

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

Sunday 1st	4.00pm	Tea-time service
Sunday 8th	10.30am 3.00pm	Holy Communion "Pentecost Praise" - Deanery service at Worthen village hall
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Minsterley Praise
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30am	GROUP service of Holy Communion in St Luke's Snailbeach

Other events this month

Thu 5th	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p15)
Sat 7th	Car Boot Trail (p32)
Mon 9th	Crafty Monday (p15)
Tues 10th	Oasis meeting (p13) Ichthus Bible Study (p11) Parish Council meeting (p13)
Thur 12th	Christening evening (p3)
Sun 15th	Trinity Sunday Lunch, Crown & Sceptre
Tues 17th	The Gathering (p7)
Wed 18h	u3a open meeting (p25)
Sun 22nd	Hillfest (p21)
Tues 24th	Oasis meeting (p13) Ichthus (p11)
Thu 26th	Spring into the Garden (p21)
Fri 27th	Gardening Club meet (p7) The Gospel of Luke (p7)
Fri 27th - Sun 29th	Art workshops (p18)
Sat 28th	Afternoon Tea, Hope Village Hall

Weekly events in the church (page 16)

Mondays	3.30pm	Youth Café
Tuesdays	10.00am	Foodbank
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee Hub
Thursdays	10.00am	Trinity Tots

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



Christian Aid Week 2025

Many thanks to everyone who supported the breakfast and coffee morning at Holy Trinity Minsterley on 17th May at which donations totalling £443.00 were received.

Together with donations from members of Minsterley Methodist church, the sum of £548.00 has been sent to Christian Aid who will be able to claim a further £72.00 in gift aid.

Thanks to everyone's help and generosity this wonderful amount will greatly support this year's Christian Aid Week's project to fund tools and trainers for indigenous farming communities in Guatemala whose lives are being ravaged by the climate crisis.

God bless and thank you all.

Susan Bates
Minsterley Churches CAW group organiser

Trinity Sunday at HTM

We'll be celebrating our patronal festival at Holy Trinity Minsterley after the service on Sunday 15th June. Watch out for more details in our weekly newsletter. If you'd like to sign up for the newsletter contact Rebecca on:
PApontstip@outlook.com.

Sarah Edwards

Don't put a question mark where God puts a full stop.

When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

To forget a wrong is the best revenge.

The last ten years of life are the best, because we are freest from illusions and fullest of experience.
- Benjamin Jowett

No wise man ever wished to be younger.
- Jonathan Swift.

Pontesbury Deanery

Pentecost Praise



Let's Worship Together!

Sunday
June 8th

3 pm

Worthen Village Hall

SY5 9HT

**Holy Communion service
followed by tea and cake**



Your questions answered about "christening"

St George's Church Pontesbury is holding an open evening on Thursday 12th June at 7pm. for any family interested in having their child christened. This can happen at any age. All welcome - no commitment assumed.

For further information, please contact Greg at rectorpontstip@gmail.com.

What's On!

17 MAY

BREAKFAST & COFFEE
at Holy Trinity in aid of Christian Aid

24 MAY

PLANT & BAKE SALE
on the Crown & Sceptre bank

7 JUNE

CAR BOOT TRAIL
follow the village trail and bag yourself a bargain or two

5 JULY

AFTERNOON TEA
at Kensington Gardens

16 AUG

MINSTERLEY SHOW
visit us in the refreshment tent

6 SEPT

GARDEN TEA
at Merrilees, Reabrook

4 OCT

HARVEST SUPPER & AUCTION
tasty food and lots of laughs

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

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

'Hey! It's ascension day today!'

I bet you haven't heard that said recently. As Christians we find it impossible to overstate the importance of Good Friday when Jesus died for our sins, and we love Easter Sunday when he was raised from the dead — and we have no problem believing that Jesus died and rose again.

But Jesus' earthly ministry continued for forty more days and then Jesus was "taken up" to heaven (see Acts chapter 1). And yet Ascension Day is almost thrown away in the church calendar rather than dedicate the nearest Sunday to such a key event. It's a bit difficult for us to visualise; but if we ignore the ascension, what happens when we recite the creed? Do we go silent at the bit where we say: *"ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty?"*

For me (and possibly all of us) the recounting of the ascension story creates a tinge of loss ... but mixed with a sprinkling of hope. The sadness of finally saying goodbye to their friend and saviour — why did it have to be like this? Couldn't Jesus have remained with us longer, if he was God?

But we all know that without the ascension, we couldn't have Pentecost. Had Jesus remained on earth simply as a man (as well as divine) his geographical ministry would have been limited; he could only be in one place at one time. But an ascended Christ in his Godly form is able to be at work everywhere all the time and is able to hear and respond to his people's prayers no matter the time or place.

