. Available at St George's after church services, at the Christmas Tree Festival, or from Mary Worrall.

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. We are pleased to say that in excess of £500 has been raised through this wonderful initiative.

Soupy success!

A big thank you to everyone who supported the HTM soup and a roll event last Saturday. We had four delicious homemade soups to choose from and lots of tasty homemade cakes, a fabulous raffle and lots of chat and laughter. Big thanks as well to everyone who donated, baked, made soup, set up and peopled the stalls. A great team effort.

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

Thanks to all those who came along to the Domestic Abuse training on Monday, and special thanks to June Cribb for organizing it on our behalf.

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.

Holiday

Please note that Greg and Fran will be on holiday from Mon-Fri next week. Any queries should be addressed to Revd Ian Williams or your churchwarden.

Make your own Christmas wreath!

The Christmas Wreath-making Workshop is now fully subscribed.

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.

December Services

Please note that a number of services in December will not follow our regular pattern.

Dec 13th	Pontesbury	Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.
	Minsterley	Minsterley Praise at 10 a.m. (Methodist Chapel)
	Hope	Carol service at 3 p.m.
Dec 20th	Pontesbury	Morning Prayer at 10.30 a.m.
	Minsterley	Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.
	Shelve	Christingle at 4 p.m.
	Pontesbury	Carol Service at 7 p.m.

Other Christmas services will be published next week.

Readings for Nov 22nd

Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1. 15-end

Matthew 25. 31-end

Calendar

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.
Mon 23rd	Youth Café at HTM at 3.30 p.m.
Tues 24th	Foodbank at HTM 10-12
	Little Dragons at St George's 10-11.30 a.m.
	Oasis at Minsterley Methodist Chapel 12-1.30 p.m.
	Ichthus at 2.30 p.m.
	Youth drop in at St George's at 7.30 p.m.

Weds 25th	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.
Thurs 26th	Foodbank at St George's 10-12
	Trinity Tots at HTM from 10-11.30 a.m.
Fri 27th	Prayer at HTM at 9.30 a.m.
	Coffee Stop at St George's 10-12 noon
Sat 28th	Snailbeach Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall 11-3
	Shrewsbury Brass Band at St George's at 7.30 p.m.
Sun 29th	Group Service of Holy Communion at Pontesbury at 10.30 a.m.