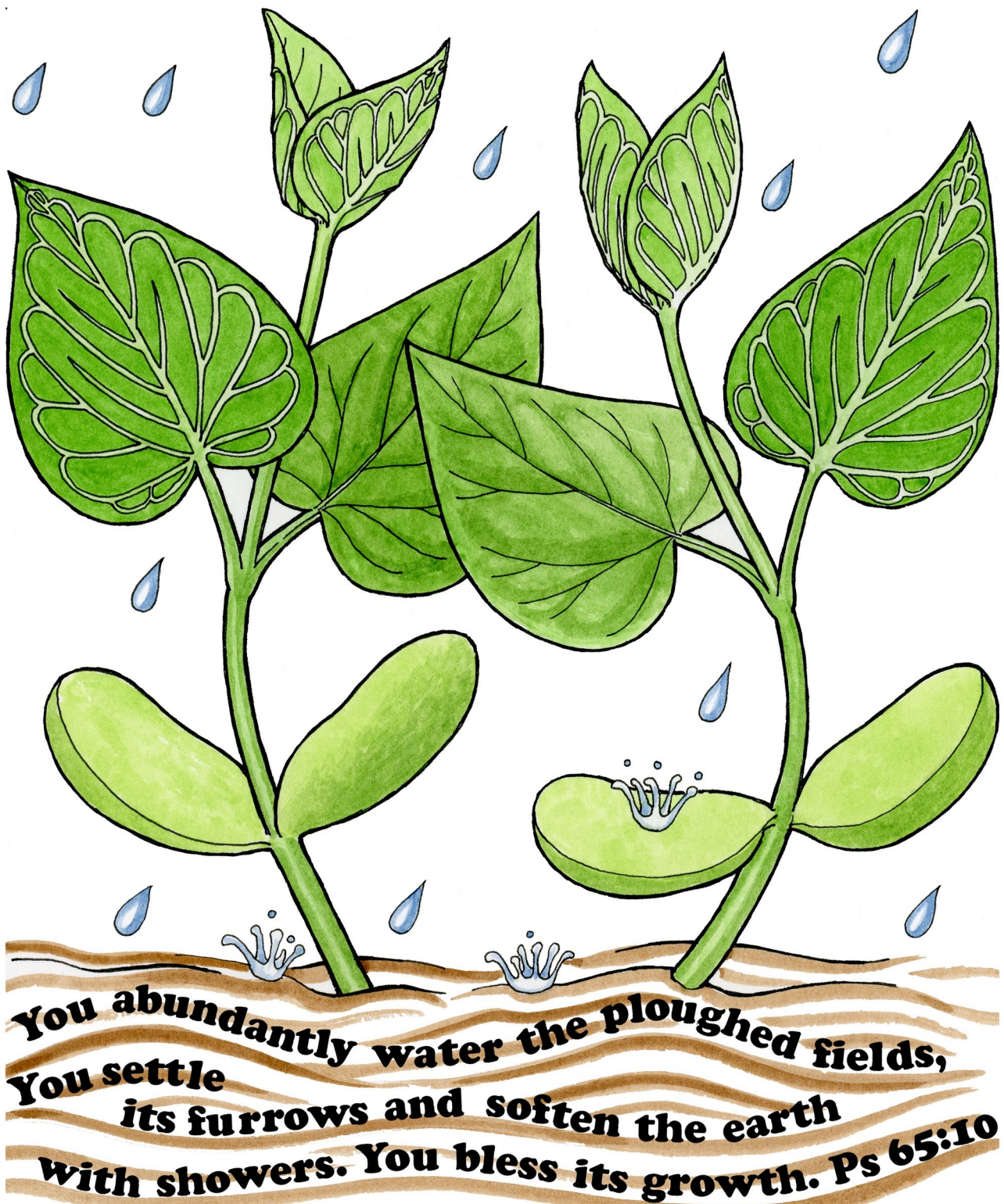


The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:

Hope & Shelve, Snailbeach, Habberley



**You abundantly water the ploughed fields,
You settle
its furrows and soften the earth
with showers. You bless its growth. Ps 65:10**



Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



Rector: Rev. Greg Smith
(day off - Friday)
The Deanery, Pontesbury
07902 794653
rectorpontstip@gmail.com

Associate Minister: Rev. Fran Brealey
(days off - Mon, Fri, Sat)
07982 324760
revfran@btinternet.com

Curate: Rev. Richard Lonsdale
(day off - Tuesday)
The New Vicarage, Minsterley
07922 830488
richardlonsdale1@gmail.com

Church Wardens
Susan Lockwood 07854 110271
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

Treasurer
Mike Bowen 07826 061054
mintreasure@btinternet.com

Services in church this month

Sun 7th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 14th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 21st	10.30am	"Minsterley Praise"
Sun 28th	10.30am	Holy Communion

Tea-Time church

On Sunday 28th April, we are launching Tea-Time church at 4pm in Minsterley Parish Hall. Please contact Greg if you would be prepared to help with this service by leading prayers, doing a reading, serving tea or setting up tables.

other events this month (see page . .)

Tue 2nd	Ichthus Bible study (p7)
Thur 4th	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p13)
Sat 6th	Snailbeach coffee morning (p30) Electoral roll cut-off date (p11)
Tue 9th	Oasis meeting (p13) Parish Council meeting (p15)
Sat 13th	Habberley churchyard day (p30)
Mon 15th	Hall caretaker closing date (p7)
Tues 16th	Ichthus Bible study (p7)
Wed 17th	u3a open meeting (p17)
Tue 23rd	Oasis meeting (p13)
Fri 26th	Fashion Show (p15)
Tue 30th	The Gathering, Marton (p4)

Weekly events in the church

Mondays	3.30pm	Youth Café (p7)
Tuesdays	10.00am	Foodbank
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee Hub (p30)
Thursdays	10.00am	Trinity Tots (p13)

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

e-mail: MinsterleyParishMagazine@gmail.com.

Editor: David Young **Tel:** 01743 537081

Copy date is the 20th of the preceding month

A Reflection on Renovation

Ray was one of my parishioners at a parish in Birmingham. He was a gentle, unassuming man with great skills. In his work he specialised in renovating old motorbikes. People would contact him from all over the world to see if he could help them restore their old and sometimes crumbling machines. As I reflected on the amazing work he did, it got me thinking about the way in which God goes about renovating us! - How does he do that?

Some people worry about putting their faith in God because they think he will expect them to become a different person altogether – perhaps a bit “holier than thou” or, even worse, a religious nutcase! “Will he make me into something or someone that isn’t really me anymore?”



When it comes to restoration Ray would be quick to point out that renovating a 1930s Royal Enfield Bullet doesn’t mean turning it into a new Triumph Daytona Moto2. The fact is

that God our Maker is far more interested in restoring us to be the best version of who we were made to be. Not even a brand-new version, because a good restoration will usually retain many of the marks and even a few dents that tell you of its history. (The Bible tells us that even Jesus still bears the scars of crucifixion.)

