

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:

Hope & Shelve, Snailbeach, Habberley





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

Church services this month

Sun 2nd	4.00pm	Tea-time service
Sun 9th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 16th	10.00am	"Minsterley Praise" at the Methodist Church
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Group Holy Communion at St George's Pontesbury
Sun 30th	10.30am	Mothering Sunday service

Weekly events in the church

Mondays	3.30pm	Youth Café (p7)
Tuesdays	10.00am	Foodbank (p11)
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee Hub (p13)
Thursdays	10.00am	Trinity Tots (p24)

other events this month

Thu 6th	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p15) St Luke's church annual meeting (p30)
Mon 10th	Crafty Monday (p7) Weekly Lent study course starts (p17)
Tues 11th	Oasis meeting (p13) Ichthus Bible Study (p19) Parish Council meeting (p23)
Thur 13th	weekly Lent Lunches start (p3)
Sat 15th	PJ and Teddy Bears Picnic (p15)
Tues 18th	The Gathering (p4)
Wed 19th	u3a open meeting (p19)
Sat 22nd	EISTEDDFOD (p16)
Sun 23rd	Eisteddfod concert (p15)
Mon 24th	Transport scheme meeting (p15)
Tues 25th	Oasis meeting (p13)
Tue 25th	Ichthus Bible Study (p19)
Sat 29th	Quiz Night (p3)

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

Our dog Indy died last week, he was almost 13 years old and much loved by the family, both children can't remember a time when he wasn't part of their lives and so there is a low cloud of gloom hanging over the house at the moment. His lack of presence can be literally felt, I find myself looking around for him in his usual sleeping spots, or waking up in the night to listen to him snoring or lapping up water or growling at some sound from the garden and it's very strange to hear nothing. The *lack* of presence has a *solidity* about it that is hard to define.

For some the cost involved in loving someone or something is too much. The risk of having a heart broken or mourning a death is too great and so some will try and put up boundaries or walls to ensure that such pain is avoided, but of course it is very difficult to do that consistently. Life finds a way of getting in and suddenly we are exposed to something that we don't expect or even want (or at least think or pretend we don't want).

Of course a relationship with the God who made us is something we can try to push away, whether through constant playing of music or scrolling on our phones, designed to distract and stop our consciousness from waking up, or through other activities, and yet of course God, like life because he *IS* life, finds a way of getting past our defences. Sometimes he even uses death or the closeness of death to make us suddenly aware of the reality of things beyond our material comforts, to make us sit up and become *aware* of things beyond the immediate here and now. I wonder which way the living Jesus Christ will use to tap you on the shoulder and say, "how about having a talk?"

As for Indy, I'm confident I'll see him again one day. Psalm 23 is a comforting psalm to those who lose a much-loved pet, I wonder if you can spot the two dogs in it?

Richard Lonsdale



QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 29th MARCH
at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

starts
7pm

entry
£5 pp

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Lent Lunches

Thursdays

12-1pm

Hope Village Hall

March 13th, 20th, 27th,

April 3rd, 10th.

Soup and bread lunch
organised by local churches
Short reflection for Lent
All welcome.

Collection in aid of
local charities.



Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

telephone: 07902 794653 • email: rectorpontstip@gmail.com

Meeting Jesus

There are many stories in the gospels of people who met Jesus and then everything changed. People like St Paul, Mary Magdalene, Bartimaeus.

Perhaps some of you can also remember a moment when everything changed when you met Jesus. For others, especially if you were brought up in a Christian family, maybe there was never a time when you did not know that Jesus was with you. You might not be able to remember a first dramatic meeting. Or perhaps none of this talk of meeting Jesus makes sense to you, because you don't understand how it is possible to meet someone who lived and died so long ago.

It doesn't matter what your experience has been in the past, but our Christian faith is that we can meet with Jesus today and we can allow him to get close to us. Because that's where he wants to be.

The people in the Gospels who met Jesus physically saw him and spoke to him. When we talk of meeting Jesus today, it is different because he is not here physically with us on earth. Yet Jesus promised always to be with us, in us, and beside us. He has sent his Spirit - the Holy Spirit - to help us encounter him, as we pray and as we read the Bible.

Perhaps there are special places or buildings where you find it easier to meet Jesus. These will be different for each of us. But actually Jesus can meet us wherever we are; at the kitchen sink, at our desk, or in the fields. The hymn 'Wise men seeking Jesus' was written by a minister, Rev James East. He had planned a visit to the Holy Land but at the last minute he couldn't go. He was very sad until he realised that he didn't actually need to go away to meet Jesus. His hymn talks about people meeting Jesus by lakes, hillsides, villages, in the cornfields and markets, in the places where they lived.

