

The

Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

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Summer 2024

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And all our regular features





Thanks to this month's photographers:
Front page — Vineyard at Croft Castle, Sandy Ewing
This page — The Bell Tower at St Leonard's, Jane Goldman

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Summer greetings to all our readers! Thanks to everyone who has sent in photos and articles for this edition. We are always pleased to receive photos from our readers, so do remember the Newsletter if you are attending an event or are out and about with your camera. If we're not able to include your photo in our next issue we'll save it for use in a future edition.

6 June 2024 was a very significant date: the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings. We are pleased to include (on page 39) a photograph of two Yarpolian military veterans who participated in a service in Ludlow to commemorate those who fought for us in World War II.

We are delighted to welcome Paul Humphrey as a new member of our editorial team. His role will be commissioning editor. Having spent his entire working life in children's publishing, Paul says he is looking forward to working on some 'grown up stuff'. Paul will be writing and commissioning articles on local folklore and tradition, history and general interest, both in the parish and wider community. His first contribution, about a rather hapless local tailor, appears on pages 30 –31.

Lynne

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**

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 ¼ 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.

Yarpole website and Facebook—guidance for event organisers

Recently, very few events in the parish have been publicised using yarpole.org or Facebook, so it might be worth reminding organisers about the [online form](#) available on the website. On completion of this form, the newsletter will be notified and your event will be added to the [What's On in Yarpole Events](#) calendar.

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 07876 197770

House cleaning: Pristine Clean 07733 194057

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 07540 566871

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 097897

Handyman: Simon 07846 259549

AppleMac Mechanic: Lee Jones 07875 267790

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 07786 515922 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.

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON



Come and **Be Still**



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

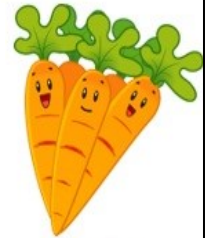
Monthly, on the first Wednesday, 5.30 - 6.00pm .
St Leonard's Church, Yarpole.



Orleton and District Gardening Club



43rd Annual Show
Saturday 17 August, 2.00 – 3.00pm



Orleton Village Hall

Flower and Vegetable Classes

Baking, Preserves

Afternoon Teas

FREE ENTRY – ALL WELCOME!



Christianity Explored course

Monday 8 July, St Leonard's, 7.30pm

Sessions start with coffee and cake, followed by a talk and discussion

For more information: Oliver Elphick at olly@lfix.co.uk or telephone 01568 515303



Walking Group

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

Summer walks: **Fri 12 & Sun 28 July, Fri 9 & Sun 25 August**

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

Contact: **Viv 01568 782271** or seiftonbatch@gmail.com



COMMUNAL CRAFTERS
 Next meeting
 Monday 15 July - 2.00–4.00pm
 In the Gallery Café, 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 meeting:
 Monday 19 August



THE BIRCHPOLE SINGERS
 St. Leonard's Church
Wednesday evenings 7.10 - 9.30pm





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, steveultr7@gmail.com Tel: 07791 490439

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 24 July**. Join her in the café for a coffee and a chat.

Orleton Evergreens Outings
All welcome (non-members £2 extra)



July 25: Return visit to National Memorial Arboretum—Coach fare + land train £17/£19
Aug 29: Georgie's Canal Cruise, Penkridge, Stafford—£35/£37 inc. Fish & Chips
 Contact Sue Turner for further details: sue.a.turner@gmail.com / 01584 831324

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

The 'Flying Gate' Comes to Yarpole

Cycling enthusiasts will be delighted to hear that the famous British cycle called 'The Flying Gate' is visiting Yarpole on Saturday 31 August. In fact, there will be up to 40 Flying Gates visiting our church and Gallery Café during that morning. The Flying Gate Club of enthusiasts holds an annual cycle ride each year and this year they are cycling from Tenbury Wells to Shobdon Airfield.



The Flying Gate cycle is a truly British-made cycle that is regarded by enthusiasts as one of the Rolls Royces of cycles. Its origins date back to around the early 1900s when the first cycle was designed and built by the Baines Brothers in Bradford. The cycle design and frame were chosen to compete in the aborted 1938 Olympics Games and, alas, after World War II the factory closed in 1954. The cycles have enjoyed huge success in the racing world, breaking numerous records along the way.

The design was resurrected in 1979 by design engineer and cycling enthusiast Trevor Jarvis of TJ Cycles, who now lives in Tenbury Wells. Trevor will be part of the group of 'Gaters' visiting Yarpole in August. The Flying Gate cycle continues to be made by hand nowadays by Chris Yeomans, currently based in Knighton, Powys. For more about the incredible story of 'The Flying Gate' cycle and club, please visit www.tjcycles.co.uk.