St Paul, writing to fellow Christians, described himself and them as being like clay jars, restored and filled with treasure that is the blessing and grace of God in their lives. Not golden vessels you might find in a temple; just the same old clay jars, now restored and given new strength and purpose.

“We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”

God won’t remove every sign of the lives and circumstances (good or bad) that we have experienced. He will restore us in such a way that everything is reflected and preserved with integrity

– we will be ourselves with a new life. So as Paul writes, *“Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”*

We all feel our frailty at times, some of us more than others, but we are made by God to be unique and purposeful and loved. He is the great renovator whose intention is to restore us as working examples of his grace in this world, bearing the bumps and scratches of life as we journey onward to our eternal home.

So what is our perspective on the life we are living right now? Do we struggle with fears or failures? Do we wish we were what we once were, or hoped to be – shiny, beautiful, impressive, enviable people? – and worry about losing our significance or usefulness?

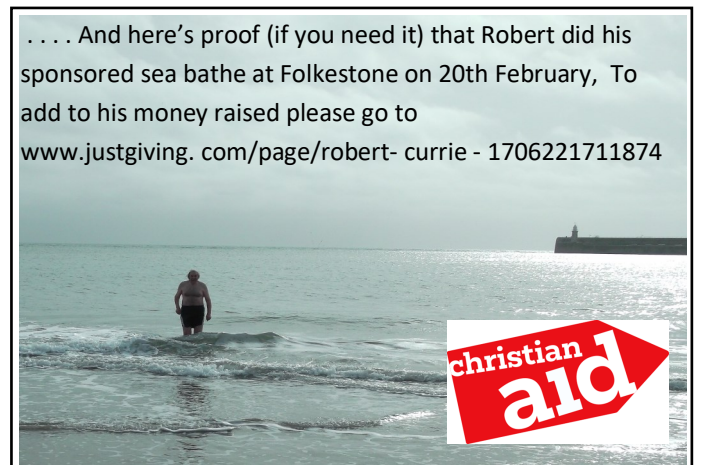
Or, putting our trust in God’s power to restore and renovate, can we understand ourselves to be examples of God’s workmanship, who despite the knocks and dents are being lovingly restored, tested and tried, hammered back into shape, and displayed as works in progress? If we can understand our lives in that way, we can live with hope and confidence as we are made ready to be displayed with delight and affection in heaven in the presence of God our great Renovator.



As St Paul writes: *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

Rev Stuart Carter

... And here’s proof (if you need it) that Robert did his sponsored sea bathe at Folkestone on 20th February, To add to his money raised please go to www.justgiving.com/page/robert-currie-1706221711874



Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural dean: Rev. Bill Rowell

01938 552064 email: wkrowell@btinternet.com

April - a month that contains the birthdays of my sister, my best friend at school and my first girlfriend . . . and usually Easter Day too, though not this year (just). And of course it's the month that starts with April Fool's Day with all those far fetched articles in the papers, and junior members of one's family trying to catch you out (but only before midday).

And, since the day is really called All Fool's Day, it's a useful reminder that all of us get things wrong or behave foolishly at some point in our lives. It's a feature of our modern society that we delight in manufacturing celebrities, placing them on pedestals, and then crowing with delight when by some slip or foolish word they prove themselves unworthy of the honour. So really it does us good to be reminded, just now and then (and maybe by those junior members of our families), that in fact we're ALL fools.

The Psalmist tells us (Psalm 14v1) that, "The fool says in his heart, 'there is no God.'" We might perhaps be tempted to laugh and sneer at such a fool but we shouldn't. For that's any one of us, at some time or another, for all our piety the rest of the time. We may say with our lips that there is a God, but at those times when we choose our own way instead of his, in our hearts we're saying something else. "He who gives God second place, gives him no place."

Which is what the cross is about: it isn't only those jeering godless folk out there who hammered in the nails, it's us too. And it isn't only those jeering godless folk out there who need to be saved from their foolishness, it's us too. God's only Son dies because part of me keeps saying, in my heart, "I'm all that matters," which is what Psalm 14v1 expressed another way. That cross convicts me as a fool of the worst sort, for my foolishness is fatal.

I can't escape from my sin; again and again I'm caught out. I may think I'm doing all right, till pride trips me up and reveals me as a fool. But hallelujah! - the tomb is empty, the grave clothes are no longer needed and God's love, gracious and triumphant, does what all the world's wisdom

could never do: it saves me - and you - from ourselves. The fool may say, "There is no God," but the God who is, from eternity to eternity, loves us even in our foolishness.

So: "When the Lord restores his people's fortunes, let Jacob rejoice, and let Israel be glad" (Psalm 14.7b). Amen!

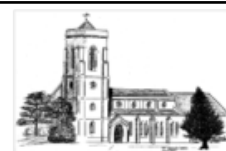
Rev Bill Rowell



Pontesbury Open Gardens

12.30-4.00pm

Sunday 19th May



We are delighted to announce that on Sunday 19th May there will be up to ten gardens open in the village displaying the very best of design, plant growing and pleasure in the gardens of Pontesbury.

Tickets, in aid of St. George's Church & Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, will be available from St George's Church costing £6 for adults and free for children under 12 years.



Tea and cakes will be on sale at the church and there will be a plant stall in the churchyard. A programme and a map will be available on the day.



Deanery News editor: Alison Bebb, Keepers Cottage, Cruckmeole, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN
email: alisonbebb5@gmail.com. Copy to be submitted by 10th of previous month please

Laos – House church torn down by village authorities

Christians in Laos urgently need our prayers. Whilst citizens of Laos have the right and freedom “to believe or not to believe in religions” according to the country’s constitution, followers of Jesus are still subject to repeated harassment in rural areas.

Village leaders and residents tore down the private home where Christians were gathered and interrupted a worship service in Savannakhet province on Sunday 4th February.

“The village authorities came here and tore down our home at around 10.30am Sunday morning,” reported a worshipper at the church in Kaleum Vangke village in Xonboury district. The eyewitness added that the mob burned Bibles and other documents in the assault.

A “Law on the Evangelical Church”, in force since December 2019, gives Christians the right to conduct services, preach throughout Laos and maintain contacts with believers in other countries. The law is not well enforced in rural areas; the Kaleum Vangke church did not escape attack despite being affiliated with the Lao Evangelical Church, the only Christian denomination recognised by the government.

The tearing down of Christian homes and eviction of Christians from villages has happened repeatedly in country districts in Laos.

Pakistan – Christian brothers abducted and forced into “converting” to Islam

The ordeal of two Pakistani Christian brothers kidnapped by radical Muslims in Punjab province should drive us to prayer.

On 22nd January Azam Masih, 39, a tailor, and his older brother Nadeem Masih, 41, were tortured into “converting” to Islam. Their two captors repeatedly hit them with iron bars and threatened them with death if they did not comply.