Our lives change when we spend time with Jesus, when we allow him near. Sometimes that's hard because all sorts of things can get in the way to keep Jesus at a distance: our fears, our worries, our hurts. But Jesus wants to help us with those, he

wants us to let him come close.

Saint Paul wrote a letter to the Christians at Corinth, in which he said this: *"And we all, seeing the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into his image."* In the Harry Potter books there is a mirror which, when people look in it, as well as seeing their own reflection they see the images of other people. Paul says that being a Christian is like looking in a mirror and not seeing ourselves at all, but seeing Jesus instead. Because as we see him, as we meet with him, he is changing us to be more like him.

James East's hymn (written in the language of his day) ends with these words:

*He is more than near us, If we love him well;
For he seeketh ever in our hearts to dwell.*

Rev Fran Brealey



**Refreshments
from 7pm**

**Tues 18th March
2025, 7.30pm start**

 Marton Village Hall

If you your lips would keep from slips,
five things observe with care:
to whom you speak, of whom you speak,
and how, and when, and where!

– William E Norris

Stop telling God how big your storm is.
Instead, tell your storm how big your God is.

– Gary L Ellis

Deanery News editor: Ann Jones (annmorganjones456@gmail.com)

Copy to be submitted by 10th of previous month please.

World News

. . . .or “some more of the items you are not likely to see on the TV news”

Syria – Church leaders meet with transitional government amid concerns for safety

Concerns for the safety of Syria's small Christian community remain even after Syrian church leaders met with Ahmad al-Sharaa, the head of Syria's transitional government, in early January. The meeting enabled representatives of the Christian population to raise questions and concerns with the new administration following the fall of President Bashar al-Assad the previous month.

Many Christians have welcomed the fall of Assad's brutal government, which was notorious for human rights abuses. Believers are apprehensive, however, about the possibility of an Islamist government that will persecute them and other religious minorities.

Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, has emerged as Syria's leader. He previously worked closely with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who became the caliph of Islamic State. Sharaa's group, the HTS, remained affiliated to Al Qaeda when IS and Al Qaeda split in 2014. In recent years the HTS has disaffiliated from Al Qaeda, and Sharaa has spoken of respecting religious diversity and religious freedom.

In the days following the fall of Assad, Al Qaeda issued a statement urging the victorious rebels to turn against “Jews and Crusaders”, a pejorative term for Christians.

On 18th December unidentified armed groups attacked a church and desecrated a Christian cemetery in the western city of Hama. According to Nicolas Baalbaki, a senior church leader, they attempted to remove a cross from the building before parishioners intervened, forcing the assailants to retreat. In a separate incident on 23rd December, a group of eight men burned a Christmas tree in the Christian-majority town of Suqaylabiyah, near Hama.

These incidents reflect growing violence against religious minorities, heightening security concerns in the region.

D.R. Congo – More than 100 Christians slaughtered since Christmas Day

More than 100 Christians have been killed by Islamists in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo since Christmas Day 2024. Fifty-three were slaughtered between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve by the Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP, also known as the Allied Democratic Forces).

This includes 31 killed in several attacks across Lubero Territory, North Kivu province, and 17 captured and killed in the village of Ofaye Otto Maber, Ituri province. Five others died in machine gun fire at another Ituri village, where the Islamists also burned down five houses. At least 53 more were killed on 15th January in two further attacks in Lubero.

ISCAP announced the Lubero killings in two social media posts. One of the posts declared, “By the grace of God Almighty, the soldiers of the Caliphate attacked the village of Makoko in the Lubero region and killed 41 Christians [who] were stabbed with knives.” The other post confirmed killing of 12 others in the village of Masakuki.

The terrorist group also abducted sixteen Christians, as well as burning homes and vehicles.

The scale and frequency of ISCAP's attacks have increased in recent months, including the deaths of 90 Christians in July and August 2024. A TRAC (Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium) analysis concludes that the brutality of these attacks underscore “the group's relentless targeting of the Christian population in the region” in exploiting the lack of a security presence to undertake repeated attacks on the same location.

The ongoing deadly attacks in Democratic Republic of Congo have gone largely unreported in the UK - perhaps due to mass coverage of other events such as Ukraine and Israel. Together with the violence and famine in Sudan and South Sudan, and elsewhere, Africa is suffering greatly at present.

More information is available at barnabasaid.org.

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Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Dad to also get up at 2a.m.

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Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

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Important notice - new church electoral roll

The present church electoral roll began in 2019 and under Church Representation Rules a new roll has to be prepared every six years. As this means the NEW roll is due this year I will be writing to all those on the present roll advising them that if they wish to be included on the new roll they must apply on the application form I will enclose with the letter.

If you regularly attend Holy Trinity Church Minsterley or the festival church of St. Luke's Snailbeach and think you are not on the existing electoral roll but wish to be entered on the new one please contact me for an application form.

