

# The Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

February 2024

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And all our regular features





Thanks to David Cheshire for his photos of Made in HR6 on this page and on the front page. Thanks to David also for the photos above of cafe volunteers supporting the event and the article on page 10.

## From the Editor's Chair

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024! Some excellent news from the editorial team: Lynne O'Sullivan has joined the team and has edited this issue while learning the ropes! Lynne moved to Lucton two years ago and is keen to be more involved in parish events.

For the time being, we intend to take turns and edit alternate issues. We shall, of course, review this arrangement when others who have expressed an interest are ready to get more involved. As usual, we've struggled to fit everything in and, as always, first priority has gone to local input.

In the next few months we intend to organise a meeting to enable all our regular contributors to meet Lynne and she is very much looking forward to putting faces to names! As a change to the normal rota, Lynne will also be editing the March issue and is looking forward to receiving your submissions by Feb 10th!

Hetty and Lynne

To send in articles and news items, please **leave in the box at the shop** or e-mail

**newsletter@yarpole.org**

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 ½ 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 with your mobile number to **Katie Daniels 07786515922**

## Don't miss out on what's happening!

To be added to the events mailing list, email [events@yarpole.org](mailto:events@yarpole.org).

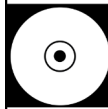
## Calling Facebook Users



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](mailto: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; Cheryl Finnegan 07858405881

**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

**Plastering and damp proofing:** Daniel Newman 07701 097 897

**Care for the elderly:** Helen Gray 0782 113 3212

## Yarpole Welcome Packs

If you are aware of new residents who have moved to the parish, please email Sue Langley to be sure they receive a pack: [susanmarylangley@gmail.com](mailto:susanmarylangley@gmail.com).



# What's On



## THE BIRCHPOLE SINGERS

St. Leonard's Church

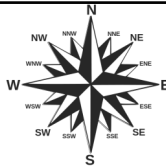
**Wednesday evenings 7.10 - 9.30 pm**

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](mailto:stevewltr7@gmail.com) Tel: 07791490439



## Walking Group

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

February walks

Friday 9th , Sunday 24th

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](mailto:seiftonbatch@gmail.com)

## Police Community Support Officer meetings

Our local (Leominster) PCSO Steph Harper normally aims to visit the Gallery Café every 5 weeks. The team is currently undergoing some shift changes to accommodate a new team member. The surgery dates for 2024 will be posted in the café once the changes have been confirmed.

Pete Lloyd



Singing  
the Faith



## House Church

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.

2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month

Next meeting 13th February, 7.30 in St Leonard's Church. Everyone welcome.



## Living

Cert: 12a - 102 mins



**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - 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 veteran civil servant receives a medical diagnosis that inspires him to move to the south coast and cram some fun into his remaining days. He meets a sunny young female colleague who seems to have the pep that had previously escaped him.

Starring: Bill Nighy, Aimee Lou Wood, Alex Sharp

### **Future date**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 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



## 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**

## Arts Society lectures

Lively and interesting illustrated lectures on arts-related topics at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, 2.15 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Lectures from nationally recognised experts take about one hour.

Next meeting on **Wed 21 February 2024**: Stories in Stained Glass

Visitors are welcome, paying £8.00 on the door. Membership, which buys you eight lectures and reduced fees for outings and study days, costs £45.

More information: <https://www.theartssocietytemevalley.org.uk/>

For help with transport contact:

Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on **01694 781489**



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## Communal Crafters - a Roundup of 2023

As we come to the end of our first year I thought I would do a little write-up to enlighten you all as to what we get up to in our Communal Crafters meetings! The group has been going for less than a year, but we have already built up a strong core of members which grows at every meeting. As the ad says, we are a friendly group who meet once a month to chat and craft and we are always looking forward to welcoming new members.

There is indeed a lot of chatting and exchanging of tips and techniques, but it's a lot more than that! We are forging new friendships and bonds (something that this parish is very good at), sharing ideas and being introduced to new crafting skills. The group consists of all kinds of crafters with different skill levels and on occasions we have demos and other activities. However, nobody is put under pressure to take part - our lovely members can be involved with as much or little as they wish - we enjoy a very relaxed atmosphere at our meetings!

Over the months, we have enjoyed looking at and hearing about other crafters' work at a 'show and tell' session - I for one was absolutely amazed at the diversity of skills on display ranging from basketmaking to dainty needlepoint. One of our members always surprises us because she makes beautiful collaged and embroidered pictures out of literally bits and scraps. We had a demonstration on basic English paper piecing patchwork during one meeting and finished off in our December meeting with mince pies and Christmas card making!

We hope to add more diversity in our program for 2024 and continue to share skills and ideas. We also have a long-term plan to do a large joint project - this will most likely go on for several months if not years - lots of planning and research needs to take place before the piece can even be designed! We are excited to be moving forward with this plan because we don't know how it will unfold, but that's the beauty of crafting!



New members are always very welcome. If you are interested in joining, please do contact me at [janegoldman1960@gmail.com](mailto:janegoldman1960@gmail.com)

Jane Goldman





## Gallery Café, Saint Leonard's, Yarpole

### Can you give a little time to help at our Café?

We are seeking more volunteers to help us serve customers and provide a warm welcome in the café. Our café is a place where people can enjoy home-cooked food and cakes in a beautiful setting. It helps us keep the building maintained and is kept going by fantastic volunteers.