The brothers were forced into reciting the *shahada* Islamic creed. Some Muslims assert that the mere recitation of *shahada* is sufficient to convert a non-Muslim to Islam, even if the

“conversion” is extracted through coercion. If a person later returns to their original religion after being forced to become a Muslim, he or she is considered an apostate, just as much as if he or she had voluntarily embraced Islam.

Azam and Nadeem were released, but their captors threatened to kill the brothers and their families if they reported their ordeal. After receiving hospital treatment for their many injuries, the brothers did file a report with police and at the time of writing are in hiding with their families.

Police arrested two Muslim men, Naseem Shah and Sunny Shah, and charged them with five offences, including kidnap, theft with the intention to cause injury or death, and religious hatred. Both men have criminal records and have been involved in previous incidents of inciting hatred against Christians.

Attempts to forcibly convert Christian men or boys to Islam are rare in Pakistan. However, Christian and Hindu girls and young women are frequently abducted and forced to “convert” to Islam before being coerced into marrying a Muslim. These “conversions” are often committed under a threat of violence to the victims and their families, but the authorities rarely intervene.

Turkey – Convert shot dead by Islamists in Istanbul church

The precarious position of Christian converts from Islam in Turkey was laid bare by a fatal shooting in Istanbul on Sunday 28th January.

Tuncer Cihan, was shot dead by Islamist terrorists in a targeted attack during a church service in the Sariyer district on the European side of the city. Two masked gunmen entered the church at around 11.40am and killed him before fleeing the scene.

Islamic State later claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on its Telegram channels. Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan expressed condolences to the church leaders and strongly condemned the murder. Police subsequently conducted a series of raids across the city, which resulted in 47 people being detained and both suspects arrested later that day.

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The Trustees wish to appoint a Caretaker whose role will be to ensure that the facilities are clean and safe, and that rooms and equipment are kept maintained in a satisfactory condition for use by local residents and community groups.

Responsibilities will include: regular cleaning, purchasing supplies as needed, emptying of bins, basic maintenance and monthly checks, daily locking of the main gate (early evenings), and providing access and support to Hall Users on some occasions when required.

The Caretaker's post is offered on a 'self-employed' basis, for approximately 28 hours per month (7 hours per week) to be paid monthly. Hours will require arranging around hall bookings and events, with some late nights or early starts when required.

For further information or to apply for this post:

Please contact chair.minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com
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"By your words I can see where I'm going, they throw a beam of light on my dark path."

Psalm 119:105 (The Message Bible)

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

April 2	Brookfield Waterwheel	John 20:19-32; Acts 4:13-21; 1 John 1:1-2:22
April 16	Brookfield Waterwheel	John 10:11-18; Psalm 23; 1 John 4:7-21

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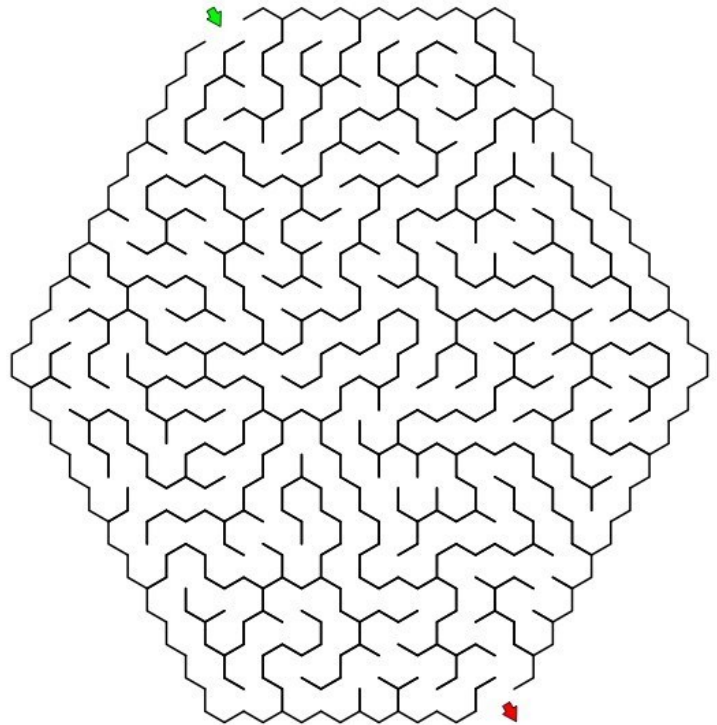
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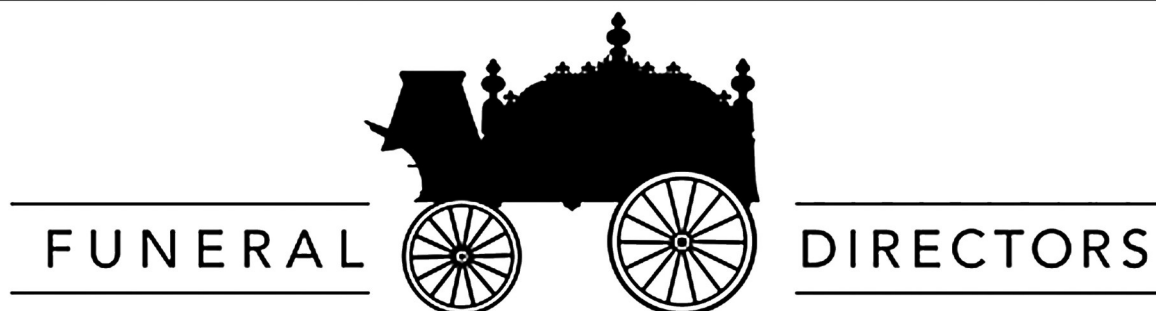
Wordsearch - St George of the Golden Legend

St George is Patron Saint of England, but he never actually came here. He was a Christian officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror. George was therefore martyred in Palestine about 300 AD. His courage became legendary, and St George became

the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages. In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine tells the story of how St George helped rescue the people of Sylene in Libya from a dragon, especially the princess, who had been offered to the dragon as a sacrifice. With the dragon dead, and the princess returned to her father the King, the people of Sylene converted to Christianity.

George
Patron
Saint
England
Officer
Roman
Army
Diocletian
Terror
Martyred
Palestine
Courage
Example
Helper
Evil
Soldier
Hero
Golden
Legend
Dragon
Princess
converted

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S	R	O	E	L	R	L	I	L	E	D	P	O



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The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 5th March. The Committee and Trustees were all re-elected *en bloc* and in their annual reports the Chairman, Treasurer and Trading Secretary all commented on how well the Association is doing. A lease on the trading Post was recently signed giving us security of tenure for the next 110 years.

Spring Planting

April in the garden is the time for potatoes to be planted. Traditionally it was Good Friday when this happened – that day being the first one in the Spring when the workers had a day off. The date of Easter is variable so it might seem a bit haphazard, especially as it falls quite early this year. However that date is determined by the lunar calendar and there are many gardeners who now plant and harvest by the phases of the moon, so both approaches seem to tie in well together!