The basic qualification is that you are baptised and age 16 or over, but there are other conditions which enable you to be included such as if you are not resident in Minsterley Ecclesiastical Parish but habitually attend either of our churches. Also people who would habitually attend services but are prevented from doing so (e.g. through sickness or disability) can apply for inclusion.

I have to place copies of the new roll on the notice boards of both churches by 15th April so need the completed forms to be returned to me by 9th April to enable me to have the new roll typed and displayed by the 15th April deadline. By the time you read this I will have displayed a Notice of Preparation on each notice board, with instructions for completion of the application for enrolment on the reverse.

Colin Edwards
Church Electoral Roll Officer
Email: marieandcol@icloud.co.uk
Tel: 01743 791508

Advance Notice of Middle Marches Community Land Trust AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the afternoon of Saturday 4th October at Norbury Village Hall.

We have two wonderful keynote speakers: John Meadley who is co-founder and Life President of Pasture for Life, and Clare Hill, a regenerative farmer from Planton Farm near Ludlow.

Save the date! More details to follow.

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>

CRAFTY MONDAYS

CRAFT AND CHAT

2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH
LOUNGE AREA
AT
MINSTERLEY METHODIST CHURCH
7 PM TO 9 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
LESLEY ON 01743-791045
OR SANDRA ON 01743-891861
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AND JOIN US!

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activities | FREE WiFi
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Years 7-10 | Drop-in | FREE admission
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A youth group at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

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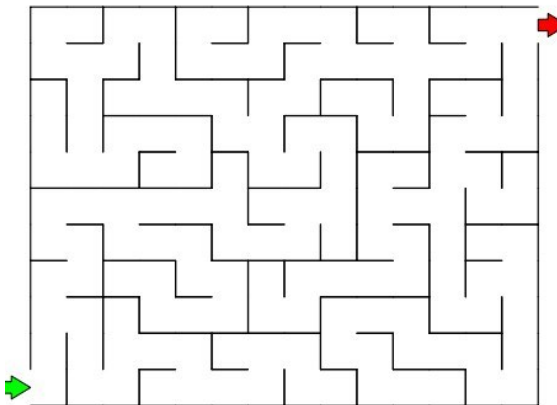
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Puzzle Page

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Wordsearch for March

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

Lent	repentance	learning
spiritual	seeking	teaching
easter	finding	disciples
preparation	growing	worldwide
fasting	mothers	flowers
prayer	love	thankyou
desert	care	nursing
selfdenial	nurture	family

LIVERY WANTED in Minsterley, Pontesbury, Hope Valley, Snailbeach, Worthen or Westbury area - for two mature and well-behaved mares.

I need a field and some indoor stabling - well, the horses do!! I'm not looking particularly for a livery yard - a quiet farm setting would suit fine!

Having been away for seven years, travelling 17 miles each way - sometimes twice a day, it's become necessary to move my girlies nearer home - getting anxious now.

Please call my mobile: 07826 061054 if you can help or know anywhere going.

Thanks. Mike Bowen



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t	a	h	r	i	y	s	e	t	h	l	i	n	t	w
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t	i	i	p	t	r	e	e	v	l	m	g	d	u	r
p	i	l	d	e	t	r	e	s	e	d	m	f	n	s



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Rea Valley
foodbank

Supporting those in food crisis within the Rea Valley Community

Volunteer for us

Please help our local community service continue. You don't have to have a regular slot - just be available when it suits you. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings we need car drivers for short local trips with stock, and volunteers at the Foodbank to set up, chat to people and make hot drinks. On other days our experienced volunteer needs help sorting the store and stock. Drop in and find out more and meet our friendly team at the Foodbank 10am-12noon each Tuesday in Holy Trinity Minsterley, or 10am-12noon each Thursday in St George's Pontesbury, call Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653) or email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

Worried about the cost of living & finances - don't cut back on food, try the Foodbank!

Call for a chat with Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653), Rev Richard Lonsdale (07922 830488), email reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com or speak to your local clergy. You can also be referred by a GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. Once you have a referral, collection is 10am-12noon on Tuesdays in Holy Trinity Church Minsterley or 10am-12noon Thursdays in St George's Church Pontesbury.

If you know anyone in need talk to them about the Foodbank. You can also call on their behalf. Once referred you are welcome to come with them and to stop off for a hot drink and chat too.



We now have a Facebook page to connect with our communities and families; please follow us and share with those you know.

