

The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:
Snailbeach, Habberley, Hope & Shelve



incorporating news from the Chirbury Hills benefice:
**Middleton, Leighton, Marton,
Corndon Marsh, Trelystan, Chirbury,**



All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of the Lord endures for ever.

1 Peter 1 v.24-25



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 Warden
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

Treasurer
Mike Bowen 07826 061054
mintreasure@btinternet.com

Church services this month

Sunday 7th 4.00pm Tea time service
Sunday 14th 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 21st 10.00am Minsterley Praise
at the Methodist church
Sunday 28th 10.30am Holy Communion
6.00pm Traditional Midsummer
service at the Stone Circle
on Stapeley Common.

Please see page 34 -35 for details of services in
the other churches in our Stiperstones group

Weekly events in the church (see page 31)

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

Other events this month

Thu 4th Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p7)
Sat 6th Hope & Shelve Summer Fete (p34)
Mon 8th Crafty Monday (p13)
Tues 9th Oasis meeting (p7)
Ichthus Bible study (p15)
“Don’t get caught out” (p13)
Parish Council meeting (p11)
Sat 13th Archery opportunity (p17)
Wed 17th Messy Church (p6)
u3a open meeting (p21)
Sat 20th Clothes Swap @ Snailbeach (p21)
Wildlife Group walk (p29)
Tue 23rd Oasis (p7)
Ichthus Bible study (p15)
The Gathering (p4)
Sun 28th Stiperstones Methodist church (34)
Summer Fayre (p29)
July
Sat 4th Ordination of Ian Williams at Hereford
Sun 5th Welcome lunch at St George’s Pontesbury

Monthly diary for Chirbury Hills events
- see page 19

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

Copy date for the next issue is the 20th of the month

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

e-mail: MinsterleyParishMagazine@gmail.com

To advertise: see details on page 23

Seeing the Big Picture

Not so long ago I travelled to London and went with my sister to see an exhibition of Turner and Constable paintings at the Tate Gallery. Marking 250 years since their births, the exhibition explored Turner and Constable's intertwined careers and importance. Over 170 paintings, sketchbooks and personal items belonging to the two artists were on display.

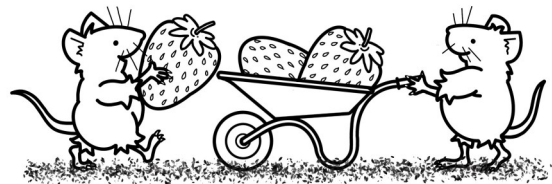
Throughout our childhood, and for much longer, our mother had a print of Constable's 'The Hay Wain,' on her wall. I remember she got it by collecting coupons from Persil Soap Powder packets. It measured less than 3' across. So one of the surprises when you see the original of this and other famous paintings, is how large they are. They dwarf the visitor, filling whole walls of the gallery. Up close you can make out the individual brushstrokes, but you need to stand well back to take in the whole picture.

We may be familiar with Bible stories - at Christmas and Easter we focus on the details of the life of Jesus - but like those vast paintings sometimes it is good to stand back and see how these stories fit together into God's big picture, the story of his love for humanity and his purpose to transform the whole world.

Both Turner and Constable were famous for the way they depicted the natural world in their paintings, sometimes with scenes of the gentle English countryside, sometimes showing the raw power of the weather, and majestic and towering mountain ranges. It is a reminder of the variety of God's creation that surrounds us every day, and yet we do not always notice it.

Many of Constable's paintings are of his home county of Suffolk. If you look carefully you will often see a church tower peeping through the trees in the distance, pointing towards the heavens. The church was important to Constable as a bulwark and firm guide for society. Today the church's place is less certain, but it still holds a valued place in many of our communities. As churches now, we are also called to look to God as our guide and strength, and to be part of his big picture of love for all the world.

Rev Fran



Many thanks to everyone who supported the Minsterley Churches Group (Methodists, Congregational and Holy Trinity) in raising funds for Christian Aid. A coffee morning, bucket collection, and retiring collection at the Christian Aid Week Sunday service raised a total of **£487.84**.

We are looking for a new coordinator for our Christian Aid Week efforts. Susan Bates stepped down at the beginning of the year after many years of dedicated service. The three churches in the village work together, so volunteers can be members of any of them — or from elsewhere in the community.

If you would like to know more, please contact me at sarahedwards90@hotmail.com. Many thanks to all involved.

Sarah Edwards



What's On!

16 MAY

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

plants, cakes, tombola and raffle on the Crown and Sceptre car park

31 MAY

TRINITY SUNDAY LUNCH

prebooking required. Speak to Sarah on 07971 984925

20 JUNE

CLOTHES SWAP

at Snailbeach Village Hall

11 JULY

BINGO NIGHT

eyes down for a full house!

15 AUG

MINSTERLEY SHOW

visit us at the refreshments tent for homemade sandwiches and cakes

12 SEPT

OF ONE ACCORD CONCERT

an evening of music and entertainment

12 & 19
SEPT

RIDE & STRIDE

sponsored walk for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust

4 OCT

HARVEST LUNCH

celebrating our rural community

14 NOV

SOUP AND A SANDWICH

our take on a lunchtime coffee morning!

12 DEC

CHRISTMAS FAIR

cakes, crafts, food, music and Santa

DEC

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

more to follow...

Cover photo Minsterley Meadows by Ruth Wadsworth

Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

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

As we step into June our villages seem to come alive in a different way. The hedgerows are fuller, gardens begin to flourish, and fields that only weeks ago looked bare now promise harvest. The vibrant and sunshine yellow, even on our rainiest of days, of rapeseed brightens the fields. There is something deeply reassuring about the rhythm of rural life. The seasons remind us that growth often happens quietly and steadily, even when we do not immediately notice it.

June also brings with it lighter evenings and, for many, a little more time spent outdoors — chatting over garden gates, walking the footpaths, or simply pausing to enjoy birdsong before the busyness of the day begins. These small moments matter more than we sometimes realise. They remind us that community is built not only in grand events, but in kindness, neighbourliness, and shared life together.

