

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:

Snailbeach, Habberley, Hope & Shelve





Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



Rector: Rev. Greg Smith
(day off - Friday)
The Deanery, Pontesbury
07902 794653
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Associate Minister: Rev. Fran Brealey
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07982 324760
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Church Wardens
Susan Lockwood 07854 110271
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

Treasurer
Mike Bowen 07826 061054
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Church services this month

Sunday 5th	10.30pm	Harvest celebration at St Lukes Snailbeach
	4.00pm	Tea-time service
Sunday 12th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	10.30am	Minsterley Praise
Sunday 26th	10.30am	Holy Communion

For details of all the harvest events in our
churches please see poster on page 27

Weekly events in the church (see back cover)

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

Other events this month

Thu 2nd	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p17)
	Alpha course (EVERY Thursday) (p3)
Sat 4th	Hope Apple Day (p6)
	Parish Harvest Supper (p30)
Fri 10th	Hope & Shelve Harvest Supper (p30)
Sat 11th	Harvest sing-a-long (p4)
Mon 13th	Crafty Monday (p17)
Tues 14th	Oasis meeting (p17)
	Ichthus Bible study (p8)
	Parish Council meeting (p11)
Wed 15th	u3a Open Meeting (p27)
Sat 18th	Wildlife Group walk (p27)
Tues 21st	The Gathering (p4)
Sat 25th	Final opening of Trading Post (p9)
Tues 28th	Oasis meeting (p17)
	Ichthus Bible Study (p8)
Wed 29th	"Wind in the Willows" starts (p13)
Sat 1st Nov	Autumn church & grounds tidy up (p3)
	All Souls' service (p25)

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

Copy date is the 20th of the preceding month

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

e-mail: MinsterleyParishMagazine@gmail.com

To advertise: see details on page 19

During October we will be celebrating Harvest in our churches, both at our services and as we enjoy Harvest Lunches and Suppers. Special care will be taken in decorating our buildings with fruit, flowers and vegetables, and we will sing the old favourites, 'We Plough the Fields' and 'Come Ye thankful People Come!'.

It is one of the joys of living in a rural area that we are very aware of the appearance of the fields changing through the year, as they are ploughed, planted and harvested. Farmers in our communities, whether they are growing crops or managing stock, have to cope with the vagaries of the weather and the markets to produce what we eat and use. Harvest is a time to give thanks for the business of farming, in all its variety, and to pray for those involved in it. We may sing 'all is safely gathered in', but the work doesn't stop with the Harvest.

Our Harvest events also remind us that God is the creator of all that grows, and all that is harvested. The Bible describes this in the poem that is the first chapter of Genesis. It depicts a world that is desolate and chaotic being brought into beautiful order as God speaks things into being. What God makes is very good. God gives names to light and day, moon and stars, just as later the human will give names to the animals and birds. Adam's role is to govern or manage creation on God's behalf, so that all the world may be blessed.

At Messy Church last month at Holy Trinity Minsterley we thought about the harvest which is described in the book of Ruth. Rich farmer Boaz complies with God's law and leaves some of his crop at the edges of his fields for the poor of the community to collect or 'glean'. As a result the destitute woman Ruth is able to feed herself and her mother in law. Notice Boaz doesn't give his leftovers, the gleaning takes place while the harvest is still going on, and Boaz does not yet know how much he will make for himself.

What might the concept of gleaning look like for us? Might it mean deciding how much to give away first, before all our other needs and wants crowd in? Might it mean adding some tins for the foodbank to our basket before we get to the checkout? Or setting aside some time each week to help others, before our diary fills up?

One of the Harvest songs sung in primary schools is the Harvest Samba, and it sums up these two themes of thankfulness and sharing very well. Google it if you haven't heard it, it's great fun!

*Cabbages and greens, broccoli and beans,
Cauliflower and roasted potatoes,
taste so good to me!
Apricots and plums, ripened in the sun,
Oranges and yellow bananas,
good for everyone!
It's another Harvest Festival,
when we bring our fruit and vegetables,
'Cause we want to share the best of all,
the good things we've been given.
It's another opportunity
to be grateful for the food we eat,
with a celebration to say '
thank you' to God the Father.*

Rev Fran

**Ever wondered what
life is all about?**

Alpha

**Alpha is a safe space
to talk about faith and life's big
questions.**

No judgement, no pressure.

**Thursdays October 2nd 9th 16th 23rd
November 6th 13th**

**12.30 - 2.00pm
at Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley**

**A free lunch is included.
We're sorry we're not able to provide
childcare.**

**For more info contact:
Greg 07902 794653 or Fran 07982 324760**

Autumn Tidy Up at Church

It's the annual autumn tidy up at HTM on Saturday 1st November from 10am. We'll be cleaning the church and sorting out the churchyard ready for winter. There's lots to do so we need volunteers to come armed with tools and cleaning implements! As always there'll be refreshments to keep us going. Please speak to Sarah if you need any information. Thank you.