Working at the café provides an opportunity to gain new skills and make new friends. Volunteering will involve a range of tasks such as setting up the café, welcoming and serving our customers and clearing away at the end. We also have volunteers who prepare and serve lunches. You can do as much or as little as you want and will be given all the training and support you need. Shifts are typically between 2-3 hours. The café is full of laughter and chat and you will meet people who have a real love of food and community

Open: Monday – Wednesday 10.30-12.30 for drinks & cakes  
Thursday – Friday 10.30-3.30 serving lunch 12-2pm  
Saturday 10.30 -12.30 for brunch

To enquire call into the café or email: [gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com](mailto:gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com)



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# LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

## Made in HR6 returns to St Leonard's

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November saw the return of the ever popular Made in HR6 festive art and craft fair after a four-year break due to Covid. The event featured a wide range of works by 16 local artists and makers who exhibited in the nave, the Bell Tower and on the church courtyard.

Some 591 people visited St Leonard's over the weekend – coming to browse and buy and to visit the Gallery Café and the Yarpole Community Shop. Visitors also had the opportunity to bid for taster sessions with local makers in a silent auction, to enter a prize quiz and to buy raffle tickets. Thanks are due to the many providers of prizes for these activities. Together with the fees paid by stallholders and the income from the café the surplus for the event was just over £2,700 – to the benefit of St Leonard's Management towards the costs of running and maintaining our wonderful community hub. Additionally the shop benefited from increased turnover and the event was a good opportunity to sell copies of the Yarpole Parish Festive Recipe Booklet.

The feedback from exhibitors and visitors has been universally good - praising the friendliness of Yarpole and the helpfulness of everyone involved. Huge thanks to the many people who volunteered to help in the planning and execution of the event; it couldn't happen without you!

David Cheshire



## Yarpole Parish Seasonal Recipe Book

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

You will be pleased to hear that the Yarpole Festive Recipe Booklet has flown off the shelves throughout its very successful launch in mid November. To date, circa Jan 10th, sales have reached 181 - in the café, at HR6 and in the shop. Rowena and her team of volunteers have promoted the booklet at every opportunity to great effect.

In addition to the excellent sales of the booklet we also received donations from customers who gave us £5 per copy (instead of the price of £4.50) as well as others who gave cash donations ranging from £2 to £5.

As it stands we expect to bank £837 overall, including sales and donations. Taking into account printing costs of £206.96 this will mean that £630.04 will be shared between the PCC and SLM - all going, ultimately, to the running of our beautiful church and bell tower. So, to everyone who has bought a copy (or more) of our Festive Recipe Booklet we, the Recipe Booklet Team, say thank you so very much for supporting our community initiative.

Gordon Ewing



**The Cart Shed**  
*Transforming Lives*



## Wondering what to take on as a new year's resolution?

It is now well documented how becoming a volunteer is good for your own wellbeing. In 2024, why not take on a challenge, meet new people, make a difference to people's lives and improve your own health at the same time!

- The Cart Shed Charity is looking for volunteers to help support the organization. We need drivers to pick up participants in one of our minibuses at the start of the day and return them in the afternoon to Leominster, Hereford or Kington.
- Volunteer cooks to provide a delicious lunch for all participants cooked in our wonderful woodland kitchens.
- Horticulture volunteers to help grow vegetables for the soup we make.
- Tutor support volunteers who are happy to share their skills with others.
- Site maintenance helping to maintain our woodland sites, keeping them safe for everyone to use.

More information can be found on our website [www.thecartshed.co.uk](http://www.thecartshed.co.uk) or call 01544 318231.

The Cart Shed Charity, Devereux Wootton, Norton Canon. HR6 9QS no:1167802

The Cart Shed charity works with adults and young people experiencing poor mental health. It was established in 2011 by Herefordians for the benefit of those living in our communities. In 2017 the charity was awarded the Queens award for volunteering.



Interested in birds? Want to share and improve your knowledge?

Come on our field trips, indoor and zoom meetings.

Engage in conservation and survey work.

Join us at HOC to meet a group of like-minded people

[www.herefordshirebirds.org](http://www.herefordshirebirds.org) or email [membership@herefordshirebirds.org](mailto:membership@herefordshirebirds.org)

To join a field trip as a guest contact [vivquinninwellington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vivquinninwellington@hotmail.co.uk)

quote VQ23

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**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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Ring Nina 07375 520 646



## NEED ANY HELP WITH SMALL JOBS?

Army Veteran recently retired who is honest, hard working reliable and affordable.

Very happy to help with any small jobs inside and out including putting up pictures, shelving, curtains, redecorating, hedge cutting, mowing lawns etc.

**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

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**CERTASS** *let the sun shine in...*







Thank you all for your custom and support over Christmas and the New Year. We enjoyed a good trading period and were also pleased to see so many people aware that they could come to us to get treats not available in the supermarkets, as well as browse the craft section and find some more unusual small gifts for friends and family - including some last minute panic solutions.

We have mentioned this before, so apologies for repetition, but there is still some surprise expressed at what you can do in our Post Office. The growing absence of banks in our high street is a regular conversation topic and many people still seem largely unaware that the Post Office can fulfil many of your daily banking transactions.

