

The
Parishioner
YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

April 2024

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Urgent need for café volunteers	17 & 23
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And all our regular features





Thanks to all our photographers this month:

Front page: View from Croft Ambrey 3/3/23 - Mike Norris

This page: Snowman on the way up to Croft Ambrey - Mike Norris

Wild flowers by the footpath at Plainsbrook; lambs - Carol Clare

Brachiopod fossils in the quarry on Bircher Common - Di Hill

Tree planting at the community field 10/2/24 - Maggie Brown/Anne-Marie Gardner

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

It seems like months since I have been in the editor's chair, and though I have enjoyed my break, it's good to be back! I'm delighted to be working with Lynne and I think readers will agree that she has taken to the job and produced an excellent couple of issues.

Many of our contributors won't know Lynne, and we are planning a drop-in session for all those who send in material regularly to come and meet her in the café on Monday 29 April. Please see page 5 for more details. As well as people who send in material for the newsletter, it would be good to see any readers who may have comments and suggestions about our newsletter - we are always trying to improve it and your views are very important to us. Also, do look out for a newsletter suggestion box which we'll soon be placing in the church, and do use it! There will be more about this next time.

Many thanks to those who have already contributed towards the newsletter's printing costs. Lots of people have been very generous indeed, paying way over the £7 that the newsletter costs their household for a year. However... **85% of households have so far not contributed**, and we hope very much that many of you will still do so. There is a reminder of how to donate on page 38 and we hope that as many readers as possible will do this in order to safeguard the newsletter for the future.

Those who included their contact detail with their donation will have received a thank you from Adam, but quite a few people have put notes in the tin in the shop so of course we don't know who you are. I would like to give those people a big thank you here.

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

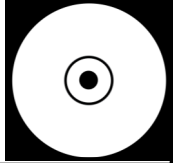
**To place a commercial advert in The Parishioner, please email
newsletter@yarpole.org and we'll send you more information**

Prices start at £5 for a 1/8 page ad

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.

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; here are contact details for some 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

Plastering and damp proofing: Daniel Newman 07701 097 897

Bookkeeping: Emma Mantle 07773 708 845

Handyman: Simon 07846 259549

Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

Enjoy chatting and sharing photos with members of our community via the Yarpole Whatsapp group. We now have well over 100 members! To join this group, please message Katie Daniels 07786515922 with your mobile number.



Calling Facebook Users

To get 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.



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.

Don't miss out on what's happening!

To be added to the events mailing list, email events@yarpole.org.

Meet the Editors

Everyone who contributes to the newsletter is invited to come for tea and cake and to meet Lynne, our new editor.

At The Gallery Café

On Monday 29 April, 2.30 - 3.30

If you are not a regular contributor but would still like to come along to tell us your views about the newsletter - and how it could be improved - you are still very welcome!

We look forward to seeing you



THE BIRCHPOLE SINGERS

St. Leonard's Church

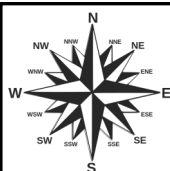
Wednesday evenings 7.10 - 9.30 pm

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



Walking Group

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

April walks: **Friday 12 & Sunday 28**

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

NB see our new programme for the year at www.yarpole.org
Those on the mailing list will receive it by email.

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, all being well will be on **Wednesday April 10th**.

Join her in the café for a coffee and a chat.

Pete Lloyd



WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON



The Great Escaper (2023)

Cert: 12A — 96 min



Sat 6th April - 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

Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson star in this inspirational retelling of a D-Day veteran's remarkable exploit. In the summer of 2014 – the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings – Bernie Jordan made headlines after staging a “great escape” from his care home to join fellow war veterans on the beach in Normandy to commemorate their fallen comrades. With great chemistry between Caine and Jackson as Rene, Jordan's spirited wife of 60 years, Oliver Parker's (Swimming With Men, Dad's Army) warm, bittersweet film salutes an adventure that captured the imagination of the world while exploring the lasting trauma of war.

Many 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

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 9th April, 7.30 in St Leonard's Church. Everyone welcome.



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

COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting

Monday 15 April - 2-4pm

In the Gallery Cafe, St.Leonard's, 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!

Future meetings:

Monday 15 April, Monday 20 May, Monday 17 June

Monday 15 July, Monday 19 August

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

Leominster



Tales of Worldwide Rambling

With walking guide Jenny Williams

Tales from 15 years of leading Ramblers Worldwide - from Bhutan to Buttermere, Iceland to Ironbridge, Cape Verde to Kenilworth and many more walking and sightseeing destinations.

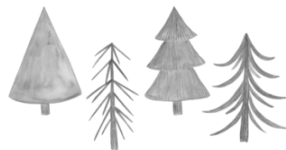
Friday April 5th at 7pm

Grange Court Leominster

Bar open 6.30. Free entry - donations appreciated.

ORLETON EVERGREENS OUTINGS 2024

Our outings this year are **open to all**, non members £2 extra to cover insurance.



Thursday 25 April Trentham Estate, Shopping Village

Coach fare £11 (£13).