However, for many, the image of him ascending into the clouds is a tricky one. It has given us these misleading images of the kingdom of heaven being in the clouds and all of us sat in the clouds listening to harp music — and yet the Bible clearly teaches that God will renew heaven and earth and that his kingdom will reign on earth, not in the clouds. It is possible that the gospel writer Luke was aware of the 5th century BC prophecy of Daniel and wanted to show that Jesus' actions were in fulfilment of the prophecies in the scriptures: *"I saw*

in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

Whatever the truth, our background or our tradition, 'the ascension' has to be fundamental to our faith. Without it we and our doctrine are left rather weak. Jesus would have died, resurrected and then disappeared. Without it, the Holy Spirit wouldn't have come as tongues of fire at Pentecost.

In brief:

- Heaven came down to earth at Christmas in the form of man.
- Earth ascended to heaven in the form of the risen Christ at Ascension.
- Heaven and earth are joined through the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Hey, it's Ascension Day today — hallelujah!

Ascension Day Sonnet written by Malcolm Guite

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed .

Rev David Moss

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”

Iraq – Three injured in axe attack at annual parade by Assyrian Christians

Three people were injured by a man wielding an axe during the annual parade by Assyrian Christians in the city of Duhok to mark their new year on 1st April.

The attacker, since identified as Louay Abd al-Rahim Ramadhan, a Syrian refugee in his early 20s, struck three people with the weapon before being overpowered by participants in the parade and security forces. In video footage after his arrest Baghouzi confessed to being influenced by Islamic State ideology and being taught to “target and kill Christians.” Subsequent online videos showed the assailant pinned to the ground, repeatedly shouting, “Islamic State, the Islamic State remains”.

The parade, in the semi-autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan, marked the beginning of the 6,775th new year according to the Babylonian-Assyrian calendar. It was attended by more than 5,000 Christians from Iraq and across the Assyrian diaspora. A 17-year-old youth, Fardi Abdullah, and a 75-year-old woman, Yoniyah Khoshaba, suffered skull fractures. A member of the local security forces was also injured. All three were hospitalised, local security officials confirmed.

Ninab Yousif Toma, a spokesman for the Assyrian Democratic Movement, condemned the attack and said, “We marched today to show that we have existed here for thousands of years. This attack will not stop our people.” Despite the attack, the Assyrians’ holiday celebrations proceeded and were completed successfully.

Confirming the immediate arrest of the assailant, Duhok Governor Ali Tatar said, “Throughout history, Kurdistan has always been a bright example of coexistence and tolerance for Christians, Jews, Yazidis, and all other components. Such attempts to disrupt our coexistence will not be successful.”

Tens of thousands of Christians fled to the region in northern Iraq in 2014 to escape the occupation of their historic homes further south by Islamic State.

Iran – Two Christian converts sentenced to four years in prison

Two Iranian Christian converts, Mahmoud Mardani-Kharaji, 56, and his brother Mansour, 50, have been sentenced to four years in prison for their membership of a “house church.” They were convicted under Iran’s amended Article 500, which criminalises “deviant propaganda activities contrary to the holy religion of Islam.”

The brothers were first arrested at a “house church” meeting in December 2022 when plain-clothes officers raided the gathering. In addition to their prison terms, Mahmoud and Mansour were each fined 150 million tomans (£1,250). After their release they will be banned from joining any social groups including churches for five years, and barred from their home province of Isfahan for two years, a stipulation known as “internal exile.”

Two other Christians arrested alongside the brothers had their charges dropped, although the reasons remain unclear. Christian converts in Iran are often pressured to renounce their faith or agree to cease their involvement in Christian activities.

Guatemala – Food aid shipped to Christian orphans

Barnabas Aid is excited to be partnering with a Christian ministry in Guatemala that serves more than 50 orphanages, providing care for an average of 2,300 children each month.

We are sending a 40-foot container of food aid from the United States to nourish and sustain these children.

Guatemala is one of the poorest countries in Central America. Many people cannot afford even the most basic food. Nearly half of all children under the age of five suffer from stunted growth due to malnutrition. Orphans are at even greater risk.

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The Gathering
An evening of Praising & Worshipping God
*Encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.*
(1 Thessalonians 5: 11)
Everyone welcome

Refreshments from 7.00 p.m. | Tues 17th June, 7.30 p.m. start

Marton Village Hall

As part of
The Pontesbury Festival
27th - 29th June, 2025

The Gospel of St Luke
Performed by St Luke's Players

Friday June 27th, 4.00pm - 6.30pm
Pontesbury Baptist Church
Entry £5
There will be an interval, and refreshments provided by Pontesbury Baptist Church

Contact for tickets/booking: Rebecca Maddox
rebecca@maddoxbroadband.plus.com

A performance of St Luke's Gospel performed by Robert Currie and Greg Smith with incidental music provided by David Young.
Ticket purchase in advance is advised.

Minsterley Gardening Club

The Club meets between 10am - 11am on the last Friday on each month at Holy Trinity Church Minsterley. Next date is Friday 27th June - do pop along - everyone is welcome.

There is cake!