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

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

Dear Friends,

face whatever changes have come or are coming your way.

With love in Christ,

Rev Stephen Griffiths
Ford Church Group

*Simple joys are holy
If you want your dream to be.
Take your time, go slowly.
Do few things but do them well.
Heartfelt work grows purely.
If you want to live life free
Take your time go slowly.
Do few things but do them well.
Heartfelt work grows purely.
Day by day, stone by stone
Build your secret slowly.
Day by day, you'll grow too.
You'll know heaven's glory.
If you want to live life free
Take your time go slowly.
If you want your dream to be
Take your time, go slowly.*

'Little Church' (Donovan Leitch)

It is very good to be here in Pontesbury Deanery as Rector of the Ford Group of Parishes. Thank you for your warm welcome. We (me and Cally and our children Jonathan, Alex and Lizzie) are settling in well and enjoying exploring the local area. Before moving here we lived in Oakham, Rutland, where I was Team Rector of a rural group of parishes and the small county town of Oakham. We have exchanged one lovely part of England for another, and I am grateful for the opportunity to live and serve in another rural setting. As some of you may know I have a dual role as Assistant Archdeacon of Ludlow. The role has been designed so that I can play a full part in the life of Pontesbury Deanery without any Archdeaconry duties here. Family life and ministry keep me busy, but when I have spare time I usually do something related to music, gardening, pubs, or walking.

The past few weeks have been a series of 'firsts' - first Sunday in the new parishes, first day at a new school for the children, first Deanery Synod, first visit to Hignett's, etc. There is a joy in new experiences but also a challenge - forming new relationships and finding new patterns of life take time. It takes a while to get used to new journeys and adapt to what God provides in the next season of life (whether that is a move or a change in circumstances, health, relationships or work). At Ford Church we have a lovely quiet Morning Prayer on Wednesdays (9am) using the Northumbria Community liturgy. Today's meditation helped me take stock of all this. So I share this with you as your



We plough the fields and scatter, Come ye thankful people come
Bringing in the sheaves

**Come and enjoy a
Harvest Sing Along 11am
with a Soup & Pud lunch to follow.**

Minsterley Methodist Church
Saturday October 11th

We will be collecting for the
local food bank, you are
welcome to bring items along.



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 21st October,
7.30 p.m. start**

 Marton Village Hall

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”

D. R. Congo – At least 34 killed in church attack

A Christian community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is grieving after at least 34 people were killed in an Islamist attack on a church in the north-eastern province of Ituri in the early hours of Sunday 27th July. Fighters from Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) launched an armed assault on the church building in the village of Komanda at 1am, where the congregation was meeting for a late-night service. The terrorists set fire to the building along with houses and shops in the village.

This massacre is only the latest carried out by ISCAP, who have killed at least 389 Christians in north-eastern DRC since Christmas 2024. Reports by the Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC) show that the terrorist group had already slaughtered at least 45 Christians across Ituri throughout July.

According to one of ISCAP's published claims on Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) social media channels, the worst atrocity took place in “the Christian village of Kateria” on 10th July when fighters “captured and slaughtered 17 Christians, praise be to God.”

Syria – Pastor among at least twelve Christians killed in Sweida province

In mid-July a pastor was among a group of Christians killed in Sweida province, southern Syria by Islamists loyal to the government in Damascus. Sources confirmed that at between 12 - 20 believers were killed in this incident. More than 1,120 people died in sectarian violence that raged across the province for over a week.

The violence in Sweida first broke out on 13th July between the Sunni-majority Bedouin tribal group and the Druze, an Islamic sect regarded as heretical by many Sunnis. Syria's transitional government deployed the Armed Forces to the region supposedly to restore peace. These forces are alleged to have carried out attacks on civilians, including the unlawful execution of 83 Druze as well as the killing of the believers at the Church of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Indonesia – Two children hurt in Islamist attack on Sunday school; Seven arrests after Christian retreat disrupted

Two incidents of Christian meetings being disrupted by Islamists in different parts of Indonesia are reported. Two children were injured after a group of Muslims attacked a building where a Sunday school class was being held at Padang Sarai Village, West Sumatra province on Sunday 27th July. “Some 30 children attending the Sunday school were left traumatised by the sudden attack,” said Pastor Fatiaro Dachi.

Video footage captured a group of men entering the building armed with knives and sticks. The assailants ordered the children and their accompanying parents to disperse, shouting, “Destroy everything!”

Two children, aged 11 and 9, were struck with wooden sticks, and were taken to hospital for treatment. “They smashed glass windows, broke chairs, and damaged items inside the prayer house,” said Pastor Dachi.

West Sumatra Police announced the arrest of nine suspects, all of whom were identified from the video of the attack that was circulating on social media. One month earlier, police detained seven Muslims accused of disrupting a retreat for 36 Christian students in West Java province, further south, and vandalising the premises. The suspects were arrested on 30th June. They are alleged to have been prominent among a larger mob that broke up the retreat in Kampung Tangki, Sukabumi regency, three days earlier.