Leave Leominster (Fire Station) 8.40am, Luston (jct Lilac Grove also Westland View) 8.50am, Orleton VH 9.00am. **Closing date 28 March**

Thursday 27 June Dr Jenner's House, Berkeley & Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Cost to be confirmed

Leave Orleton VH 8.40am, Luston 8.50am, Leominster 9.00am. **Closing date 30 May**

Thursday 25 July National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs

Coach fare + Land Train £17 (£19)

Leave Leominster 8.40am, Luston 8.50am, Orleton VH 9.00am. **Closing date 27 June**

Thursday 29 August Georgie's Canal Cruises, Penkridge

Coach fare + Fish & Chip Cruise (2hr) £38 (£40)

Leave Leominster 8.50am, Luston 9.00am, Orleton VH 9.10am. **Closing date 27 June**

NB Max 28 people, OPEN TO MEMBERS FIRST

Please contact Sue Turner for further details and to book:
sue.a.turner@gmail.com Phone 01584 831324 / 07840 023856



Orleton St George's Festival

Concert

Saturday 20 April 7.30pm, Little Hereford Voices, St George's Church, Orleton. Tickets – Adult £8, Child £4, refreshments included

Parade

Sunday 21 April 2.15pm, St George's Parade, starting at St George's Church and ending at The Boot. Jenny Pipes Morris Dancers, Raffle, Cake Stall, Children's Games and St George's Play



Spring Plant Fair

24th April 2024 10.30am- 4.00pm

BROXWOOD COURT nr Pembridge HR6 9JJ

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Entrance £7.50 per person.

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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 17 April 2024**

Singing in Secret. Sandy Burnett on William Byrd .

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.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk/>

For help with transport contact:

Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on **01694 781489**



Bin it? No way!

First Saturday of the month 10.00 - 12.00 (last repairs). Next session: 6 April

Online bookings open two weeks before: <https://leominsterepaircafe.org.uk>

Leominster Community Centre, Church Street, Leominster, HR6 8NJ

Refreshments available

Mechanical, household, electrical, toys, furniture, sewing repairs & tool sharpening

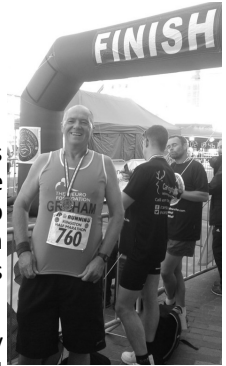
For more information email: repaircafeleominster@googlegroups.com

Or find us on Facebook.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Graham's London Marathon 2024

Now, I will happily agree I have made some questionable life choices over the last 60 odd years. Agreeing to be acting manager here at The Bell at Yarpole and suddenly working 60 odd hours a week is right up there. But just as baffling, is the decision to run the London Marathon again a week before my 60th birthday. To be fair, that probably beats the lot.



It has been ten years since I last ran it (and that didn't go particularly well) and it is my ambition not to be overtaken by Charlie Chaplin and Great Uncle Bulgaria like in 2014. Ten years on and I am once again drinking too much beer, eating too many chips and buying far too much chocolate (altho' I have managed to stay off the fags).

I had planned to compete in last year's Great North Run, but over-exertion, or sheer stupidity in playing village cricket, led to a torn hamstring and a very long recovery period.

The road to Westminster starts here on the mean streets of Yarpole, Herefordshire.

It is once again time to turn to the lovely folk at Nerve Tumours UK (the new name for the charity) to help me get back into my skinny jeans and slim fit Ted Baker shirt and, hopefully, raise a load of money for this wonderful charity.



Thank you for taking the time to read this, and you can find out more about their work at:

<https://nervetumours.org.uk/fundraiser/grahams-london-marathon> or use the QR code on the left.

Every penny helps and if you can add the tax relief that would be even better. Right, where are my running shoes and what time is the train to London?

Graham Whitlock

A MESSAGE TO THE MANY LOVELY DOGS OF YARPOLE

I'm sorry to say that although you are all very well-behaved one or two of your owners are not. They are continuing to forget to clear up your poo which is annoying a lot of people. If your owner is the culprit, please persuade him or her to clear up for you. Neither you nor your owner would like dog poo trodden into your carpet would you?



I have been advised to report this issue to Herefordshire Council which I have done. Your owners who fail to clear up your poo are breaking the law and liable to receive a Fixed Penalty Notice and a fine once they are identified.

Pete Lloyd

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Grass cutting in the Churchyard

This year the churchyard will not be mowed during May; as part of the 'No Mow May' campaign.

This also makes it easier for the volunteers who cut the grass on a regular basis throughout the summer months.

As always new volunteers welcome.

Please email julianstokes@gmx.com if you can help.



The Police and Crime Commissioner elections are taking place on 2 May 2024.

Are you interested in a paid role at our polling stations?
Use the QR code opposite to Find out more and register your interest.

Herefordshire.gov.uk/electionstaff



Wildflower Meadows

Are you interested in creating a wildflower-rich meadow on your land? As part of Herefordshire Council's Natural Flood Management project, funding can be offered to cover 100% of the costs of species-rich grassland creation (up to £5,000 per site.) This will cover all advisory time, the provision of locally sourced donor seed and contractor costs for ground preparation.

To find out more, please contact rory@herefordshiremeadows.org.uk



A new branch of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust has been launched! Not into space but into Leominster and surrounding areas, including Yarpole.

A branch meeting is planned for April. Watch this space for more information.

For more details contact Sarah Timms - timmsse@gmail.com

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Cakes, traybakes and treats available all day along with a vast array 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)

BOOKKEEPER / ADMINISTRATOR

Self-employed, looking to take on additional clients.

Whether you are snowed under with paperwork and don't know where to start, require help managing your business accounts or perhaps you're self-employed and need help to become compliant in time for MTD, I can help. Flexible and professional service.

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YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

April 2024



Slow lorries, helpful posties, spending money and a scrub up?

From April the price of sending a letter is going up - it will now cost £1.35 (it was £1.25) for first class post and 85p (it was 75p) for second class post.

