

The Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

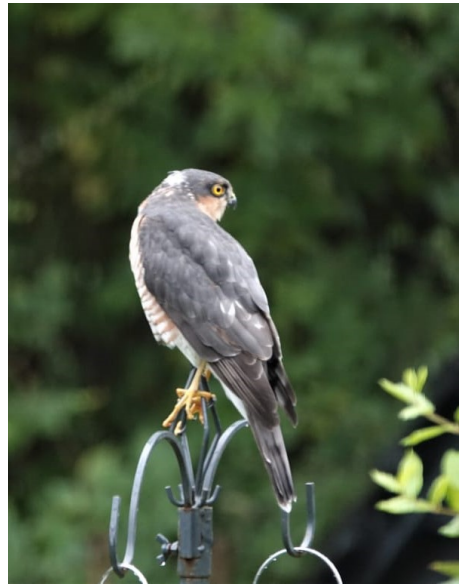
December 2023

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And all our regular features





Thanks to Gordon and Sandy Ewing for their photos of the Yarpole Parish Festive Recipes book at the top of this page, and Croft Church on the front page. The recipe book is on sale in the shop in aid of the PCC and St Leonard's Management, price £4.50.

Thanks also to Brian North for the sparrowhawk, and Kate Griffiths and Jane Goldman for the Remembrance photos above.

From the Editor's chair

Christmas greetings to all our readers!

I'm very pleased to have the piece about my co-editor and friend, Brian, in this issue on page 32. I'm sure that those who were unable to come to the celebration of his life in St Leonard's on October 16th will be pleased to learn more about this lovely man. As well as co-editing The Parishioner, Brian contributed to our community in many other ways, and you can also read about another aspect of this, The Men's Shed, on page 11.

As yet there are no firm plans for a new co-editor. If you might be interested please get in touch with me and I can show you what the role involves. It is a most rewarding job with no stress and high levels of job satisfaction! I should know because I have been doing it for 11 years and am keen to carry on, but ideally with someone else to share it with as it is quite a lot of work for one person. With 2 editors, it is only 5 times a year, with a proper break in between. It is wonderful doing a job which is so enjoyable and creative, and which (hopefully!) brings benefits to every single member of our community. Currently 380 copies are printed which go out to every household in our parish.

This is the last newsletter for 2023 and I'd like to wish all our readers good wishes for 2024 which I hope will be a happy, healthy and peaceful year for you all. I shall be back in February 2024, hopefully with a new co-editor all ready to go...

Hetty

To send in articles and news items, please e-mail us at:
newsletter@yarpole.org

Or leave in the box at the shop

**The deadline for all submissions is
THE 10th OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

There is no newsletter in January or August

ADVERTISEMENTS

**To place a commercial advert in The Parishioner, please email
newsletter@yarpole.org and we'll send you more information**

Prices start at £5 for a 1/8 page ad, with discounts for multiple insertions

We also print small ads for parishioners for which we suggest that a small donation is left in the yellow collection box in the shop.

Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

Enjoy chatting and sharing photos with members of our community via the Yarpole Whatsapp group. We now have over 90 members!



To join this group, please send a message to:
Katie Daniels 07786515922 with your mobile number.



Don't miss out on what's happening!

To be added to the events mailing list, email:

events@yarpole.org



Calling Facebook Users

To obtain Yarpole news on Facebook, search for 'Yarpole Community'.

See what's on! See what matters in Yarpole! Contribute to the page.

Like us and become a friend.



The Parishioner on audio disk

The Parishioner is also available as an audio disk for parish residents with sight problems. If you'd like to receive it in this format, or know someone who would, please let us know at newsletter@yarpole.org.



Adverts are not read out in the audio version, so here are contact details for some essential services.

Electricians: KC Electrical 07446 130883; Ian Mackay 07736 303297 or 07396 578662

Gardening: Shaun Yapp 01568 780929 or 07876197770

House cleaning: Pristine Clean 07733194057

Oven cleaning: Oven Wizards 01885 400337, 07817 477850

Chimney sweep: Phil Mundy 01568 780417 or 07837 935102

Firewood: Pete Merriman 01568 780414; Steve Mantle 07980 775838; Dave Ward 07866 441154

Mobile hairdresser: Dawn Goodwin 01568 770387

Foot health: Stacey Gardner 01568 368306 or 07540566871

Osteopaths: Leominster Osteopaths 01568 610610

Solicitors: Gabbs 01568 616333; Norris Miles 01584 810575

Funeral services: Victoria Allen 01584 879035; Oak Tree 01568 250030

Yarpole Welcome Packs

If you are aware of new residents who have moved to the parish, don't forget to inform Sue Langley to be sure they receive a pack. Email susanmarylangley@gmail.com.

What's on

What's on

Carol singing round the village Weds 20th December



We are meeting at St. Leonard's at 4pm and, after lubricating our vocal chords with mulled wine and mince pies, we shall set off round the village. Our route is likely to take us past St. Anthonys, Mulberry Meadows, up Green Lane to the Briar Croft/Croft Crescent interchange - weather permitting. All are welcome to join us whether you can sing or not - bring a torch or a candle in a jam jar if you can.

Rose Jenkins 780536



THE BIRCHPOLE SINGERS

St. Leonard's Church

Wednesday evenings 7.10 - 9.30 pm

We are a friendly village choir who meet weekly for an eclectic mix of music, from Verdi to Les Misérables!

New members are always welcome and there are no auditions.

Do come and join us!

Contact: Steve Walter, stevewltr7@gmail.com Tel: 07791490439



COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting

Monday, 11th December 1-3 pm

In the Gallery Cafe, St. Leonards, Yarpole

£3 per session.

Everyone very welcome - we are a friendly group who meet once a month to craft together and enjoy a good chat !!

We look forward to welcoming you !



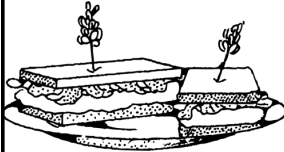
What's on

What's on

Throw away those Post Christmas blues, forget about that New Year hangover and make it your resolution to have a bit of fun.