West Java Police said that the mob had caused extensive damage, including vandalising a cross. They estimated the cost of the damage at 50,000,000 Indonesian rupiah (£2,280). West Java Governor Dedi Mulyadi labelled the actions of the suspects “serious crimes”, and called on the public to respect one another's differences.

In recent years, the government of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, has sought to combat Islamist extremism and promote religious tolerance.

Ride & Stride Saturday 13th September

The story in numbers: 13 people from our parish visited 11 churches, of 6 denominations, in Shrewsbury; walking more than 6 miles in 6 hours and raising over £370 to be shared between our church and the Historic Churches Trust.

No data available about the number of cakes eaten, but the picture shows our welcome at the United Reformed Church at English Bridge

Well done - and thank you to our sponsors.

Sarah Edwards



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It is getting harder to find a courteous person who isn't trying to sell you something.

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president, and fifty for Miss America?

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SATURDAY 4th October

12 – 4pm

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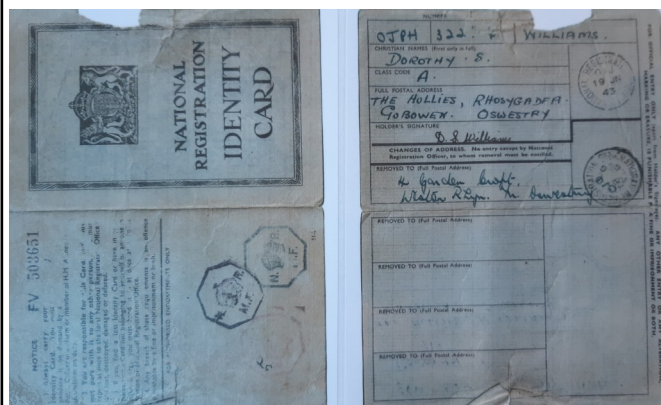
HOPE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

World War 2 and recipes (!)

A huge thank you to all who contributed to the series of memories from the second world war. The editor has four more items in store for the remaining months of this year

It has been suggested that we run a series on seasonal recipes during 2026. If you would like to submit a recipe please do so -- and maybe suggest which month you would choose.

Far be it from the editor to suggest that you send a sample with your recipe, but it might guarantee that yours gets published if he likes what he eats (only joking).



The World War 2 identity card belonging to Daphne Williams' mother-in-law.

(See article opposite which consists of diary entries by her father. Daphne is a member of St George's church Pontesbury).

World War II Memories

10 December 1942 (6 months after his wedding):

I am afraid the news I have is not too good. I shall be coming on leave on the 21st for ten days, but after that shall not be able to come for some time-----. I don't suppose I need to say more; it came to us this evening as a bolt from the blue, although rumours have been running riot nearly all day. I thought you would like to know as soon as possible in order to get used to the idea. Naturally I wish the news hadn't arrived quite so soon after our marriage, but fortunately we had both accepted the idea that it had to come sooner or later. I feel terribly sorry for poor K. (Kathleen, my mother) but know that you will look after her for me until I get back – which after all should not be too long.

30 April 1945

No doubt you people are as much on your toes as we are out here wondering exactly what the next broadcast will bring forth. The news these days is certainly pretty momentous and I really think it may be only a matter of days before the war in this theatre is really over. At the moment I am pretty well back and every day brings in some fresh manoeuvre(?). On two successive days now we had heard that all organised resistance has ceased! When it actually does we shan't believe it. In any case if we are still in this particular part of the plain we shall have to celebrate very soberly as wine seems very scarce. Even the civilians have to queue up for it.

What do you think of the way they despatched Mussolini? I thought it typically Italian. As a nation they have no sense of self-restraint at all and are viciously cruel. For instance nothing amuses them more than to soak rats & mice in petrol & fire them. In the desert our men would always rather be taken prisoner by Jerry as then they knew they would get proper treatment. However it has saved the War Crimes Comm. a big headache.

P.S. Am told that according to the 6pm news there is now only scattered fighting in Italy. Am for the present treating it with reserve!

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:- "I certify on my honour that the content of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters." Signature JR Lawrence

14 May 1945

So the war is over in Europe. I wonder what sort of celebrations you have been having in? Unfortunately there is very little vino just here although we send transport up into the hills in Yugoslavia for it. Anyhow we had enough to drink

one or two toasts on VE Day. In the evening all went to a civilian dance which was enjoyable.

There was another dance last night, with our regimental dance band. I was on guard so only had a chance to look in for 5 mins. They erected a sectional floor and had balloons & electric lights strung from trees and it looked quite pretty.

This morning we had a thanksgiving service and Communion, as perhaps you did too. We are all rather interested to hear what Winnie will have to say tonight. We hope he will say something about demobbing. The Yanks have announced their European plans already. In the next 9 months they will withdraw 2½ of their 3 million troops.

We have just heard that there is now no regimental censorship on letters. Actually it will not make much difference to mine, as I am quite well stocked with the Triangle type.