Most banks have agreements with the PO for them to be able to do this - and there is no extra cost to you.

From cash withdrawals and deposits, to banking cheques, checking your balance and changing your PIN the PO counter is now the physical point of contact where these transactions can take place.

There is often no need to drive into Leominster, Hereford or Ludlow if you have a PO counter nearby - and every transaction benefits the shop so do remember us.

## **SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

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

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

***Website: www.yarpole.com***



## Gallery Café, Saint Leonard's, Yarpole

### Tasty Tuesday at the Gallery Café

We have had a fantastic response to our Tasty Tuesday 2 course meal at the café and hope that the February event will be just as popular. You can bring a friend or come alone, we have two large tables so that everyone can socialise and enjoy shared company.

Our next event will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. It will include our usual offering of a homecooked hearty lunch and a dessert along with a hot drink. Places will be limited so please book early.

Main course:

Roasted vegetable lasagne served with garlic bread, buttered new potatoes and salad garnish

Dessert:

Raspberry Cheesecake served with vanilla ice-cream or cream

£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](mailto:gallerycafe@yarpole.org), 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 card.

Check [www.yarpole.org](http://www.yarpole.org), WhatsApp,

Yarpole Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/>

## Limerick competition

Welcome to all Limerick fans. I don't know what the collective noun is for Limerick fans, but since they never get together anyway it probably doesn't matter. What does matter is what follows this first line:

I had an old auntie called Hilda

Please astound us with your verbal versatility, complete the Limerick, and send it to the Editor ([newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org)) by **8th February** at the latest. Jim will judge all anonymised entries and award the winner a bottle of wine, and the winning entry will appear in the next edition of the Parishioner.



## Following a star

In these weeks following Christmas, I am mindful of the Epiphany, when the three wise men journeyed to Bethlehem; they journeyed for many miles to reach the baby Jesus in the manger. In the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel he tells this story and tells of how on the way they are asked by Herod where the infant Messiah is to be found. They tell him in Bethlehem of Judea. The wise men had some idea of where they were going and also knew what they were seeking, but they still needed to follow the star to get there. This suggests that without the right guidance they may not have been able to find what they were looking for.

This makes me think about the journey that we all travel on throughout our lives. Many of us may have some idea of where we are going and what we want to find when we get there, in most cases we are looking for happiness. However without the right help and guidance there is a risk that we may stray from our path, fail to reach our destination and fail to find what we are looking for. In our modern secular world there are many bright stars, such as wealth, fame, greed and power that we might choose to follow, because they promise to take us where we think we want to go and where we think we will find happiness. The reality is that these things will rarely bring us true happiness. If we find the right star to follow, the star of love, compassion, forgiveness and humility we are far more likely to experience true joy and happiness in our lives and reach the final destination of peace.

May God be a star to guide me all the days of my life,  
May the brightness of his love and salvation blot out the darkness,  
May I never stray from the path that He shows me,  
May my life be a star of goodness that others can follow.

Jane Higgins



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## **Age and sex matter!**

If you've started reading this article hoping that it will contain some titillating tips to spice up your private life, you're going to be disappointed, but please don't stop reading! We want to talk about how St Leonard's Management represents the community we serve.

It hardly seems possible, but this August it will be three years since St Leonard's Management was established as an independent charity to take care of the church on behalf of the community. Every charity has to have trustees, and we currently have four: two men and two women. Andrew Praill, Barbara Nurse and Sue Russell will be standing down when their three years' term is up in August, leaving Trevor Edwards as the only remaining trustee. We need to recruit new trustees to replace those who are leaving, and it's important that we have a mix of ages and sexes.

This isn't about 'political correctness'. At least half of the people in the parish are women, and not everyone is over the age of 75. It's important that we are representative of our community, so we'd like to recruit both men and women, including at least one person of a slightly younger age if possible.

It's impossible to give a job description in a short article like this, so for more information please get in touch with one of us: Trevor Edwards ([mail4trevor.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:mail4trevor.edwards@gmail.com)), Andrew Praill ([enmorevet@outlook.com](mailto:enmorevet@outlook.com)) or Sue Russell ([suetrustee@btinternet.com](mailto:suetrustee@btinternet.com)). Alternatively, please visit our website [www.stleonardsyarpole.com](http://www.stleonardsyarpole.com)

### **Thank you to Yarpole Community Shop.**

I would like to express my thanks to the Shop for the amazing Christmas Hamper which I was fortunate enough to win. It contained a wonderful range of marvellous goodies; many of which my grandchildren were delighted with.

We remain extremely fortunate to have our shop in the church.

Julian Stokes

82: £50



# PARISH HALL

## Programme for February 2024

### Regular Weekly Activities

Mondays	Zumba	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Yoga	7.30 - 8.30 pm
Tuesdays	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 February

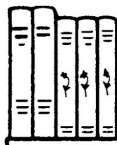
Tues 6th	Parish Council	7.00—10.00 pm
Sat 10th	Flicks in the Sticks	6.30 (film only 7.30 pm)
Sat 17th	Private Event	12.00—6.00 pm
Fri 23rd	The 4 Cs	10.00—12.00 am

**To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern**

**01568 701996 / parishhall@yarpole.org. Or go to [www.yarpole.com](http://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.