We also understand that the afternoon collection from the post box at the bottom of the village may well come to a halt. Our local postmen have kindly let us know that as they will soon start their working day later (owing to having to wait for any mail from Scotland to arrive as it will now come by road rather than rail) it has been decided that they will empty the postbox and collect the mail from the Post Office all within an 11:00 - 11:30 window. At the time of going to press we are still awaiting confirmation of this.

In unrelated, more cheery news, holidays abroad may now be being considered so don't forget our Post Office is now able to exchange sterling for euros - and vice versa.

We also stock the Multi Currency Cards which you can load up with your money to use when travelling and they then work in the same way as a direct debit card. The advantages of these are that your money is more secure as it is PIN protected and also you don't incur the fees that now apply to each transaction when using your normal card abroad.

Call in to find out more! The PO counter is open every day (except Sunday) from 09:00-12:00.

With the onset of Spring the urge to have a sort-out and perhaps a clean-through can occur. Apart from, of course, stocking a wide range of both mainstream and more eco-friendly household products did you know that you can also get your dry cleaning done courtesy of your local shop? Bring it in by a Wednesday morning and it will be returned to you the following Wednesday - what could be easier? From duvets, quilts and blankets to jackets, dresses and skirts, winter coats, etc., no item is too large or small so save yourself a trip and support your local shop.

Diary Date;

An early heads up:

This year's Annual Members' Meeting of the Yarpole Community Shop Association is on Thursday June 6th @ 7pm @ St Leonard's Church.

Further details will follow as we near the date.

The meeting is open to all but only shareholders will be entitled to vote. However share application forms will be available on the night for anyone wishing to join and are always available in the shop.

An Easy way to support our shop

If you shop online then you might like to consider signing up with Easy Fundraising - this is an online scheme that many well known retailers and brands are signed up to.

It won't cost you anything but the member businesses will make a small donation to your chosen good cause - Yarpole Community Shop - if you choose us. There are about 130 people already supporting us and we do benefit every year by around £200 so it is well worth doing and costs nothing. Thank you.

The web address is: Easyfundraising.co.uk

Jon Pitts

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	

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Website: www.yarpole.com



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CHURCH MATTERS

Annual Church Parish meeting

The annual church parish meeting will be held on Sunday 21st April at 3pm. We will start with evening prayer, followed by the meeting and finishing with tea, coffee and cake. All are welcome.



One of the topics to be discussed will be what to do with the banners that are currently hanging in the church; they are beginning to look a bit tired round the edges, so we need to decide what we want to do with them. Do we get them renovated or do we replace them with something new? Please have a think about this and come along with any ideas. We look forward to seeing you.

What is Easter about?

For many, Easter is about Easter bunnies, chicks and eggs, hot cross buns and the end of the period of Lent when many of us will have given up things that we enjoy. These things are very traditional in our culture, and it may not be obvious but they echo what for me are the things that Easter is really about, which is: sacrifice, forgiveness, rebirth and most of all, love. During lent we sacrifice things that we enjoy. The cross on the hot cross buns reminds us of the crucifixion where Jesus sacrificed himself, so that we could have forgiveness and salvation. The Easter bunnies, chicks and eggs remind us of the resurrection of Christ and the rebirth to everlasting life that He has won for us. When we give the gift of an Easter egg to those we love we are echoing the ultimate gift of love that God has given us:

For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

But why does God make this sacrifice? The answer is that His love for us is unconditional. No matter who we are or what we have done, God will always love us. However, we may not always feel the presence of God's love in our lives, but that does not mean it is not there. If we do not feel it, it is because we do not let God's love into our lives. If we live periods in our lives where we feel anger, hatred or self-loathing, it is likely that during those periods we will feel unhappiness. When we learn to love ourselves, forgive ourselves and love and forgive others, we are much more likely to experience joy and happiness. Love and forgiveness is the gift that God is constantly offering us and it is up to us to open our hearts and souls to that love and forgiveness, so that we can love and forgive ourselves and share love and forgiveness with others.

Behold I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me. Book of Revelation 3:16

God does not force His love onto us, we have a choice to accept it or not.

Dear Lord in this Easter season help us to open our hearts to the love that you offer us, so that we can love and accept ourselves in our brokenness, learn to accept and love others and come to know the joy and happiness of your infinite love.

Amen

Jane Higgins



Do you think the Gallery Café is important?

The Gallery Café has been serving drinks, cakes and friendship for well over a decade now. As the years have gone on, we've gone from strength to strength: we've opened longer hours, more days, and have served a wider and wider range of food. Now, however, we're under threat.

We rely entirely on volunteers to keep the café running. Many of our volunteers have been helping us for years, and a number of them have decided to retire. We no longer have enough volunteers to keep the café running at its current capacity, and we're facing the possibility of having drastically to cut what we do.

Can you help? If you could spare some time each week that would make an enormous difference. No cooking skills are necessary: you just have to be willing to serve our customers with a friendly smile. And just in case you're wondering, you don't have to be a woman to work in the café! To find out more, please contact our Manager, Sarah, on gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com, or drop into the café and speak to one of us.



Exploring Christianity

If you have questions, this course is where to bring them. If you are a Christian but don't really know how to explain your faith, this will help you.

Christianity is not about rituals or giving money to a church or following a set of rules. Christianity is all about Jesus: who He is, why He came into the world, why He died on the cross and then rose from the dead, and what it means for everyone in the world.

The course will run fortnightly for 7 sessions, on Monday evenings beginning at 7:30 on 15 April. Each session will start with coffee and cake, followed by a talk on the subject for that session, and then questions and discussion, going on till about 9pm. (But if you want to talk some more you will be welcome to stay on.) There will be a charge of £3 for the course books.