23 May 1945

We have had one or two lectures by the Army Educational Corps. This morning there was one on Post-War Planning. The only result so far is that at 1pm today, we heard that Winnie has resigned. As yet of course we don't know quite what to make of it. A few days ago we had a lecture on demobbing by our colonel; am afraid he did not paint a very rosy picture for us. Contrary to what the press has said it will be over six months & probably nine, before my class, No.26, comes out. That is what one gets for volunteering at the beginning! But, we have been assured that we shall not be going East, but will stay in S. Europe until our actual demob date. We have also had a lecture on what is for us, another topical subject, Yugoslavia.

Last night there was a film show here. I arrived rather late & did not see the film showing conditions in the Nazi Conc. Camps. Afterwards there was a terrific argument over it in our room, as to whether it should be shown to the public or not.

3 Feb 1946

All being well, this will be my last letter to you before coming home. I am hoping to travel some time next week.

We are in rather a muddle with our money at the moment, as we understand that the lira is being devalued tomorrow from 400 to 900 to the £. If the prices keep stable soldiers out here should gain on it – except we who are due to come home, who will lose over half of what we have in our packets when we change it into sterling. My own loss will not be more than about £2.

With any luck, I shall be seeing you shortly after your receipt of this, so until then cheerio!

Daphne Williams

Worthen works wonders at Children's Church Summer Club

Like many churches in the diocese, All Saints Worthen held a holiday club over the summer break, for local children, run by Ann Jones and daughter Vicky who is training for ordination. The six week programme called "One Body" aimed to show how we are all one body in fellowship and faith. Besides the immediate benefits to the children, it has resulted in a new weekly church group for young teens.

Says Ann, "We talked about our feet, our hands, our eyes, our ears and how we can use them to do good in so many ways. We enjoyed a wide range of crafts – often the messier the better! We sang accompanied by percussion instruments and shared lunch each week with a few treats always on offer which the parents helped prepare and serve.

"It was such a rewarding time for us all - Vicky and I enjoyed it as much as the children. The mums, a dad or two and one grandad joined in also. Hannah, one of the parents, said, "I appreciate the warm welcome and how much me and the kids are made to feel at home in the Church." For us this is what it is all about. During the six weeks, a churchyard clear up was organised and some of the families came along to help. We trusted a few boys to paint our churchyard bench who were very proud of the result and their mum said that they would always remember being trusted to do that.

"The most exciting thing to happen, though, was being approached by a few older children who are getting a little bit old for the younger activities. They wanted a Club of their own, and last week we hosted eight of them in church for the first of a monthly get together for children aged 10-14. Altogether it has been a very fruitful Summer, and we are going into the Autumn optimistic that our regular Children's Church will continue being a blessing."

**Hereford diocese weekly eNews bulletin
11th September**

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.
- *Dr Seuss*

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.
- *Billy Graham*

Hope is the foundation of patience.
- *John Calvin*

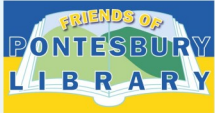
Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too.
- *Lionel Kauffman*

I believe every Christian has a choice between being humble and being humbled.
- *C H Spurgeon*

We play the game; God keeps the score.
- *Erwin W Lutzer*

A talk by celebrated Wildlife Photographer
Ben Osborne

Polar Journeys







Join Ben on a journey to the ends of the earth, with breathtaking images and captivating stories from his adventures in the Arctic and Antarctic. A visual experience not to be missed!

Saturday
22 NOV
7.30pm

PONTESBURY PUBLIC HALL

TICKETS £10 (under 16s £5)
from Hignetts, Pontesbury Library and TicketSource

BAR OPEN

FOPL: Raising funds to support Pontesbury Library

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**
Psalm 119 : 105

ICHTHUS



The Autumn 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 on Tuesday afternoons.

Liz Jackson 01743 791352

October 14th	The Blessing Snailbeach	Luke 18:1 - 8 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5
October 28th	Brookfield Waterwheel	Luke 6:20-31 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-end



Craft & Flower Show

The hot dry summer resulted in poor growing conditions for most gardeners so it was encouraging that so many managed to produce such good specimens for our Show on 23rd August. The overall number of entries was lower than in previous years but some categories showed an encouraging increase. The Floral Art (Flower Arranging) class saw such an increase and it was good to see some new names among the exhibitors. The Craft side also showed some ups and downs in numbers but there was an impressive number of paintings and photographs on display.

Our President, Bill Neil, commented on the recently re-introduced Beginners' Classes, saying that it was through these that he and his wife, Chris, started their interest and participation in flower shows, and he hoped that others would follow the same route. It is hoped that some of those who visited in the afternoon will come back next year to show their gardening or craft skills; some of the winners this year did just that!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Trading Post and remind you that we will be closing for the winter at the end of October, and reopening on the first Saturday in February. The Trading Post is situated in the Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30am to 12 noon.