Sarah Edwards

Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered the problem of the Trinity and no one has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have invented. It must be a revelation.
- G H Lang

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - John Wesley

If asked to define the Trinity, we can only say that it is not this or that.
- Augustine

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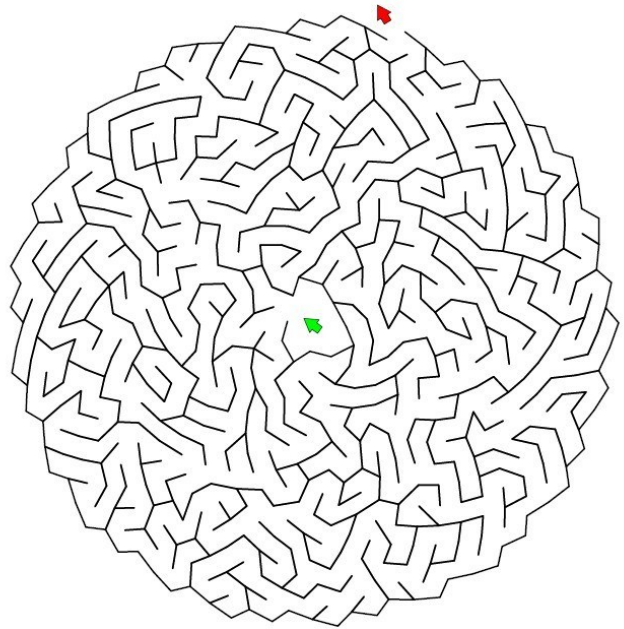
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Puzzle Page

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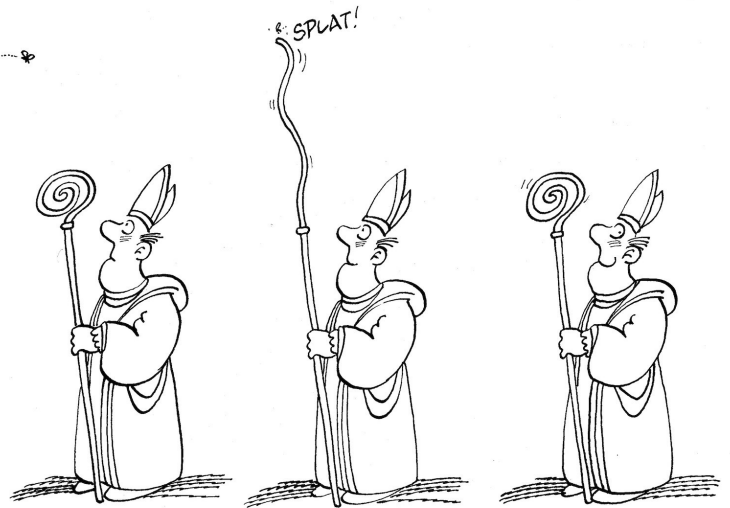


Wordsearch Clues & Answers

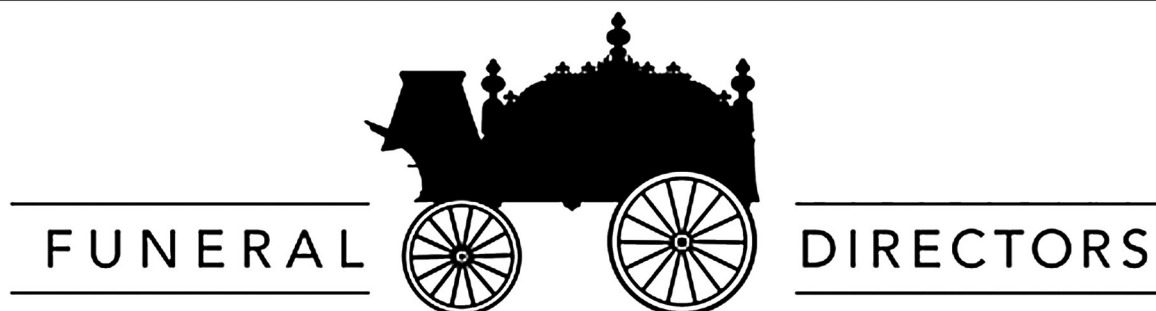
• Pentecost

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues as if of fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning – and the Church was born.

Pentecost	Flames	Place
Trinity	Languages	Wind
Jerusalem	Praise	Father
Disciples	Drunk	Son
Praying	Wine	Holy
Tongues	Nine	Spirit
Power	Morning	Eternal
High	Glory	
Fires	Waiting	



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Why people need our Foodbank

Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance say finances are the main reasons why people need our local Foodbank, including:

- The cost of living.
- Shropshire is a low-wage economy with a high percentage of part-time workers, and insecure employment.
- People in and out of work have been hit hard by changes to the benefits system.
- Those with health issues are often unable to improve their financial situation.

The Alliance conclude: "Food is often the only part of a household budget which can be cut."