Gordon Ewing

Summer Churchyard Community Clearing

It's time to strim and clear the churchyard now that most flowers have seeded.

It would be good to complete the task before the Giant Hogweed seeds have spread.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY CLEARING EVENT!

Can YOU come?

Saturday, 13 July from 2.00pm

Bring strimmers, rakes, wheelbarrows, shears and YOURSELF! (Cakes also welcome!)



LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

Management of Hedgerows

[The Management of Hedgerows \(England\) Regulations 2024](#) has been made into law, effective from May 23 2024, providing a legal baseline for hedgerow management practices. The new regulations replace the EU-legacy cross-compliance rules which expired at the start of the year.

Key rules to be aware of (taken from the NFU web site)

Cutting and trimming rules

You must not cut or trim a hedgerow that is covered by the rules from 1 Mar– 31 Aug. You must not cause, or permit, another person to cut or trim such a hedgerow. The cutting and trimming rules apply to a hedgerow if it meets the following criteria for both length and location

Length

The rules apply if a hedgerow is:

- more than 20m long with gaps of 20m or less in its length
- less than 20m long, but meets another hedgerow at each end.

Any gap of 20 metres or less will be treated as part of the hedgerow.

Location

The rules apply if a hedgerow is growing on, or next to, land used for agriculture, including grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens, nursery grounds, allotments and woodlands where agricultural activities take place.

Exemptions from the rules

There are a number of exemptions set out in the rules where cutting or trimming is permitted from 1 March – 31 August. These cover:

- public and private rights of way
- hedge-laying and coppicing
- boundaries of a private garden
- risks to plant, human or animal health
- weed or pest infestations
- work required by a statutory body
- exemptions when sowing oilseed rape or temporary grass in August (A notification to the RPA is required; read the rules very carefully.)

For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hedgerow-management-rules-cutting-and-trimming>

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**Please contact Simon
on 07846 259549**



YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

Summer 2024



Summer goodies

Moorcourt is now delivering both strawberries and raspberries to us three times a week: on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For those who haven't come across Moorcourt before, it's a family-run farm near Lyonshall. They nurture, grow and handpick their berries. Time and time again, people tell us how they can never buy supermarket soft fruit again as these berries are the sort that one rarely finds now. Bursting with flavour and goodness they are a league apart and justly renowned.

If you would like to reserve any then either call us on 01568 780148 or e-mail us (varpoleshop@mail.com) or pop in and see what else we can tempt you with!

Naturally, we are now also selling the delicious West Country meringue nests which always prove popular as they are made with just egg white and sugar and are just as good as homemade.

We do, of course, also have plenty of double cream from Bartonsham Farm, and for those who prefer their berries served with a drizzle of chocolate sauce we also have Belgian sugared waffles.

We have been delighted to welcome a new supplier to our shelves in the form of Scrumptious Cakes, a small bakery which has been set up in nearby Kimbolton. Every Tuesday we are receiving a delivery of freshly-baked cake portions; ideal for when you want a treat for 'just me' or maybe more, but not an entire cake.

From chocolate brownies, to Victoria sponge and lemon drizzle these cakes are delicious as the sales have shown.

Annual Members' Meeting

A big thank you to all of the shareholders who turned out for our annual members' meeting on 6 June. It was well attended and comfortably quorate.

We confirmed that 2023 had been a good solid year in the shop, despite pressure from the rising cost of electricity, as well as major increases in the cost of many stock products. We made a conscious decision to avoid passing on price increases as much as we could and nonetheless the shop made a very modest profit. Sadly, it wasn't sufficient to make any community grants available this year but we hope that next year will be less challenging.

We were pleased to report that we have received donations amounting to just over £10,000 this year, with the donors wishing to remain anonymous.

In discussion and agreement with the donors, we have between us decided that as a fitting legacy, and a significant enhancement of the shop itself we will commission a new hand-built counter in oak. We will provide updates here as those plans progress.

Finally, we were able to summarise the significant interest that our shop has received through 2023 and into 2024, from many people and communities across the UK who are also wrestling with the future of their rural churches. Our media coverage spanned community groups through Sky TV to the Church Times.

Jon and Rowena

SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

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

Tel: 01568 780148 Email: yarpoleshop@mail.com

Website: www.yarpole.com



GALLERY CAFÉ

The Summer is surely upon us now, come and join us in the Gallery Café for a drink and cake, perhaps even sit outside!

We are really enjoying our Tasty Tuesday events with our customers who are so supportive. For July we are planning another treat! It will be on Tuesday 9 July at 1.00pm. Places will be limited so please book early.