Rob Dixon
robedixon@btopenworld.com



Winners of trophies were:

Best Exhibit, Flower Section	Betton Lakelin Cup	Julie Owen
Most Points, Flower Section	Baker Yates Cup	Julie Owen
Best Exhibit, Sweet Peas	Dot & Des Evans Memorial	Dave Perry
Best Exhibit, one Fuchsia	The Holyoak Cup	Dave Perry
Best Exhibit, Petite Exhibit	Joan Jones Cup	Julia Morris
Best Exhibit, Floral Art Section	Banksian Medal	Debbie Harris
Most Points, Floral Art Section	David & Ann Cup	Debbie Harris
Best Exhibit, Vegetable Section	Bill Stephens Cup	Dave Perry
Best Vegetable Exhibit	N.V.S. Medal	Dave Perry
Most Points, Vegetable Section	Bennett Cup	Dave Perry
Most Points, Flower and Veg Sections	Barnett Cup	Dave Perry
Best Exhibit, Fruit Section	Jack Newnes Cup	Terence Lewis
Most Points, Cookery Section	The Committee Award	Margaret Mitton
Best Exhibit, Handicraft Section	The Hignett Award	Leigh Howard
Most Points, Needlework	The Jean Swann Cup	Leigh Howard
Best Exhibit Item carved from wood	The Shropshire Woodcarvers' Club Perpetual Trophy	Phil Cross
Best Exhibit, Painting or Sketch	E & J Simpson Perpetual Trophy	Tanya Yates
Best Exhibit, Photography	John Lakelin Award	Lorna Howland

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Minsterley Parish Council

At the beginning of the September meeting, members remembered and recalled the life of Bronwen Evans who had served on the Council for many years. Her contribution to the Parish has been exceptional.

Planning – The three Parish Councils of the Rea Valley have forwarded their comments on the proposed development at Lower Edgebold. All are concerned regarding the increase in traffic at the Edgebold roundabout, and also how cyclists will navigate the area.

The Parish is waiting to hear from Highways regarding their plans for the damaged roundabout in The Square. It has been agreed not to plant the area this Autumn due to its uncertain future.

Due to the financial difficulties at Shropshire Council the Parish will ask if any of the flooding problem areas identified by the Flood Action Group for improvement works will be carried out by Shropshire Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Tuesday 14th October in Minsterley Parish Hall.

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

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

MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw 34	20 th August	Colin Edwards
Draw 35	27 th August	Miriam Nichol
Draw 36	3 rd September	David Wainwright
Draw 37	10 th September	Christine Parry

To Join – Telephone 791508 or 791466.
£1 per week – 50% paid out in Prize Money.
50% helps to run the Parish Church.

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

A lady was describing the small attendance at her local church. "We were so few last Sunday that when the vicar began 'Dearly beloved,' I blushed."

Asked to name one of the Ten Commandments, one little girl replied: "Do not admit adultery."

Bronwen Evans - a reflection



Reflecting on the life of Bronwen Evans, we recall the public service she has given over many decades to the residents and Parish of Minsterley.

Bronwen served on the Parish Council, as Chair and Vice Chair for many years, working together with five Clerks during that period. Her commitment to the Parish was always 100%.

For 43 years she served as a member on the Parish Hall Committee, many as General Secretary, during which time the Hall went through major refurbishment.

The Eisteddfod was also a large part of her public service which she always enjoyed. As organist and an active member of the Congregational Church, she gave time and commitment to the work of the church.

Bronwen found giving and not receiving was a gift, which we all know she carried out with great energy and enthusiasm. Rest in Peace Bronwen, the Parish of Minsterley will miss you as a friend, neighbour and a steward of the community.

Geoff Rogers



Stuart Carter
at
Habberley Village Hall
7.00pm Friday 7th November

An evening of songs
some old, some new, some to make you
smile, or wonder, or sing along.
Light refreshments will be on sale during the evening

Tickets £8 (in aid of St Mary's Church)
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or email: sccarter5867@hotmail.co.uk



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One year of our Foodbank being run by local people for local people

A year has passed since we decided to go independent and run the foodbank ourselves. Previously the Barnabas Centre brought us food parcels and took back food donated locally. We really couldn't have got this far without the help of people across the Rea Valley. We do appreciate your support and want to thank everyone, including:

All those who donate food and other items, the schools and churches who give from Harvest Festival celebrations, as well as the GP practice staff who've donated items at Christmas.

The people who give every month from their bank account. This is a vital source of income which enables us to buy items that are responsive to our users' needs.

Our Parish Councils, local organisations and charities and others who have given the proceeds from amazing fundraising efforts.

The hosts of the food collection points: Pontesbury Co-op and Longden Village Stores, and the great team at Worthen Village Hall.

The shops who accept our Christmas vouchers – Gawain at Smith's the Butchers, and the team at Hignett's, as well as One Stop at Pontesbury, who are so helpful to our volunteers.

Those that refer people in need to us - local clergy, schools and nurseries, GP practices and housing providers, plus people in the community who spread the word about our service.