Please help local people across Rea Valley

Donate in-date tinned and packaged food, toiletries, and cleaning products. All donations are very welcome; it is especially helpful if you can check our "Items in Need" on our website <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/>

Donate money

Every month we have to buy in items, keeping the Foodbank well stocked, to meet demand. If you can make a monthly, or one-off, payment that would be much appreciated. We would like to thank you and to stay in contact, so please do make sure we have your email address; you can email us at: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

BACS or Standing Orders – "Rea Valley Foodbank," sort code: 51-61-06, account number: 76841804, reference: your email address.

To use the Foodbank or to find out more

call for a chat with Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653) or Rev Richard Lonsdale (07922 830488), email reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com or your local clergy. You can also be referred by a G.P., school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook.

Jean Brown

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

Psalm 119 : 105

ICHTHUS



The summer session of 'Ichthus' meetings continues this month. Anyone with a desire to study the Bible with others is welcome to come. Meetings start at 2.30pm.

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

Date	Venue	Study
June 10th	Brookfield Waterwheel	John 16:12-15 Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31 Romans 5:1-5
June 24th	The Blessing Snailbeach	Matthew 16:13-19 Acts 12:1-11 Psalm 125

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
1 st June	Acts 16:6-34	Psalm 97	John 17:20-26
8 th June	Acts 2:1-21	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17
22 nd June	Isaiah 65:1-9	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
29 th June	Psalm 125	Acts 12:1-1 or 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18	Matthew 16:13-19

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Minsterley Parish Council

Following meetings with M.P. Julia Buckley regarding the withdrawal of the Outreach Post Office Service, it was agreed to pursue the suggestion of a Mobile Service as a replacement.

It was agreed to wait for the new administration to be installed at Shropshire Council before asking again for a speed limit to be introduced on the A488 between the School and the Water Wheel.

A repeat request would be forwarded to Shropshire Council asking for wheelchair access to be constructed at the entrance the playing field.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 10th June at Minsterley Parish Hall.

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

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



"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture – I've always worn a hoody."

MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw 16	16 th April	No. 45	Christine Parry
Draw 17	23 rd April	No. 44	Roy Blakemore
Draw 18	30 th April	No. 44	Roy Blakemore
Draw 19	7 th May	No. 20	Colin Edwards
Draw 20	14 th May	No. 29	Colin Edwards

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Answers

D	I	R	D	U	N	E	O	Y	C	Y	H	I
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Oasis

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Profusion in June

June is a great month to spend time close to nature in your local churchyard or cemetery. The second week of June sees three initiatives; Love Your Burial Ground Week, Churches Count on Nature and National Cemeteries Week - all in celebration of these special places and the volunteers who care for them.

You may be able to attend an event as part of one of these. Take a look on the Caring for God's Acre map of events to see what is happening near you; or go to a churchyard, cemetery or chapel yard on your own or with your family or friends and see what you can see.

Wildflowers may be present in profusion if there is a meadow area; look out for oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw, vetches, cat's ear and hawkbit amongst others. Is there a patch of medium length grass, where shorter-stemmed plants can flower without the mower cutting them off? If so, search for bird's eye speedwell, self-heal, red clover, buttercups and medics. Burial grounds can be rich in species as they contain a mosaic of habitats, with large trees, areas of shaded woodland and stone-work as well as grassland of varying lengths. The

butterflies to be found can be a mix of species usually found in woodland, grassland and scrub. In June you may find a rich array; look out for comma, red admiral, small copper and common blue which favour shorter vegetation such as grasses and nettles for laying their eggs, all plants found in meadows or in the dappled shade of a woodland or large tree canopy. You may catch a glimpse of a yellow brimstone which lays its eggs on buckthorn.

June is also a good time to sit quietly and watch birds busily feeding young and darting in and out of nests. Again, burial grounds can be rich in birds which may also use neighbouring gardens. The church itself can host house martins under the eaves, swallows in the porch or lychgate and perhaps swifts nesting invisibly in the eaves or in boxes behind tower louvres. A visit in the early evening may be rewarded with the sound of screaming swifts circling around the church building.

Please let us know what you see and hear, be it plant, insect or bird. You can record species using a smart phone and the iNaturalist or iRecord app, by email or by post.

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

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
OR
JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT
AND JOIN US!



The Crown & Sceptre Presents

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EVERY THURSDAY

10am - 1pm

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All crafters welcome be it knitting or crocheting & other crafts!
Free to join us, Just bring your projects with you!





WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

YOUTH CAFE (term time)

3.30 - 5pm

Years 7 - 10 | activities |
snacks | free Wi-Fi | music
Contact Joe on 07387 578230
for more information

BIBLE STUDY

7 - 8pm

Group meets every two weeks.
For information contact Greg
Smith 07902 794653



TUESDAY

REA VALLEY FOODBANK

10am - 12pm

For information contact Greg Smith
07902 794653 or go to
www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk

ICTHUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

2.30 - 4.30pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each
month. For information contact
PApontstip@outlook.com



WEDNESDAY

COFFEE HUB

10am - 12pm

A drop-in community cafe where everyone is welcome.
FREE tea and coffee | cake and biscuits | chat and companionship



THURSDAY

TRINITY TOTS (term time)

10am - 11.30pm

A pre-school drop-in group for under 5s with their parents or carers.
Activities | crafts | toys | stories | songs | snacks

ALL OUR WEEKLY GROUPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

For more details about these events please visit
www.stiperstoneschurch.org.uk or follow us on **Facebook** (scan the QR code)





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Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

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(covers Minsterley)

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

CRIME/INCIDENTS of note REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONES 17th March 2025 – 15th May 2025

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Assault		Rorrington	
Harassment		Bromlow	
Burglary	Outbuilding broken into, numerous copper piping, fixtures, electric power tools, metal detectors and air rifle stolen	Hope Valley	Occurred overnight 17 th – 18 th April
Burglary	Property under renovation broken into and various electric power tools stolen	Bentlawnt	Occurred overnight 17 th – 18 th April
Harassment		Chirbury	
Burglary	Property under renovation broken into, tools targeted including 2 heavy duty breaker hammers and power tools.	Bentlawnt	Occurred overnight 9 th – 10 th April
Assault		Bentlawnt	
Stalking		Worthen	
Heritage crime (arson)	Unknown items have been set alight to presumably create a campfire within the centre of Mitchells Fold Stone Circle	White Grit	Occurred during Feb – March 25

Social Media and children

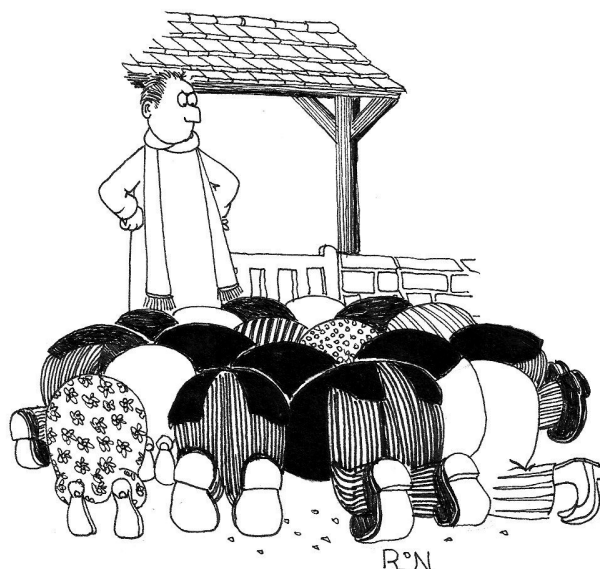
Social media use by children is a hot topic as questions are finally being asked about its impact on young people as well as by wider society. Social media use by children raises various safety concerns including online bullying, threats and grooming, with negative effects on mental health including anxiety.

Most social media accounts require users to be at least 13 years old, however, it is easy to sign up to an account with a false date of birth. For advice about keeping children safe, please refer to -

https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11_18/

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/social-media-advice-hub/social-media-concerns/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



Keith was very strict about confetti in the churchyard

Letter from the Bishop of Hereford



By the time you read this the Conclave will have concluded. There will be a new Pope. The selection process for the Archbishop of Canterbury will take significantly longer! Both processes seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit, it's just that one seems to be more efficient, although less consultative. The work of seeking the Spirit's guidance is not straightforward.

I'm fascinated by oblique references in the Bible to this apostle or that going on a mission with the confident assertion they were "led by the Holy Spirit." The Old Testament prophets seem even more confident, their words often appended by, "Thus says the Lord", or equivalent. I wonder what form that leading took? Was it a strong inward impression; an audible voice, or a response to what they had read in scripture? I remember someone coming to me for counsel many years ago who said he felt the Lord was leading him to leave his wife because he had gone off her and had fallen for a work colleague. I suggested that obeying the command not to commit adultery probably applied in this case. It didn't need a strong sense of the presence of God. Those commands are there for a reason, especially when unruly human passions get the better of us.

How are we to distinguish the actual leading of the Holy Spirit from too much cheese before bedtime, or vain attempts to sanctify retrospectively what we would have done anyway? In the Bible, discernment in big areas of life is almost invariably corporate. Multiple voices and perspectives come together, each with a piece of a puzzle, each reflecting something of the work of the Spirit within them. Individuals need an objective view. Our capacity for self-deception about our gifts is almost boundless. It is more likely that God will lead us in directions that cohere with the way he made us rather than contradicting them.

But sometimes corporate discernment in the Bible leads people in directions that are risky and

don't make much sense. Paul is led by the Spirit to Rome to arrest and execution. The Holy Spirit might nudge us into a spiritual conversation that we would otherwise avoid out of English politeness. Ultimately, there is no fail-safe guide to getting it right. Desiring to follow the Lord's guidance is a necessary first step. Regular worship and Bible reading forming our minds in Christian ways will certainly help also. Being part of a community where we can be open to the wisdom of others is also vital. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would lead his followers into all truth after Pentecost. Through mistakes and humility I believe he leads us in his way in the end.