Jean Garner

Holy Trinity Church



MARCH SERVICES

10.30am

2nd March	Tea Time Church (4pm)
9th March	Holy Communion
16th March	Minsterley Praise (10am) at Minsterley Methodist Church
23rd March	Holy Communion Group Service at St George's, Pontesbury
30th March	Mothering Sunday

Contact Rev'd Greg Smith
rectorpontstip@gmail.com
07902794653
www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk



After a morning service last month, Holy Trinity Church celebrated Ann's 80th birthday in the traditional manner. There were rather more people present than the photo suggests

Thank you Ann for all the cakes you have made through the years!



Bible Readings in Holy Trinity Church Minsterley this month

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

Date	OT Reading	Epistle	Gospel
2 nd March	Exodus 34:29-36	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36
9 th March	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
23 rd March	Isaiah 55:1-9	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
30 th March	1 Samuel 1:20-28	Psalms 127:1-4	Luke 2:33-35

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COFFEE HUB

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A community cafe at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

MINSTERLEY MEADOWS

Celebration Day - Friday 25th April
in
MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL.

With everybody's help we now own
the meadows for the benefit of
wildlife and the community

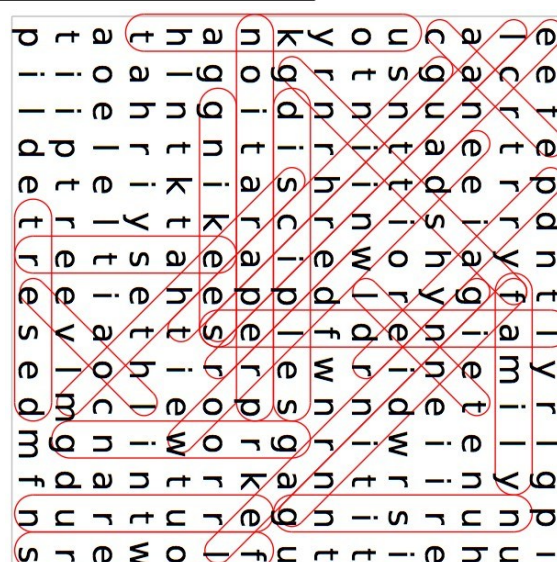
All welcome to come and
share in the celebrations!

More details to follow

Middle Marches Community Land Trust

Answers

6	1	4	9	8	3	7	2	5
9	5	3	7	4	2	8	1	6
8	7	2	6	1	5	9	3	4
2	4	7	8	5	6	1	9	3
3	6	5	1	2	9	4	8	7
1	9	8	4	3	7	6	5	2
4	2	9	3	7	1	5	6	8
7	3	6	5	9	8	2	4	1
5	8	1	2	6	4	3	7	9




Oasis

FREE lunch & companionship
for the bereaved

2nd & 4th Tuesdays • 12pm - 1.30pm

Minsterley Methodist Chapel,
Horsebridge Rd, Minsterley

For more information, contact Heather Ryder
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STRENGTH & STABILITY CLASS FOR AGES 60+



Tuesdays 9.30am—10.30am
at Minsterley Parish Hall

Thursdays 10.00am—
11.00am

at The Pavilion Community Hub,
Pontesbury

Booking is essential.

Contact Dan Lewis on 07904 338 791
or
danlewisfitness@btinternet.com

Rea Valley Transport Scheme



The churches of the Rea Valley have obtained funding to operate a transport scheme to enable residents of the area to access medical appointments including Pontesbury & Worthen surgeries; and Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry hospitals.

We hope to launch the scheme in May and to this end are seeking to recruit a team of volunteer drivers. A volunteer driver must have no more than 3 points on their licence, be willing to undertake a DBS check and be able to transport patients to medical appointments with expenses paid; and provide the Scheme administrator with an email address and telephone number.

No commitment to a particular day or frequency is required. Each time a request is received, the whole team will be contacted and whoever is first to respond will be allocated to the patient. Drivers will not be expected to do any lifting of patients.

There is a briefing meeting at The Pavilion In Pontesbury on Monday 24th March at 7pm for anyone who would like to know more. No commitment will be expected at this meeting: it is for information only.

If you have any questions, please contact me on rectorpontstip@gmail.com.

Greg Smith



Hillcrest Manor
Nursing Home

PJ and Teddy Bears Picnic
Saturday 15th March 11.30am - 3.30pm

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and hamper raffle.

in aid of Brain Tumour Charity

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at Minsterley Parish Hall
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Jill Blyth on 01743791908
Or any committee member
Full details of Eisteddfod
weekend can be found on
minsterleyeisteddfod.com
or email us on
minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com



Minsterley Eisteddfod takes place on the weekend of Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd March in Minsterley Parish Hall.

On Saturday our stage will see hundreds of competitors displaying an amazing array of talent starting with children as young as four going through to adults in the evening. We have classes for reciters and singers both solo, groups and choirs as well as instrumental classes which always showcase a wide variety of instruments.