Children, and their teachers I suspect, in our local schools look forward to the end of the school year, and the long awaited summer holidays are within touching distance.

In the Church calendar, we move towards Pentecost, often called the birthday of the Church. It is the story of frightened disciples discovering courage, hope, and purpose through the presence of God's Spirit. It reminds us that even ordinary people can bring light and encouragement to others. In every village there are quiet acts of care happening daily — lifts offered, meals shared, visits made, weeds pulled from a neighbour's garden, or simply time taken to listen. These are all signs of God's Spirit at work among us.

A man confided to his friend that he and his wife had had a serious argument the night before. "It finally ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees"

"What did she say?" asked the friend, amazed.

The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

There is also something hopeful about this time of year for those of us who live rurally. We know that life is never without challenges: farming worries, rising costs, illness, loneliness, and uncertainty can weigh heavily. Yet June teaches us patience and trust. Seeds planted long ago finally begin to show their promise. Perhaps that is a lesson for us too — not to lose heart when things seem slow or difficult, because goodness often grows beneath the surface before we can see it clearly.

As a curate in the benefice and village I grew up in, I continue to be grateful for the warmth and generosity that make our villages such special places. Whether you are a regular churchgoer or simply someone who enjoys reading the parish magazine with a cup of tea in hand, please know that our churches remain places of welcome, prayer, friendship, and hope.

May this June bring you moments of peace, reasons to smile, and the reassurance that you never walk alone.

With every blessing,

Rev Tracy Jones
Hanwood



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 | **Tues 23rd June,**
from 7.00 p.m. | **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”

India – Four Christians beaten by extremists for refusing to give up their faith

A Christian family is suffering persecution at the hands of extremists in the state of Chhattisgarh. A married couple and their two children were beaten by a mob and left with serious injuries. The attack in Asrith village, Korra Gram Panchayat, Sukma District, took place on 14th April.

The attackers attempted to force the four – Sodi Motu, Sodi Paik, Vetti Shanthi and Madvi Mangl – to undergo Ghar Wapsi, a ceremony of reconversion to Hinduism. The injured victims were transported to Sukma Government Hospital for medical treatment.

This was a repeat attack by the extremist group who had targeted the family two years ago. Although a police complaint was filed at that time, the case has not yet been heard in court. In March 2026 Chhattisgarh passed a new Freedom of Religion Bill (commonly referred to as an anti-conversion law) that strengthens the law regulating religious conversions, criminalising those believed to be obtained through force, fraud or allurement.

Extremists often wrongly believe that such laws criminalise all conversions from Hinduism, or even that they outlaw any form of Christian worship.

Pakistan – Truck rams into Easter procession leaving dozens injured

Christians in Pakistan were attacked while celebrating our Lord's resurrection on Easter Sunday. At least one person was killed and more than sixty people were injured after a truck rammed into an Easter Day procession near Mariamabad in Wazirabad district of Punjab province on 5th April.

The incident occurred around 1am after about two hundred Christians gathered for a midnight Easter vigil. Participants in the procession overturned the truck to release injured people under it. The driver, identified as Muhammad Bilal, fled the scene, his passenger was taken into custody, and the vehicle was impounded. Police have initiated a criminal investigation.

Around 15 to 20 of the most seriously injured were taken to hospital in Gujranwala, about 60 miles away, where one man, Ifran Masih, a brick kiln labourer, later died from injuries. More than forty others were treated at the scene.

Eyewitnesses confirmed that the incident was not accidental but a premeditated and well-planned terrorist attack; the driver's road ahead was clear, yet he chose to ram the procession at high speed.

Church organisers refuted police claims that they had not been informed in advance about the procession. They said police had agreed to provide security on the day which never materialised.

Mariamabad regularly stages Christian festivals. Believers assembled in large numbers for processions are seen as easy targets for extremists. A Christian man was shot dead while on his way to an annual festival in Mariamabad in September 2025.

Iran – concern for Christians and others in Evin Prison

Many Christians are among the political prisoners held at Evin, as Farsi (Persian)-speaking believers are considered both apostates and a national security threat by the Iranian authorities. There are concerns that prisoners now face the risk of “expedited” executions. Others are at serious risk of torture, ill-treatment or enforced disappearance.

The concerns follow joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran that began on 28th February and resulted in the death of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Missiles have struck the area around the prison, and inmates have no way to escape or move to safety.

Administrative personnel are reported to have abandoned their posts, effectively ceasing all supervision over the provision of prisoners' essential needs. Hundreds of political or ideological prisoners are reported to be in grave and immediate danger, with very limited supplies of food and water available.

The Iranian authorities have a track record of abusing and torturing political prisoners at Evin. More than 60 Christians are believed to be either serving sentences or being detained at the prison awaiting trial on charges concerning their faith.

"One Church" prayer meeting

Worthen Methodist Chapel

4.30-5.30pm every Wednesday

to pray for the Rea Valley

All are welcome to come and join, or to pray with us from wherever you are at that time.

Domini Lucas

Urgent help in the churchyard

Could you spend a couple of hours every couple of weeks to keep the church grounds tidy at Holy Trinity Minsterley?

We need a team of volunteers to supplement the council's grass cutting and our spring and autumn tidy-up days. Jobs like sweeping and clearing the paths, weeding and clearing the borders, generally keeping the grounds looking tidy and cared for.

If you can help please speak to Sarah on 07971 984925. Thank you.