Since we have to obtain some course materials (not to mention knowing how much cake is needed!) it will be very helpful if you would let us know as soon as possible if you intend to come. Please email Oliver Elphick at olly@lfix.co.uk or telephone 515303.




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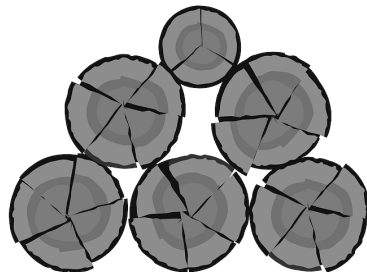
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PARISH HALL

April 2024

Programme of Regular Weekly Activities

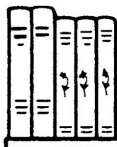
Mondays	Zumba	6.00 - 7.00pm
	Yoga	7.30 - 8.30pm
Wednesdays	Tai Chi	10.00 - 11.00am
	Art	2.00 - 4.30pm
Thursdays	Pilates	10.45 - 11.45am
Fridays	Bowls (not Friday 29 March)	7.30 - 8.30pm

Other Events in April

Tues 2 April	Yarpole Group Parish Council meeting	7.00 - 10.00pm
Sat 6 April	Flicks and Food	6.30 (film only 7.30pm)
Sun 21 April	Private event	12.00 - 4.00pm
Friday 26 April	The 4 Cs	11.00 am - 12.00pm

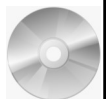
**To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern
01568 701996 / parishhall@yarpole.org. Or go to www.yarpole.com
and click on 'Church & Parish Hall Bookings' to book online.**

**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

April 2024

200 Club

The 200 club winning numbers for March were:-

78 £50, 161 £20, 125 £15, 3 £10

Jan Tandy

Reminder of Future Dates For Your Diary

6 April – Flicks & food

22 June – Summer Evening BBQ

28 September – Flicks & food

23 November – Flicks & food

14 December – Christmas Party with a bring & share buffet

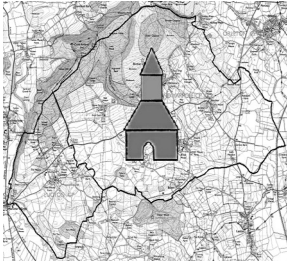


Friends of the Hall

The Parish Hall has an excellent hard-working committee, which gives a lot of time to arranging events, tending to the upkeep of the building and grounds, managing bookings and accounts etc. etc. On some occasions however, we could really do with a little bit of extra help. We would like to draw up a list of 'Friends of the Hall' whom we could call on if we suddenly found ourselves needing extra support for a particular occasion.

If you feel you could become a 'Parish Hall Friend' and would be happy to go on a list of people who we could call on from time to time, we'd love to hear from you - please contact Jill on 01568 780250 or jill13.grant@gmail.com.

Thank you for any support you might be able to give us.
Parish Hall Management Committee



YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting on 5 March 2024, Councillor Ian Salmon was elected Chairman of the Parish Council. One vacancy remains. The Notice of Vacancy has been published and if an election is not requested by 20 March, applications for co-option will be invited before the April meeting. Look out for a news item which will be sent to subscribers, and a notice on the home page of the Parish Council's website.

The Council's appreciation was recorded to Councillor Jane Prail for her meticulous planning and preparation of the Community Meadow planting event on 10 February 2024. Over 25 volunteers gathered and planted approximately 100 trees and shrubs, with rabbit guards and wood chips for protection. The event was a great success. Wildflower turf was laid, and native trees planted including Alder Buckthorn, Blackthorn, Corkscrew Hazel, Dogwood, Damson, Dog Rose, dessert apples trees, Field Maple, Guelder Rose, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Crab Apple, Rowan, Elderberry, Spindle, Wayfaring Tree, and Wild Cherry. Efforts were rewarded by a delicious tea, provided by the Gallery Café, and funded by the Parish Council. All the volunteers are thanked wholeheartedly for their time and willing assistance. Without Cllr Prail's organisational skills and public-spirited residents the event would not have been possible.

Several issues were raised in the Public Session, including cars being parked in the passing bay at the Community Meadow (I can confirm a sign is to be purchased reminding everyone to keep the area clear), whether foul drainage problems will be exacerbated when new housing is built, and asking for updates on a) progress since the meeting with Welsh Water, regarding their investigations on the existence of a highways drainage or surface water drainage system on Green Lane, (Cllr Hurcomb offered to follow this up), and b) the Traffic Regulation Order request for 30mph at Cockgate, submitted in March 2023 with a detailed report supplied by the resident.

Two Grants were agreed: £1,000 to St Leonard's Management towards the purchase of audio equipment and £1,247 to The Croft with Yarpole and Lucton Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining burial grounds in Yarpole and Lucton during 2023.

Payment will be made to The Community Heartbeat Trust for the Lucton defibrillator at a cost of £1,986 gross, £1,630 net, £1,000 of which will be covered by the generous grant from Yarpole Community Shop.

Lucton Councillor, Geoff Trotter, confirmed that Balfour Beatty has cleared the blocked drain by the War Memorial (B4365) alleviating the flooding problem on the carriageway. However, water still runs down the lane to Lucton village.

The poor condition of the roads was discussed. Residents are encouraged to report potholes to Balfour Beatty via their website - <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road>.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 2 April and Tuesday 7 May when the Annual Parish Meetings for both Lucton and Croft & Yarpole will also take place. Save the date!