Come and be entertained, the performances are guaranteed to make you smile, sooth your soul and bring a tear to your eye and we are open to the public all day long. We have plenty of parking and a café providing hot & cold beverages, cakes, snacks and freshly-made sandwiches. Also, in the café you will find all our written work on display for you to enjoy.

The last class of the evening is the Open Choirs Competition which is always a glorious celebration of music and a fitting climax to the day.

On the Sunday we have Cantorion Sirenian Singers who will lead our celebrity concert with soprano Chloe Hare-Jones and local artist, tuba player Annie Morris. The concert starts at 6.30pm and doors will be open at 5.45pm. All tickets are reserved at £20 & £15 and are available from Jill Blyth on 01743 791908.

Details of all that Minsterley Eisteddfod has to offer are available on our website: minsterleyeisteddfod.com and you can email us at minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com with any enquiries and follow us on Facebook.

Lesley Holder

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SATURDAY 22ND MARCH, 2025

**MINSTERLEY EISTEDDFOD
WRITING COMPETITIONS
MARCH 22ND, 2025**

OPEN CHILDREN'S WRITING COMPOSITION
AGE: KS2, KS3 & KS4

ORIGINAL SHORT STORY: 'OLD HAT'
AGE: OPEN

ORIGINAL POEM: 'THE WHISTLE'
AGE: OPEN

LIMERICK: 'THE FETE WAS A WASHOUT AGAIN ...'
AGE: OPEN

ORIGINAL HYMN WORDS
AGE: OPEN

CLOSING DATE: FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025
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W W II Memories

To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, we are featuring recollections throughout the year. These can be memories of war years as a whole, of VE Day, family history, etc.

Pieces can be from 50 to 500 words. We can include an image - although it will appear in black and white. Any image should be your own (rather than taken from the internet).

Send your article to the editor (see page 2).

Being born in the war

Writing this article at Christmas reminds me of my own birth, and the awful conditions faced by many of our wartime mothers who were confined during air raids, and the insanitary conditions and added fear while in an air raid shelter.

We recall Mary as she gave birth to Jesus, and the words of the carol, "How silently the wondrous gift was given." A-hem, no! I doubt very much that it was 'silently.' It was in a stable with animals around, surrounded by dung, stink and noise, not least her own cries, no gas'n'air, c-sections and all that modern stuff. I doubt Mary's mind was full of 'wondrous gifts being given', the poor girl was probably terrified.

And so to my own mother. My father had joined up 'The day war broke out!' and after his training he came home for her birthday on 1st

February 1940 and then left for North Africa. So I was expected round about the end of October.

Together with my two siblings, we lived in a small house in Kemsing, a village just north of Sevenoaks in Kent, almost exactly halfway between West Malling and Biggin Hill aerodromes, and it had thus become rather busy during what became known as the 'blitz'.

The blitz began on 7th September 1940 and from that date London was bombed for 57 consecutive nights, the enemy aircraft passing overhead in their hundreds. Which brings us to the night of 3rd November.

My mother told me in very colourful London language that it pelted down with rain all night "so Jerry never come, and I 'ad you upstairs in the big bed, instead of the 'Anderson'." For those who don't know what an 'Anderson' is, it was a home-made air raid shelter, with parts provided by the government, and dug into the back garden. In the villages, the owners often planted potatoes on top. But look it up on Google.

How lucky I was that my mother was able to send a neighbour to get the midwife on a soaking wet night with no bombs, and thus have a safer and clinical delivery in the early hours of 4th November 1940.

We should give thanks for all those wartime mothers, and remember the suffering they endured.

Richard Elliott
24/12/2024



*George saw his whole Parish
as a Mission Field*

Lent - a time of preparation and reflection in the lead up to Easter.

Join Rev Christopher Cooke using the Old Testament story of Ruth to lead us through this time, and see if we can apply any lessons learnt for Good Friday and Easter.

A Lent Course for everyone
at 2 - 4pm in The Urwick Room, Ford Village Hall,
on Mondays 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March, 7th April.

Conversation and study with refreshments –
be prepared for Holy Week and Easter.

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March
19

Wednesday 2pm
Minsterley Parish Hall
 A488, Minsterley, SY5 OEH
Refreshments available
Free entrance

FOLK MUSIC - FACT & FICTION

Presented by
Mal Brown

learn,
laugh,
live

OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome





u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a invites members & non-members to the Open Meeting on the 19th March, where our speaker is the delightful **Mal Brown**, coordinator of our u3a music group, talking on **Folk Music – Fact & Fiction**.

Folk Music is not quite what you think! Come along and be educated and thoroughly entertained by Mal who will dispel urban myths surrounding 'folk music' (e.g. it is men in Aran sweaters singing about dead sailors, they all have beards etc.) and perform examples of songs & tunes to illustrate his findings.