## 200 Club

The 200 club winning numbers for December were:-

4 £50, 124 £20, 141 £15, 8 £10, 75 £20 (bonus Xmas number)

The 200 club winning numbers for January were:-

82 £50, 149 £20, 106 £15, 169 £10

### What became a very good plan!

After my mother passed away just before Christmas I was looking at possible venues for the funeral wake and a close family gathering and meal the following evening. Some slightly dispiriting visits to potential venues didn't feel like they would offer the kind of informal place we, and Mum, would have liked when a thought occurred.

An email to [service@thebellatypole.co.uk](mailto:service@thebellatypole.co.uk) confirmed that making a private booking to use The Bell could offer an excellent solution for us and also bring some trade to the pub.

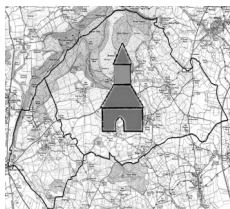
For the wake we catered for ourselves (with, admittedly, an advantage in having a catering kitchen at work), Julian ran the bar & we had fantastic voluntary help from two friends in the village.

For the following evening we got back together for a close family gathering where we ordered and collected a large take-away and again Julian manned the bar. On both occasions the stove was lit, the pub was very cosy and comfortable and the hospitality was informal and excellent!

Everybody said how lovely the whole occasion was and how nice it was for all of Mum's family to get together in an informal and friendly environment where it was easy to relax, move around and mingle, and chat with each other without being formally seated and my daughter even set a fun quiz for us all.

I would heartily recommend using The Bell like we did and not just for funeral wakes but for any large family gathering etc., whilst supporting our pub along the way.

Huge thanks to Julian, Challis & Angela for helping us make it such a successful and memorable time.



## Yarpole Group Parish Council—Dec meeting

Councillors welcomed 3 members of public to the Parish Council meeting on 5 December 2023.

**Highways.** In the knowledge that the Local Authority (Herefordshire Council) is responsible for its maintenance, it was decided that Balfour Beatty (BBLP) be asked to undertake drainage improvements to the Ford at Lucton, rather than instructing a Lengthsman. The Lengthsman has been asked to clear Green Lane Crescent Footway (Z92603), clear debris from pavements in two locations on Green Lane, cut two grips on Croft Lane to allow surface water to drain, and to clear weeds and debris from and gutters/kerbs in Croft Crescent and Green Lane Crescent. Certain costs for these works will be reimbursed via the Lengthsman Funding Scheme. In addition, BBLP has been contacted about the disabled bay markings on the road outside the Church which need re-painting. Cllr Hurcomb's generous offer to fund hedge trimming at Bircher Knoll was declined on hearing that arrangements had already been made for it to be cut this winter. Members expressed their gratitude to Cllr Hurcomb for his willingness to help. BBLP has agreed to include the verge mowing at this location in its annual schedule.

**Planning.** Cllr Jenkins expressed disappointment that more lower cost housing is not being built, reflecting the needs of the village, and enabling its sustainability. It was recommended that this be considered when the Neighbourhood Development Plan is reviewed. Four applications were discussed. No objections were raised on three applications: P230140/F Land west of Cockgate Farm, Yarpole, for a proposed erection of two linked-detached dwellings (the linking element comprising a pair of integral, single garages); P233453/K - Works to Trees in a Conservation Area at Elfstone, Lucton; and P233463/F Land at the Rear of Yarpole Village Hall, Green Lane, Yarpole, Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission 211311 (Proposed variation of condition 2 of planning permission 173484) – to amend the design of Plot 1 Acorn House. The Parish Council did not comment on application P233364/F for a proposed sprayer store at Mortimers Cross Farm as it is in Aymestrey Parish.

**Finance.** Receipt of a £500 grant from Kingspan for wildflower turf at the Community Meadow was noted. The Parish Council's budget for 2024/25 was set at £30,015.49 and a precept for 2024/25 of £29,000 agreed. The deficit between budget and precept will come from reserves.

Combined NatWest bank balances were £52,021.69 including Reserve £7,000, General Reserve £6,116.93, Earmarked: Election Costs £2,000, Community Meadow £21,225.37, Kingspan Grant £500. TOTAL Earmarked £36,842.30, Non-Reserve/earmarked: £15,179.39.

**Consultation.** In response to Herefordshire Council regarding the Public Space Protection Orders, The Parish Council has asked for confirmation that The Community Meadow, the churchyard at Yarpole and burial grounds at Yarpole and Lucton are 'public places' under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and requested that dogs be excluded from the playground in the Community Meadow.

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Tuesday of the month (except August and January). Upcoming meeting dates are Tuesdays 6 February, 5 March at 7.30 pm at The Parish Hall. 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](mailto:clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
<https://yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

## Welsh Water

A public meeting took place on 23 November 2023 with Gareth Morris, Local Network Engineer and Jenny Grubb, River Quality Liaison Manager at Welsh Water.

Slides giving information from the meeting can be seen on the Parish Council's website – see the link on the homepage.

It was explained that the Yarpole sewage system is not capable of coping with foul drainage and surface water. It is not possible to pass more flow forward to Luston, as it is also liable to hydraulic overload. A solution must, therefore, be found in Yarpole. Costs range from £150k to £4m and cannot be funded by Welsh Water as part of environmental improvement works.