Finally, we also want to thank two further groups of people, without whom the Foodbank would not exist;

First our fantastic team of volunteers who open up the Foodbank every week at our two venues and deliver to those who are housebound.

They also beaver away behind the scenes, running the store, purchasing food, keeping track of the money, and attending volunteer and committee meetings.

And most importantly all those who come across the threshold to use the foodbank, and stay for a coffee and chat. We understand how difficult it can be to take that first step. We really do appreciate your kind words and support, and the introductions to others who you know are facing difficult times.

To use the Foodbank, or find out more: Call Greg Smith (07902 794653) or Richard (07922 830488), see Facebook or our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/>.



Jean Garner

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS by Alan Bennett

Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform *The Wind in the Willows* on Wednesday 29th October to Saturday 1st November at 7.30pm and a matinee on Saturday 1st November at 2.30pm, at our usual venue, St. Nicholas' Hall.

Ever since the publication of Kenneth Grahame's novel in 1908 the characters of Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger have delighted generations of readers. Now Alan Bennett has written an adaptation for the stage, a version which is both true to the original and yet carries the distinctive Bennett hallmark.

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

Robert Currie
01743 790 123

Bible Readings in Holy Trinity Church Minsterley this month

5th October	Habakkuk 1v1-4;2v1-4	2 Timothy 1v1-14	Luke 17v5-10
12th October	2 Kings 5v1-3,7-15	2 Timothy 2v8-15	Luke 17v11-19
19th October	Psalms 121	2 Timothy 3v14 - 4v5	Luke 18v1-8
26th October	Psalms 119v129-136	Romans 15v1-6	Luke 13v16-24

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Puzzle Page

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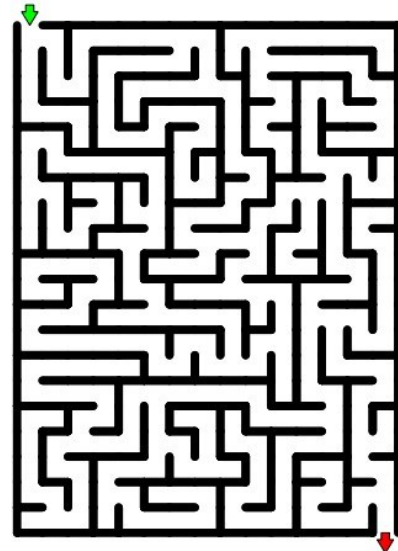
Wordsearch on St Andrew (Feast Day 30th November)

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

Andrew was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time, Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the prophet John the Baptist. When one day John pointed Jesus out to Andrew and his friend, and described Him as the 'Lamb of God', the



"Good news on the lottery-funding for the organ repairs, Vicar - three of our numbers came up for £25!"



two young men realised that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So, as Jesus made off, they followed Him.

When Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about His current place of residence: "where are you staying"

The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: "Come and see." So they did, and the results of their response were life changing. For Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus and soon the little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was formed. And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

Andrew
Patron
Saint
Scotland
Fife
First
Disciple
John
Baptist
Lamb
God
Followed
Jesus
Come
See
Peter
Apostolic
Band
Message
World

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J	E	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	D	A
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C	I	L	O	T	S	O	P	A	A	G

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5.30 pm

MINSTERLEY

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Wendy 07734218169 xx



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Answers

2	6	5	1	9	7	8	4	3
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P F I E W L A M B D
 N A D E I R E J E S W I
 J S M W I R D S I E S O I
 P O I R R O N U T A R L B
 C R H E O N I A S E G L
 P A T N I A S E G L
 J E F O L L O W E D A
 I E S B A P T I S T A P
 S R N T N O R T A P D
 I E L P I C S I D W O
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SHREWSBURY RURAL WEST

Safer Neighbourhood team

(covers Minsterley)

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

Facebook: [Bishops Castle Policing Team Rural Watch](https://www.facebook.com/BishopsCastlePolicingTeamRuralWatch)

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

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

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE 16th July 2025 – 15th September 2025

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Public order offence		Stapeley	
Assault		Chirbury	
Theft	Graham Edwards small stock trailer and red diesel stolen	Marton	overnight 9 th – 10 th Sept
Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug	Cannabis farm		Two persons arrested
Public nuisance		Marton	
Taking vehicle without permission		Bishop's Castle	Suspect identified
Interfering with mail		Hope	
Stalking		Churchstoke	
Criminal damage	Persons unknown have entered field and mutilated a ewe, sheep have previously been located with missing body parts	Black Marsh	4 th – 7 th August
Harassment		Snailbeach	
Burglary	Tools stolen from property being renovated	Rowley	16:00 – 16:30 21 st July
Criminal damage	Trees chopped down	Snailbeach	

On 15th September seven men who were part of a gang that have plagued the area were sentenced to a total of more than 25 years for their part in rural thefts and burglaries across Powys and south Shropshire. Farms were the main target, with agricultural equipment such as tractors, ATV's, quad bikes, trailers and 4x4 pick-ups being stolen. The thefts were carried out in rural locations and often under the cover of darkness, meaning officers relied on CCTV, forensics and phone work to identify the suspects.

