



St George's Church

Pontesbury

Report to Annual Meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council

Pontesbury Youth Project

In 2023, a partnership was born between St George's Church, Pontesbury Baptist Church, Pontesbury Congregational Church and Shrewsbury Youth for Christ to deliver youth work in Pontesbury.

After three rounds of advertising, we were finally able to appoint a full-time youth worker, Joseph Barnes. Joe commenced work on 19th February 2024. There is a twin focus to his work with 11-18 year olds.

He will be supporting the work of Mary Webb School by taking assemblies, leading lunch-time groups, providing mentoring for students who are struggling and contributing to the humanities programme.

He will also be leading the Pontesbury Youth Project, which to date consists of an after-school youth café on Wednesday afternoons. The café which mirrors the successful youth café that has been running in Minsterley for 18 months, has been slow to take off. The venue, Pontesbury Baptist Church, is not quite directly on the route home from school, and many pass by without calling in as we had hoped. However, those that do access the provision make extremely positive comments about how valuable it is to them. There are also on-street discussions with young people who are happy to talk at length about the issues they face.

Joe's number one target is to review this provision and develop it in such a way as to engage with much greater numbers of young people.

This project is also in receipt of grant funding from Hereford Diocese and the Joseph Rank Foundation.

Revd Greg Smith
March 2024

St George's, Pontesbury is a Christian Community providing a loving and spiritual environment in which to embrace, explore and experience faith in order to serve our community.