Holy Trinity Church

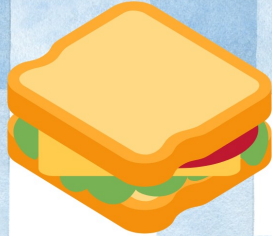
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JUNE SERVICES

10.30am

7th June	Tea Time Church (4pm)
4th June	Holy Communion
21st June	Minsterley Praise at Minsterley Methodist Chapel
28th June	Holy Communion

Contact Rev'd Greg Smith
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3.30pm



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Rea Valley
foodbank

Supporting those in food crisis within the Rea Valley Community

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Having a new Bank Account means we urgently need missing contact information from some regular financial donors. As you will know from the last newsletters, Rea Valley Foodbank is now a registered charity and we are required to set up a new bank account. Our treasurer will be in contact soon with details and we have most of our regular donors' email addresses. If you have previously received emails from us, you do not need to do anything yet. We value these financial donations so much and they are the lifeblood of our service. **If you make financial donations, or you know someone who does, but have never received an email from our treasurer, please contact Jonathan Brown (07497 142485) (do leave a message or text) or email him at reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.**

Please help by Donating Packaged Food

We are very grateful to everyone who donates what they can, when they can, as it makes a difference to how much we must buy in. You can drop off in-date, unopened packaged food and toiletries at: Pontesbury Co-op and Longden Village Stores, or Worthen Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month between 8.30 - 11am. Foodbank Donation boxes are in many churches; please see our website for a full list <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/donating/>. These are the top five basic items we must regularly buy in: Tinned meat, fish, vegetables and fruit; and long-life milk.

We do not have refrigerated storage and so we cannot take perishable items. We can take small quantities of fresh fruit and vegetables, but please only drop off when the Foodbank is open and talk to our volunteers or contact us in advance.

To use the Foodbank or find out more:

Call for a chat with Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653) or Rev Richard Lonsdale (07922 830488), or ask your local clergy, GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook.

Jean Garner

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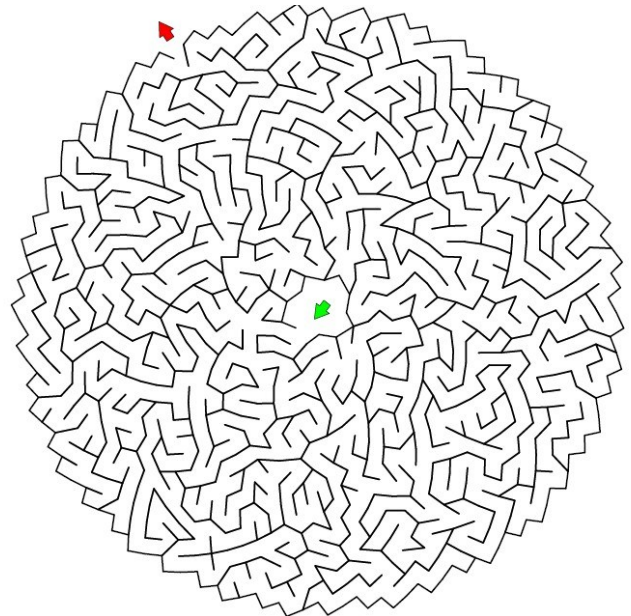
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Puzzle Page

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Wordsearch -

Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Mary - the virgin mother of Jesus. Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving account of two humble ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary makes only a few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and

she loses her Son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts, just before Pentecost.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in history. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."

Mary	Event	Cross
Virgin	Family	Keeping
Mother	Jerusalem	Unique
Elizabeth	Wedding	Place
Pregnant	Cana	Centuries
Ordinary	Wine	Church
World	Beloved	Blessed
History	Disciples	
Great	Dying	

C H U R C H A G O I W N D T C
 C I N N U T N I I S T C N R N
 P T G I I I L D D E R E O I I
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 E C A L P R E E O H T C E Y L
 C T I C Y L S R S E L W E E I
 E S H I E D Y I N G A I A K Y

"Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered the problem of the Holy Trinity and no man 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."

- GH Lang

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Saturday: 9.00am – 12 noon

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MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB WINNERS

Draw	Date	No	Winner
Draw 16	22 nd April	7	Margy Rogers
Draw 17	29 th April	27	Frankie Burford
Draw 18	6 th May	20	Colin Edwards
Draw 19	13 th May	14	Erin Hawkin

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Minsterley Parish Council

A new defibrillator is now in place at the Parish Hall, replacing the broken unit which had failed its monthly testing.

The bus stop alongside Plox Green Road, has been upgraded and improved for bus passengers.

Repairs to the carriageway past Callow Quarry entrance, and leading to Habberley, would be reported to Highways, for inclusion in their programme of works.

Improvements to the main entrance to the Playing Field are to be carried out by the Rights of Way Team at Shropshire Council.

Over 50,000 Green Winged Orchids have been recorded at Minsterley Meadows during May.

The next meeting of Minsterley Parish Council will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9th June 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

Heather Kidd's Report for May 2026

Roads.

Following on the resurfacing done at Aston Piggot and the Brockton to Rowley Road, the road between Westbury and Vennington is next, with the Marche Road being done as I write this.

In late summer/autumn, the Rorrington to Priest Weston Road will be resurfaced and the A490 at Sheargrove Bridge (north of Chirbury) will receive significant work to stabilize the road edges.

Shropshire Council is also introducing a new, more stringent regime for inspecting road repairs made by contractors. For too long road repairs have not been inspected properly, allowing indifferent workmanship to go unchallenged, with poor repairs opening up after far too short a time. So to make sure future repairs are of a high standard the Council is introducing a team of inspectors to inspect all completed road repairs. If they are below standard, they will insist that the work be redone.

This has already proved its worth on the A489 near Churchstoke when a contractor top dressed over a pothole; the inspector is insisting that this be repaired properly at the contractor's expense.

20mph limits outside of schools

A 20mph speed limit outside Long Mountain School in Worthen will be put in place in August.

Destruction of habitat in Pennerley

I have been contacted over the last few months by residents of the Pennerley area, distressed at the wholesale clearance of gorse and scrubland in the area. Everything above the ground on this 5-acre site has been removed, including the grass, totally destroying valuable habitat for birds, insects and mammals.

I have spoken to the Planning Department of Shropshire Council and the site is not an SSSI or covered by any other protection. I have, however, managed to get the signage for the public footpath running across the site restored.