Come and join us for a **FREE** community event and celebrate 12th night with friends and neighbours.

Bring and share buffet ~ Prize Games & Raffle ~ Bring your dancin' shoes



Bring along a plate of food for the communal buffet table

All sorts of fun games where you can win prizes but lose your dignity

Channel your inner Jagger or YMCA with the best music of the 60's and 70's

SATURDAY 6th JANUARY 2024, 7 - 11pm
at Yarpole Parish Hall.

FREE Admission ~ Licensed Bar.
Transport available for those who need it.



Leominster Repair Café



First Saturday of every month 10.00 - 12.00 (last repairs)

Next sessions: December 2nd, January 6th

Leominster Community Centre, Church St, HR6 8NJ

Refreshments and free parking

Bring along:

Mechanical Household items Electrical Toys Furniture

Sewing repairs and tools for sharpening

Free repairs, sharpening £2

Email: repaircafeleominster@googlegroups.com

Or find us on Facebook

What's on



What's on

What's Love Got To Do With It?

Cert: 12a - 109 mins



Sat 9th Dec - 7.30 pm

Yarpole Parish Hall

Admission: Adults: £13 Child: £10

Enquiries: 01568 780250 and 07495 437359

This is a Flicks and Food presentation. Film £5; Food £8.

Food must be booked before. You can just see the film if you wish. Film starts at 7.30pm, meal served at 6.30pm

A British romantic comedy about a filmmaker who decides to document her best friend's journey toward arranged marriage.

Starring: Lily James, Emma Thompson, Shazad Latif

Future dates

Saturday 10th February - Living.

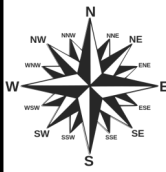
Saturday 6th April - The Great Escaper.

Please remember to book food in advance.

Most of the films that have been shown at Flicks are now available to borrow from the parish hall library whenever the building is open for an event.

What's on

What's on



Walking Group

We meet regularly on the 2nd Friday and 4th Sunday of every month, normally at 10:30 by the church.

December walks:

Friday 8th

Details for a walk during the festive period will be confirmed by email.

All are welcome to join our walks but please phone to check details, if you are not on the email list.

Contact: Viv 782271 or seiftonbatch@gmail.com

Police Community Support Officer meetings

Our local (Leominster) PCSO Steph Harper aims to visit the Gallery Café every 5 weeks on a Wednesday at 11.00.

Her next visit, is scheduled for Wednesday December 20th. Join her in the café for a coffee and chat.

Pete Lloyd



Come and Be Still



Some music, a reading, a prayer and time for your own quiet reflection.

Monthly, on the first Wednesday, 5.30 - 6pm .

St Leonard's Church, Yarpole.

All are welcome

Singing
the Faith



House church will be resuming in the New Year

After a short break and under the heading of Singing the Faith, come along and sing (optional) a couple of familiar hymns and look in detail at the text and what it means to us, and how it can fit in with our everyday lives.

Starting Tuesday 9th January, 7.30 in St Leonard's Church, everyone welcome.

Then on the 4th Tuesday in January, and thereafter the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month

What's on

What's on



Orleton Evergreens Christmas Meal



December 14th (Please note change of date)
The Fountain, Oldwood, Tenbury Wells, 12 for 12.30pm.

Booking essential.

Menu choices and payment by December 6th.

All welcome (50+).

Contact: Sue Turner 01584 831324 or 07840 023856 sue.a.turner@gmail.com.

Arts Society lectures

Wed 17th January 2024: Banksy - Genius or Fraud. Pepe Martinez .

Visitors welcome, £8.00 on the door. Membership (8 lectures) £45.

More information: www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk.

For help with transport contact:

Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on 01694 781489



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LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Yarpole Parish Seasonal Recipe Book



Festive Mincemeat Cheesecake

The Yarpole Parish Seasonal Recipe Book group looks forward to publishing its main cookbook around Easter next year. In the meantime, the team of volunteers has created a taster recipe booklet celebrating the festive season.

With over 40 festive recipes, anecdotes, edible gift ideas and Winter Haikus, this is a must for every festive cook and even many a Christmas stocking. At £4.50 it is a snip and it is now on sale in the Yarpole Community Shop and the Gallery Café.

All proceeds will go towards protecting and maintaining our historic Bell Tower and beautiful St Leonard's Church.

Gordon Ewing

Charitable Giving at Christmas

Christmas is seen as the season of giving and many of us are making lists of the gifts to buy.

In past years this village has been exceptionally generous in its Christmas giving and although times are challenging I hope we can all dig deep. Here is a roundup of the giving opportunities this Christmas from our community.



1. Christmas Card Tree. We will have 2 Christmas trees in the Church during December. The big one is decorated but there will also be a smaller tree – the Christmas Card Tree. The intention is that you save time and cards so instead of writing lots of cards to all your friends in the Village, you write one card to everyone and pop it on the tree – cards and string provided. The money you save by doing this you can deposit in the donation box under the tree. This year the funds will be going to **Médecins Sans Frontières**.

2. Exhibition Pictures and Information of Lifegivers Trust. This is a Christian-run home for orphaned boys in Andhra Pradesh in India. It has been supported for many years by members of our congregation and they are going to display more information about its work and leave a donation box out for your gifts – all gratefully received.

3. Carol singing Round the Tree on Christmas Eve (at 3.00pm) will be collecting, as they have every year, for the **Children's Society**.

4. Leominster Food Bank will welcome gifts of Christmas food and there will be a separate trug put out, alongside the normal bin, where you can leave these food donations.

Finally Rowenna asked me to add that she has a button in the Post Office whereby you can simply and easily make donations to DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee), Children in Need or The Trussell Trust.

Thank you all

Rose

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Yarpole's Men's Shed



The Yarpole Men's Shed group has recently lost two of its treasured members. You will already be aware of their passing by way of entries in the Parishioner.