There is still danger of frost until the middle or end of May so look after tender plants and seedlings until then. If you don't have a greenhouse in which to shelter the smaller plants you can wrap them in horticultural fleece when frost is forecast. Looking further ahead to when your soft fruits are ripening you can protect them from marauding birds with fruit netting. You can make a protective cage using canes and netting – just be careful if high winds are forecast!

“Spring into the Garden”

Don't forget the social evening at 7.30pm on Thursday 16th May in the Public Hall. Admission is

free, as are the refreshments, so all you have to pay for is anything that you buy from the plant and garden-related stalls that will be there. More details in next month's Newsletter.

The story of the Association

At this point it is worth reminding ourselves that, although the Gardeners Association has been in Pontesbury for over eighty years, there are people new to the area who may not know how we work. The Association was formed with the aim of promoting gardening in the local area and now its main function is as a co-operative: buying garden consumables in bulk and reselling to members at rates lower than are normally found in garden centres and other retail outlets. The centre of activity is The Trading Post, a former railway shed by the old line in Pontesbury, and a view of the building itself is worth a visit.

We only sell a limited range of seeds; because of their perishable nature we concentrate on those for planting in Spring and at the moment we have several varieties of seed potatoes, beetroot, pea and bean seeds and onion and shallot sets, which are sold in whatever quantity you want to buy, as opposed to the pre-packed quantities that you have to get in most retail outlets. We do sell loose grass seed all year round. Occasionally members will bring in surplus seeds or seedlings to exchange or sell for a small donation; these are usually snapped up quite quickly.

The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road; open every Saturday from 9.30am to 12noon.

Rob Dixon

robedixon@btopenworld.com

01743 791901

Electoral roll update Holy Trinity Minsterley & St Luke's Snailbeach

As our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on 25th April I have to prepare the 2024 Electoral Roll by 10th April. I have placed the updated version of the 2023 Roll in both church porches, and I need to be notified of any changes by 6th April.

The basic condition is that you are baptised and resident in the ecclesiastical parish, OR not resident in the parish but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months. (There are, however, other conditions permitting inclusion on the Roll and so I have also displayed a “for information only” copy of the

“Application for Enrolment and Notes for completion” in both of our porches).

Would you please check by 6th April that the Roll is correct; and if not let me know that you wish to apply for inclusion or to withdraw your name from the Roll. Unless you notify me otherwise the Roll will remain unchanged for 2024. As this is the sixth year of the present Roll it will be abandoned next year and a new Roll prepared. This means that next year everyone will have to complete an application for enrolment if they still qualify and wish to be included in the new Roll.

Colin Edwards, Electoral Roll Officer.

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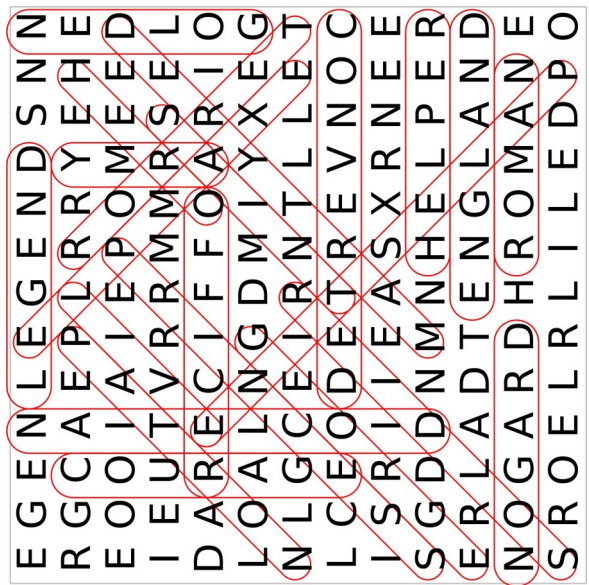
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Answers

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Thursdays
term time

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or

Minsterley Parish Council

The grass verges between Minsterley and Pontesbury, alongside the foot/cycle path, will be cut once this year during June or July.

The condition of the roadway between the Minsterley bridge and the mini roundabout, would again be reported to Highways.

The developers of Hall View Drive would be contacted regarding tree and hedge planting to help with screening issues.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9th April, in Minsterley Parish Hall, following the 7.00pm Annual Meeting of Parishioners which will take place first.

Geoff Rogers
Chairman, Minsterley Parish Council
www.minsterley.org.uk

To contact the parish council please e-mail:
clerk@minsterley.org.uk

MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw 8	21 st February	No. 55	Jan Brain
Draw 9	28 th February	No. 51	Jean Ditchfield
Draw 10	6 th March	No. 28	David Wainwright
Draw 11	13 th March	No. 48	Jeannie Buckle

Some anonymous quotes with the coming General Election in mind...

Common sense isn't.

There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both.

It's nice to have five years between elections. It takes people that long to regain their faith.

The trick in campaigning is to give them platitudes without fear or favour, and straight-from-the-shoulder generalities.



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Westbury WI

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Tickets: £7 includes a welcome drink
Tickets to be purchased in advance

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Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

For tickets and more information please contact:
Beryl - 01743884950 or Jill - 01743884414



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

Bible Readings in Holy Trinity Church this month

Here are the Bible passages we plan to read in our church services this month:

Date	OT Reading	Epistle	Gospel
7 th April	Acts 4:13-21	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
14 th April	Acts 3:12-19	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
21 st April		Acts 15	
28 th April	Acts 8:26-40	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8



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TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare

Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform *Twelfth Night* at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th - Saturday 15th June. Ticket prices are Adults £12 and under 18s £6, to include programme and refreshments. This performance will take place in Shrewsbury United Reformed Church to which St. Nicholas' Hall is attached.

This modern production of *Twelfth Night* is set in the 1960s, a time period often considered to be counter cultural; a time of protest, an unpopular war in Vietnam, the space race to the moon and the assassination of significant political and spiritual leaders such as JFK and Martin Luther King. More familiar themes in the play are gender swapping, supported in this production by the songs of Ray Davies and *The Kinks* where, to quote their popular song *Lola*: 'Girls will be boys and boys will be girls.' So, a play written around 1602, styled in the 1960s and performed in 2024 still resonates today. We hope that you come and enjoy this take on one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies.

Tickets can be obtained through the Drama Group website on info@abbeydrama.com or by telephoning the Drama Group on 07951 862881 or Robert Currie (01743 790 123).