Welsh Water has suggested a pilot scheme at Yarpole, trialling the use of leaky water butts at a number of dwellings in the village. 50 water butts were discussed. How this project will be delivered and who will install the water butts is to be decided.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to report problems to Welsh Water [Sewerage.Services@dwrwymru.com](mailto:Sewerage.Services@dwrwymru.com) or <https://contact.dwrwymru.com/en/report-an-issue>. Emergency Helpline 0800 052 0130

Maggie Brown. Clerk.

## Thank you Yarpole for your Christmas generosity

You raised £143 for the Children's Society at Carols round the Tree on Christmas Eve, £75 for Médecins Sans Frontières from the Christmas Card Tree and Carol Singing round the Village and several trugs of seasonal Food for the Food Bank.

## The PCC needs a Treasurer

Can you fill this valuable role from April onwards? If so please contact either Oliver Elphick on 515303 or Rose Jenkins on 780536.



The Mortimer Community Benefit Society, owner of the Bell at Yarpole. Managed for the benefit of the community.



The MCBS committee would like to thank everyone who used the Bell in December and over the Christmas period. It has been fantastic to see the Bell full and buzzing. We are also grateful for the income generated from bar sales as this has protected our reserves.

The committee have decided that, for the time being, we will run our pub as a community venture. We very much would like the Bell to be a village pub used by you, the local community. We have appointed Graham as interim manager; there is too much work involved for this to be done as a volunteer. We are actively looking for a part-time chef so that we can offer food. For the time being we are very reliant on volunteers. We hope, over time and with the increased profitability of the pub, to employ extra staff so that the need for volunteers is reduced.

We are working hard to improve the environment at the Bell. We are sorting out the heating in the Cider Barn and have improved the insulation in the roof.

The upstairs flat has been decorated and we plan to use it for holiday lets. The MCBS is very grateful for the furniture that we have been given. We are very grateful to everyone who came and helped during the BIG Bell Maintenance week.

We are in the process of repairing the stable block roof; this was damaged by a fallen Ash tree. The stables have been cleared of years of junk. We plan to offer the stables as individual storage units at a monthly rental.

There are five large raised beds in the field behind the Bell. Perhaps someone would like an allotment? If you are interested let us know and we can discuss how this might work.

The Bell is available to anyone who would like to use it for a private event or party. Also if there are any clubs or societies which are looking for a regular home come and speak to us. Email [service@thebellatyarpole.co.uk](mailto:service@thebellatyarpole.co.uk)

**\*STOP PRESS\* Valentines lunch: 3 course set meal at £27.50 per person. Quiz night is back this month! More details will be on our website and Facebook pages.**

We very much hope to see you regularly in the Bell at Yarpole; the hub of our community.

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# Yarpole Parish Good Neighbour Scheme



Yarpole Talk  
Community

*Providing the kind of practical assistance and support that a good neighbour would offer*

Thank you for your support of the Big Quiz; it is our major fundraising event for the year. The Good Neighbour Scheme helps people with travel to the shops and hospital appointments amongst other things and we need to pay our volunteers' expenses, our insurance and our telephone bill – so that you can reach us!

**What we do:**

Help with travel to shops and medical appointments

Help with small tasks, light gardening and paperwork

Collect the prescriptions each week to ensure your medicine is waiting for you.

Hold the 4cs – Chat, Coffee, Company and Cake – all welcome

We are delighted that three new volunteers have joined us – thank you!

We would like to hold some talks in the Spring, look out for the adverts, they promise to be very interesting – with nibbles of course :)

This will include a Talk Community event – see the posters.

*If you would like to make a donation towards our work, please leave it in the Shop - thank you*

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

The Christmas 4Cs was a super event, we had great fun and thank you to the Birchpole Singers too

## **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*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of Hereford**

**February 2024**

Dear Friends,

I'm wondering if like me you might be looking forward with some trepidation to what the New Year might bring. After all, it seems that many of the things we took for granted might be rather less secure than we thought. That realisation can be ground-shakingly alarming, or it can make us count our blessings and realise what we have.

My mother has advanced dementia, and my father is creaking from every painful joint and needs oxygen if he exerts himself. It occurs to me, as I watch them struggle - and many dear church members likewise - how little gratitude I have felt for the ability simply to jump in the car and go to the supermarket or take a quick walk into town entirely free from pain. I have never really thought to be thankful for this.

We humans are a grumbly glorious bunch who spend a lot of time and energy wanting what we don't have and forgetting to be actively grateful for what we do have. Not one of us will keep all the possessions that we have now or all the people that we love now or the health, hair or dress-size that we have now!

Here is my New Year's Resolution. I intend to stop as often as I can (which will not be often enough!) and ask myself what I have that I would miss dreadfully were it to be taken away. I cannot think of a better way of focusing on what I am deeply thankful for;

A body that still functions without much fuss.

A roof over my head and a job that pays the bills.

A pesky cat who walks all over my laptop, activates factory reset and inserts random strings of characters into my emails but who loves me devotedly.

My husband, parents, and children.

Faith in Jesus Christ and the purpose He gives me.

The people with whom I live out that purpose.

None of these can be taken for granted. Ask a Ukrainian or a resident of Gaza or someone diagnosed with a terminal illness. So, as you look into the New Year, why not make gratitude your resolution and give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow?