£12.95 for a main course and hot drink

£14.95 for both courses and a hot drink

Please inform us of any allergies. We are happy to cater for individual needs where possible. To book please email: gallerycafe@yarpole.org, call the café during opening hours on 01568 780594 or drop in to see us in person. There will be a booking sheet on the tall cupboard.

We do still need volunteers to help us. Why don't you pop in and see what we do? The café remains an important meeting place in the village and we need to be open every day!

Thank you to all the people who support the café – you are helping keep us open.



Anna Morley

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

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)

YARPOLE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Up to 24

Any young person aged less than 25 years and living in the ancient parish of Yarpole (Yarpole, Bircher, Bircher Common, Croft, Bicton) may apply to the charitable trust for a grant.

The trust may assist eligible candidates with fees and costs associated with secondary and tertiary education as well as with initial professional training. Support can be given towards a wide variety of needs such as:

- * tuition fees
- * tools & equipment
- * course books & software
- * costs toward school/college trips or independent travel of an educational nature.

The trustees meet three or four times a year to consider applications. Applications should be received three months before the grant is needed, although urgent cases will be considered.

For further information or to request an application form please contact The Trust Secretary on 01568 780945 or by email: yarpoletrust@gmail.com.



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Church Matters



This season in the church's year is a long period of nearly six months between Trinity Sunday and Advent. Trinity Sunday celebrated the wonderful triune nature of God, who is eternally one and yet also eternally three distinct persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

One great truth about God is that he is love, and he does not change. There is perfect love between the three persons of God and it was so before he created anything. God's love is not feeble sentimentalism, like an indulgent grandfather. It is robust and uncompromising, relentlessly seeking the best for each of us. His love goes alongside perfect justice and an utter hatred for sin, which is anything that does not conform to God's character. We have all sinned in many ways. Justice requires that all sin be punished, so we have all incurred the penalty for sin. The penalty for sin is eternal death, which is separation from God and all that is good.

God's justice demands that all sin be punished, yet his love and mercy offer a way of rescue. The Son of God became a man too, in Jesus, and he died on the cross, bearing the sin of all the world and taking the punishment for it, so that we can be forgiven. He rose from the dead on the third day. Anyone who trusts in him receives forgiveness for all sin and also a new nature and the Holy Spirit to live in him, so that the one who has trusted in Jesus is made fit to be in the presence of God for ever.

June has seen the first of our Celtic Evening Worship services, at 4:30pm on the third Sunday of each month. We also continue to have the Be Still session at 5:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

In April there was a diocesan inspection of Croft church to look at the ancient floor tiles, which have become very worn, with some broken. There was concern about a dip in the floor, which, it was feared, might mean that the ceiling of the burial vault was collapsing. In May the vault was opened, but we found that it extends under the platform at the West end and not the nave. It contains three coffins, which seem to have been moved and dropped in disorder by a flood in the vault. The dip in the floor is probably only due to some subsidence.

Please remember Barbara Nurse, former churchwarden and trustee of St Leonard's Management, who died early on 17 June. We thank God for her dedicated service to the church and community and pray for her husband John in his bereavement.

Oliver Elphick



A curate's egg

Our news this month is like the proverbial curate's egg: good in parts. Let's start with the happy news.

We reported earlier this year that we had received a generous anonymous donation to enable us to buy a set of new stacking chairs, intended to replace the old folding chairs. We had to apply for a faculty to do this: that is, permission from the church authorities that has to be obtained before any changes can be made to the building and its contents. The good news is that the faculty has at last come through, and we have placed the order for the chairs. They should be delivered in August, and will be stored on a trolley downstairs in the side-chapel. No longer will we have to pass folding chairs over the edge of the balcony every time extra seating is needed – happy news indeed. We are also exploring the possibility of acquiring four or five of the grey upholstered chairs with the addition of arms, to be used for those who may be less well able to stand without a bit of push!

The next piece of good news is that Shanthi Menon has offered to take over from Sue Russell as our Booking Secretary. Shanthi is already a member of our management team and we're very grateful to her for offering to take on this extra responsibility. She will take over from Sue at the end of August, and details of how to contact her will be published in the September issue of the Parishioner.

Now for the not-so-good news. We have advertised repeatedly this year for new volunteers to join our café team, but without success. Our current volunteers are working overtime, some doing double shifts in order to keep the café running, but this can't continue. At the moment we are still without a paid member of staff, and this is making things even more difficult. If no more volunteers come forward to help in the café we will have to cut our opening hours. Please, please consider whether you might be able to spare a couple of hours each week. For more information, contact Anna Morley on robanna.morley@btinternet.com.