Mike Bashford was an early member of YMS and offered us the use of his well-equipped workshop where we met weekly to carry out various projects. He took a great interest in our re-building of the gravity racer where his mechanical knowledge became invaluable. In addition, we so enjoyed stories of his time in Cyprus with the RAF and his business of chauffeuring film celebrities in his Rolls Royce. The stories may have been repeated from time to time but were more entertaining with each telling.

Not long after Mike's passing we lost Brian Mitchell, a founder member of YMS, if not 'the' founder member. Brian was so enthusiastic about the group and in the early days seemed to be Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Minister Without Portfolio and indeed, Minister With Many Portfolios. With all his other commitments in the community I don't know how he managed to fit us into his busy schedule. But that was Brian. He had a way with him, as they say. He was kind, had a wonderful sense of humour and was respected by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be sadly missed. No, I must correct myself. He will be remembered with a big smile.

Following these two huge losses a number of our group were stricken with the Covid virus and had to isolate themselves. This has caused delays to our projects such as re-locating a shed to the Village Hall site where we will establish ourselves permanently.

Men's Shed groups worldwide are formed as a place to share practical skills, making and mending, share knowledge, friendship and enjoy company. Here at YMS we do all these things as well as involving ourselves in other local community activities. Added to this we have social connection, camaraderie and not a little laughter.

We were recently joined by a new member and are eager to encourage others to join us at YMS. You will be made very welcome.

If you are interested please email: yarpolshed@gmail.com

Brian Dobson

Chairperson, YMS



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LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Thankyou! Thankyou! Thankyou!

The Friends of Mortimer Medical Practice would like to say a huge Thank you to all who supported the Colours Fashion Show held at Kingsland Coronation Hall a few weeks ago.

We raised a magnificent £1,117.50 for the three surgeries, Kingsland, Orleton and Leintwardine. The money will be used to buy equipment which will benefit all patients.

A special Thankyou to Nicky's Wagtail Meadow. The amount raised included the extremely generous donation of £138.00, the proceeds of the raffle at their recent dog show.

And another 'Thankyou' to our Yarpole Community shop for the beautiful and generous food hamper donated as a raffle prize, along with the other prizes donated by local businesses. We greatly appreciate you all.

We were very impressed with Colours Fashion Show organisation. If anyone is interested in booking them for a fundraising event please contact me for information.

Helen Coverley (Tel 780189)

On behalf of the Trustees of the Friends of Mortimer Medical Practice

House Hunting

Neal and Miriam are looking for a property in Yarpole. On visiting several times, we have seen a strong community here with lots going on; everybody seems so friendly and welcoming.



Miriam (a Piano and Violin Teacher) has just accepted work in a local school. Neal is a Manager in a manufacturing facility, looking after forecasting, logistics and materials and able to work from home (provided he has good internet access!)

We have approx. £400k to spend, would like detached or semi-detached. A garage would be preferable or space to build one. We would also like a garden to grow some vegetables and possibly put a pond in.

If you are thinking of selling we would appreciate the opportunity to look at your place. We aren't in a chain and would be ready to move fairly quickly. We are moving into a rental property in the area from January so can attend viewings easily.

Contact in the first instance would preferably be an email to Neal on nealrobertgraham@gmail.com.

We are both keen on integrating with the community - Miriam would like to join the church and we have been looking at painting classes and the prospect of a 'men with sheds' group for Neal. We really hope Yarpole will be part of our new life and look forward to meeting more of you in the near future. Of the people we have already met we would like to say thank you for the friendly reception and encouragement we have received.

Neal and Miriam



Herefordshire
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

HEREFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS URGED TO SUPPORT 'SURVIVING WINTER' APPEAL

Local charity Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) has launched its annual Surviving Winter appeal and is asking for donations to help the county's vulnerable households and vital community spaces to stay warm over the colder months.

Bridie Sullivan, Chief Executive, explains how local residents can help: "This year the Government is giving pensioners the Winter Fuel Payment and an additional cost of living payment. We're encouraging those who don't need this support to donate it to our appeal instead. If anyone else can make a contribution, large or small, it would be really appreciated too.

The feedback we receive blows us away, as a relatively modest grant can make an enormous difference to someone's life. Meanwhile, keeping community spaces warm is essential as it gives people a safe place to go and helps to combat loneliness and isolation".

If you would like to donate online, visit www.herefordshirecf.org/survivingwinter

Alternatively, ring 01432 272550 to donate over the phone or send a cheque to Herefordshire Community Foundation, The Fred Bulmer Centre, Wall Street, Hereford HR4 9HP (please include a note that it is for the Surviving Winter appeal).



The
Wye & Usk
Foundation

WOODLANDS FOR WATER

Planting Trees to Help Our Rivers

Wye & Usk Foundation Advisors are offering free advice and support to farmers and land managers in the Wye catchment (England) to apply for grants to plant trees to create woodland, wood pasture, agroforestry and traditional orchards.

Benefits of Trees on Farms

Trees can provide shelter for livestock from sun and severe weather, protect crops from wind damage, retain soil moisture and improve drought resilience, stabilize riverbanks and provide shade for fish, reduce flooding downstream, capture eroding soils and nutrients, boost diversity and beneficial pollinator habitat. They can also be a source of production (timber, wood fuel, livestock browse, fruit or nuts and woodchip which can be mixed in with farmyard manure for fertiliser).

Background & Information

Woodlands for Water is the first project developed by the Riverscapes Partnership which, with support from Defra, aims to create more riparian and wider catchment planting in six river catchment areas from Devon to Cumbria by March 2025.

This project is being delivered through the Nature for Climate funding from Defra.

To find out more contact:

Dreda Darling - Email: dreda@wyeuskfoundation.org

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Farm Shop – stockists of local and bespoke products of the finest quality and affordable prices. As well as many products homecooked on site with any quantities able to be made for event/gatherings.

Café - Freshly prepared meals to order showcasing the amazing quality products our area and team product.

Cakes, traybakes and treats available all day along with a vast a ray of drinks including freshly ground luxury coffee and our speciality thick milkshakes.