Afterwards will be followed by refreshments.

Our u3a is a UK charity which helps retired and semi-retired people come together and learn for fun, with over 20 interest groups.

u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley 

PARENT'S DICTIONARY (continued)

Independent: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Show off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Sterilize: What you do to your first baby's pacifier

by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

Temper tantrums: What you should keep to a minimum so as to not upset the children.

Top bunk: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

Two-minute warning: When the baby's face turns red and it begins to make those familiar grunting noises.

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

Psalm 119 : 105

ICHTHUS



Come and join our informal Bible study group. Enjoy the opportunity to ask, contribute or just listen - whatever helps us to grow in our understanding of our Christian faith. Meetings start at 2.30pm.

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

Date	Venue	Study
11th March	The Blessing Snailbeach	Luke 13:31-35 Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1
25th March	Brookfield Waterwheel	Luke 2:33-35 1 Samuel 1:20-28 Psalm 127:1-4
8th April	The Blessing Snailbeach	Luke 19:28-48 Psalm 110:1-2,19-29

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Thursday 9am-9pm (late night!)

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

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 website 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

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*Handyman - as recommended by the editor
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**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."



SERVICES IN THE NEW YEAR 2025 – HOLY TRINITY MINSTERLEY

- Week 1 Sunday 4pm – Tea Time Church
- Week 2 Sunday 10.30am – Holy Communion
- Week 3 Sunday – Minsterley Praise
 • 10am at Minsterley Methodist Church (*Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov*)
 • 10.30am at Holy Trinity Minsterley (*Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec*)
- Week 4 Sunday 10.30am – Holy Communion
- Week 5 Sunday 10.30am – Group Communion Service around the churches in our Benefice

See our website for more details
www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk



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Minsterley Parish Council

Residents whose properties border the A488, south side of the Parish continue to have concerns regarding the speed of vehicles in their area. The Parish have requested for several years a reduction in the speed limits for this area, and continue to ask the Highway Authority to implement action on this matter.

Minsterley Flood Action Group continue to report and hold meetings with various agencies, regarding the problem areas in the Parish which experience flooding problems after heavy rainfall.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th March at 7pm in Minsterley Parish Hall.

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 4	22 nd January	No. 43	Susan Bates
Draw 5	29 th January	No. 56	Keith Andrews
Draw 6	5 th February	No. 52	Rollover
Draw 7	12 th February	No. 17	Judith Matthews

Group Services for our parishes

We usually meet up for a joint service on fifth Sundays, but there are other occasions too. Why not worship in a church you've never visited?

Ash Wed 5th March Minsterley
Sunday 23rd March Pontesbury
(Instead of 30th March which is Mothering Sunday)

Maundy Thurs 17th April Pontesbury
Sunday 29th June Snailbeach
Sunday 31st Aug Shelve (outdoors)

Sunday 14th Sept Afternoon Pet Service
at Habberley
Sunday 28th Sept Hope
Sunday 30th Nov Pontesbury
Sunday 14th Dec Evening Carol Service
at Pontesbury
Sunday 28th Dec Minsterley

Snailbeach WI

Be inspired & widen your
circle of friends
Come and see what we have to offer.
Give it a try—
you might be surprised!



We meet in Snailbeach Village Hall, SY5 0NX,
on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm
(2pm Dec, & Jan)

For more information contact Sue:
tel: 07375 463536
e-mail: suexjohnson@gmail.com



A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted. The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?" "Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

ABIGAIL'S PARTY

Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform *Abigail's Party* on Wednesday to Saturday, 23rd - 26th April, at 7.30pm at our usual venue, St. Nicholas' Hall.

A classic Mike Leigh play written in 1977 and televised on the BBC, *Abigail's Party* is considered to be a comment on the state of a nation obsessed with status, one-upmanship and house prices. Sharply funny and well observed, it was a major hit with a huge television audience and made Alison Steadman a household name.

Tickets (£12) can be obtained via the Drama Group (info@abbeydrama.com or 07951 862881) or me.

Robert Currie
01743 790123



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Speed Camera Project Update

As reported in previous newsletters, the parish council is committed to working with our partners to reduce speeding. In 2022 the Safer Speed Shropshire ANPR camera partnership was established, working with the police and our A488 neighbours, Hanwood PC and Pontesbury PC to tackle speeding. The system has been successful in reducing speeds and we now have the results of the latest monitoring of speeds:

For the month ended December 2024, in Hanwood, depending on the time of day, 71% to 88% of vehicles passing the camera were travelling at speeds under 35mph. In Minsterley 83% - 100% of vehicles passing the camera were travelling under 35mph, and in Pontesbury 87% - 100% of vehicles. This data has been passed to the police so that they can identify times of day to go out with their Trucam device and issue speeding penalty notices.