To find out more about St Leonard's Management, including minutes of our meetings and contact details, please visit our website: www.stleonardsyarpole.com.

Sue Russell



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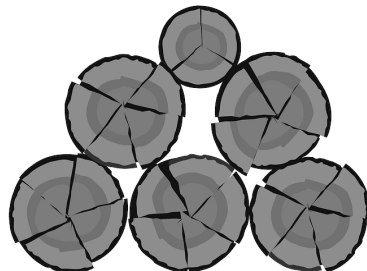
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PARISH HALL

Summer 2024

Programme of Regular Weekly Activities

Mondays	Zumba	6.00 - 7.00pm
	Yoga	7.30 - 8.30pm
Tuesdays	Glyn Whiting Art Class	10.00am - 12.00pm
Wednesdays	T'ai Chi	10.00 - 11.00am
	Art	Re-starts 11 September
Thursdays	Pilates	10.45 - 11.45am
Fridays	Bowls	7.30 - 8.30pm

Other Events in July

Tues 2 July	Parish Council	6.45—9.15pm
Wed 3 July	Setting up of Polling Station	6.00—8.00pm
Thurs 4 July	Voting in General Election	7.00am—10.00pm
Fri 26 July	4Cs	11.00am—noon

To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern

01568 701996/email 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 the book and there is no time limit.

DVDs and blu-rays of recent Flicks films are also available to borrow.



Reminder of Future Dates For Your Diary

28 September & 23 November – Flicks & Food (dates are subject to confirmation)

14 December – Christmas Party with a bring & share buffet



PARISH HALL

Summer 2024

200 Club

The winning numbers for June were: 128 £50, 151 £20, 139 £15, 80 £10

Good luck for the next draw which will be the first for the new Club year, and a special THANK YOU to those of you who have already joined.

It's not too late to get your subscriptions in for your chance to win our monthly cash prizes from July '24 - June '25. Subscription forms available in the church or email jill13.grant@gmail.com for details.

Maths Challenge - A Numerical Night at The Bell

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead or actual events is purely coincidental.

Eleven Yarpolians went to The Bell for a drink. However, no two people had the same drinking habits and, in the space of two hours, they all consumed different numbers of pints of Butty Bach, ranging from one pint to eleven pints.

Dan sank twice as much as Edward. Freda downed three more than the less thirsty Beryl. Rita knocked back fewer than six pints, while Catherine was five behind Bill. Bill and Beryl both liked a few jars and stacked up more than six pints each. Gary lost count but was certain that he had more than Rita. Paul finished three times as much as Kevin, who arrived late after going to the wrong pub. Catherine could only manage half as much as Alice, and Rita's glass count was four less than Edward's.

Who drank exactly 6 pints ? (Answer on page 37)

Set by Gordon Ewing

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...

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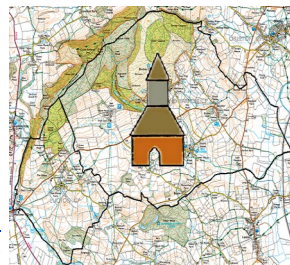
For more information or to book an appointment please call:

01568 368306 or 07540566871

Registered with the British Association of Foot Health Professionals

Yarpole Group Parish Council

Several topics were discussed at the meeting on 4 June, attended by one member of public and Ward Councillor Dan Hurcomb.



Who has responsibility for Public Rights of Way? There are two links on the Parish Council's website - [Landowner Responsibilities](#) and [Local Authority Responsibilities](#). The latter states that the highway authority (Herefordshire Council) must, amongst other things, keep the surface of public rights of way in a fit state for public use. If you know of a path which is overgrown, or a stile/gate in need of repair, please either report problems direct to Herefordshire Council via the [online reporting system](#); contact the Footpaths Officer, David Teale 01568 780613/07973 195062 davidteale@email.com, or the clerk. Two issues have already been reported: a tree on YP4 growing very close to a pedestrian gate, and access blocked on YP6 to the north of Mulberry Meadow.

Funding towards replacement gates/stiles may be available from Herefordshire Council. If suitable locations are identified, an application will be made. A stock of 3 wooden and 2 metal gates is currently held by the Parish Council.

Verge cutting in the Parish has begun and a safety cut at the junction of C1043 (Yarpole Lane) and the C1039 will be requested. A drainage report outlining potential works for completion under the grant scheme in 2024/25 will be submitted to Herefordshire Council asking that funding be used to complete tasks prioritised therein. Councillors Audrey Bott and Ian Salmon will liaise with the Parish Hall as representatives of the Parish Council.