You don't need a main course to enjoy our **Deluxe Whippy ice-cream** in a classic cone or as a sundae pot.

We've also teamed up with a number of dealers bringing a great range of **salvage items** and **garden accessories** as well as a number of **artists** and **crafts professionals**.

Open Wednesday to Sunday 9.30am to 5pm (Saturday and Sunday 4pm Close)



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**Please contact Simon
on 07846 259549**

Grafted Apple trees

2-3 year old named dessert, cookers, cider varieties
In pots - £20 (discount for bulk)

Trees in pots are easy to look after until you've decided where to plant them!

Discovery, Ashmead's Kernel, Russets, and many more...

Root stock: M25 vigorous; M111 & M106 semi-vigorous

Advice on tree/orchard management also provided

Contact Chris, **01584 831195**

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CERTASS *let the sun shine in...*





YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

NEWS



December 2023

Christmas goodies of all sorts

G and R Tudge is a family-run business based in nearby Richards Castle and their Herefordshire-reared rare breed pigs and free range turkeys have locally become an essential component of a traditional Christmas meal.

Remember if you want to order your Christmas turkeys and sausages, hams, bacon, etc from them, to collect at the shop, then you will need to fill in a form which you can collect from the shop.

The orders will be ready to collect after midday on Friday 22nd December. They will need to be collected by 13:00 on Saturday the 23rd December at the latest as the shop will be closed after that until Wednesday 27th December (Do let us know if you need your order any earlier than that as this can be arranged).

If you would like to order any speciality breads, dairy products, pies and patés then you will need to e-mail yarpoleshop@mail.com or leave a message in the shop for Rowena at least a week before you would like to collect them.

Hampers

The Christmas hamper raffle is now in full swing and the hamper is on display in the shop. Come and buy a ticket for £1 a number and see if this year the box filled with our delicious seasonal treats and fare will be yours this Christmas!

The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 21st December at 15:00 - which means the lucky winner has plenty of time to collect it and start to enjoy it over the Christmas weekend.

If you would like to buy a hamper as a gift then please ask in the shop and we will agree what you would like in it and the price you would like to pay and it will then be made up for you. Please allow a few days for us to do that and then we will let you know when it is ready for you to collect.

Post Office

Remember if you need to withdraw cash the Post Office also serves as an ATM and you can withdraw money from your account across the counter. The added advantage of using the Post Office is that for every withdrawal made the Post Office will donate a penny to the Trussell Trust - a charity which provides emergency food and essential toiletries to those in sudden acute need, and it also works to create a future where everyone can afford the essentials and no one needs to use a foodbank.

Sky visit

We had a very enjoyable visit from Sky TV who interviewed a number of us from shop and church and filmed the church (which was looking fabulous with the remembrance floral displays) and shop to create a short piece for broadcast.

One of the interviews was with one of our long serving (literally) volunteers whose story of what volunteering had meant to her the reporter found very moving. In fact she felt privileged to be able to spend the day filming what to her was a very positive story when so many of her journalistic colleagues were covering really grim stories from elsewhere in the world and so she felt that the editors might really appreciate a good news story to slot in to the news.

We have no confirmed broadcast date but she hoped it would go out just before Christmas.

Seasonal opening times

Saturday December 23rd: Shop closed at 13.00 + PO closed at noon.

Sunday 24th: Shop + PO closed

Monday 25th: Shop + PO closed

Tuesday 26th: Shop + PO closed

Wed 27th, Thurs 28th, Fri 29th, Sat 30th: usual opening hours

Monday Jan 1st: Shop + PO closed

Tuesday 2nd back to usual hours.

Newspapers available as usual everyday except Christmas Day.

Best wishes

Finally can we wish everyone a happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2024.

And thank you for however you support our shop.

Reminder of the Last UK Posting Dates for Christmas

Monday 18 December

2nd Class

2nd Class Signed For

Tuesday 19 December

1st Class

1st Class Signed For

Friday 22 December

Special Delivery Guaranteed® (Guaranteed Saturday delivery for an extra fee)

SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

	Shop	Post Office
Monday - Friday	9am - 5pm	9am - 12noon
Saturday	9am - 1pm	9am - 12noon
Sunday/Bank Holidays	closed except for pre-ordered newspapers	

Tel: 01568 780148 E-mail: yarpoleshop@mail.com

Website: www.yarpole.com

CHURCH MATTERS



Christmas is, after Easter, the second most important time in the Christian calendar, the time to celebrate the amazing event of God's coming into the world in human flesh, to be one of us, yet perfect and sinless, unlike us, so that he could be our substitute and saviour and the only possible mediator between God and man. The true importance of this is obscured by the popular imagery of a baby in a manger surrounded by animals, which almost relegates it to a children's story; but if Jesus had never come into the world, there could be no cross and resurrection, and therefore no rescue from sin and its eternal penalty.

Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

The unprecedented appearance of a host of angels celebrating and testifying to the birth demonstrates the importance in God's eyes of Jesus's coming into the world.

Watch out for unusual service times. The Nine Lessons and Carols service will be at Croft at 4 pm on 17th December and will be all (or mostly?) congregational singing. If possible, please park outside the gates and leave the parking next to the church for those who have difficulty walking. Carols Round the Tree will be at 3pm on the 24th (in Yarpole) so there will be no morning service on either of those Sundays. The service on 31st December will be a joint service for all parishes in the group and will be at Orleton church.

We hope to do a short carol service at 3pm on Saturday 9th December at Croft, chiefly for the benefit of National Trust visitors, but any extra support would be welcome. Check the events on the yarpole.org website to be sure it is happening.

We continue with our Be Still times on the first Wednesday of each month, as a time to just sit in silence (surprisingly difficult!) and meditate on some reading, sometimes with some gentle music.

January should be back to the normal service pattern.

Oliver Elphick



Plans for the future

We held a really useful and friendly public meeting in early November, attended by over 40 members of the community. We were able to explain in detail what we do and how we operate, and to answer people's questions.