+Richard



27th, 28th, 29th June
Three Art Workshops in Pontesbury
For you to join in:
(As part of the Pontesbury Festival)

Friday 2pm - 3.30pm
Beginners Watercolour Landscape Painting.
St George's Church, Pontesbury

For anyone who would love to "have a go"
£5 (All materials provided)
Places are limited, so booking needed
Enjoy creating a landscape using watercolours,
with tips and lots of encouragement.
Contact Wendy:- wjcarter1759@hotmail.com

Saturday 2pm - 4pm.
Sketching in Pontesbury with 2 local artists.

Meet at **St George's Church** for inspiration, then spend an hour and a half sketching around the village or inside the church.
Meet back to share our sketches, and chat over hot drinks.
An encouraging, non competitive afternoon for all abilities (Beginners welcome!).
Bring your own materials. **Event free.**
(Refreshments available from the church cafe).
Contact Wendy:- wjcarter1759@hotmail.com

Sunday 2pm - 4pm
Painting and Drawing at Harlow Cottage,
Habberley Rd. Pontesbury.

Bring your own materials. (If wet...interiors!).
Limited Parking.
Any questions to Gill 01743 790430

Some perks of getting old

- *There is nothing left to learn the hard way.*
- *Things you buy now won't wear out.*
- *You can eat supper at 4 pm.*
- *You get into heated arguments about pension plans*
- *You can sing along with lift music.*
- *Your eyes won't get much worse.*
- *Your secrets are safe with your friends - because they can't remember them either.*

World War II Memories

My father Bert Evans was born in a cottage up Pontesbury Hill next to the quarry.

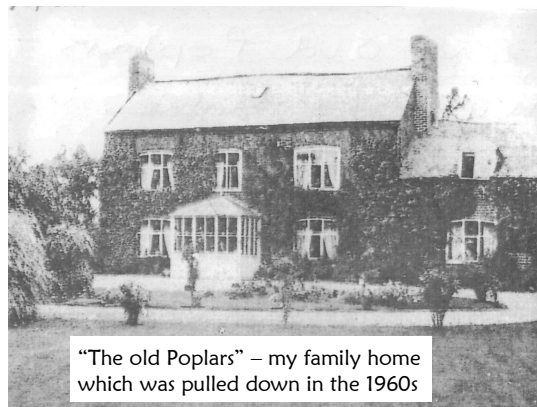


When he was 17 his father was killed by a lorry whilst cycling up Malehurst Bank. At 19 he was enlisted in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and trained for war. He was housed at The Maltings in Shrewsbury where the rats ran over him at night.

He was at the D Day landings; he and his friend were running up the beach when his friend was killed; my father was injured.

I didn't see him until I was two years old because he stayed in Germany to clear up. Returning, we stayed at The Poplars, Minsterley, with family.

My father was a talented musician. After the war he formed a dance band called The Jolly Boys and they played in village halls all over Shropshire.



"The old Poplars" – my family home which was pulled down in the 1960s

He was a quiet man, never talking of the war until he was old. My mother said the experience changed him for the rest of his life.

Cherrie Evans

P.S. A cousin in my mother's family traced our family tree back to the Middle Ages. The Bath Arms, formerly The Angel, was owned by the family until the 1930s. In the 1800s Lord Bath presented the family with a stag's head for being the oldest family in Minsterley. My cousin Clare Hargreaves now has it! I am the only relative living in Minsterley now.



April and May have been busy for the Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group - three fully booked events, two monthly walks and one community event. We'd like to start by thanking the Friends of Pontesford and Earl's Hill for our joint 'Wildflower Walk' at the base of Earl's Hill. Led by local botanist Kat Edwards-White, 15 people enjoyed learning about the wildflowers and botanical highlights of this well-loved local nature reserve. Our Bat Walks, led by ecologist Ben Holloway, have proved to be incredibly popular with participants given hands on experience using electronic bat detectors to listen to the bats use their echolocation as they flew overhead.

Our two monthly walks at Brockton and Poles Coppice were well attended and show that the enthusiasm for nature and wildlife in general is quite high in the Rea Valley area. These walks are free to attend, and no booking is required, a

meeting place is listed, and people are encouraged to join in as little or as much as they want. The idea is to share our knowledge and enthusiasm with each other as we explore our surrounding habitats.

We also want to thank Clive and Gill Whitall for inviting us to the 'Go Wild in Worthen' event which was a resounding success. Many different organisations and groups came together to share our passion for nature with the local community. With prizes and competitions, tea, and cakes and plenty of activities for everyone it was a lovely event, and we look forward to attending next year!

Laura Edwards-White





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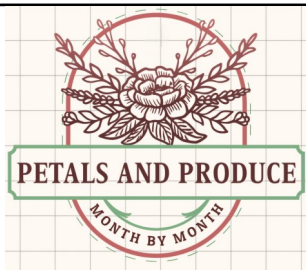
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Hello loves, June is upon us already and it's all starting to come together now.