We need to work together now to find a way to protect sites like this for the future. As a first step, please let me know of any similar land of value to wildlife e.g. woodland, heath, scrub etc. that you think might be under threat and also if you would like to take part in a group to move this project on.

Heather Kidd



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CRAFT AND CHAT

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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!

Pontesbury & District Gardeners' Association

A date for your calendar...Saturday 29th August

Our Annual Show on in Pontesbury Parish Hall will cover a range of classes including fruit, vegetables, flowers, handicraft, art, baking and photography (the latter with categories for pictures of snow, decay, trees and geometric images).

Full schedule to be published soon with entries welcomed from all age groups.



The Gardeners' Trading Post at the old station buildings, Station Road, Pontesbury, SY5 0QY is open every Saturday, 9.30am to 12 noon from February to late October.

We stock a wide range of composts, grass seed, lawn products, bamboo canes, fleece, netting and other garden sundries. Do pop in and see us!

Paul Smith

DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT!

A Practical Guide to Scams,
Fraud & Online Threats

9TH OF JUNE

6PM DOORS – 6:30PM START

Learn how to spot and avoid online threats & scams:

- ✓ Phishing emails and fake websites
- ✓ Phone scams and banking fraud
- ✓ Protecting personal information
- ✓ Staying safe online
- ✓ Simple, practical advice



SNAILBEACH VILLAGE HALL

£5 entry – Coffee and tea included

No technical experience needed. All welcome!

Bible Readings in church this month



Why not read these at home
if you are unable to join us
for Sunday worship?

7 th June	Hosea 5. 15-6.6 Romans 4. 13-25 Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26
14 th June	Exodus 19.2-8a Romans 5. 1-8 Matthew 9.35- 10.8
21 st June	Jeremiah 20.7-13 Romans 6.1b-11 Matthew 10.24-39
28 th June	Jeremiah 28.5-9 Romans 6. 12-end Matthew 10.40-end

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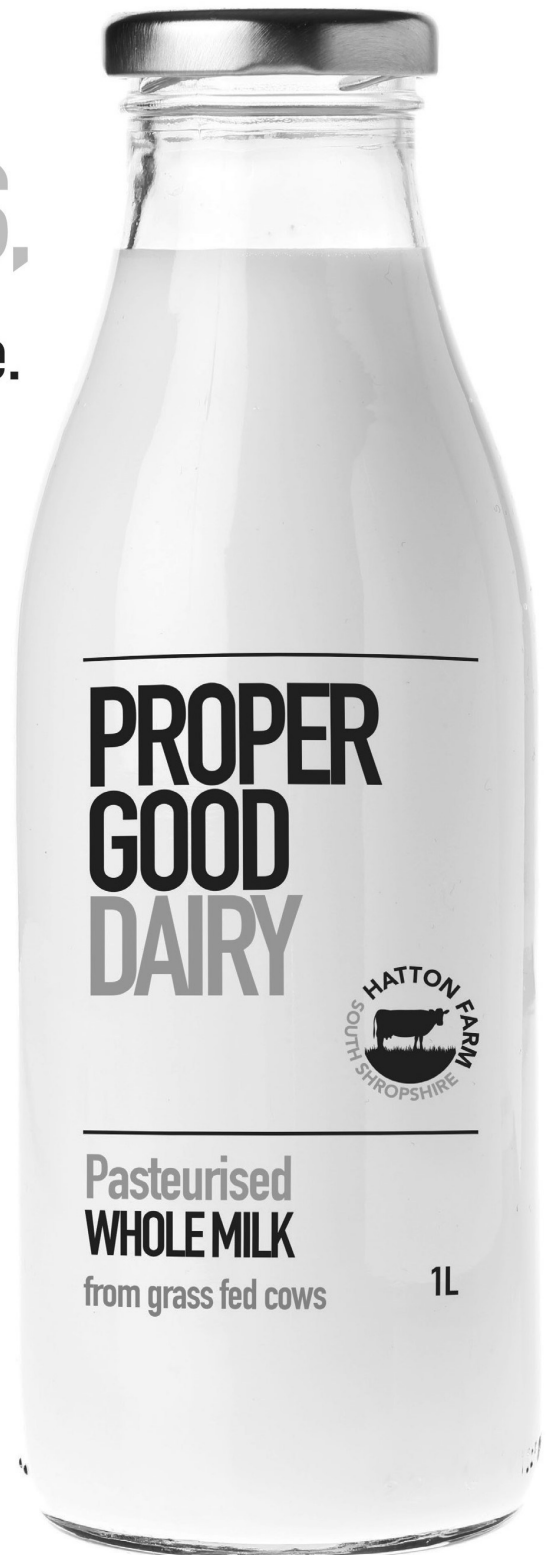
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GODS ACRE

How to read your meadow

June is the perfect month to enjoy grassland flowers and many of us have a 'pocket meadow' of long, flowery grass in our churchyards, chapel yards, cemeteries and also our gardens. As well as being beautiful these small pitstops for pollinators can have great wildlife value within both urban and rural landscapes. Sometimes however, a meadow area seems to have less and less flowers as the years go by and it can be hard to know why. If this is the case in a meadow that you manage the grasses may give you a clue as to the cause of this problem.

Native grasses can be divided into fine and coarse species. The fine grasses are shorter, about 30cms, with fine, needle-thick stems and small leaves. Fine grasses allow plenty of room for wildflowers too. Common species include meadow grasses, bents and fescues.

The coarse grasses are larger, sometimes over 1m high, with thicker stems, broad leaves and a tussocky base. In a sward of coarse grasses all but the largest, strongest wildflowers will be swamped and lost, their seeds will not reach soil to germinate and small plants will be overshadowed and pushed out. The main coarse grasses are cocksfoot, false oat-grass and Yorkshire fog.