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



GALLERY CAFÉ

Tasty Tuesday at the Gallery Café

Thanks to everyone who has come along to our Tasty Tuesday events and for all the positive feedback you have given us. We know that everyone loves the chance to come along and enjoy our home-cooked food together and we love the fantastic atmosphere in the café. For those who haven't been before 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 9 April at 1pm. It will include our usual offering of a home-cooked hearty lunch and a dessert along with a hot drink. Places will be limited so please book early.

Main course:

Sausage or vegetarian plait served with buttered new potatoes and minted peas

Dessert:

Warm almond tart served with vanilla ice-cream or cream, or a cake from our selection

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

Payments accepted in cash and card

To book please see contact details at bottom of page.

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

We desperately need more volunteers to help us serve customers, prepare lunches 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 can include 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 the light 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 it is a great way of meeting new people.

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

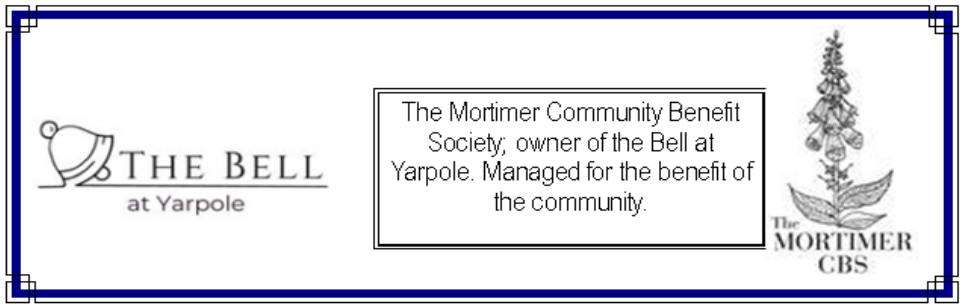
To enquire, call into the café or email: gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com

Call the café during opening hours on 01568 780594

or drop in to see us in person.

Check www.yarpole.org

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



Is The Bell haunted? Since we took over in December the Gremlins have been hard at work throwing up all sorts of different problems which we have had to deal with.

Are we under the spell of ghosts? As you will remember from Helen Norris' piece in last month's Parishioner, William Haywood of Yarpole, who was convicted of the murder of his wife, Jane, had been drinking at The Bell before and after brutally beating her to death at Lucton quarry. Is his spirit still stalking the Bell?

The committee have had to deal with two frozen boilers, resulting in the pub having no heating for the first month. There has been a leaking overflow pipe which has soaked the beams and plaster work by the chimney breast. We had been unable to install a new telephone line as BT state that the pub is not recognised; despite being in existence longer than BT. We were forced to cancel the fish night as the fryer decided to stop working. The oven also stopped working in the middle of service. The door in the cold store would not shut. The grease traps have never been cleaned. The fire alarm circuit board is faulty and needs replacing.

Things can only get better....

The feedback has been positive. The food is great and we have great beers on tap. There is a wonderful atmosphere.

Our menus will change as we settle into a routine of opening. As all the meals are prepared individually we may slim down the menus slightly so that we can maintain an efficient service. Please let us know if you have any queries or problems. If we are aware of issues then we can deal with them.

A big thank you to all those who have made a donation on top of their bill. All tips that we receive are passed onto the MCBS and help ensure the financial security of the Bell.

As always anyone who can volunteer with us is most appreciated. The majority of the work happens behind the scenes when the pub is closed. Is there anyone who might fancy taking on the grass cutting around the pub? Please email themortimerCBS@gmail.com if you can help. Are there any 16 year olds in the Parish who might like to work with us at the Bell? If you are interested please email us.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BellatYarpole/>) for event and menu updates. Also the website (<https://thebellatYarpole.co.uk/>).

STOP PRESS: The Bell is open for Easter Monday serving sausage and bacon baguettes and chips.

Finally our new telephone number (not courtesy of BT) is 01568 601110.

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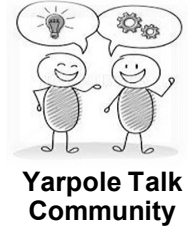
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- Hold the 4cs – Chat, Coffee, Company and Cake – all welcome

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

April 26th

Rose Jacks will once again lead us in a t'ai chi session, an old favourite activity at 4Cs.

MAY 24th

Sebastian Bowen will share some of his long-service experiences as a Councillor, with more than 25 years of representing Bircher Ward.

JUNE 28th

Linda Finney and Janet Knight will share their secrets of flower arranging; you might like to try your skills here too.

**Come and join us, for 4Cs, COMPANY, CHAT, COFFEE AND CAKE, 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

April 2024

April marks the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast by a monarch of the United Kingdom, when King George V opened the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in north London in April 1924. The speech lasts about six and a half minutes, and you can hear it in all its scratchily-recorded glory on YouTube.

I wonder if anyone then had any idea how much broadcasting would change in the coming century? We now take for granted the fact that we can see and hear almost anyone in public life at any time thanks to a 24-hour media. TikTok and Instagram have brought broadcasting within reach of any of us with a smartphone.

Communication seems to be hard-wired into us as human beings. That shouldn't surprise us, because our God is a God who communicates. Back in the earliest chapters of Genesis, it's the voice of God that brings creation into being. When Jesus is awoken by His terrified disciples in the middle of a storm, it's His words shouted into the tumult that calm the winds and the waves. When the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles at Pentecost, they speak the message of Christ crucified and risen in words their hearers can understand.

The story is told of a rabbi who could never get further in his reading of the Scriptures than Genesis 1:2, "And God said." The wonder of a God who speaks was too much for him to take in.

I wonder if that's why we love podcasts, audiobooks, and the radio so much – because it's as if someone were sitting next to us and chatting? As if we're listening in on a conversation that we're invited to be part of?