On a quarterly basis, we are also working to identify “serial speeders” — this is drivers who pass the cameras at over 50mph on multiple occasions. The quarterly data for Oct - Dec 2024 has been sent to the police, with the worst offenders being focused on. The police are able to take action on this as they consider appropriate.

We are very pleased to be working with the police on this project, and will be providing regular reports on the enforcement in future newsletters.

Geoff Rogers



10am-11.30am
Thursdays
term time

activities,
crafts, toys,
stories, songs
& snacks

Trinity
TOTS

Join us for a chat
and a hot drink while
the children have
fun playing!
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Contact
Sarah 07999 551001

 A pre-school group at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley

Trinity Tots

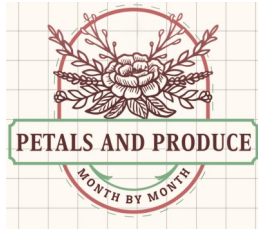
Can you spare a Thursday morning during term time to help out with the Trinity Tots team? We meet at Holy Trinity Church, arriving 9.30 - 9.45am to put the toys and resources out. The session runs from 10.00am to 11.30am then we put the toys away and tidy up. We are a happy team. We provide hot drinks for the parents and carers, while the toddlers and babies are provided with snacks, fresh fruit and milk, water and squash to drink.

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information about the role. You will have to be formally appointed subject to safeguarding rules.

Sarah Young (Leader)
07999 551001

ssewart958@gmail.com

or Rev Greg Smith
rectorpontstip@gmail.com



Hello and welcome to the first instalment of Petals and Produce!

My name is Laura and we are going to spend a little (or a lot) of time in the garden together, learning about what jobs we should be doing and how to embrace each challenge and triumph that comes our way.

Spring has sprung and the garden is starting to come alive and bloom again after a long dark winter. We have much more sunlight to look forward to thanks to the clocks going forward at the end of the month, giving us all some much needed sunlight.

I often feel that as humans we have a small solar panel attached to the top of our heads, waiting for the first rays of sunshine to hit it and give us a much needed energy boost!

In October last year I planted sets of onions and garlic (rhapsody whight) in the small vegetable plot outside, and on some inspection from the living room window they seem to be coming along well.

March is the time where we plan and sow. Last year I stated I would not be growing tomatoes ever again, so this year I will be growing tumbling toms and a new variety of beefsteak tomatoes (costoluto fiorentino) because if the Spring does nothing else, it gives us a new sense of hope!

This is also the time of year where we take a nice mug of something hot and sweet outside and start to clear up the debris left by the 19th storm this month and start to see new shoots appearing. With the temperatures hopefully starting to increase the soil should also start to warm up and with this we can start to plant broads beans! The hardiest of the brassica family, broad beans can be directly sown into the ground. I personally like to buy mine pre started by Mr Hignett.

I always like to start sweetpeas under glass at the beginning of this month - they really are one of my favourites! The more you pick them, the more they produce and they are excellent companion plants (more on this next month).

A few things I will be starting off on my kitchen windowsill this month are tomatoes and some beetroot. Chillies are also good to start off now as they require a longer growing period with plenty of light.

As we come into mid-March and hopefully the temperatures will be kind to us, we can start to sow different salad leaves such as rocket and butter head lettuce, spinach, peas, salad onions, parsley, coriander, dill and first early potatoes at the end of the month.

That's it! I hope you enjoyed this first instalment, I look forward to seeing you all again next month. Written by amateur gardener, snapping turtle tamer and biro collector.

Laura Davies



Christian Aid Week 2025

Christian Aid Week this year will focus on the poverty in the communities of Burundi where over 70% of people face hunger and poverty every single day.

There will be a breakfast/coffee morning at Holy Trinity Church from 9.30am - 12noon on Saturday 17th May in support of Christian Aid. Please save this date and join us in reaching out to help, and if you are able to assist in any way please contact me on 07806 432311. Many thanks.

Susan Bates
Minsterley Churches CAW group

The real measure of our worth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money.

- J H Jowett

God's help is near and always available, but it is only given for those who seek it.