Dean Sara




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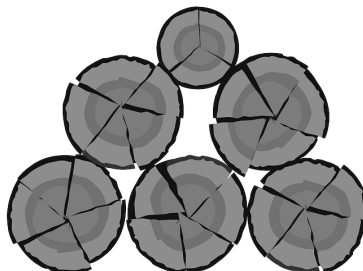
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We have an excellent website [www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)

On Tuesday, 27th February 2024 we have a talk by Pip Smith at Orleton Village Hall called

## Delightful Dahlias

Pip is a Landscape Designer with over 14 years experience working as a professional horticulturist. He trained to degree level in horticulture and achieved an MA in Landscape Architecture. He has held the post of Head Gardener at several private and public gardens, most recently at the highly acclaimed Wollerton Old Hall in Shropshire.



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# THE CURIOUS GARDENER

## Doing more by doing less

For most of my gardening life I followed the traditional gardening methods recommended in my gardening bible, *The Amateur Gardener* by Arthur Hellyer (published in 1948, but still a force to be reckoned with when I started gardening). According to Arthur, serious gardening required serious chemicals (formaldehyde was his particular recommendation for rendering garden soil sterile), as well as serious physical effort. Nature couldn't be left to get on with her business unaided. Autumn was the time to get out the rake and remove all the fallen leaves from the borders. Winter was digging time, when every square inch of soil that didn't actually contain a plant would be turned over and belted a few times with the back of the fork to break up lumps. It was all a lot of work but if that's what Arthur said I should do, who was I to argue?

A lot has changed since Arthur's day, and not just attitudes to garden chemicals. Now the experts are recommending 'no dig gardening'. According to the RHS website, 'digging damages soil structure by destroying natural drainage channels made by worms, disturbing fungal networks, and releasing carbon that's locked in the soil'. So now I'm going with the flow. Instead of raking off the leaves I leave them where they lie and just cover them up with a layer of manure or garden compost. That's it – no raking, no digging, no thumping the clods with a fork. The worms do the work instead. It's a great deal easier on the back, and saves so much time. The best thing is, the heavy clay soil in the beds where I've been experimenting with this for a couple of years has taken on a more crumbly texture and a darker colour.

So I'm sorry, Arthur, but on this point I'm going to leave your advice unheeded. Oh, and you can keep your formaldehyde too.

Sue Russell

### **MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE**

#### **Patients' Participation Group (PPG) February 2024**

##### **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 also not possible. For urgent treatment call Kingsland reception(01568 708214) between 12-6pm. Outside these hours 111.

Tuesday 16th April 2024

Wednesday 17th July 2024

Thursday 17th October 2024

Gilly Lloyd 01568 780328 gillymi.lloyd@yahoo.com

## **Pam Blythe 1941 - 2023**

Pam and Tony moved to Yarpole in 2000. Pam had retired as Deputy Head at a Secondary School in Kent and Tony was a graphic designer. They soon settled into Yarpole and brought their talents to various projects. It was a time of change in the village - the church was being adapted to its present configuration and the village shop had closed. Pam was soon using her organisational abilities in setting up and helping to manage the Portakabin shop behind the pub and Tony used his practical skills to help in the conversion. Perhaps some you remember collecting your Sunday papers from their porch. The shop and Post Office were welcomed by the village and supported by many volunteers. I was told very firmly that when I moved to Yarpole permanently I would be doing the Thursday morning shift. I did not think to demur and have done Thursday mornings for the last 16 years. To give up would be unthinkable! Pam also served on the Parish Hall committee.

Pam's talents took in the whole range of crafts: needlework of all kinds, knitting (winning a first prize at Kington Show), lace making, dressmaking and more. She had trained in textiles and used her pattern making and needlecraft skills to recreate historical costumes for the National Trust at Berrington Hall. She handmade exquisite miniature dolls in historic costumes which she took to talks she gave for the WI.

She has left behind a real legacy in the unique sets of vestments made for St Leonards which involved groups of villagers including the Youth Club dyeing fabric, making patchworks etc ., which she sewed into the wonderful vestments the church is lucky to have today. I remember visiting her and watching her painstakingly sewing small fabric chain links onto the stoles representing St Leonard as the patron saint of prisoners. If you look at them today you cannot see a single stitch.

She initiated a monthly sewing group which undertook various projects including the textile 'stained glass window' war memorial which hangs in the church. We humble members sewed the names but the finished work is the result of her work with Brenda Cooper who also shared her eye for detail and perfection.

After Covid she eventually had her ailments diagnosed as Lewy Body Dementia with Parkinsonisms. This gradually left her unable to pursue any of her beloved handicrafts which was a tremendous sadness to her. Her mobility declined and she greatly missed the Tai Chi classes (a long term interest) but was very appreciative that Rose Jacks would collect her each week after a class so she could enjoy the fellowship of meeting over coffee.

Gradually she needed more and more support from carers and friends. She had many faithful and kind friends in Yarpole who never failed to visit, take her out, support and comfort her. An unexpected stroke led to her eventual death. Her memorial tea at St Leonard's echoed the one she held for Tony and she would have been proud that so many people remembered her and admired her work on display.