Whilst a flowery meadow may contain both fine and coarse grass species, if the proportion of coarse grasses increases to more than just occasional plants here and there then you may have a problem. Coarse grasses thrive in places with higher soil fertility and infrequent cutting. If you are cutting your meadow once a year, quite late in the season, this increases fertility and the strength of the coarse grasses. Raking up cuttings is vital for a meadow, if left uncollected the cuttings rot, increasing nutrients and swamping other plants. So, if coarse grasses dominate your meadow then cut more often, earlier in the summer and rake hard so that bare soil is revealed.

Whilst meadows vary depending on soil, location and weather, a good rule of thumb is to leave a meadow uncut for three to four months and no longer. You can cut in March or April and then again in July or August or, if you don't cut in spring then cut by mid-July. This does mean cutting off some flowers but it really knocks back the coarse grasses, favouring fine ones. After a year or two you will start to see wildflowers return. Also, most meadow plants are perennial so the flowers will still be there even if they didn't set seed and you can always cut around a clump or two of late flowering species.

All the best,

Harriet Carty
Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 23rd April

If you would like to see the Holy Trinity Church Minsterley annual report for 2025 there is a paper copy in the church. For your own digital copy please email Caroline Holloway at:
minsterleychurchsecretary@gmail.com.

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

ICHTHUS



The Spring session of 'Ichthus' meetings concludes 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

June 9th	The Blessing Snailbeach	Exodus 19:2-8a	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 23rd	Brookfield Waterwheel	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Romans 6:12-end	Matthew 10:40-end

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danlewisfitness@btinternet.com

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For more information contact Sue:

tel: 07375 463536

e-mail: suexjohnson@gmail.com



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- SATURDAY 11TH JULY
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www.longmyndarchers.co.uk

secretary@longmyndarchers.co.uk

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LONG MYND ARCHERS

Have a Go at Archery

Many sports can trace their origins back through history, and some originated from war or hunting related activities, and are now a sanitised version of their origins. Archery goes back before most other sports, probably originating in Africa before spreading into Europe and the rest of the world. The sport has now evolved into a high tech activity, with recurve and compound bows sitting alongside its basic form, the longbow, and all these forms are practised in local clubs on a regular basis.

If you would like to try shooting arrows, then Long Mynd Archers, near Church Stretton, are putting on a series of Have a Go sessions on the mornings of Saturdays 13th June, 11th July and 8th August between 10am - 12noon. No booking is required, so just turn up! The cost is £15 for a one hour session with qualified coaches and experienced archers. All equipment is provided by the Club, and there will be opportunities to progress further if you would like to do so.

The club is situated at New House Farm, SY6 7JH, on the A49 just before the traffic lights at Church Stretton. More information can be found on the Club's website:

www.longmyndarchers.co.uk.



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

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9	4	3	2	5	1	7	8	6

Answers



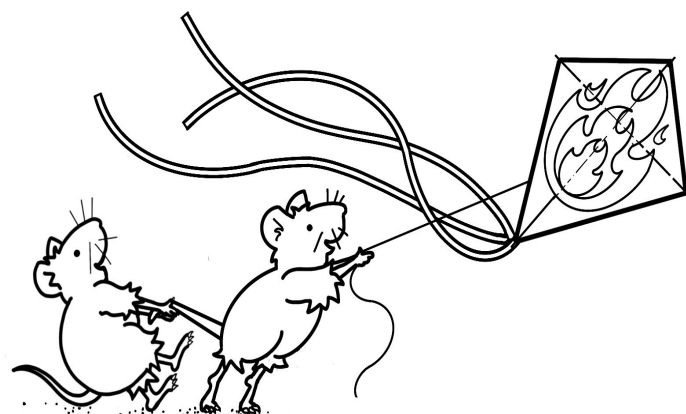
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Sunday services in the Chirbury Hills Group of Parishes June 2026

within the Deanery of Pontesbury and the Diocese of Hereford

	Holy Trinity Leighton	St Mary's Trelystan	St Michael's Chirbury	St Mark's Marton-in-Chirbury	Holy Trinity Middleton-in-Chirbury	Corndon Marsh Chapel
Sun 7th	10.00 am Morning Worship Kay		11.15 am Holy Communion Richard			6.00 pm Holy Communion Fran
Sun 14th	4.00 pm Evensong Richard			9.00 am Holy Communion Richard	11.15 am Holy Communion Richard	
Sun 21 st		3.00 pm Holy Communion Richard	No service		10.00 am Family Worship Allen Marsden	
Sun 28 th	9.00am service			11.15am service		

*You are warmly invited
to join us at any of our
churches!*



THE CHIRBURY HILLS



GROUP OF PARISHES

Chirbury Hills Benefice contacts

Local Lay Minister: Kay Yeates
01938 561 640
km_yeates@yahoo.co.uk

Lay Worship Leader: Aster Meyer
aster.meyer@pm.me

Safeguarding Officers:
Kay Yeates (as above)
Chris Jerman chrisjerman@yahoo.co.uk

Churchwardens:

St. Michael's Chirbury
Tony Sheppard 01938 561821

St. Mark's Marton
Maureen Jenkins 01938 561645

Holy Trinity Middleton and The Marsh
Kay Yeates 01938 561640
Emma Bailey-Beech 01686 669971

Holy Trinity Leighton
John Markwick 01938 555043
Sally Beech 01938 554942

St. Mary's Trelystan
Janet Jones 07967 312460

Chirbury Hills group of churches June - dates for your diary

- Wed 3rd Interview day for a new rector and rural chaplain – please pray for all involved.
- Tue 9th Coffee, cake and chat in Chirbury café – all welcome
- Sat 13th Messy Church at Chirbury
- Sat 27th Open gardens in Chirbury village in aid of St. Michael's Church Chirbury
- Sun 28th Traditional Midsummer service at the Stone Circle on Stapeley Common, 6pm - all welcome

July

- Sat 4th "Music for a Summer Night"
Concert in Holy Trinity Church, Middleton (see page 6)
- Sat 18th Trelystan annual summer fete
- Sat 25th Pilates and Poke at Rorrington Lodge – (see below)



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Raising funds for Middleton Church

Messy CHURCH

Saturday June 13th

10.30am to 12noon Chirbury church

Lots of crafts, icing biscuits, snacks and a story, talking about fruits of the Spirit, fun for all the family

All welcome, we look forward to seeing you.