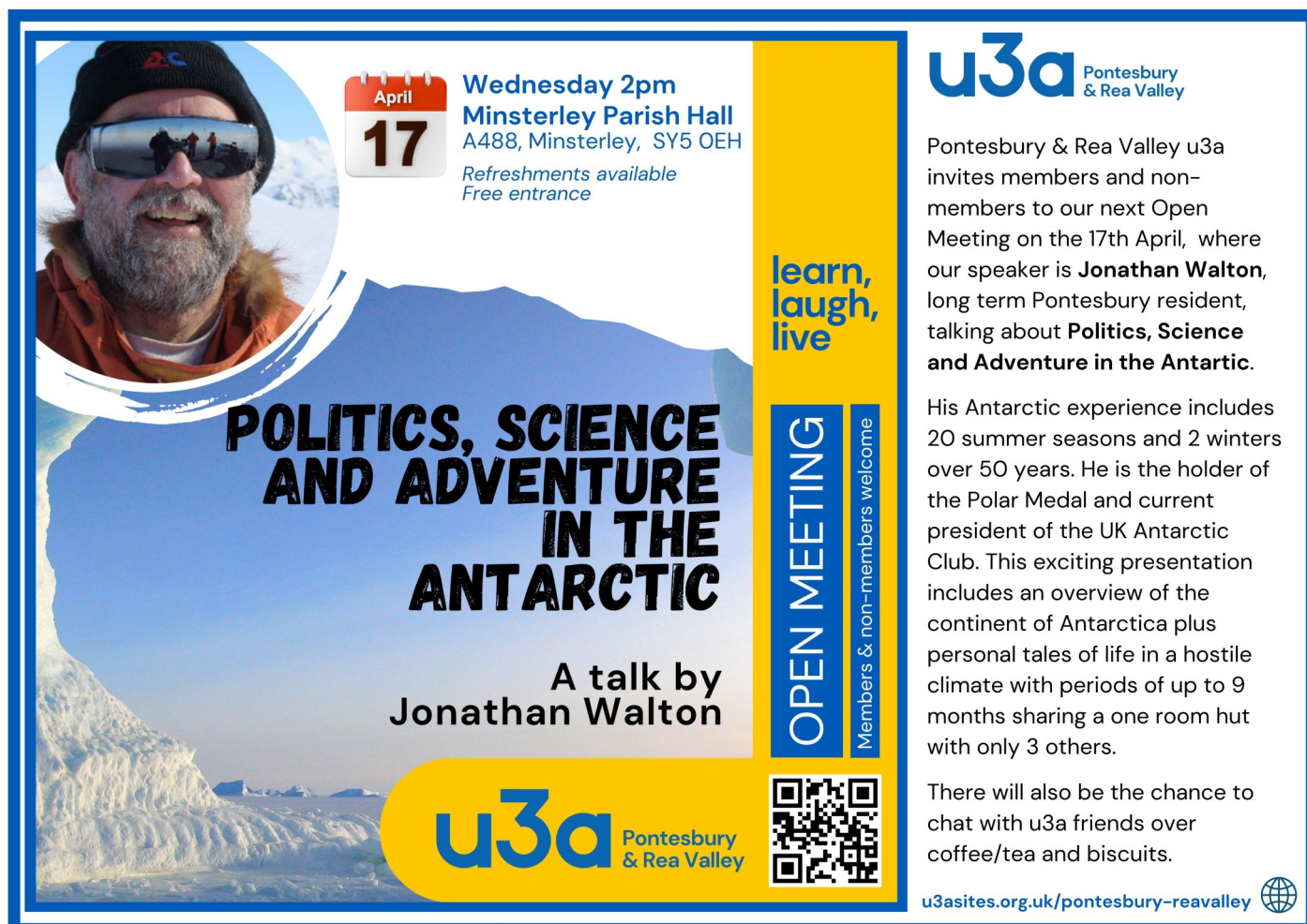
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TO
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A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH
Refreshments available
Free entrance

POLITICS, SCIENCE AND ADVENTURE IN THE ANTARCTIC

A talk by Jonathan Walton

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

learn, laugh, live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites members and non-members to our next Open Meeting on the 17th April, where our speaker is **Jonathan Walton**, long term Pontesbury resident, talking about **Politics, Science and Adventure in the Antarctic**.

His Antarctic experience includes 20 summer seasons and 2 winters over 50 years. He is the holder of the Polar Medal and current president of the UK Antarctic Club. This exciting presentation includes an overview of the continent of Antarctica plus personal tales of life in a hostile climate with periods of up to 9 months sharing a one room hut with only 3 others.

There will also be the chance to chat with u3a friends over coffee/tea and biscuits.

u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley

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Friday 9am-4pm

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Local organisations offering help and support

Here are some contact details you might find useful. This page was updated in January 2022, but if you find anything to be out of date, incorrect or not relevant please let the editor know. Likewise please share details of any other group which can offer support to local residents. Thank you.

Rea Valley Foodbank 07902 794653

Food parcels available locally in Minsterley and Pontesbury. Referral needed.

Community Good Neighbours, Rea Valley

07944 891953

Get in touch with a local Good Neighbour for a friendly chat, small errands and support to stay active and connected within the community.

Pontesbury Community and Care Co-ordinator

01743 790325 or e-mail h.tazewell@nhs.net

Helen Tazewell can give assistance to patients of all ages in need of help, support and advice by signposting to other useful services. She works Monday and Wednesday locally.

Healthy Shropshire 0345 678 9025

Shropshire Council telephone line for information and advice on a healthy lifestyle, including smoking, alcohol, weight, exercise and other matters.

Shrewsbury Food Hub Shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk

Surplus food share tables across Shrewsbury. See Facebook page for venue details.

Shrewsbury "foodbank PLUS" 07421 745857

Food parcels, debt advice, returning to work, digital Inclusion, life skills. Referral needed.

Citizens Advice Shropshire 0344 499 1100

Confidential advice and help to solve problems with debt, benefits, housing, legal matters & employment.

Need help claiming Universal Credit? Call their dedicated Help to Claim helpline, 0800 144 8444

Keep Shropshire Warm 0800 112 3743

Advice and grants for people struggling with heating and energy bills.

Shropshire Council Housing Support 0345 678 9005

Support on all housing matters particularly rentals and homelessness.

Shropshire Mental Health Support 01743 368647

Mental health support.

Shropshire Recovery Partnership 01743 294700

Drugs and alcohol support.

Shropshire Rural Support 0300 123 2825

Confidential support during periods of anxiety and stress, and with problems relating to family and business. See web-site shropshireruralsupport.org.uk.

Samaritans 116 123

Free 24/7 confidential support whatever you are going through.

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 0300 303 1191

Support for anyone suffering from domestic violence.

West Mercia Women's Aid 0800 783 1359

24hr helpline for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

Shropshire Carers' Support Service 01743 341995

Wide range of support for unpaid carers.

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin 01743 233123

Confidential advice for older people, their families and carers.



dDiY

Would you rather not D.I.Y. ?
Why not let me D.I.f.Y. ?

*Handyman - as recommended by the editor
of the Minsterley Parish Magazine.*

**Some jobs too large
- no job too small.**

David Young: 01743 537081
ddiymobile@gmail.com

"If a job's worth doing, it's worth dDiY."

A poem by Roger McGough

It is unusual to find me here, in town.
I never did like crowds. The smell,
The dust, the racket. I can do without it.
But it's a special occasion, and well,
I haven't seen him in a while.

Followed his career with interest, mind.
Well, hardly career but he's made his mark
They all have, and good on them I say.
The whole country needs shaking up
And they're the boys to do it.