At the meeting we outlined our plans for the future, and if you weren't able to attend you might like to know what we are hoping to do:

- We are in the process of replacing the chairs in the café. The existing chairs are comfortable, but the upholstery isn't easy to keep clean and they don't really blend with the pale wood tables. We've already tried and rejected one style of chairs because, although they looked good, they weren't sufficiently comfortable. Our search will continue! The Shop Board has kindly agreed that we can make use of two grants allocated to us some time ago to help fund this purchase.
- The black folding chairs that are used for large gatherings are well past their use-by date and need to be replaced. This will be an expensive purchase, and will need a lot of research to make sure that the ones we choose are practical, sturdy and comfortable.
- We would like to extend the very cramped café kitchen part-way into the storage gallery, to give the volunteers more working space. This is a very long-term project, requiring permission from the church authorities and advice from the Environmental Health team before we can even start formulating plans. It's impossible to put a time-scale to this, but we'll update you as things progress.

If there are things you would like to see us doing in St Leonard's, or if you have any comments or questions, do get in touch with one of us:

Trevor Edwards (mail4trevor.edwards@gmail.com)

Andrew Praill (enmorevet@outlook.com)

Sue Russell (suetrustee@btinternet.com)

If you want to keep up to date with what St Leonard's Management is doing, including reading the minutes of our meetings, please visit our website www.stleonardsyarpole.com



PARISH HALL

December 2023

Programme for December 2023

Regular Weekly Activities

Mondays	Zumba	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Yoga	7.30 - 8.30 pm
Tuesdays	Tai Chi	10.00 - 11.00 am
	Pilates	6.00 - 7.00 pm
Wednesdays	Tai Chi	10.00 - 11.00 am
Thursdays	Pilates	10.45 - 11.45 am
Fridays	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30 pm

Other Events in December

Fri 1st - Sun 3rd	Private booking	
Tues 5th	Yarpole Group Parish Council meeting	7.00 pm
Sat 9th	Flicks in the Sticks	6.30 (film only 7.30 pm)
Friday 15th	The 4 Cs	11.00 am
Sun 17th	Private booking	

To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern

**01568 701996 / parishhall@yarpole.org. Or go to www.yarpole.com
and click on 'Church & Parish Hall Bookings' to book online.**

If you are interested in joining one of the classes, please email Amanda who will put you in touch with the class organiser.



Don't forget that books can still be taken out from the parish hall library whenever the building is open for an event. Just sign in the book and there is no time limit.

DVDs and bluerays of recent Flicks films are also available to borrow.



PARISH HALL

December 2023

200 Club – Good News!

I'm pleased to announce that we have now found somebody to work alongside the Parish Hall committee and take on responsibility for our 200 club.

A big thank you to Jan Tandy, who will take over from Pete Lloyd this month. We're very grateful that Jan has come forward, enabling Pete to have a well deserved rest and we look forward to you joining our team Jan.

Jill Grant & Parish Hall Committee

200 Club

The 200 club winning numbers for November were:-

46 £50, 145 £20, 72 £15, 104 £10

Jan Tandy



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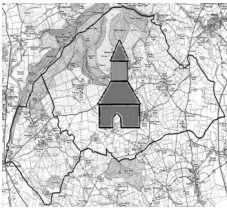
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Yarpole Group Parish Council December 2023

Four members of the public, the Tree Warden, Cllr Dan Hurcomb and PCSO Steph Harper attended the Parish Council (YGPC) meeting on Tuesday 7 November 2023.

PCSO Harper reported that thefts from outbuildings continue, but apart from this, crime in the area is low. Residents are asked to report anything suspicious, however trivial. Crime prevention roadshows offer an opportunity to have property, bikes, tools etc., marked free of charge. Sign up for updates from the West Mercia Police: <https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>.

The Parish Council raised no objections to Planning Application P232989/J - Works to trees covered by TPO as the tree to be felled has Ash dieback. The Council agreed to object to application P233174/F - Planning Permission Land Adjacent to Maund House. Strong objections were made, including the development being permitted within approx. 90cm of the western site boundary as this would have a negative effect on the community's investment in The Bell at Yarpole.

A public meeting with Welsh Water to discuss foul drainage problems in Yarpole village has been arranged for 23rd November.

The draft budget for 2024-25 was discussed. This will be finalised on 5 December, and the Precept for 2024-25 set.

A site has been found for a defibrillator at Lucton village. Further advice will be taken before selecting the most appropriate model, after which a purchase will be made, with the help of a £1,000 grant from the Community Shop.

The Community Meadow working group has discussed planting schemes, thanks to Cllr Praill, and the installation of bollards around the car park. Two grant applications have been submitted towards the purchase of trees, and £500 offered by Kingspan Community Fund toward the purchase of wildflower turf. The bench at the far end of the field has been relocated, thanks to Cllrs Daniels and Cadwallader. The Parish Hall Committee sent their thanks for the purchase of a plaque for the QEII bench, and Cllr Grant is thanked for fixing it securely in place.

Tree planting sessions/laying wildflower turf will be arranged soon. **IT IS NOT TOO LATE** to join in – send your name and phone number or email address to the clerk. See contact details below.

Clearing weed growth by kerb stones and on pavements in Croft and Green Lane Crescents was discussed. Improving drainage at Lucton Ford is also under discussion, and a decision on which task should take priority, making best use of funding available from Herefordshire Council is to be taken. Funding is £140 per km of C or U road in the Parishes. The total this year, including £1,000 match funding from the Parish Council, is £4114. This is unlikely to be enough to complete works at Lucton Ford and Balfour Beatty is to let the Clerk know if they will carry out this task instead.

Upcoming meeting dates are Tuesdays 5 December 2023, 6 February, and 5 March 2024. 7.30 pm at The Parish Hall. There is no scheduled meeting in January. Residents are encouraged to attend and may speak during the public session at the start of the meeting.

Maggie Brown, Clerk. clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk



Gallery Café, Saint Leonard's, Yarpole

Tasty Tuesday at the Gallery Café

Following on from our November event we are now booking places on our December Tasty Tuesday event. Come and join us for our Christmas themed menu. Places will be limited so please book early.