I wonder, too, if that's why words can wound us as well as heal us – because they go deep into the heart of our being?

The apostle James talked about the power of speech, how hard it is to tame the tongue, and how inconsistent we are when we say, "Praise God," in one breath and in the next run down another human being. Those are challenging words in an era where talk is easy, but we do well to take them to heart.

There are other times when we are slow to speak, perhaps out of anxiety or fear. One such time can be when we try to talk about our faith. In this, our Diocesan Year of Faith, we are all encouraged to have confidence that the story we have to share in our Christian faith is one people want to hear, and to become more comfortable talking about our faith.

We may never become those who broadcast to the world, as King George V did 100 years ago, but I wonder how we could learn to "broadcast" our faith in simple ways, and speak words of life to those who are longing to hear them?

AD Fiona



ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

DELIGHTFUL DAHLIAS

On 27 February ODGC welcomed back Pip Smith, formerly Head Gardener at Wollerton Old Hall and now a garden designer.

Pip began with a brief history of the genus. Native to Mexico and Central America where the tubers were eaten by Incas and Aztecs, the first dahlia, *Dahlia imperialis*, was discovered by a Spanish botanist sent out by Philip II to explore the region's plant life. Present day dahlias are descended from three species, *D. coccinea*, *D. pinnata* and *D. rosea*. Hybridising freely, by the 1880s American catalogues boasted 14,000 cultivars, this number rising to 50,000 by the C20.

Dahlias take many forms including single, pompom, cactus, anemone and decorative. Originating from the equator they are at their best in early autumn when day and night lengths are equal. They require moisture-retentive fertile soil, cool to warm temperatures, shelter and regular feeding with a high phosphorous feed. A nitrogen rich feed is to be avoided as it results in over-abundant foliage. They grow rapidly and should be staked early; twiggy branches provide a natural look.

Dahlias may be propagated by tubers, cuttings or seed, though the latter results in a lottery which can be rewarding. Tubers should be started off in Spring under cover and cuttings taken as the shoots start to develop. Free-draining soils benefit from a handful of Growmore or Fish, Blood and Bone added to the planting hole in mid- May. The stems of dahlias destined for the showbench need to be disbudded, the second and third bud removed as soon as possible to allow the plant to develop a single flowerhead on a long, straight stem.

After the foliage is browned by the first frost the plants should be cut back and the tubers lifted, turned upside down to drain, the soil brushed off and then stored in dry conditions covered with new compost or shredded paper. A dusting of yellow sulphur helps to ward off disease.

Pests include slugs and snails, earwigs and rabbits and they can also suffer from mosaic virus, crown gall and powdery mildew.

Pip thoughtfully provided members with a printed list to accompany his kaleidoscopic slide-show demonstrating how the various hybrids can be grown and combined with other late-flowering perennials and grasses to extend the gardening season into late autumn. Examples include *D. Oakwood Diamond*, white with a lavender centre which harmonises beautifully with *Salvia Phyllis' Fancy*, white suffused with lavender, and *D. David Howard*, burnt orange contrasting with white *Phlox paniculata David*.

Although rewarding, dahlias are labour-intensive and Pip cautioned against growing more than three hybrids - a test of self control when presented with such an abundance of colourful cultivars.

On Tuesday 30th April Gareth Davies will be giving a talk entitled '**A Year with Fuchsias**'.

Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start.

Non-members welcome at £2.50 per person including tea and coffee.

Annual membership £15.

For more information: www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk

THE CURIOUS GARDENER

Right plant, right place

Have you ever had a plant position itself without your permission, but once it's there it seems absolutely the right plant in the right place? We used to grow a little sun-loving thing called *Erodium pelargoniflorum*. It's a Heronsbill (closely related to hardy Geraniums) and it gets its species name from the fact that its flowers look remarkably like those of a scented-leaf pelargonium. The leaves are soft to the touch, and the plant forms a neatly rounded clump studded all over with asymmetric flowers, pale pink marked with deeper pink. The markings on the three lower petals take the form of delicate deep pink veining, and on the two upper petals the deep pink coalesces into blotches.



It used to pop up in odd places in paths and along the foot of a wall, and I rather took it for granted – so much so that when we moved I never thought to bring a bit with me. Luckily for me, it hitched a ride without my knowing, seeding itself into one of the pots that we brought here. Now it's coming up wherever there's a dry, sunny corner and it really earns its keep.

Each plant is short-lived, but there are always more coming on since it seeds itself so readily. This year the little dears started flowering in February, and as I write (in early March) there are clumps in full flower along the edge of the drive and in the paving cracks. It's difficult to extricate the seedlings because they quickly form a deep root (part of their adaptation to growing in dry places), and I find that if I do manage to lift some and pot them up it's all too easy to over-water them, which they hate. It's probably easiest to sow seed direct in the ground where you want them to grow. It's delicate and charming, and definitely the right plant in the right place.

Sue Russell

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The Wilkinson Brothers

At the end of 2023 I noticed that there had been some scrub clearance at the lower end of our Burial Ground in Yarpole. Entering through the front gate, the path leads to the newer burial area. At the left side, halfway along, invasive holly trees, nettles and brambles had been cleared, exposing two graves, headstones with crosses atop, and enclosed ground area butting up nearly to the old metal railings and the side of the property known as Long Fridays. The backs of both headstones face the pathway, so the inscriptions were facing East. The inscriptions were illegible, being covered in ivy and lichens. I carefully removed the ivy, and cleaned the faces of the stones as directed under our "Adopt-A Grave" instructions from the PCC.