Things are coming to a head now.
History in the making, you can sense it.
That's why I am here. I may be old
But not too old to lend a hand
Lift a sword and strike a blow for freedom.

Unless this Jesus can provide the glue
By all accounts he knows a thing or two.
Peace is what he preaches. A coded message
That's clear to understand: There'll be no peace
Until Rome has been driven from this land.

And my son knows that. That's why
He got involved. To fight for the cause.
A chip off the old block and no mistake.
But smarter. Not like his old man, hot-headed.
He likes to plan. Take stock. Cool in a crisis.

Ah, there's something happening now.
You can hear the cheering? It must be them.
The crowd is ecstatic, and the soldiers,
Under orders, keeping out of the way.
Nervous too, a good sign that, I'd say.

But where's my lad? Ah, there he is
At the back, following at a slower pace.
Looks strangely downcast, I must confess.
But no doubt the sight of his old dad
Will bring a smile to his face...
'Judas!...Judas!'

It's very hard not to be shaken by the time you get
to the end of this poem. Each verse serves to build up a
great sense of expectation, and then we discover that the
father's own son is the betrayer.

The father does not know this - but we do. We
are forced to realise that Judas is not just a cutout
cardboard figure. He had a father and a mother who
loved him. Judas' motivation remains one of the big
mysteries of our faith – what was in him that made him
do it? There are many theories, books have been
produced, dissertations written. But this side of heaven –
we just don't know.

Rev Ruth Leigh
Westbury Benefice

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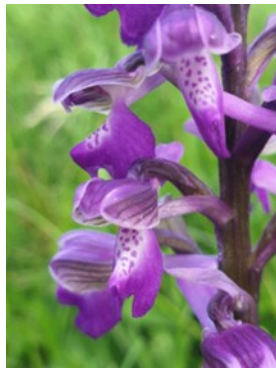
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Minsterley Meadows

Minsterley Meadows is up for sale. Over one hundred people attended the public meeting on 6th January at the parish hall to gauge support for an appeal to purchase the meadows. As a result the Minsterley Meadows working group was formed and is hopeful for the success of negotiations to purchase Minsterley Meadows. If a sale is agreed a fund-raising campaign will be launched.

Minsterley Meadows is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a threatened habitat of national importance. It contains an abundance of Green-winged Orchids, characteristic of this type of land, which are nationally scarce.

Green-winged Orchids (*Anacamptis morio*) are short plants with narrow leaves (height 7-15cm) which live on unimproved grassland. Their name comes from the green veins in the 'hoods' of the flowers. They are mainly a stunning purple but colours can range from shades of purple to pink and even white. These orchids bloom in May and June and are pollinated by bumblebees.



Grasslands such as Minsterley Meadows, the home of the Green-winged Orchid, are ancient habitats which are vulnerable to change.



Bumblebee on Knapweed

They need careful management and hay cutting at the right time to ensure that they are kept in good condition. Cutting time is from mid-July to the end of August, after the flowers have set seed.

We have a valuable opportunity to safeguard the future of Minsterley Meadows and the Green-winged Orchids. The meadows will be preserved and protected both for wildlife and the local community; provide a key green space next to a children's play area; secure access for future generations and limit development, as the adjoining field has already been built upon.

If the funds are raised and we are successful, the site will be owned by Middle Marches Community Land Trust, a local community-led trust. The Marches Meadows group will be managing the meadows, working together with local residents and volunteers.

More updates will follow but in the meantime for further information please contact: info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk. See our website: <https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>.

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? (Theological Version)

Billy Graham: The chicken was surrendering all.

Rick Warren: The chicken was purpose driven.

John Wesley: The chicken's heart was strangely warmed.

John Piper: God decreed the event to maximize his glory. OR . . . it was an act of Christian hedonism. The chicken realized that his greatest joy would only be found on the other side.

C.S. Lewis: If a chicken finds itself with a desire that nothing on this side can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that it was created for the other side.

N.T. Wright: This act of the chicken, which would be unthinkable in British barnyards, reeks of that American individualism that is destructive to community.

Pluralist: The chicken took one of many equally valid roads.

Universalist: All chickens cross the road.

Tim LaHaye: The chicken didn't want to be left behind.

Emergent: For this chicken, it's not the destination that's important. It's the journey itself.

Minsterley and District 61st annual EISTEDDFOD

Saturday 16th March - Results

The Minsterley and District Eisteddfod Committee would like to thank all the competitors who entered the various classes at the event on Saturday 16 March. We congratulate the winners and hope that both entrants and visitors enjoyed the occasion and gained pleasure from the performances.

The Committee would also like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the many friends who help out in various ways during the Festival weekend as it would be impossible to stage the event without this support.

Claire Penrose

Assistant General / Committee Secretary

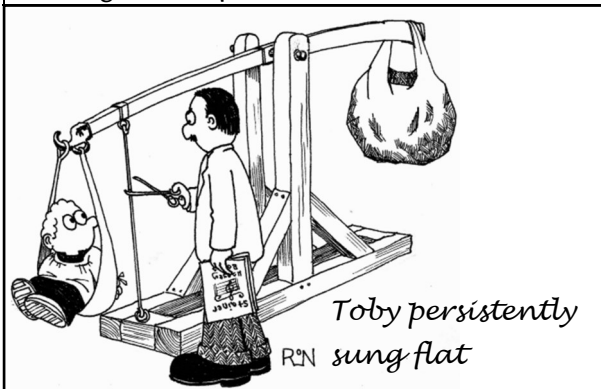


Instrumental Solo - KS1 & Reception	1st	Ethan McKenzie from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Jack McKenzie from Shrewsbury
Instrumental Solo - KS2	1st	Harry Lipson from Ellesmere
	2nd	Abigail Pinsent from Hook-A-Gate
	3rd	Theo Lipson from Ellesmere
Recitation - KS1 & Reception	1st	Jeremy Hughes from The Corvedale
	2nd	Oliver Kerswell from Shrewsbury
	3rd	Luna Rudd from St Winefride's School
Recitation - Lower KS2 Years 3/4	1st	Ottillie Barnes from St Winefride's School
	2nd	Benjamin Hughes from The Corvedale
	3rd	Remi Samuel from St Winefride's School
Vocal Solo - KS2	1st	Gracie Kidson from Adcote School
Recitation - Upper KS2 Years 5/6	1st	Margaux Stride from St Winefride's School
	2nd	Gracie Kidson from Adcote School
	3rd	Toby Jones from St Winefride's School
Children's Choir - Up to & including KS4 (16 years)	1st	Adcote School Choir
	2nd	Minsterley Primary School Choir
Original Children's Written Composition - KS2	1st	Robin Hardwidge from Jackfield
Instrumental Solo - KS3	1st	Florence Hughes from Market Drayton
	2nd	Martha Franks from Shrewsbury
	3rd	Madeleine Livsey from Pontesbury
Original Children's Written Composition - KS3 & 4	1st	Jet Pariera-Jenks From Shrewsbury
	2nd	Eliza Spence from Wrekin College
	3rd	Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Recitation - KS3	1st	Martha Franks from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Popular Singing - 18 years & under	1st	Adcote School
	2nd	Wrekin Wrens from Wrekin College
	3rd	Small Furry Animals Band from Market Drayton
Solo from any Musical Show or Film - KS3 & under	1st	Martha Franks from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Douglas Dean from Muxton
Recitation - 18 years & under	1st	Caitlin Holyoake from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Annabel Hughes from The Corvedale
	3rd	Jayden Joseph from St Winefride's School
Vocal Solo - 18 years & under	1st	Seren James from Adcote School
	2nd	Ben Richards from Shrewsbury
	3rd	Carolina Phillips from Wrekin College