Recent jaunts to the garden centres and trying the local coffee supplies has been a must over the last month. What kind of gardener would I be if I wasn't up to date with the latest trends? Last seasons fork? I think not!

June is a busy time in the garden. The nights should now be frost-free, and the days are long, which gives you plenty of time to get on with the jobs that need doing. There are lots of jobs to do, including planting courgettes, runner beans, and watering during hot spells.

Now's the time to plant out young plants of runner beans, French beans, courgettes, pumpkins, squashes and sweetcorn, plus outdoor tomatoes and cucumbers. You can also plant out Brussels sprouts, cabbages, cauliflowers and celeriac.

I hope you also manage to sit back and take in the fruits of your labours; now's the time to start enjoying your harvests - peas should be ready now, as should gooseberries and strawberries plus salads, beetroot and radishes. Stop harvesting asparagus this month.

Remember to take time to enjoy your efforts with a tall glass of something cold and refreshing. Looking up at blue skies that seem to last forever. Until next time darlings.

Laura Davies

amateur gardener, part time taxidermist
and eye patch model



Spring into the Garden *Pontesbury Festival Edition*

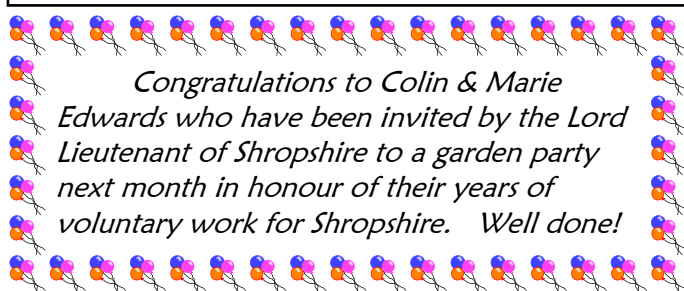
This year's event has been moved from its usual May date to Thursday 26th June to support the Pontesbury Festival which is being held over the following weekend. Doors open at the earlier time of 7pm and, as usual, entry and refreshments are free of charge; there is however a receptacle for donations in lieu of a charge and all proceeds will be passed on to the Severn Hospice.

As well as the usual plant sales there will be flower baskets and troughs, jams and chutneys, cards and garden storage units as well as a small selection of goods from the Trading Post. For more details, please ask at the Trading Post on Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 12 noon.

At the end of the evening you may want to go on to the music event at the Nag's Head which is also part of the Festival.

Rob Dixon

robedixon@btopenworld.com



Congratulations to Colin & Marie Edwards who have been invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire to a garden party next month in honour of their years of voluntary work for Shropshire. Well done!

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Open: Tuesday 9am-3pm

Wednesday 9am-6pm

Thursday 9am-9pm (late night!)

Friday 9am-4pm

Appointments advisable: call 01743 792548 or drop in.

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

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

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e-mail: suexjohnson@gmail.com**



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I am writing on behalf of my mother
Janet Gittins.

Janet Gittins would like to thank the
community, family and friends for all the
cards, flowers and well wishes received since
the sad passing of her son Steven.

Can a special thanks be given to Claire
in the village who provided beautiful flowers
for the ceremony.

Thank you

Kind Regards

Claire Bennett



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SATURDAY, 26TH JULY AT THE CROWN & SCEPTRE
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For anyone planning their future....

A useless life is only an early death.

- Johannes Von Goethe

What makes life dreary is absence of motive. What
makes life complicated is multiplicity of motive.

What makes life victorious is singleness of motive.

- George Eliot

Make sure the thing you are living for is worth
dying for.

- Charles Mayes



National Trust

STEPPING STONES SHROPSHIRE HILLS

Come learn about this vital nature
conservation project in our beautiful
Shropshire Hills from project
manager Charlie Bell.

OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

 **Wednesday**
18 June 2025

 **Time**
2.00 PM

 **Minsterley Parish Hall**
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available
 pontesbury.u3asite.uk

learn,
laugh,
live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a warmly invites both members and non-members to our Open Meeting on the 18th June 2025. We are excited to welcome project manager Charlie Brown from the Stepping Stones Project in the Shropshire Hills, who will discuss this important nature conservation initiative.

The Stepping Stones Project spans over 200 km² in the Shropshire Hills, focused on creating larger, improved spaces for wildlife and communities, interconnected by wildlife 'corridors.' This involves collaboration with farmers, landowners, community groups, and volunteers to develop and link heathlands, meadows, woodlands, and wetlands, while fostering opportunities for people to engage with nature and each other. Charlie will share insights into the project's necessity, achievements and future plans.

Following the talk, refreshments will be provided, offering a chance to catch up or learn more about our u3a.