One grave was for the Wilkinson parents and the other listed the deaths of four of their seven children. The first grave headstone records the deaths of Jane Wintle Wilkinson, *died Nov. 18 1926 Aged 70 years* and William Richard Wilkinson, *died Jan. 25 1933 Aged 79 years*. The second records the deaths and burials of two children, Edith Mary Wilkinson who *fell asleep Dec. 20 1909 Aged 26 years* and Richard John Wilkinson who *fell asleep Dec. 21 1911 Aged 26 years*. At the very bottom of the headstone were two more inscriptions in much smaller font. Pte Harry Wilfred Wilkinson Northamptonshire Regt.

Killed in action Feb. 6 1917 Aged 27; also Pte Cecil Allan Wilkinson Herefordshire Regt. Reported killed July 26 1918 Aged 22. These names are recorded on our Roll of Honour between the right of the shop door in the church and the entrance to the vestry. How hard for the parents to lose four of their seven children. Time for some research, we decided.

William Richard Wilkinson came from Caynham, Shropshire and married Jane Wintle (nee Perkins) in Hereford in 1882. They are recorded as living in Bircher, then Yarpole. William is described as a wheelwright and later as a carpenter, on the Croft Estate. Daughter Edith Mary was a teacher, most likely at Yarpole school. Son Richard John was a house painter. We have found out from their death certificates that both Richard John and Edith Mary died from pulmonary tuberculosis or T.B. The surviving offspring were Geoffrey Joseph, an estate carpenter, Alice Jeanette, and William Ernest. When William Richard Wilkinson died in 1933 there were no other members of the family living in Bircher or Yarpole.

Harry Wilfred Wilkinson and Cecil Allan Wilkinson are commemorated on the war memorials in the Parish. Harry Wilfred served in the Northamptonshire Regiment, having enlisted in Northampton. He had left home before 1911, when aged 21 he is shown as a boarder with a family named Felton, at Grinshill, near Shrewsbury working as a

woodman on an estate. In the war diaries of the 7th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment is a reference to what is almost certainly Harry's death. "A 'minnie' (minenwerfer bomb nicknamed Moaning Minnie) dropped into a party of C Company in Cordiale Avenue killing 2 and wounding 7." (February 6 1917, Harry's recorded date of death). He is buried in plot I.N.8 in Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.



Cecil Allan was number 239543 in the 1/1st Battalion, Herefordshire Regiment, (formerly T/1311 in the RASC). Killed in action on 26 July 1918, he is buried in the Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire, Aisne, Picardie, France. See a photograph of his grave on Findagrave at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56414664/cecil-allan-wilkinson> The battalion had only arrived in France from Egypt in June 1918 – their war diary shows one officer and 36 other ranks were killed in July. A dependant's pension was paid to Richard Wilkinson for the loss of his sons. This continued until his own death in 1933, as recorded in Army pension records. He was also paid a "War Gratuity" of ten guineas for Harry and £22 for Cecil (difference based on lengths of service).

Let's look at what happened to the three remaining children of Jane and William Richard after the loss of four of the seven. The surviving daughter, Alice Jeanette, went into service and in 1911 is found working as a housemaid in Hereford. She married James Edmunds in Leominster in 1924. 1939 finds them at 2 Duncan Street, Carmarthen where she is recorded as "invalid wife" and he is listed as a "rabbit trapper and land worker", without issue. In 1921, son Joseph Geoffrey lived with his wife Lucy and their adopted son John Clare Perkins in Eye, working as an estate carpenter for Lord Cawley at Berrington Hall. John Clare might have been a relative of Jane Wintle (nee Perkins). By 1939 Lucy seems to be living in 17 Caswell Crescent Leominster without her husband. Youngest child William Ernest also joined the army in WW1, serving in the 2/5th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment in France 1917 until demobbed in 1919. Returning to Yarpole he enlisted in the Herefordshire regiment, a Territorial Army Regiment, in 1924. Promoted twice he was discharged in 1938, then worked as a forester in Devon with the Forestry Commission and was an ARP warden.

There is much more information on this family; it will be put into an Adopt-a-Grave folder and placed on the church bier, and eventually join the other 18 Adopt-a-Grave folders in the Living History cupboard in the side chapel.

The fact that there are no local relatives of this interesting family explains why the graves were left so untended for 90 years. We would love it if anybody would like to be carer/s for them under our "Adopt-a-Grave" scheme. Contact Carol on 780625.

Carol Clare and Helen Norris

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WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR DADDY?

It's a question that many of my generation would have asked in the 1940s and 1950s, but without much prospect of a detailed reply. There was often an understandable reluctance to talk about war experiences, possibly because it would bring back hurtful memories, best left behind; the focus was on the better things that happen afterwards, the values and way of life that were fought for. Or maybe they signed the Official Secrets Act and assumed it lasted beyond the end of hostilities for a lifetime.

So I never knew exactly what my father did, except that he wasn't in the Navy, the RAF or the Army so far as I knew. He was born in the Isle of Man, and had a brother and sister with whom we stayed on our annual holiday for a number of years. He played football and the clarinet (not at the same time), went to Liverpool University, and emerged with a degree in Inorganic Chemistry in 1938.

A year later he was working as a scientist at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Euxton (pronounced Exton, except by the BBC who call it Yooxten) near Chorley in Lancashire, a secure site fortunately invisible to German bombers. At its busiest over 25,000 people worked there, making munitions of all kinds, and it was here my father met and married a local girl, who worked as a cashier, and who became my mother.