An objection was made to [Planning Re-consultation - 200626](#) - Rosebank Cottage, Lucton, HR6 9PH for the proposed demolition of an existing garage and erection of a two-storey detached new-build dwelling within the curtilage of Grade II listed Rose Bank Cottage. The application is considered to be contrary to Policies YG6, YG6 c), YG6 d) , YG6 e) and YG1 c) of the [Neighbourhood Development Plan](#).

The purchase of chestnut bollards to demarcate the car park at the Community Meadow was agreed. Cllr Cadwallader was thanked for repairing the picnic table which had been damaged – it is not known how.

It was agreed to have silt cleared from the pond at Lucton to improve drainage, and to contact a householder about a hedge impeding access to St Peter's Square.

The National Trust is due to hold a meeting with the Bircher Common Grazing Association soon to discuss the on-going management which in essence follows the management plan for Bircher. The Trust will undertake bracken rolling (using horsepower) this summer.

The next scheduled meetings of the Parish Council will take place at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2 July 2024 at Yarpole Parish Hall and Tuesday 3 September. There is no scheduled meeting in August. Residents are encouraged to sign up on the website to receive copies of agendas and are welcome to attend meetings.

Maggie Brown, Clerk. clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk 07398 222310

News from our County Councillor

May is one of my favourite months of the year, as the garden comes alive again and as spring turns to summer, it makes you stop to really appreciate the beauty of the countryside around us and the area we are lucky to live in. It is also a time when we should all appreciate the work of volunteers, locals, farmers and the Parish Lengthsman who do so much to keep the village tidy, footpaths clear, undergrowth at bay and the more dangerous spots on our roads cut back for visibility – so thank you!

May is also an important time for Herefordshire Council, the Parish Council and many other organisations who hold annual meetings. I usually try to attend as many of these as I can to show my support and I was delighted to attend my first Yarpole Shop Annual Members' Meeting in St Leonard's on Thursday 6 June. It was fascinating to see some of the before and after pictures of the church being transformed and to hear a little bit about the history of the shop. I was glad to hear that the shop had made a small surplus this year despite the tough economic conditions and it was wonderful to see over 30 local shareholders in attendance. If you aren't a shareholder and would like to support the shop then please do seriously consider becoming one and help to preserve the shop for the future.

Herefordshire Council held its Annual Meeting on Friday 24 May to conduct the formal business of electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Leader of the Council. Cllr Roger Phillips was elected Chairman, Cllr Steph Simmons Vice-Chairperson and Cllr Jonathan Lester Leader. I look forward to working with all of them in the months ahead.

At a local level, I took the Service Director for Highways round Bircher Ward on Wednesday 5 June to highlight a number of issues. In Yarpole Parish I took him to see a number of areas of road which require patching rather than individual pothole repairs, the work on Lucton Ford, a longstanding drainage issue along the Bicton Road and the Green Lane / B4362 Junction by the Village Hall. I will provide a wider update at the next Parish Council meeting but we had a constructive conversation about possible improvements starting with the reinstatement of existing road markings in that area. Photos were taken and I have been promised it will be looked into – so watch this space.

As always, you can catch me at the monthly Parish Council meetings, (1st Tuesday of the month) where I am always happy to take questions or answer queries, or outside of the meeting via email, phone or letter. I am also happy to attend any meeting or event so please feel free to invite me along.

Cllr Dan Hurcomb

Email: dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk Telephone: [07837 726821](tel:07837726821)

Letters: Cllr Hurcomb C/O Democratic Services, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE



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



Hopefully the British summer will arrive before this newsletter. If that is the case, why not come and enjoy a drink or meal in our pub gardens. For the summer months we are open from midday Tuesday to Sunday for a selection of snacks, lunches and evening meals. Of course, we are open for Sunday lunch as always (booking advised).

We have recently teamed up with Wye Valley Brewery and stock a much wider range of keg beers. This includes Fandango, a light, hoppy pale ale; Nightjar, a rich stout; and Wye Valley's ever popular lager, 1985. For cider lovers, we also welcome back Gaspig Goose, an organic cider from Newton Court just south of Leominster along with Henry Westons Stowford Press. We continue to have a rotation of Ludlow Beers as well as Wye Valley beers on draught. Why not come and try them out?

Our food offering also continues to grow and we are now open for lunches and dinner six days a week, with a bar snack and sandwich menu also available

We will also shortly be announcing the unveiling of our Legacy Bench. There will be a bench in the front garden of the pub where the MCBS can recognise the kind donation of shares back to the society after a shareholder has passed away. It will allow the MCBS and our customers to thank the families for their support.

As always, keep an eye out for upcoming events at the Bell via our website or Facebook page. You can call us on 01568 601110 or email us via dine@thebellatyarpole.co.uk to make a reservation.

Now, where did I put the factor 50?