1pm, Tuesday 5th December

Main course:

Festive sausage and mash served with red cabbage, onion gravy and cranberry sauce

Dessert:

Yule bread and butter pudding

£12.95 for a main course and hot drink, £14.95 for both courses and a hot drink

To book please email: gallerycafe@yarpole.org or call the café during opening hours on 01568 780594 or drop in to see us in person.

Regular Opening times:

Monday - Wednesday: 10.30 - 12.30 for drinks, homemade cakes and scones.

Thursday and Friday: 10.30 - 15:30 with light lunch to eat in or takeaway, between 12.00 and 2.00pm.

Saturday Brunch: 10.30 - 12.30 for our tasty bacon rolls, croissants and the famous "revved up" cheese scones.

Payments accepted in cash and by card.

Check www.yarpole.org, WhatsApp,

Yarpole Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/>
and the noticeboard for updated information and events.

Philosophical comments for the month

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Bertrand Russell

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Mortimer Community Benefit Society Christmas News

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Annual Members' Meeting. 51 shareholders attended and 10 non-shareholders. I hope that we can persuade those non-shareholders to invest in the Bell and therefore support it for the future. £100.00 to be a part owner in a beautiful pub is worth the investment! The AGM minutes are now available to read on the MCBS website (www.themortimercbs.org). As is the discussion summary from after the meeting. Just go to the Home Page and follow the links.

The MCBS committee have agreed terms with Iain Dixon for the Bell at Yarpole Ltd surrendering the lease.

The committee are planing to re-open the Bell at Yarpole on Friday evenings. Fizz Fridays are back! The pub will be open from 6pm until closing.

We hope to start on Friday, 1st December. Please make a note of the date. Watch out for further publicity.

The committee is still deciding on our long term plans. We plan to run the Bell at Yarpole, initially, as a community venture. We will expand on the Friday night opening; possibly aiming for 3 nights a week and Sunday lunchtimes. More details to follow.

There is a suggestions box in the church. We welcome suggestions which might help us find a way forward.

Our plan is to try this for 6 months; possibly starting January, to see if the pub is viable. In order to attract a further tenant we need to prove that the Bell at Yarpole can be profitable. We will need volunteers to help with cleaning, tidying, serving in the initial stages until the business prospers.

The Bell at Yarpole needs everyone's support!

Let's have a warm and happy Christmas celebration at the Bell at Yarpole!

MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE

Patients' Participation Group (PPG) December 2023

Essential Staff Training

The Surgeries and Dispensaries will be CLOSED until the normal time the next day, from 12-6pm on the dates below. Collection of medication is also not possible.

For urgent treatment call Kingsland reception(01568 708214) between 12-6pm.

Outside these hours 111.

Thursday 18th January 2024

Tuesday 16th April 2024

Wednesday 17th July 2024

Thursday 17th October 2024

Next PPG meeting is January 25th.

Gilly Lloyd 01568 780328 gillymi.lloyd@yahoo.com

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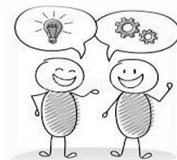
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Yarpole Parish Good Neighbour Scheme



Yarpole Talk
Community

THE BIG QUIZ RETURNS!

YPGNS will again hold its popular Quiz

on Saturday 27th January 2024, in the Parish Hall, Yarpole.

Teams of up to six, bring your own picnic, the bar will be open for your drinks.

£5.00 per head, 7.00pm start.

Contact Anna Morley to book your table: robanna.morley@btinternet.com.

The 4Cs, Yarpole Parish Hall, fourth Fridays, 11.00am – 12 noon

December 15th

A miscellany of carols and Christmas music, with children from local schools.

February 24th

Ruth Elphick will tell us about her experience in making pots, her passion for many years.

March 22nd

Our local BEE LADY, Meriet Duncan, will give us the benefit of her love of bees.

Come and join us, for 4Cs, COMPANY, CHAT, COFFEE AND CAKE, always lots of cake.

Ring Avis on 780874 or Val on 780807 if you need a lift.

If you need us or want to join us, the number is above – we will be glad to hear from you either way!

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Hereford

December 2023

Dear Friends,

In court, juries will be suspicious if all the witnesses come up with the same story. Their role is to weigh up accounts to discern where the truth lies. In most situations it's remarkable how diverse people's perceptions of events can be. Such variation adds to the credibility of a story. This is especially true of the Christmas story in the Bible. The events are examined from a variety of angles. Diverse witnesses provided the source material for the Gospel writers to distil their accounts. We have an angle from kings, shepherds, and theologians keen to analyse things in the light of what God had already said through prophets hundreds of years previously. In the centre of the story is Mary, the young peasant girl in her teens, who finds herself inexplicably pregnant.

Her response is the exemplar of what it is to be a follower of Jesus. The angel tells her what is about to happen with only the sketchiest discussion of the personal implications. Her response is, "may it be unto me as you have said." Confronted with the reality of God, her answer is, "yes, now what is the question." She is in a long line of heroes of faith who exemplify unconditional obedience. Isaiah, confronted with a vision of God said, "here am I send me." The disciples required just a word from Jesus to leave everything and follow him. St. Paul was struck blind on the road to Damascus and meekly waited for what God was to tell him he must do.

We are coming to the end of our year of prayer in the diocese and moving to the year of faith. As we begin that journey together, Mary's, "yes, now what is the question?" is a good place to start. The Gospel was described by Rowan Williams as news not advice. The events of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection stand at the turning point of history inviting us to respond with our own unconditional, "yes!"

+Richard



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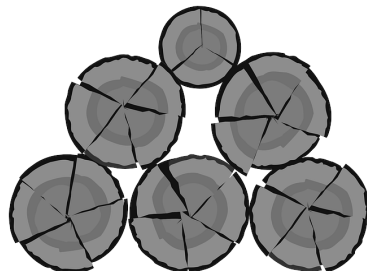
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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Aeoniums in Habitat and Cultivation

On Tuesday 31 October ODGC welcomed Mellie Lewis, holder of the National Collection of Aeoniums. Mellie has been studying and collecting Aeoniums for almost 40 years and has approximately 300 varieties.