TELEPHONE FRAUD

Criminals still make use of phone calls, both to landlines and mobiles, to defraud people out of their money. Older persons may be particularly vulnerable as they rely on their phones for contact and companionship, so it is helpful to make elderly relatives aware of the dangers of cold callers.

These calls involve fraudsters trying to gain your personal and financial information and are often referred to as “*Vishing*” – an amalgamation of “*Voice*” and “*Phishing*.”

Very often the fraudster has disguised their call identity by using an apparently legitimate number so appearing genuine; this is known as “*spoofing*.” If you do receive an unexpected call from a company you do not recognise, then just hang up, and do not engage with that caller.

Engaging not only tells the caller that the line is active but also one of the latest scams uses Artificial intelligence – A.I. – to clone your voice. This may be just by asking a simple question or in some case asking you to participate in a “lifestyle survey” or similar, so then your voice can be used to target friends and family, or even used as voice recognition to manipulate bank accounts

What are the common types of Phone Call Scams?

- **Bank Scams** – Criminals may call you about “fraudulent” use of your bank account or cards. Remember banks will never ask you for your PIN or tell you to hand over your bank cards to a so-called courier

- **Technical Support scams** - They may impersonate a company such as Microsoft or BT, and tell you there is a fault on your computer or broadband. They then probably will ask you to download remote access software to gain access to your computer, or else install “malware” on it.

- **Impersonation Scams** - Typically these may claim to come from your “Bank Fraud Department” telling you that your account or bank cards have been compromised and you need to transfer money to another so-called Safe Account, from where it vanishes. Similarly, calls may come from fraudsters masquerading as a Police Officer, Utility Provider, HMRC or DVLA.

- **Prize Draw Scams** – “You have won the Lottery or a Prize Draw!” Sounds good, but is it? You may think you never entered the competition, but they will convince you that you have, then ask for your bank details so you can “receive” the prize

- **Financial Scams** – you are called with tempting offers for investing your money in funds, schemes or perhaps in Bitcoins with the promise of huge returns. Since 2019, it has been illegal to make cold calls to sell pension schemes, so any calls about pension schemes will be scams. This law may be extended in the future to ban any unsolicited financial cold calls.

How can you stay safe?

Never give out your financial information over the phone, and just hang up if you are unsure about the caller’s identity.

- Register for “TPS” - Telephone Preference Service - this prevents bona fide companies cold calling you, so you will then know that any cold call is a fake.
- Many modern landline handsets have a “Call Blocking” feature so unwanted numbers can be added to the list of blocked callers. Separate programmable call blocker units are also available to protect users
- Similarly, many phone service providers can offer other call blocking services, such as BT Call Guardian.
- Scammers will often keep the phone line open after the call; so even when you think you are calling a legitimate number you are still speaking to the fraudster. Wait for up to 15 minutes or make the call using a different phone line or mobile



...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

OPEN MEETING

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

Talk: Jon King

THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP OF CHARLES DARWIN & ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

COLLABORATION, CONFLICT & GENIUS

The extraordinary friendship that shaped one of history's greatest scientific breakthroughs — and the generosity that defined it.

With **Jon King**, Founder of the Shrewsbury Darwin Festival and author of *Charles Darwin in Shrewsbury – The Making of a Marvellous Mind*.

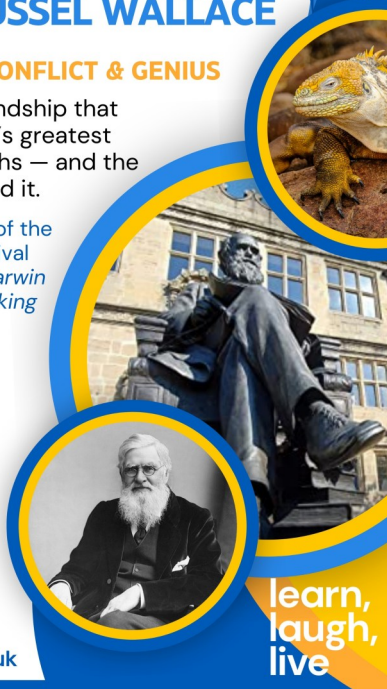
 **Wednesday**
17 June 2026

 **Time**
2.00 PM

 **Minsterley Parish Hall** SY5 0EH

Free entrance
Refreshments available

 pontesbury.u3asite.uk



u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

At our next u3a meeting on **Wednesday 17th June 2026** at 2pm in **Minsterley Parish Hall**, **Jon King** will present a fascinating talk on **Charles Darwin**, Shrewsbury's most famous son, and his friendship with **Alfred Russel Wallace**.

This talk explores the remarkable collaboration that led to the discovery and refinement of one of science's greatest theories - evolution by natural selection. It examines not only the intellectual partnership behind this groundbreaking work, but also the challenges within their relationship, and the final act of generosity that typified a friendship once described as "one of those bright spots in the history of science, which ought to shame all those who indulge in petty jealousies."

Jon King founded the Shrewsbury Darwin Festival and directed Shropshire's Darwin Bicentennial Celebrations in 2009. He is the author of *'Charles Darwin in Shrewsbury - The Making of a Marvellous Mind'*, which will be available for purchase after the talk.

Following the session, 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-wide charity that brings people together, particularly those no longer in full-time employment, to enjoy learning, activities and new experiences. We are a friendly, local and affordable organisation with over 25 interest groups.



£5 entry

Join us for a



Clothes Swap

good quality clothes and accessories

20th June | 2 - 4.30pm

Snailbeach Village Hall

• Raffle • Refreshments • Cakes •

Proceeds to Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



On Saturday 20th June we are holding a Clothes Swap at Snailbeach village hall from 2.00 - 4.30pm. If you've never been before, this is what happens: bring along good quality clean clothes (not jumble) that you no longer want - also scarves, shoes, hats and jewellery.