The MCBS Team

Graham at the BBQ on Bank Holiday Monday.
Thanks to Carol Clare for this photo





Yarpole Talk Community

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

Your donations help us to pay our expenses, thank you clients and donors!

'BOB-A JOB' WEEK 8 – 12 JULY Let's get all those little jobs done!

The GNS will be available to help you with any little jobs this week – give us a call and we'll try to find someone to help – donations welcome

And then perhaps have a cup of tea together

The 4Cs continues to flourish with our guests and helpers having a lively session of Chat, Coffee, Company, and Cake on the 4th Friday of each month, 11.00 till noon, Parish Hall.

Friday 26 July

Ruth and Oliver Elphick will share with us their experience of renovating a house in France.

Friday 23 August

A coffee morning to share our personal stories with our friends, over coffee and cake.

Friday 27 September

Sue Russell will let us into some of the secrets of her successful gardening experiences.

Friday 25 October

Gordon Ewing will give us a look behind the scenes of the Titanic disaster of 1912, unfolding some of the personal tragedies behind the headlines.

Friday 22 November

William Talbot Ponsonby will talk about the Mappa Mundi, kept at Hereford Cathedral.

Friday 6 December

A Christmas theme to today's meeting.

If you need a lift, ring Val 01568 780807 or Avis 01568 780874

All welcome!



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF HEREFORD

July 2024

Oh Lord. It is election time again...

Many years ago I attended a girls' grammar school. Most of the young ladies of this excellent institution wore a smart navy blue uniform right down to the nether garments (by which I mean socks). The rebellious girls wore their ties fat-knotted and at half mast, daringly adapted the standard pleated skirt in a way that endangered the morality of the entire town and sported (Quelle horreur!) pierced ears and wedge shoes. The scruffy oiks, of which I was one, technically wore all the right things but in a manner that was at least as subversive of the dignity of the school and its policies. The rebels rebelled. We just didn't care.

In the 6th form despite my total disregard for matters sartorial I was elected Head Girl. Clearly my peers and staff were not voting on external appearances!

The day my head girliness was announced I was surprised to have abuse shouted at me from the top of the tower block. Confused, I climbed 6 flights of stairs to face an enraged 4th form mob. When I besought the reason for their hatred it emerged that they had heard that I was going to change the school uniform policy so that everyone would have to wear white knee socks with ankle frills. Anyone less likely to care what sort of socks anyone wore could not be imagined. I disabused them of this heinous untruth and went on my way.

I am reminded of this as we endure our current national and local electioneering. Slander is justified by allegedly righteous anger; winning arguments are valued more than truthful ones; soundbites trump nuance; personal attacks abound and dissension and vitriol are stirred up by people who want to destabilise rather than work for unity. So here are a few thoughts about how Christians might engage better in all this.

Media owners get rich when headlines instil fear. Check the facts. Take the ideology with more than a pinch of salt and make decisions based on fact not gossip and opinion. There may be no white socks conspiracy at all.

We are called to love our neighbours, even if they have poor taste in hosiery. This is not justification to vilify and hate them.

Thinking your party's platform is unflawed is folly. Manifestos are made by ambitious people feeding tribal fears and things change. White socks might be the right way to go these days.

Scripture tells us to pray for our leaders and respect those in authority. Deriding them on Facebook is wrong. Pray for their wisdom and that their hearts may be right and perhaps they will see the light and abandon the white socks manifesto.

Do not be paranoid. The world will not end if your candidate loses and white socks are temporarily back in fashion.

Whatever your preferred sock colour in this election may you know that you are for Him before party and be filled with God's peace.

Dean Sarah

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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Wild Gardening at Nant-y-bedd

Sue Maberley gardens at Nant-y-Bedd. A blend of the wild and the tame, the ten-acre garden has been created over 44 years to sit effortlessly within its landscape of mature forest at 1200 feet in the Black Mountains, and is where Sue continues to explore sustainable management ideas.

Sue and Ian have opened the garden to the public over a number of years, firstly for the NGS and now as a Garden Organic and RHS Partner Garden. Nant-y-bedd was voted the visitors' favourite RHS Partner Garden in 2022.

Sue talked us through a virtual tour of the garden, illustrating how the wild is not just 'allowed' at Nant-y-bedd, but positively encouraged. Wild flowers are allowed to self-seed in the vegetable beds and ground elder is welcomed along the stream and the flower beds. Plants are chosen with wildlife benefit in mind. This means not just flowers for the bees and butterflies, but also ivy on the walls of the house for sources of insect food and nesting habitat for birds, standing seedheads for the birds over winter, and nooks and crannies, such as drystone walls to encourage lizards.