Our u3a is part of a UK charity dedicated to bringing together individuals not in full-time employment for enjoyable learning or active experiences. We are local, friendly, and affordable, featuring over 20 interest groups covering a variety of activities, including history, literature and geology to walking, cycling, pickleball and table tennis.

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SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

www.shropshirehct.org.uk

RIDE+STRIDE - Saturday 13th September

Ride+Stride is an opportunity for you to raise money for your Church. Anyone can join in - collect sponsors, then plan your own route (walk, bike, or car), visit some churches and enjoy the day. If you are busy on the 13th go another day - which is what a lot of people do.

The sponsorship money is split 50/50 between your local Church and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), which awards grants for repairs and improvements to Churches and Chapels. So 100% goes to our places of worship. This is definitely a 'Good Thing.'

'Ride+Stride' is a National event planned by the National Churches Trust, and Shropshire is pleased to join in. The basic idea is twofold:

- Churches are open for visitors on Saturday 13th Sept from about 10am - 6pm, ideally with light refreshments.
- Anyone can visit as few or as many churches as they wish.

Go anywhere - on foot, by bike, or by car - using our sponsorship form to collect sponsorship for your church and for the Trust.

R+S is not an event where church visits are centrally organised; we do not have a 'central team' that plans any walks or rides or drives. No - it's something that Churches can do for themselves. And you can do it for your Church.

The Sponsorship Form is on our website www.shropshirehct.org.uk. Or contact me and I will get one to you. You can still go and visit other churches, even if your own church is closed. Visiting is important; otherwise, the event will cease. The county raised £38,446 last year - a record!

This event has enormous potential - Dorset raised £98,629 last September. My cousin lives there and I'd love to catch up!

David Hardham
County Organiser
shrops.ridestride@gmail.com
01588 650362.



**Shropshire
Hills
National
Landscape**

Public Consultation – new 5-year Plan to set future direction for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape

Thriving in Balance with Nature – the new 5-year Plan aims to set a sustainable future direction for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (used to be called Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty, or AONB).

The draft plan is out for consultation from May to the end of July. Your parish is wholly or partly within the National Landscape. The Plan sets out local priorities as well as taking account of influences from outside the area including global environmental change and national policies. It aims to influence and guide landowners, organisations and individuals on a wide range of topics by setting out how to best manage the Shropshire Hills landscape. It includes policies to influence decisions which affect the area, and identifies actions for partners to deliver.

The new Plan is built around six priority themes:

- Restoring our NATURE and regenerating natural processes
- Building CLIMATE resilience and decarbonising urgently
- Managing and looking after our WATER – which supports all life
- Nurturing our LAND and living healthy soil – so it can sustain us
- Healthy PEOPLE connected to nature – in vibrant communities and as welcome visitors
- Valuing and caring for the Shropshire Hills as a special PLACE

Comments are invited through this period (May -July).

Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team

Unit 5 Drovers House, The Auction Yard,
Craven Arms, SY7 9BZ

telephone: 01743 254740,

email: shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk

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Saturday

From September 2024

A big thank you

Herbie, Dawn, David and family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and words, many sympathy cards, and attendance at the funeral of Yetta. Special thanks also to Phil Morris and his family for taking care of the arrangements, Rev Fran and Rev Greg for the lovely service, to Debbie for playing the organ so beautifully and to Joyce for tending to the church.

Donations were gratefully received to the sum of over £600 that has been shared between Hope Church and the British Heart Foundation.

many thanks

Herbie



Mary wished she'd never mentioned
Fresh Expressions of Church

*Genetics explains why you look like your father,
and if you don't, why you should.*

The Centenary of

Minsterley Methodist Church



10am services

- 1st June. Preacher – Mr Peter Green
- 8th June. Preacher – Mrs Fay Spencer
- 15th June. Minsterley Praise at Holy Trinity –
10.30am.
- 22nd June. Preacher – Rev John Chesworth. Service
will include Holy Communion.
- 29th June. Preacher – Mr Mike Hallworth

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



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Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

June 1st Dr. John Woolley.
June 15th Sheila Macnally

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 service:

10.30am Sunday 29th June - Benefice group Holy Communion

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 22nd 5.00pm Holy Communion



Hope & Shelve Parish

Church Warden

Barbara Venables

Secretary

Sara Young

Treasurer

Kevin Bowers

Refreshments are served at all our services !

Holy Trinity Church Hope

Sunday 22nd June 9.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th 10.30am Group Communion at
St Luke's Snailbeach



All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 1st June

9.00am

Holy Communion

Sunday 15th

9.00am

Morning Prayer

Sunday 29th

10.30am

Group Communion at
St Luke's Snailbeach



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Holy Trinity Church

HTM

JUNE SERVICES

10.30am

1st June	Tea Time Church (4pm)
8th June	Holy Communion
15th June	Minsterley Praise
22nd June	Holy Communion
29th June	Group Service

at St Luke's Church, Snailbeach

Contact Rev'd Greg Smith
rectorpontstip@gmail.com
07902 794653
www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk



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