The investigation identified seven men linked to the thefts who were also responsible for burglaries in Montgomeryshire; with over 150 offences

spanning a number of years.

On Thursday 20th March 2024, West Mercia Police along with officers from Dyfed-Powys Police carried out a series of warrants at addresses in Broseley, Cross Houses and Telford, where the seven were arrested and later charged with conspiracy to steal. It is estimated that the organised crime gang stole agricultural equipment worth between £5million and £10million.

On Monday 15th September they were sentenced at Shrewsbury Crown Court after pleading guilty at a previous hearing.

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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

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David Young: 01743 537081
ddiymobile@gmail.com

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A golf player is a person who can drive at 70 m.p.h. in traffic with perfect ease, but who goes to pieces on a two-foot putt if somebody coughs.

During a youth service the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the King?"

The newspapers report how a cinemagoer arose from his seat while watching a film and shot himself. I believe that I have also seen that film.



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A fun social club, for people aged 18 or over.
A small amount of Badminton experience required.

Please come and join us on a Monday evening
Any questions - contact pontesburymnbc@aol.com

David Johnstone



All Souls Service

**A time to remember
those we have lost
recently or long ago**

3.00pm
Saturday 1st November 2025
Holy Trinity, Hope

Questions you might ask

Question – I feel I have a hearing problem but cannot afford to purchase hearing aids. Can I get them for free from the NHS? I am a pensioner.

Answer – The first step to take is to visit your GP who can refer you to a hospital or a local audiology service for a hearing test and assessment. In some NHS areas, if you are over 55 you can directly refer to the audiology service.

If you are assessed as needing hearing aids, then the NHS will provide. If you have NHS hearing aids you can get free replacement batteries from any hospital audiology or ENT department.

There are often waiting lists for the audiology service. There is also the opportunity to purchase hearing aids privately if you are able to.

Question - I have a life insurance policy; when I die will the proceeds of the policy be tax free?

Answer - The payout from a life insurance policy is typically tax-free and not subject to income or capital gains tax. However if the payout is part of your estate, it might be subject to inheritance tax unless it's set as a trust. (MoneySavingExpert.com)

Angela Gifford
www.ablecommunitycare.com

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CELEBRATING OUR RURAL COMMUNITY... ALL WELCOME

5th October
Harvest Supper
Snailbeach Village Hall - 7pm

6th October
All Saints, Shelve - 9am
St Luke's, Snailbeach
(with Holy Trinity, Minsterley) - 10.30am

10th October
Harvest Supper
Hope Village Hall - 7pm

12th October
Holy Trinity, Hope - 9am
St Mary's, Habberley - 10.30am

19th October
St George's, Pontesbury, Service & Lunch - 10.30am

DONATIONS AT SERVICES IN AID OF THE REA VALLEY FOODBANK

WE WILL BE PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY.... let us know how we can help
Greg Smith - rectorpontstip@gmail.com

REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALK: OCTOBER 2025

Saturday 18th October - Monthly Walk
10am - 1pm
Snailbeach Car Park
juror.pampering.zooms

Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group (RVCWG) members at our October monthly walk providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

Free to attend and no booking required.

Please note that there is no designated leader for these monthly walks. A meeting point is listed for each walk and the group will decide together on the day where they would like to walk.

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg

More Information
www.shropscwgs.org.uk/rea-valley-wildlife-group/





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MORE SEASONS FROM THE SKIES

PHOTOS BY RIC MORRIS

FEATHER AND HAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Back by popular demand, Ric takes us higher than ever with some fresh views over Shropshire and the neighbouring counties. Expect the same entertaining style that always delights!

OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

Wednesday
15 October 2025

Time
2.00 PM

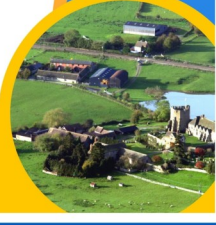
Minsterley Parish Hall
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Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

learn, laugh, live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley





u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Ric Morris has already wowed us several times with his captivating aerial photography from a balloon drifting over Shropshire.

Now he returns on **Wednesday 15th October** at **Minsterley Parish Hall (2pm start)** with a completely new talk: **More Seasons from the Skies.**

Ric brings a fresh collection of images and tales, charting Shropshire and the neighbouring counties' changing landscapes through different seasons and moods. From hidden patterns in the fields to unexpected glimpses of history etched into the countryside, his eye for detail reveals a side you'll never see from the ground. Informative, surprising, and always entertaining, this promises to be another unforgettable afternoon with Ric Morris.

Following the talk, refreshments will be provided, offering a chance to catch up or learn more about our u3a. Members and Non-Members are welcome.

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, from history, literature and geology to walking, cycling, pickleball and table tennis ...