Aeoniums originate from the Macaronesian islands, Canaries, Cape Verde and Madeira and can also be found in the Yemen and Morocco. Most are endemic to the Canaries where they owe their success on this harsh volcanic terrain to moisture-bearing Trade Winds. The plants, members of the Crassulaceae family, have succulent leaves borne in rosettes with cilia along the leaf edges which trap moisture. The more mountainous the island, the more diverse the species. This is called adaptive radiation whereby a species has adapted to its environment whether this be dry and hot or the moist evergreen laurel cloud forest. They can even grow on terracotta pantiles where the leaf litter provides sufficient nutrient. Fuerteventura is the only Canary Island without Aeoniums.

Size and habit vary enormously. Some, the *A. arborea* spp, can be 2 metres high sporting a 1 metre high inflorescence which may be yellow, pink or white. These are pollinated by bees and small lizards which scramble over the plants in search of insects. They are monocarpic and die after flowering, scattering millions of seeds. Others are stalkless, for example *A. tabuliforme*, others have a sprawling habit like *A. haworthii*.

Aeoniums are threatened by invasive plants (*Agave*, *Kalanchoe* and *Opuntia*) and by animals (feral goats and rabbits) which damage ancient water systems. The creation of new roads to promote tourism destroys habitat and the climate is no longer predictable resulting in the abandonment of farmsteads.

The first record of Aeoniums found in the UK is an illustration dated 1699 in the Duchess of Beaufort's botanical collection. They have become very popular in recent years, many resulting from crosses with purple black *A. swartkop* discovered in a nursery in The Netherlands in the 1950s. They are easy to propagate from stem cuttings or seed. Members were warned to beware imports of Korean and Chinese variants as these are not new cultivars but result from irradiation or grafting.

Mellie's fascinating talk was accompanied by a wonderful slideshow of these striking architectural plants growing wild in the Canary Islands.

Ghislaine Arundale

Talks resume in January 2024, please check our website.

Annual Membership £15.

www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk

THE CURIOUS GARDENER

The Midnight Feast

When we first moved here, nearly eighteen years ago, multiple wasp nests were an annual feature. Each summer we'd have several in the tool shed, while others were built behind soffits and cladding. We regarded them as a nuisance and didn't hesitate to destroy any nests whose occupants were too intrusive. Wasps were hardly an endangered species, we thought, and there would always be more nests next summer.

But we were wrong. We've seen fewer and fewer each year, and last year we didn't see a single one. We were worried that perhaps they were declining the way the birds and bats have declined in our neighbourhood. So this year we were very pleased to find we had three wasps' nests: two in vole holes in the garden, and one at the side of the compost heap in the orchard. We watched them with interest, skirting round them at a safe distance and enjoying their company.

But it seemed that someone else had their eye on the nest in the compost heap. One morning we found that it had been dug out and destroyed during the night. A few confused wasps were still clinging to the remains of their nest, but all their compatriots and all their grubs were gone. The culprit? A badger.

In late summer and early autumn, wasps' nests change. Instead of producing worker grubs, they start producing queen and drone grubs which are bigger. That's when they provide the most protein for the badgers, so that's why the badger attacked it when it did. It must have been keeping an eye on it all summer to see how it was progressing, and then moved in for the kill when the meal was biggest. How it withstood the stings on its tongue and nose I've no idea.

We were sorry to see it end this way, but glad that the two other nests escaped unharmed. Hopefully there are some queens hiding in a dry place somewhere in the garden, ready to build again next year.

Sue Russell



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Brian Mitchell

It was with great sadness and affection that a very full St Leonard's said goodbye to Brian on October 16th. It was a wonderful tribute to Brian that so many people came to celebrate his life. Family, friends and colleagues came from far and wide to share memories and reflect on the impact Brian had on their lives.

Brian was a man of many parts and I think it true to say that few of us were aware of just how varied those parts were. Brian was a loving husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, step-grandfather and step-great-grandfather. He was also an academic, a skilled administrator and a deft catalyst.



Born in Uxbridge in 1950, Brian grew up in Burgess Hill and went to the University of Kent to study Law in 1971, subsequently moving on to the London School of Economics to do his Masters. Whilst a student in Kent Brian met Anne and together they moved to the Midlands where Brian took up a post as lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Wolverhampton.

Brian remained at the university ultimately becoming Dean of the Faculty of Law before retiring. It was a delight to hear the recollections of his past students. Brian was clearly an inspirational teacher as well as a dedicated and effective manager of the faculty. Charlotte and Jake were born to Brian and Anne in the early years of his career. His pride in his children was apparent to anyone who knew Brian.

In 1993 Brian moved to Ironbridge with Viv and shortly afterwards they moved to Seifton Batch in the gorgeous South Shropshire countryside where they lived for twenty happy years. Whilst living at Seifton Batch Brian explored his interest in tasks outside of his skill set, such as plumbing and digging a land drain. He was always willing to take the plunge and encouraged his children to do the same.

Viv and Brian married in 2011, on Christmas Eve, and moved to Yarpole five years after retiring. Once settled in our village Brian got involved in a range of activities, their breadth reflecting his wide-ranging interests and skills. He co-edited The Parishioner, he was secretary to the Living History Group and he was the driving force behind the creation of our Men's Shed. He also led the parish Walking Group with Viv, acted as sound engineer for concerts and plays and offered his help whenever asked. In addition to all of this he also gave generously of his time to older individuals in the village. He was also a decent waiter!

As well as giving so much of himself to our community, Brian would do all he could to inspire and support his family. One of Brian's two step-daughters, Anita, remembers how Brian gave them the courage to go and explore Europe, how he supported them when they bought their first homes, organised wonderful birthday celebrations, and introduced them to art and fine dining. She says 'We are both very lucky to have met, known and spent time with such a generous and kind hearted man who had such a sense of fun. Thank you Brian. We love you'.