Open Group Performance from any Musical Show or Film	1st	Small Furry Animals Band from Market Drayton
	2nd	Asher and Ben Richards from Shrewsbury
Individual Speaking	1st	Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Original Short Story	1st	Esther Evans from Wrexham
	2nd	Sarah Cassidy from Worthen
Original Poem	1st	Susan Lees from Snailbeach
	2nd	Sarah Cassidy from Worthen
Limerick	1st	Darren Turner from Hertfordshire
	Jnt. 2nd	Di Platts (Whittington) & Rowan Richards (Shrewsbury)
Original Hymn Words	1st	Janet Walker from Habberley
	2nd	Sarah Cassidy from Worthen
Original Music Composition	1st	Madeleine Livsey from Pontesbury
Open Instrumental Solo	1st	Richard Pinsent from Hook-A-Gate
	2nd	Jet Pariera-Jenks from Shrewsbury
Solo from any Musical Show or Film - KS4 & Adults	1st	Charlie Sheppard from Pontesbury
	2nd	Kimee Cleaton from Church Stretton
	3rd	Mya Chogugudza from Adcote School
Open Challenge Vocal Solo	1st	Ben Richards from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Charlie Sheppard from Pontesbury
Open Instrumental Group - KS4 & Adults	1st	Rowan and Ben Richards from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Charlotte Pinsent (Hook-A-Gate) & Hannah Livsey (Pontesbury)
Open Group Singing any style	1st	The Richards Family from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Craven Arms Men's Chorus
Open Choirs Competition	1st	Of One Accord from Shrewsbury
	2nd	Telfordaires
	3rd	Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir from Gobowen

Special Awards

Outstanding Child Instrumentalist	Florence Hughes from Market Drayton
Instrumental Bursary (up to & including KS3)	Ethan McKenzie from Shrewsbury
Outstanding Child in Elocution events	Caitlin Holyoake from Shrewsbury
Outstanding Child Vocalist (KS1 & KS2)	Gracie Kidson from Adcote School
Outstanding Child Vocalist (KS3 & KS4 up to 18)	Seren James from Adcote School
Child gaining the most place marks over all final	Martha Franks from Shrewsbury
Child gaining the most place marks over all final classes who lives within a radius of fifteen miles of Minsterley	Martha Franks from Shrewsbury
Best Original Composition in the Children's classes	Dolly Turner from Wrekin College
Best Original Composition in the Adult classes	Esther Evans from Wrexham



Don't stay away from church because there are so many hypocrites. There's always room for one more. - A R Adams

It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives.

– Samuel Johnson

I know that the church has its stupidities and inanities and irrelevances; but I love my mother, in spite of her weaknesses and wrinkles.

- E Stanley Jones

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Twitter: [@ShrewsburyCops](https://twitter.com/ShrewsburyCops)

Email: shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CRIME/INCIDENTS OF NOTE REPORTED

CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONES

16th February 2024 – 15th March 2024

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Burglary	Pub broken into and till removed	Stiperstones	Occurred 02:20 13 th March. CCTV images of offenders obtained, enquiries ongoing
Allowing dog dangerously out of control	Dog forced its way through hedge two properties and attacked victim's dog	Aston Pigott	
Theft	Water pump stolen from outside property	Priest Weston	Occurred sometime over three months
Theft	Diesel siphoned from tractors	Snailbeach	Overnight 2 nd – 3 rd March
Blackmail		Stiperstones	
Theft	Set of traffic lights stolen, later found discarded with batteries missing	Hope	Overnight 25 th – 26 th February
Theft	Drone stolen	Hope Valley	Suspects named by victim, enquiries ongoing
Malicious communications		Bentlawnt	
Theft	7 lambs stolen, all had blue marking and yellow tags	Nr Habberley	Overnight 12 th – 13 th March

Seen on a church notice board:

Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.

So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Seen in a parish magazine:

"We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

Seen in another parish magazine:

'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

From the Archdeacon of Ludlow

April marks the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast by a monarch of the United Kingdom, when King George V opened the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in north London in April 1924. The speech lasts about six and a half minutes, and you can hear it in all its scratchily-recorded glory on YouTube.

I wonder if anyone then had any idea how much broadcasting would change in the coming century? We now take for granted the fact that we can see and hear almost anyone in public life at any time thanks to a 24-hour media. TikTok and Instagram have brought broadcasting within reach of any of us with a smartphone.

Communication seems to be hard-wired into us as human beings. That shouldn't surprise us, because our God is a God who communicates. Back in the earliest chapters of Genesis, it's the voice of God that brings creation into being. When Jesus is awoken by his terrified disciples in the middle of a storm, it's his words shouted into the tumult that calm the winds and the waves. When the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles at Pentecost, they speak the message of Christ crucified and risen in words their hearers can understand.

The story is told of a rabbi who could never get further in his reading of the Scriptures than Genesis 1:2, "And God said." The wonder of a God who speaks was too much for him to take in.

I wonder if that's why we love podcasts, audiobooks, and the radio so much – because it's as if someone were sitting next to us and chatting? As if we're listening in on a conversation that we're invited to be part of?

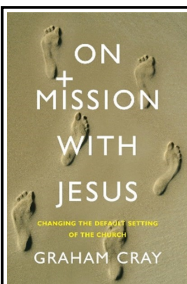
I wonder, too, if that's why words can wound us as well as heal us – because they go deep into the heart of our being?

The apostle James talked about the power of speech, how hard it is to tame the tongue, and how inconsistent we are when we say, "Praise God," in one breath and in the next run down another human being. Those are challenging words in an era where talk is easy, but we do well to take them to heart.

There are other times when we are slow to speak, perhaps out of anxiety or fear. Once such time can be when we try to talk about our faith. In this, our Diocesan Year of Faith, we are all encouraged to have confidence that the story we have to share in our Christian faith is one people want to hear, and to become more comfortable talking about our faith.

We may never become those who broadcast to the world, as King George V did 100 years ago, but I wonder how we could learn to "broadcast" our faith in simple ways, and speak words of life to those who are longing to hear them?