Avis Denny



## Don Seaman

"DIY Don" otherwise known as Don Seaman, of Bircher, died in November, after a fall downstairs, at home in June. He broke his neck and never recovered. Despite many serious illnesses, he lived until 91 years of age; 18.8.32 - 3.11.23. The past 20 years, in Bircher, were spent doing up and improving our property, including installing a generator and generally fixing anything and everything - this was his hobby. If he didn't know how, he found out; his motto being "never give up"! His RAF career followed by electrical and electronic engineering, formed the basis of his life-long learning.

After being diagnosed with Vascular Dementia in 2017, his health became more of a challenge and a couple of years ago, he took the difficult decision to give up his car and driving. I would like to extend my appreciation to The Yarpole Parish Good Neighbour Scheme, in particular Glenys Plant, to whom it fell to take Don to and from various appointments, whilst I was at work. As anyone with experience of dementia will know, continuity and familiarity are key to stability. What a fantastic community arrangement; thank you. I don't know what I would have done without you.

Caroline Seaman

## Hazel Whitwell

Hazel Whitwell died 02 January 2024. She passed peacefully having suffered from Alzheimer's disease for the last 8yrs.

She had been in a nursing home since leaving Yarpole in 2021 following the advancement of the disease and the death of her husband Ralph.

Both Hazel and Ralph loved living at Yarpole and made many friends there in the 20+yrs they lived there.

Her funeral will take place at St Leonard's on 9th February at 14.00.

Richard Whitwell



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## Horrible Historic Homicide in Yarpole

William Haywood, aged 61, of Yarpole was hanged in December 1903 for the murder of his wife, Jane. The murder, trial and execution generated huge public interest and were widely reported in newspapers across England. 60+ articles are still accessible on the internet, from Merseyside to Devon.

The couple were married in 1877 though their first son William was born in 1871, and Jane had another child before the marriage. Their other children were Alice, Emily, Elizabeth (Lizzie), Thomas and James. The marriage was turbulent with many allegations of abuse. Jane had left William several times, afraid he would harm her.

Born a farm labourer's son in Eye, William came from a dysfunctional family knowing insanity, alcoholism, learning disability and domestic abuse. His mother - said to be delusional - lived apart from his father for years because of the latter's cruelty. William is described as a soldier in the 1881 Census, like his grandfather. He absconded, wearing his uniform, from the Scots Fusiliers in Dublin in 1871 to live with an Irish woman, but later returned to Herefordshire. He worked as a farm labourer, roadman, and quarryman, latterly for Leominster Rural District Council at Pokehouse Quarry, in Bacon Lane, Aymestrey, at the far end of the Croft Estate.

It is reported that on Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> 1903 William and Jane argued, because she interrupted his drinking in the Bell Inn, Yarpole to fetch him for his dinner. He went home but left again later and stayed out all night. According to the licensee, on Saturday at 7.30am William drank a pint of beer at the Mortimer's Cross Inn, and bought pint bottles of beer and whisky before going to the quarry. Jane left home about 8.00 to take William his breakfast and work with him, and was seen on her way carrying a basket.

William met a local baker about 1.15pm back at Mortimer's Cross and said he had thrown a stone at Jane that hit her head, which was bleeding. He went on "if she is dead when I get back I will bury her in the brook." That evening after 8.30pm several people met William between the inn and Mortimers Cross Mill, pushing a wheelbarrow containing his terribly injured wife. The police and doctor were sent for and found the Haywoods lying in the road. William told the police the same story as before but was detained. The police search of the quarry early on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> revealed signs of a severe struggle, blood-stained rocks, bloodied sticks, a basket and empty bottles. Jane's post mortem showed a fractured skull, broken leg and many other injuries. William was taken into custody, charged with his wife's murder.

The inquest into Jane's death was opened at 3.30pm on Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Mortimer's Cross Hotel. The jury of sixteen local men viewed the body and heard evidence of identification from Elizabeth Haywood. The inquest was adjourned. William was taken by cab to Leominster and thence by train to Hereford, a large crowd watching him leave. Jane Haywood's funeral took place at St Leonard's Yarpole on Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup> with only her family and the officiant, Rev. W.H.Neales, present. Her grave is unmarked.

William was tried at Hereford Shire Hall on 28th November 1903 before Mr. Justice Bigham. Crowds lined the streets to see the judge leave his lodgings in High Town, his coach accompanied by trumpeters and footmen. The Shire Hall was packed.

William's counsel put forward a defence of insanity. He had been a patient in the Hereford lunatic asylum whose doctor, Morrison, testified that Haywood was "an imbecile of the higher grade" and that consuming alcohol had led to temporary insanity.

The judge and jury were not impressed. In his summing-up the judge stated that "lunatics should not escape punishment just because they were lunatics", that "plenty of lunatics knew when they were committing sin" and that William Hayward was "given to extraordinary wickedness". It took the jury just a few minutes to find him guilty and he was sentenced to death. As he was led from the court his daughter called "Goodbye Dad". Haywood said to his attendants, "They expected me to faint, but I didn't!"

William Haywood's was the last hanging at Hereford, the only one in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The gaol (by the bus station in Commercial Road) was designed by John Nash (more famous for Marble Arch London and the Brighton Pavilion). Completed in 1796 and opening that summer, it cost £18,646 16s 3 1/2d. Modified through the 1800s, it closed in 1929 and, after a period of public sight-seeing, was demolished. A plaque in Commercial Road denotes its location.