In Yarpole Brian could indulge his passion for new technology, relishing its ability to cut his lawn, clean the house and show him what was happening inside the house in Italy when he was in the UK. As well as this compendium of interests Brian had a lifelong love of music, fully appreciating the genius of Bob Dylan and the majesty of Abba.

Brian had an open mind, a dry wit and an enthusiasm for life. His untimely death deprives us all of the company of this gentle man.

Adam Scott

The photo shows Brian with his granddaughter, Noa



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Hello everyone. Welcome to another edition of 'Lisa's Book Nook'. Can you believe we are almost at the end of another year?! Where has the time gone? I have read some brilliant books in 2023, and I thought it would be nice to recommend some of them to you. I hope you enjoy them. All that is left is for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2024.

Emperor of Rome by **Mary Beard** – My favourite book of the year. This is a companion piece to the bestselling 'SPQR' and shines a new light on the world and the lives of the Ancient Roman emperors. Impeccably well researched, written in an accessible way, and packed full of anecdotes and humour, this book basically unpicks what it meant to be the ruler of Ancient Rome, and what this tells us about Ancient Roman society as a whole. Perfect for scholars, beginners and everyone in between, this book is a treat from start to finish. Mary Beard demonstrates once again why she is one of the world's leading authorities on Ancient Rome. Read it and be amazed.

Fire and Blood by **George R. R. Martin** – Game of Thrones fans take note. This is the inspiration for the prequel series 'House of the Dragon', and if you have not read this yet, you really need to rectify that. Let me start by saying it is written in a very different style to the main book series. So much so, it actually reads more like a historical textbook than a typical fantasy novel, but don't let that put you off. This book is amazing! It details the history of Westeros during several centuries of Targaryen rule, along with all the drama, intrigue and bloodshed that went with it. George R. R. Martin is an incredible fantasy writer, and this highlights his talents to perfection. The amount of detail in this is nothing short of mind blowing. If you are in any way interested in this, even if that interest is merely casual, please do give it a go. You will not be disappointed.

Us Against You by **Fredrik Backman** – The second book in the acclaimed 'Beartown' trilogy, this picks up where the first book left off. For those of you who are unfamiliar with these books, they follow the lives of the inhabitants of Beartown, a Swedish town which revolves around ice hockey and its local teams. They pretty much eat, sleep and breathe ice hockey. One day, one of the team's leading players does something that has huge repercussions for him and the town as a whole. I really loved the first book in the trilogy, but I think this sequel is even better. Fredrik Backman is one of my favourite contemporary writers and this book shows off his writing in the best possible light. He really knows how to write about human nature and, as a result, you experience just about every possible emotion whilst working your way through this novel. It is fantastic. And if this trilogy does not appeal to you, Backman has several other books that have been translated and published in English and as far as I'm concerned, you cannot go wrong with any of them.

Essex Dogs by **Dan Jones** – Dan Jones is one of the UK's top medieval historians, and although he has published several non-fiction books and a novella, this is his first foray into full length historical fiction. He sticks to a period he knows well, the 100 Years War, and the result is spectacular. It's gritty, exciting, immersive, realistic, and has a bunch of wonderful, fully realised characters at its centre. I literally could not put it down whilst I was reading it, which I think is more than enough proof of just how good it is. It is also the first book in a planned trilogy. In fact, the second book, 'Wolves of Winter', has just been published. Give this one a try and go on an unforgettable medieval adventure.

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AN ODE TO YARPOLE

Let's walk through the farm
Past the new cattle barn
To where furrows, like brown corduroy, so straight,
Hide potatoes sown deep, lying in wait.
 Burgeoning.

On the sleeper track to Enmore Fields
There's a gate where old hedging yields
To a view that will surely bring
A flight of joy to make your heart sing.
 Enchanting.

Emerging from milky morning mist
Or evening rays, golden, sun-kissed,
Yarpole hunkers down deep in a hollow
Hills lifting around her, so green and mellow.
 Enfolding.

In centuries past it harboured fish
Sold to the Priory for the Abbot's dish.
Carp in still pools, trout in the streams
Fulfilling the plump monks' Friday dreams.
 Feasting.

Ancient Celts in Ambrey's fort,
Knights in Croft castle, holding court.
Farmers and peasants in orchards and fields
Dragged off to war with billhooks, not shields.
 Fighting.

Through wars, plagues and pandemics
The people struggled and came through it.
Stalwart and cheerful, strong and unbowed
Working together, of Yarpole so proud.
 Mending.

Fourteen years at South Bank, we're not locals, still,
But we're hefted here like sheep on their hill.
And when we return from Ludlow, or Rome,
Sighting Bircher Common means we are home.
 Yarpole.

Christine Cheshire

(See photo at top of opposite page)



Thanks to Gordon and Sandy Ewing for the photo at the top of this page of the view of Yarpole from 'The Motorway' portrayed in Christine's poem opposite.

Thanks also to Carol Clare for the photos of the churchyard clearance on October 21st - the working party above and an impressive array of strimmers to the left.

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton



Parish Church Services Dec 2023 & Jan 2024

Date	Service	Church	Time
DECEMBER			
Sunday 3 rd Dec	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 10 th Dec	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 17 th Dec	Nine Lessons and Carols	Croft	4:00pm
Sunday 24 th Dec	Carols round the tree	Yarpole	3:00pm
	Midnight Communion	Eyton	11:30pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 31 st Dec	Group service	Orleton	10:30
JANUARY 2024			
Sunday 7 th Jan	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 14 th Jan	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 21 st Jan	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 28 th Jan	Themed non communion service	Yarpole	9:30
FEBRUARY			
Sunday 4 th Feb	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30

Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:

**Rev. Matthew Burns on 01568 614399,
teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk**

To book a funeral, interment, wedding or baptism and for other information please phone: Priory Office 01568 612124

Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00

Churchwardens: Oliver Elphick (01568 515303)

Jane Higgins (01568 708390)