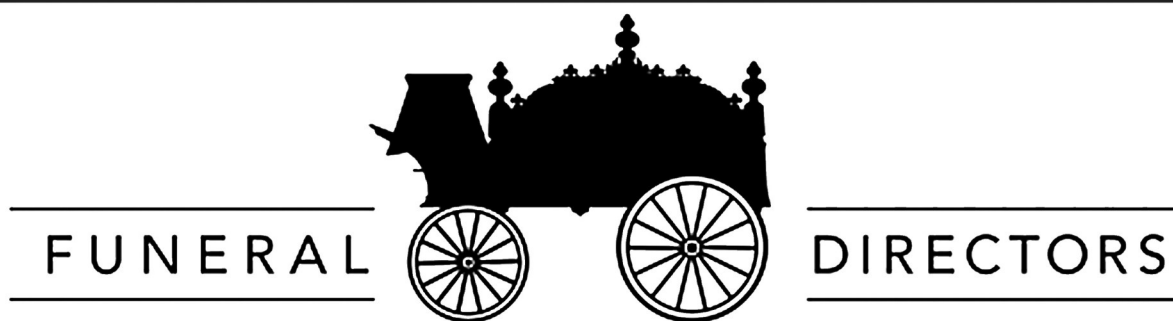
The first half hour is spent putting clothes on rails and accessories on tables. After that its time to check what is on the rails and try on!! Always fun and there will be refreshments available to buy - tea, coffee, cake and prosecco. There will be a raffle too.

The cost is £5 and all proceeds are going to Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley.

If you have any questions please email me.

Pam Bickley

revpambickley@gmail.com



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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 April – 16th May

CRIME	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Abduction of pet (dog)	Pet dog has gone missing, believed stolen	Nind, Minsterley	7year old female Corgi missing on the morning of 13 th May.
Assault		Chirbury	Suspect arrested at the scene
Dog worrying livestock on agricultural land	Walker strayed off footpath with dog off the lead, Dog chased cattle resulting in one cow having to be destroyed, and one receiving treatment	The Knolls, Stiperstones	Occurred 12.40pm 3 rd May. Walker was female and the dog was a black Labrador
Malicious communications		Chirbury	
Dog worrying livestock on agricultural land	Sheep attacked by dog whilst on a walk, sheep had to be destroyed	Stiperstones	Owner identified and payment offered
Harassment		Hope Valley	
Theft	Parcel stolen after being delivered	Pennerley	Occurred between 13 th – 15 th April

Witness Appeal

Police are appealing for witnesses to a fatal collision on the outskirts of Minsterley where a man sadly lost his life.

Around 1pm on Friday 8th May, a tractor and motorbike collided on Horsebridge Road in Minsterley. Despite the best efforts by emergency services, the motorcyclist, a man in his 70s, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. A 35 year old man was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

We would like to hear from anyone who witnessed the collision, or who may have dashcam footage from the moments leading up to the incident which could assist with our enquiries.

Anyone with information please email SCIUNorth@westmercia.police.uk, quoting incident number 200/i/08052026. Thank you.

Get involved

Have your say on the Government's plans to merge police forces across England and Wales.

This is your chance to share your views - whether you support the proposals or not.

The PCC will share your views with the Government to form part of their review.

www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk

The consultation closes on Monday 15 June.

Welcome to 'The Gables Book Shed'

Minsterley is a lovely place to live with the hills on our doorstep and a great community spirit.

The Book Exchange was a joint idea. Whilst we love to read and encourage our children to do the same, we have always been a part of our community in some way or other.

Where so many children's books and adult books are typically taken to the Charity Shop we decided to do something different and open a Book Exchange where the parish community can take a book and donate a book.

The local area is wonderful for outdoor walks and cycling where on a weekend the Book Exchange can be used as a destination or a stop off point. It's typically open on Saturdays and Sundays, just keep an eye on the Facebook page for other opening times.

You can find your Local Book Exchange on the 'Little Free Library' App/Website and we have created a Facebook Page called 'The Gables Book Shed'.

Liz and Justin Hambidge
The Gables
The Grove, Minsterley

[Editor's note - if you think the address sounds familiar, it is the former home of Bruce & Barbara]



Stop, Challenge, Protect: Fake-Police scam alert

We have been made aware of an incident where a person has been contacted by a male who identified himself as a Police Officer, saying he was from the Economic and Cyber Crime Division. During the conversation the male stated that he had someone in custody, who had been stopped attempting to leave the UK and that the victim's ID and other personal information had been found on this person. The caller was able to give the victim personal information, and asked other questions relating to Cryptocurrency. The caller later asked the victim to attend their local station the following day to confirm their identity.

These callers can sound very convincing and use official sounding names, badge numbers and on this occasion even provided a Report Fraud reference number to the victim.

What to do....

If someone calls you claiming to be a police officer - before giving any personal information, **STOP!** Ask them to confirm their name, collar number and which police service they are from; and say that you will call them back. Hang up and call 101 asking for the police service they stated and confirm their identity with the control room. Genuine police calls will never be concerned with

you confirming identity before proceeding with the call.

If they have called you on a landline we would recommend you wait at least 15 minutes and where possible call from a different phone. There have been cases where fraudsters keep the line open after the victim has hung up - and even played a false dial tone. If you are unable to use a different phone, try calling a friend or family first to make sure the fraudster is no longer on the line.

Genuine police will never ask you to confirm banking or cryptocurrency details, identification (such as passport number) PIN codes or passwords. Nor will they ask you to withdraw or transfer funds from one account to another.

If you have received a call similar to this, report it to "Report Fraud" online or by calling 0300 123 2040.



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.

Rea Valley Transport Scheme 07468 115939
Enabling residents to access medical appointments. Please give a minimum of a week's notice.

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.