Public hangings took place up to 1864 on the flat roof of the single storey prison gatehouse, where the "New Drop" gallows was erected. Twenty people were executed there but this stopped in 1868, when the law ruled that executions must be held in private. A new gallows was built specifically to hang William Haywood (Leominster News).

He was hanged by Henry Pierrepont (father of the more famous Albert, the last British hangman) on the grey and drizzly morning of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 1903. He made the short walk in the open air from his cell to the scaffold "without assistance" (Daily Telegraph). To prevent the public seeing the hanging, workmen repairing the roof of the nearby Merton Hotel were forbidden to climb their ladders before 8.15am. The only public witnesses allowed to watch the execution were one of William Haywood's daughters and the prison chaplain, the Rev. C.A.Treherne. The Sheriff and Prison Governor were also present. The crowd of several hundred outside the prison heard the thud of the trapdoor as the cathedral bell chimed at 8.00am, then the prison bell rang to say the execution was over.

An inquest was held on the body, with a Coroner's Jury of twelve Hereford men. The prison surgeon certified that he had examined William Haywood and confirmed he was dead. The prison governor testified that the execution had been "skilfully and expeditiously carried out" and the jury confirmed that he had been executed according to law. William Haywood was buried quickly and without ceremony in a simple coffin in the prison yard near the scaffold. His death was registered in the normal way, in Hereford, in December 1903.

Helen Norris (Lucton) and Carol Clare (Adopt-a Grave)

#### Sources

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## What we did in the holidays

'We're off on holiday in couple of weeks,' we might say.

'Oh, are you going anywhere nice?'

'No, we're spending two weeks in a hole in the ground in North Korea,' we might reply, but we don't, because we know it's meant to be a friendly way of saying 'Tell us about your holiday, boast about the delights of Rome or Marrakesh or Bridlington or wherever you're going.' So normally there is no hesitation before laying out a summary of the pleasures to come.

This time, however, we did hesitate. Back in the summer of 2022 we had booked two back-to-back cruises on a small French ship for October 2023, from Nice to Turkey, and on to Egypt, Israel and Jordan (to see a pyramid or two, Petra, the Dead Sea etc, trip of a lifetime stuff). Then in early October the Israel-Gaza war blew up. Half an hour before we were to board the first cruise we were told the second one had been cancelled. Instead of flying back from Amman we would be left on the quayside in Antalya two weeks earlier and would need to get back home some other way.

I always make sure to take Val on holiday with me. She has a mobile, which on this occasion came in handy for finding another ship to carry us from the eastern Med back to the south of France. It was a larger vessel, owned by Regent, an American company, which meant that all negotiations had to go via New York, several hours behind, so each simple question (and there were several) took an entire working day to resolve. And payment was only in dollars, which we hadn't thought to bring.

Because we couldn't get to its starting point in Istanbul in time, the ship arranged to pick us up in one of its scheduled ports of call, Kusadasi, a mere nine-hour taxi-ride across the bottom left hand corner of Turkey from Antalya. Unfortunately, we were told at the outset, the cruise was fully booked so there were no cabins left, only suites, which of course cost more; but we would have the money from the abandoned cruise to put towards it, so reasoned that, since we didn't have a choice in the matter, we might as well suck it up.

They must have taken pity on us because when we introduced ourselves they told us we had been upgraded. 'How can you be upgraded from a suite?' we wondered, thinking it already the most luxurious form of accommodation a ship can offer. It was by having a walk-in wardrobe, a big bathroom with top-of-the-range soaps, oils and unguents, a huge balcony wrapping round the stern and a good few yards of the side, and a butler thrown in for good measure, to bring our freshly laundered clothes (even Val was impressed by the ironing), canapés and champagne before dinner in the evening. It was surreal. At first. But it's amazing how quickly you can get used to having staff around.

It was odd too because a couple of years previously we had booked another cruise, around the Baltic, calling in at St Petersburg, and that was cancelled two days before Putin invaded Ukraine.

People now ask us where we're going for our next holiday, so they can go somewhere else. I hope it's somewhere nice.

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## 90th Birthday Party—Thank you!

We would like to offer our huge gratitude to Ann Greer and her team for our wonderful 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. It was lovely to be there with so many friends and neighbours, and we'd like to thank everyone for coming to be with us, and for all the lovely cards, flowers and presents that you brought for us. The food was delicious and the church was beautifully decorated.

We were only sorry that Janet Chitham, who was to have joined us, was not able to come.

Many thanks Ann and all your team for all your hard work and for giving us such a happy afternoon. Sarah and Audrey



Thanks David Cheshire for the photo of the party held on 8th Dec to thank shop and café volunteers.

Thanks to Jane Goldman for these photos of the Communal Crafters.

**Croft with Yarpole and Lucton**  
**Parish Church Services for February and March 2024**



Date	Service	Church	Time
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Themed non liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
<b>MARCH</b>			
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday - Themed non liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday reflection	Yarpole	11:00
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Vigil by candlelight	Croft	18:30
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Sunday - Group communion service	TBA	10.30

Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:  
 Rev. Matthew Burns on 01568 614399, [teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk](mailto: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 (515303) Jane Higgins (708390)



Thanks to Carol Clare for the photo of early daffodils and to David Cheshire for the photo of a bullfinch in his garden.