The tour went through the potager, where heritage varieties of vegetables are grown alongside sweet cicely (edible), greater willowherb (food plant of the elephant hawk moth caterpillar), red campion and ox-eye daisies and marjoram (great bee plant). Instead of battling with slugs when growing lettuce, Sue eats her weeds such as hairy bittercress, young ground elder, hop shoots and sweet cicely. Peas and beans are supported with material such as hazel, grown on site. Mixing flowers with vegetables encourages pollination and is pretty to look at. Sue also grows some perennial vegetables such as Taunton Dean kale, which is less attractive to slugs.

The path then leads across the rope suspension bridge to the natural swimming pond, and down towards the adult treehouse and meadow and woodland pasture, where sensitive management encourages wild flowers such as orchids, ragged robin and lady's-smock. Next we were guided along the river Grwyne Fawr (an SSSI and SAC), where dippers nest alongside the waterfall. Then we were taken back through the forest.

The tour was completed with a spin around the Cottage Garden, featuring a fern tree sculpture, and the edible forest garden, home to some unusual edibles, such as Sichuan peppercorn, honeyberry, three-cornered leek, as well as traditional fruits and nut trees.

The garden is open (pre-booking only) from Wednesdays to Saturdays, from 29 May through to the end of September, 11.00am to 5.00pm. Picnics welcome. www.nantybedd.com

Marjan Bartlett-Freriks

On Tuesday 30 July we will hold our AGM at 7.30pm followed by a Bring and Share supper.

Members are reminded of our forthcoming Annual Show on 17 August. The show is open for public viewing from 2.00pm till 3.00 pm with refreshments being served.

For more details, see www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk.

THE CURIOUS GARDENER

Wild flower update

Last autumn a team of Yarpolians helped us sow wild flower seeds in our fields, as part of a project to restore lost traditional hay meadows and to create corridors for wildlife throughout the country. All through the winter we gazed pessimistically at the sodden ground, not quite believing that anything would survive the deluge of rain. In early March, Herefordshire Meadows, the charity supporting the project, sent us a reminder that now was the time to start looking out for yellow rattle seedlings. We looked, and we looked, and we looked. Nothing appeared at all until the middle of April, when – bingo! – we spotted the first tiny seedlings, yellowish and frail but definitely alive.

Two months on, and those first few seedlings have turned into thousands of yellow rattle plants. They're in stripes across the fields, and each stripe is a quite individual, depending on who was in charge of the bucket of seeds on that section! Some stripes are quite even along their length, others are more spodgy; some are narrow and dense, while others are wider and more sparse. But they're all there, flowering away, and hopefully the yellow rattle is weakening the grass so that next year the flowering plants will have more light and air in which to grow. The fields will be left until everything has set seed, and then they will be cut for hay.



In addition to the yellow rattle, we've found sixteen other species that are flowering in occasional places dotted throughout the fields. The expert from Herefordshire Meadows assures us that there will be other species that will only just be coming through and which won't be clearly visible until next year or the year after. For now we're just thrilled to be seeing life coming back to these old fields, and really grateful to everyone who helped get this started.

Sue Russell

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A Cautionary Tale...of a Tailor

The little man stumbled through the graveyard of St Leonard's Church, looking for the way out. He was more than a little the worse for drink, having spent the entire evening at the Bell. Suddenly, out of the darkness a strange, white shape appeared, grunting and snuffling between the tombstones – was it a ghost? The little man went pale with terror, and, taking a step back, he tripped over a mound of earth, and fell into a hole, tumbling and turning, until he hit his head on something hard, and all went dark.

This is the folk tale of the Little Tailor of Yarpole. I don't know whether it is factually correct, or not, but, never one to let the truth get in the way of a good story, I sincerely hope it is. My sources cannot give him a name or tell us when he lived. So I am going to hedge my bets and say that he lived sometime in the reign of Queen Victoria, and his mother had named him Albert, hoping he would grow up to be big and strong, like the Prince Consort himself.*

Unfortunately, Albert grew up to be neither big nor strong. His mother wouldn't let him play games with the rough village boys, in case he got hurt. As he grew older, she realised that he would never be robust enough to work in the fields all day, like his labourer father. She decided that he would have to learn a trade instead. She taught him how to sew, keeping his lessons a secret from his father, who would never have approved of Albert learning what he thought of as 'women's work'.