Fiona



On Mission with Jesus - changing the default setting of the church

By Graham Cray, Canterbury Press. £18.99

January 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the start of the Fresh Expressions movement, which has since spread internationally and denominationally from its origins in the Church of England. Graham Cray was its first national Leader.

In the last 20 years, countless new forms of church have emerged through Fresh Expressions, the Church Army, New Wine, and various pioneer networks. This book offers a theological understanding of the missional nature of the church, which will inform local practice and assist ministerial and pioneer training.

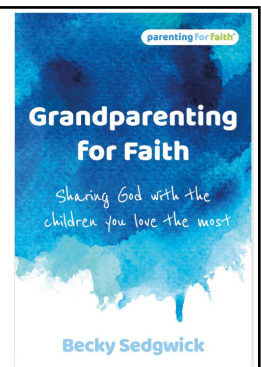
Grandparenting for Faith: sharing God with the children you love the most

By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

Grandparenting brings the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren, offering tools and skills for the journey.

Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice, speaking into your grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.

This book will help grandparents to encourage and equip their grandchildren to know God better.



Climate Change

Why an article about Climate Change? Because I am desperately worried, not for myself but for my son and his wife and especially for my grandchildren about what they are going to have to face in twenty years time, if we do not take radical action now.

To make sure of my facts, I have read numerous articles including the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This is an organisation drawing on the expertise of literally hundreds of climate scientists from all over the world and thousands of research studies from the last three decades. The report was written for the climate policy makers attending COP (Conference of Parties) 28 held in Dubai last year. It's a very lengthy report, full of jargon (I wish these scientists would write in plain English) but it is extremely comprehensive. My other main source of information is a book entitled "The Future We Choose" written by Christiana Figueres, together with her chief adviser, Tom Rivett-Carnac, who lives in Dorset. Christiana is the daughter of a former president of Costa Rica. She was chiefly responsible for starting the decisions made in Paris in 2015. I will refer to this book later.

One problem writing about Climate Change is that things are, in fact, changing very rapidly. I had just completed a draft for this article when news came through that this last year's climate temperature was the hottest on record equalling a 1.5% rise on pre-industrial times - the target set for 2030! This makes what I have to say even more compelling.

The situation is not yet desperate, but that record is a very serious warning that we must take more action now and substantially more than what was decided at COP28.

So what will we and our children have to face in 2050 if we do not take radical action within the next two years? Christiana paints an appalling picture of what the world will be like if we do nothing. Polluted air will make it difficult to breathe outdoors; excessive heatwaves will kill millions; food production will be prey to big floods and droughts and acid rain which decimates crops. Refugees, many facing extreme famine, will fight to come to countries where it is still possible to survive. There will be no ice in the Arctic causing more heating as white ice reflects the sun's heat; infrastructure in many coastal cities will be largely destroyed because of extreme flooding.

Ocean currents, stable for many centuries, will be changed - and no one can forecast when this could happen. Worse still, mental health will be at its lowest point it has ever been because people cannot see any hope in the future. Need I go on!

HOWEVER: The next chapter of the book describes what it will be like if we do take action now. And it is a delightful picture of a really good world to live in. Christiana and Tom are very optimistic. They ask us to take delight in facing the challenge. Humankind has work to do and we are capable of doing it if we really apply ourselves to the task. We have faced many challenges in the past and overcome them. So now, to use an old expression, let us gird up our loins, and face the challenge together. Christiana's watchword - and remember she is one of the topmost experts - is "Stubborn Optimism". She writes, "When you are faced with hard realities, look at them with clarity, but also know that you are incredibly lucky to be alive when you can make a difference to the future of all life on earth." The optimism must be stubborn because to make a difference we have to keep on working at it and never think of giving up. That is what will win in the end.

So what can we do? The first thing is to reduce our own carbon footprint as much as we possibly can. But it is Governments that must make the major changes and I believe our Government has a special responsibility to set an example to other countries. Yet, while good steps have been put into place (wind power, for example) neither party has anything like an adequate policy. So we must help to put maximum pressure on parties to produce and enforce clear plans of action. I have some ideas but would like more, so please, if you do have a concern for your children, join me to explore possibilities. You can get in touch - email thehurfords2007@yahoo.co.uk or 'phone 07504242293

One thing that greatly encouraged me as I was researching this subject was the number of young people from many different countries who are involved in putting pressure on their Governments. Some, including Greta Thunberg, arrested and facing charges. Greta was actually arrested by our own Police Force(!), the judge dismissing the charges out of hand!

Rev Colin Hurford
(retired vicar of Hanwood, living in Pontesbury)

www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

rewsbury

Saturday

[illegible]

Monday to Friday																				Saturday																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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From 6th January 2020



COFFEE HUB

**Every Wednesday
10am - 12pm**

**FREE tea
& coffee**

Everyone welcome!



A community cafe at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

Habberley Church News

On Saturday 13th April from 9.30am – 12noon there will be a churchyard clean at St Mary's. No mowing is involved, but tidying up/light pruning and path sweeping is needed. If you can help please bring any gardening tools that you (or others) might use. Even if you can only spare a short time then please come along.

Pauline & Pearl
Churchwardens

Hope & Shelve Church News

ADVANCE NOTICE

Hope and Shelve Parish Fete
2.00 - 4.00pm Saturday 1st June
In the grounds of Leigh Manor

Individuals, organisations or charities interested in running a stall at the fete - please contact me.

Rev Fran Brealey
07982324760,
revfran@btinternet.com

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



7th April. Family Service led by members of the congregation.

14th April. Service led by members of the congregation.

21st April. Minsterley Praise at Holy Trinity Church. Note the later start time of **10.30am**.

28th April. Service led by Rev Richard Hall, and will include Holy Communion.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to come and join us at any of our services and for refreshments afterwards.

Sandra Lewis

Coffee Morning Snailbeach Village Hall 10am - 12noon, Saturday 6th April

Supporting St. Luke's Church

- Cake stall
- tombola
- Raffle

A friendly welcome to all.



Joan Evans

and another coffee morning . .

Hillcrest Manor Nursing Home
warmly welcomes you to join us for coffee on

Thursday 2nd May from 10.30am to 12.30pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

Our partner churches in the Stiperstones Group —

St Luke's Festival Church Snailbeach



Treasurer

Cheryl Bromhead

St Luke's is a "Festival Church". Services are held on six festival days: Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and St Luke's day.

St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

Church Wardens

Pauline Stopford, The Kennels, Habberley (01743 790784)

Pearl Hannigan, 9 Yarlington Orchard, Pontesbury (01743 790495)

Treasurer

Robert Currie

Sunday 7th April 5.00pm

Evensong

Sunday 21st 5.00pm

Holy Communion



Hope & Shelve Parish

Church Warden

Barbara Venables

Secretary

Sara Young

Treasurer

Kevin Bowers

Holy Trinity Church Hope

Sunday 14th April

9.00am

Holy Communion

Sunday 28th

9.00am

Morning Prayer



All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 7th April

9.00am

Holy Communion

Sunday 21st

9.00am

Morning Prayer

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