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin 01743 233123
Confidential advice for older people, their families and carers.

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. 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 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.

SOME SHORT NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

101 to contact the police in a non-emergency
111 NHS non-emergency number
159 to contact your bank if you suspect fraud.

159 is our first public-facing initiative. Intended for use by consumers, 159 provides an easy route back to safety when you get an unexpected phone call about a financial matter. Easy to remember, the short code number now connects customers of more than 99% of the UK's retail bank current accounts safely and directly with their bank. Unlike many long-form numbers, 159 cannot be spoofed or impersonated.





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REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

MONTHLY WALKS : 2026



Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group at our monthly local walks - providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

Free to attend and no booking required.

Sun 18th Jan 10am - 1pm Stapeley Saunter Mitchell's Fold Car Park cabbages.update.quantity	Sat 14th Feb 10am - 1pm Snailbeach Woods Walkabout Snailbeach Car Park works.plenty.ecologist	Sun 15th Mar 10am - 1pm Earls Hill Lope Pontesford Hill Car Park marginal.owns.transcribes	Sat 18th Apr 10am - 1pm Gatten Yomp Gatton Daffodil Car Park hedge.scales.freshest
Sun 17th May 10am - 1pm Buxton Hill Stroll Viewpoint Car Park Tankerville games.cheeses.strongman	Sat 20th Jun 10am - 1pm Minsterley Mooch On street, Minsterley mush.harsh.factories	Sun 19th Jul 10am - 1pm Hinton Hike Station Road Car Park, Pontesbury irritated.swift.freedom	Sat 15th Aug 10am - 1pm Pulverbatch Plod Pulverbatch Car Park wriggle.disbelief.housework
Sun 20th Sep 10am - 1pm The Hollies Bimble Snailbeach Car Park works.plenty.ecologist	Sat 17th Oct 10am - 1pm Hope Valley Amble Hope Valley Nature Reserve Car Park movements.ankle.logs	Sun 15th Nov 10am - 1pm Eastringe Excursion Eastringe Wood Car Park buzzards.uniforms.swift	Sat 12th Dec 10am - 1pm Stiperstones Stomp Stiperstones Inn Car Park foods.grow.up.overdone



Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/reavalleycwg



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

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Questions you might ask

Question – A fellow driver told me that it is illegal to drive in sunglasses at night and that if I had an accident while wearing them, my insurance may not pay out.

Answer - This can be correct. Sunglasses are classified into categories 0 to 4 based on their tint level and how much light they allow through. For drivers, the key distinctions are:

- Category 3 sunglasses are suitable for daytime driving in bright conditions.
- Category 4 sunglasses are not suitable for driving at any time, as they block too much light.

Highway Code Rule 94 states that drivers must ensure their vision is not impaired at all times. Wearing dark lenses — particularly Category 3 or 4 — at night or in low-light conditions, can seriously compromise your ability to see clearly, increasing the risk of an accident.

There are also insurance implications to consider. If you are involved in a collision while wearing inappropriate eyewear, insurers may treat this as negligence. This could result in reduced compensation, a denied claim, or allegations of driving without due care and attention.

Always ensure your vision is clear and unobstructed to stay safe and compliant with UK regulations.

Question – What is the scam involving charity giving and debit or credit cards?

Answer – A recently published scam involving a fraud which targets passengers in taxis and people making **charitable donations on the street**. It works like this: when you pay by debit or credit card, the driver or fundraiser tells you the transaction has failed. On the second attempt, they discreetly cover the amount field on the card reader and ask you to enter your PIN again — but the amount being charged is very different from what you originally agreed to pay.

Because the transaction appears routine, you may not realise anything is wrong until your bank statement arrives or you receive an instant payment notification.

If this happens to you in the UK, your bank *may* offer a refund — but this is not guaranteed, particularly where a PIN was entered voluntarily.

Angela Gifford

www.ablecommunitycare.com





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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)



www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

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Saturday

From 4th November 2024

Hope and Shelve Parish

Summer Fete

**Saturday June 6th
2-4pm at Leigh Manor,
Minsterley SY5 0EG.**

FREE ENTRY!

raffle
refreshments
sideshows
stalls
music from the
Stiperstones Brass Band

There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



7th June. CAFÉ CHURCH

14th June. Led by Rev Kim Stilwell and will include Holy Communion

21st June. MINSTERLEY PRAISE led by Rev Greg Smith

28th June. Led by Dr John Woolley

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

Final Service at Stiperstones Methodist Church

3.00pm Sunday 28th June

The Rea Valley Methodist Church group are holding a closing service for Stiperstones Church.

All are invited to come along to celebrate and remember those who have worshipped at both the old chapel at Perkins Beach and the new Stiperstones Chapel, the Church anniversaries, the Sunday School and their anniversaries plus other events held in both buildings.

The service will take the form of an old style Camp Meeting so please bring along chairs to sit on and a picnic as we close the chapel for worship. Although the building will be closed the memories cannot be erased and so this will also be a time to share them all, thanking God for all those who shared their faith with us and made us who we are today.

Sandra Lewis

Stiperstones group of churches - recent 'life event' services

Stephen Airey – Burial of Ashes in
Hope Churchyard on 30th May

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

7th June Helen Pearson
14th June Wes Morris

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



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 Stiperstones churches website.

Next services:

12th July 3.00pm Afternoon service with our new curate
Rev Ian Williams

St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

Church Wardens Pauline Stopford, The Kennels, Habberley (01743 790784)
Pearl Hannigan, 9 Yarlington Orchard, Pontesbury (01743 790495)

Sunday 14th	5.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 28th	3.00pm	Holy Communion



Hope & Shelve Parish

(services at Holy Trinity Church Hope
and All Saints' Church Shelve)

Church Warden Barbara Venables

Refreshments are served at all our services



Services this month

Sunday 7th	9.00am	Shelve	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	9.00am	Hope	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	9.00am	Shelve	Worship Together
Sunday 28th	3.00pm	9.00am	Morning Prayer



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