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Monday to Friday

Saturday

Notes (SCH - School Days Only)																	
BUS STATION, Stand N	07:35	08:10	08:50	10:05	10:25	11:00	12:00	12:30	13:30	14:00	14:35	15:45	16:25	16:25	17:00	17:40	18:10
Copthorne Rd, opp Barracks	07:42	08:17	08:57	10:12	10:32	11:07	12:07	12:37	13:37	14:07	14:42	15:52	16:32	16:32	17:07	17:47	18:17
Sirewbury Hospital			09:02	10:17	10:37		12:12	12:42	13:42	14:12		15:57	16:37		17:12	17:52	
Roadbrook Oakfield Rd Jct	07:47	08:22				11:12					14:47			16:37		18:22	
Hanwood, Caradoc View Jct	07:52	08:27	09:07	10:22	10:42	11:17	12:17	12:47	13:47	14:17	14:52	16:02	16:42	16:42	17:17	17:57	18:27
Hanwood, Cock Inn	07:54	08:29	09:09	10:24	10:44	11:19	12:19	12:49	13:49	14:19	14:54	16:04	16:44	16:44	17:19	17:59	18:29
Lea Cross, adj Jct	07:57	08:32	09:12	10:27	10:47	11:22	12:22	12:52	13:52	14:22	14:57	16:07	16:47	16:47	17:22	18:02	18:32
Mary Webb		08:38 SCH															
Pontesbury, opp Shop	08:03	08:38	09:18	10:33	10:53	11:28	12:28	12:58	13:58	14:28	15:03	16:13	16:53	16:53	17:28	18:08	18:38
Minsterley, adj crown & sceptr	08:07	08:42	09:22	10:37	10:57	11:32	12:32	13:02	14:02	14:32	15:07	16:17	16:57	16:57	17:32	18:12	18:42
Plox Green, Crossroads	08:09			10:39	10:59	11:34	12:34	13:04	14:04	14:34		16:19	16:59	16:59		18:14	18:44
Snalbeath, Village Hall					11:01				14:05			16:21		17:01			18:46
Shipstones, adj Pub					11:05				14:10			16:25		17:05			18:50
Hope	08:15			10:45			12:40			14:40			17:05			18:20	
Gravels	08:19			10:49			12:44			14:44			17:09			18:24	
White Grit, Jct	08:23			10:53			12:48			14:48			17:13			18:28	
Llan Twn Jct	08:27			10:57			12:52			14:52			17:17			18:32	
Lydfham Gible Meadow Jct	08:31			11:01			12:56			14:56			17:21			18:36	
Bishops Castle Saop Street, Jct	08:33			11:03			12:58			14:58			17:23			18:38	
Bishops Castle, adj Boars Head	08:35			11:05			13:00			15:00			17:25			18:40	
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www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

Saturday

From September 2024



HOPE AND SHELVE
PARISH

Harvest Supper

Friday 10th October
6.30 for 7 pm
Hope Village Hall, Minsterley SY5 0JB
Tickets £10
under 11s half price

Bring own drinks
tea and coffee provided
Auction and Raffle

Contact Wynford 01743791320
or Fran 07982324760 for tickets

Stiperstones group of churches
- recent 'life event' services

14th September @ Holy Trinity, Hope
Baptism of Charlie Read

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel
2.45pm Sunday services

5th October	Dr John Woolley
19th October	Rev Richard Hall

with Holy Communion

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

Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it.
- Martin Luther King

Minsterley Methodist Church



10am Sunday services

5th October.	Family Service led by members of the congregation
12th October.	Harvest Festival. Preacher – Mrs Helen Pearson
19th October.	10.30am Minsterley Praise at Holy Trinity Church
26th October.	Preacher – Rev Brian Spencer. Service includes Holy communion

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

Holy Trinity Minsterley and St Luke's Snailbeach invite you to their

HARVEST SUPPER & auction

Snailbeach Village Hall
4th Oct, 7-10pm

2-course meal
BYO drinks
£10 adults
£5 children

For tickets or to donate auction items contact Sarah on 07971 984925 or sarahedwards90@hotmail.com



Our partner churches in the Stiperstones Group —

St Luke's Festival Church Snailbeach



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.

Next service:

10.30am Sunday 5th October Harvest Thanksgiving
with the congregation of Holy Trinity Minsterley joining us

St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

Church Wardens

Pauline Stopford, The Kennels, Habberley (01743 790784)

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

Sunday 12th October	10.3am	Harvest service
Sunday 26th	5.00pm	Holy Communion



Hope & Shelve Parish

Church Warden

Barbara Venables

Refreshments are served at all our services!

Holy Trinity Church Hope

Sunday 12th October	9.00am	Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 1st November	3.00pm	All Souls' Service (page 25)



All Saints' Church Shelve

Sunday 5th October	9.00am	Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	9.00am	"Worship for Everyone" - all-age service.



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

ICHTHUS 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)



SCAN ME

For up-to-date information about our churches,

past copies of the magazine

and everything else you need to know

please visit our website:

stiperstoneschurches.org.uk