He had a great respect and admiration for someone called Barnes Wallis, a name that meant nothing to me at the time; I learned only later that BW was an engineer and inventor, and the man behind the famous bouncing bomb. My father took me to the pictures (as we called it) only once as a child, and it was to see *The Dambusters*: a great treat, as was the ice cream that came with it. Why that particular film, I had no idea. I didn't know at the time, but it turns out that the ROF at Euxton is where the bouncing bombs were made: just the project for a young science graduate.

At the time the Dam Busters raid, led by Guy Gibson, was considered a national morale-booster, despite loss of life on both sides. The aim had been to disrupt war preparations and hydro-electric power production in the Ruhr Valley by breaching the Möhne and Eder dams, and this it did, at least for a time.

Preparations would all have been hush-hush, so perhaps the Official Secrets Act was part of the deal (maybe I shouldn't even be telling you this) which may explain why I never got more than a nod and a wink about what happened: a mention of Barnes Wallis here, a trip to the flicks there.

The raid took place in early May 1943, and there must have been pride at a job well done, mixed with sadness at the losses, not just at RAF Scampton where the bombers were based, but also in Chorley where the bombs were made. I can't say exactly how my parents marked the event, obvs, although since I arrived nine months later – their bouncing baby – I can hazard a guess.

So I am the only evidence I have of what my Dad did in the war.

Jim Ainsworth

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LIMERICK COMPETITION APRIL 2024

We are very disappointed in Nellie. She didn't attract the attention she deserved, and a paucity of entries means that we are unable to announce a winner this time round. Perhaps everyone is too busy, so limericks will be in abeyance over the summer and resume in the autumn. Anyone who is affected by this news can ring our helpline, or send in a limerick entirely of their own devising for consideration when the limerick desk re-opens.

Jim Ainsworth

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Donation Reminder

If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to the newsletter using the box below if required. This can be done in the following ways:

- By post, cheques made out to Yarpole PCC, to Adam Scott, Undercroft, Green Lane, Yarpole, HR6 OBJ.
- Handed in at the shop in an envelope marked Adam Scott (cash or cheque). (Or use collection tin).
- By bank transfer – to CAF Bank, sort code 40-52-40, account 00013394, Croft with Yarpole & Lucton PCC, reference DP.
- Give to Morwenna Lloyd if you live in Lucton.

Many thanks from the Newsletter Team

The Parishioner - donation to printing costs

Name	
Address	
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Amount	

Reg Preece (1950 - 2024)

Reg was born at his Grandparents' house in Moreton Eye. After moving a few times the family came to Yarpole when Reg was four years old. He spent the rest of his life at Nurses Cottage with his parents Ellen and Dennis (who lived until 2006 and 2009) and his older sister Frances. Reg went to Yarpole School then on to Wigmore High School. After leaving school he went to work at Bicton Farm, then had various jobs including mowing lawns. He finished his working life with HiTrees.



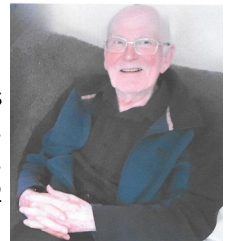
Reg loved cricket and football. He played cricket for Orleton and Luctonians. He enjoyed going to The Bell for a coffee or a drink with friends and was a very familiar face in the public bar. He was very fond of dogs. After his labrador, Jake, died he looked after Shadow who lived with Alicia at The Bell. Shadow was on Reg's bed with him at the very end at Waverley House.

Reg will be missed by the whole village and especially by Frances who lived with him at Nurses Cottage for 70 years and cared for him until the end of his life.

As told to the Editor

David Martin (1934 - 2023)

David was born and brought up in Haywards Heath in Sussex and was educated at the local schools followed by a year at Plumpton College. He was then called up to do National Service and joined the R.A.F. Not long after finishing this he got married and spent the next 22 years bringing up his three children in East Grinstead.



Finding himself single again in the late seventies he bought a flat in Sutton, Surrey to be nearer his place of work. Having spent most of his working life in insurance he had established various business contacts there. One of them, a solicitor asked him if he would sort out some mortgage cover and a pension for clients who happened to mention that a friend of theirs was trying to get a mortgage with little success. That friend was me and the rest is history! We sold our respective flats, got married in 1981 and bought a house in North Cheam. Six months later David was asked to move to Bournemouth on a promotion and we spent 22 years in Dorset before retiring to Yarpole where we became actively involved in the community. David was Chair of the Parish Hall Committee, he oversaw the 200 club, and we volunteered in the shop together.

David was very kind-hearted and would always do what he could to help his neighbours. He had a lifelong interest in the spiritual, exploring many beliefs in order to find his own path in life. We spent another 20 happy years together in David's favourite place before his passing in December 2023.

Jennie Martin

CROFT WITH YARPOLE AND LUCTON
PARISH CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2024



Date	Service	Church	Time
APRIL			
Wednesday 3 rd April	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 7 th April	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 14 th April	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
	PCC Annual Meeting and Evening Prayer	Yarpole	15:00
Monday 15 th April	Course – Exploring Christianity	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 21 st April	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 28 th April	Themed non liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 29 th April	Course – Exploring Christianity	Yarpole	19:30
MAY			
Wednesday 1 st May	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 5 th May	Rogation Sunday group service *	TBA	10:30
Sunday 12 th May	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 13 th May	Course – Exploring Christianity	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 19 th May	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 26 th May	Themed non liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 27 th May	Course – Exploring Christianity	Yarpole	19:30

* To be confirmed

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 (515303) Jane Higgins (708390)

STOP PRESS!

It has been suggested that The Parishioner could include information about local bus services. We have added this as an insert in the current issue - please keep this sheet for future use and we hope you find it helpful. If you become aware of any planned changes to services in the future, do let us know so the sheet can be updated. Ed