- Max Lucado

Some people think reconciliation is a soft option, that it means papering over the cracks. But the biblical meaning means looking facts in the face, and it can be very costly; it cost God the death of His own Son.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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

CRIME/INCIDENTS OF NOTE REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE 16th January 2025 – 16th February 2025

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Malicious communications		Brockton	
Malicious communications		Hope Valley	

Livestock theft

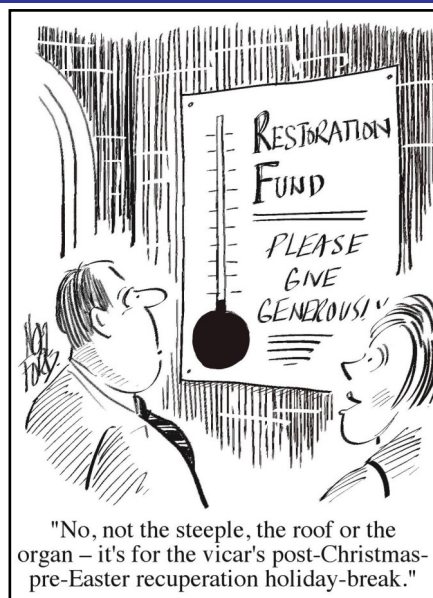
During the last month there have been two separate reports of theft of sheep in the area, one near the Kerry Ridgway and the other around Chapel Lawn. There has also been a report of an illegal slaughter of a sheep just over the border into Powys; the sheep was killed and skinned in the field it was grazing in with the offenders just leaving its fleece and head.

Please be wary of unusual activity around fields containing livestock such as unknown vehicles seen parked in gateways or the sheep making more noise than usual suggesting something is disturbing them. If you own livestock please consider locking gates with padlocks, keep your hedges, fences and gates in good repair and checking your livestock regularly. Please report any suspicious activity involving livestock to police.

Livestock worrying

Lambing season is starting, which historically has coincided with increased reports of livestock being worried or attacked by dogs.

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep; "worrying" includes attacking or chasing sheep. Dog Owners, either living locally or simply visiting the area for a walk, have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times. It is vital that dogs are kept on a lead around livestock, even if they can usually be trusted to come to call. If living in or near a farming area, please make sure that your dog is secure and cannot escape from the property.



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From September 2024



ANNUAL MEETING FOR ST LUKE'S

ST LUKE'S IS A FESTIVAL CHURCH WHICH HOLDS A MINIMUM OF SIX SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THE ANNUAL MEETING IS FOR ALL SNAILBEACH RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST LUKE'S TO DISCUSS HOW THEY WOULD LIKE THE CHURCH'S ACTIVITIES TO CONTINUE IN 2025

**6 MARCH 2025 AT 7.30PM
SNAILBEACH VILLAGE HALL**

Stiperstones group of churches - recent 'life event' services

Hope & Shelve Parish funeral:

Kathleen Doris May Lewis
Emstrey Crematorium, 5th February

Holy Trinity Minsterley funeral:

Eileen Elizabeth Ballantyne (aged 91)
interred at Minsterley, 19th February

St Luke's church Snailbeach

Apology from the editor: My thanks to Myra for pointing out that the next service in St Luke's is NOT Easter Day (as per February magazine) but Mothering Sunday. Entirely my fault for thinking that the two dates were the other way around. Please see opposite page for (hopefully!) accurate details. See you on Mothering Sunday - and before then at the annual meeting.

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



2nd March Family Service led by members of the congregation.

9th March Preacher – Rev Richard Hall

16th March Minsterley Praise with Holy Trinity congregation joining us.
Preacher – Mr Mike Hallworth

23rd March Preacher – Mrs Helen Pearson

30th March Preacher – Rev Sheila MacInally

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

Sandra Lewis

Corndon Marsh church

Following Bill Rowell's retirement our clergy are busy taking services in Chirbury Hills group of churches. Please pray for them in their extra work load.

The 'tin chapel' at White Grit hosts a service on the first Sunday of each month and Rev Fran Brearley is currently leading these. If you've ever wondered if the church is still open, why not join us at 6pm on Sunday 2nd March or 6th April?

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

2nd March	Rev. Brian Spencer
16th March	Dr John Woolley
6th April	Rev. Richard Hall
20th April	Rev. Brian Spencer
4th May	Helen Pearson
18th May	Domini Lucas

We meet in the schoolroom adjacent to the chapel. All are welcome to come.

Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

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 usually held on five festival days: Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas day. A few other services are planned too. See "A Church Near You" website for upcoming dates.

Next services: 3.00pm Mothering Sunday 30th March;
Easter Sunday Communion 20th April

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

Wednesday 5th	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service at Holy Trinity Minsterley
Sunday 9th March	5.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 30th	5.00pm	Holy Communion



Hope & Shelve Parish

Church Warden Barbara Venables
Secretary Sara Young
Treasurer Kevin Bowers

Holy Trinity Church Hope

Wednesday 5th	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service at Holy Trinity Minsterley
Sunday 9th March	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	Group service at St George's Pontesbury
Sunday 30th	9.00am	Morning Prayer



All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 2nd March	9.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 5th	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service at Holy Trinity, Minsterley
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	Group service at St George's Pontesbury



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