Albert became a very fine tailor indeed. Because of his diminutive stature, he was known far and wide as the Little Tailor of Yarpole. He sewed garments for the poor and for the gentry, and became quite rich. But tailoring is a solitary life, and Albert had few friends, and, worse, no wife to share his life with. Local women shunned him because he had seen their undergarments, usually so well hidden from the world under voluminous layers of skirts and petticoats. And so, it pains me to tell you, Albert took to drink. At the Bell, it seemed, he had plenty of friends. Every evening, they welcomed him to the bar. "Here comes the Little Tailor of Yarpole," they cried, and permitted him to buy as many rounds as he liked. That fateful night, through the mists of alcohol, Albert remembered that he had an important job to finish the next day – some curtains for Croft Castle. Making his wobbly way home he decided to take a short cut, though the churchyard of St Leonard's....

Now the Rector of St Leonard's was an early riser, and, the following morning, donning his snow white alb over his cassock, he made his way to the church to pray. Suddenly, he heard a low moan coming from a recently dug grave. Peering into the gloom, he could make out the shape of a little man, holding his head and groaning.

"What are you doing down there?" the Rector boomed.

Albert, still the worse for drink, mistook the white figure for an angel. "I am a sinner in the pit of Hell, Father," the little tailor cried pitifully. "Have mercy on me."

“Don’t be ridiculous,” the Rector snorted. “You are in a grave and I am to perform a funeral service shortly. Get out and pull yourself together.”

As the tailor emerged blinking in the early morning sunlight, he saw a sheep, quietly munching the lush grass of the churchyard. The sheep gave Albert a quizzical look of recognition. But the tailor, too ashamed to admit that this was the ‘apparition’ of the previous evening, nodded to the Rector and made his way silently home.

Now I don’t know whether Albert’s life was transformed for the better by this calamity, but let’s hope it was. Let’s hope that he found a charming wife, from a distant village, whose clothes had been stitched elsewhere, and who bore him six healthy children, tailors all.

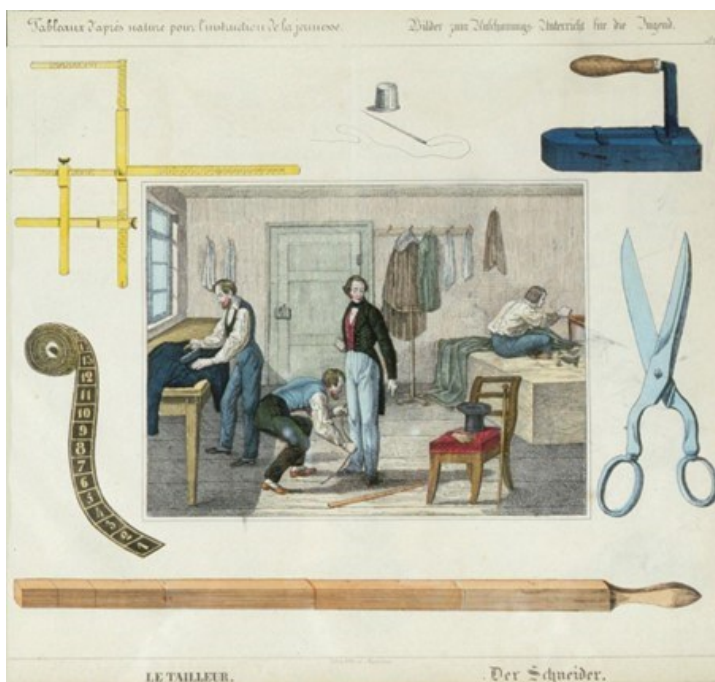
Paul Humphrey

*Footnote

I have used artistic licence in the compilation of this story, as is permitted in the telling of folk tales. If anyone happens to know the real name of the Little Tailor of Yarpole and the dates during which he lived in the village, we will include these in the next Newsletter.

For a more detailed (and probably more accurate) rendering of this tale, see David Phelps’ book *Folktales of Herefordshire* or follow this link to the Eat, Sleep, Live Herefordshire website:

<https://www.eatsleepliveherefordshire.co.uk/the-little-tailor-of-yarpole/>



Car Treasure Hunt

We couldn't have picked a better day for the treasure hunt. The sun was shining as 30 budding detectives in 10 teams negotiated their way around local villages, answering questions, collecting items and taking various photos.

Nancy and Barry gained an extra point for participating in their splendid TriumphTR4.

The question "When was the Pembridge marketplace restored?" caught everyone out except for Helen and Trevor.

The church of St. John the Evangelist, Shobdon, was perhaps the highlight for many, with some visiting it for the first time.

The teams enjoyed a ploughman's lunch at The Bell whilst answers were marked.

The winners were team Alpha, with no less than 6 photos of different uses for phone boxes, including a spider's residence in the one in Yarpole!

Thanks to all those who took part. Proceeds go to the PCC, Parish Hall and St Leonard's Management, with bar sales to the pub.

Diane Hill




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UK Parliamentary General Election

North Herefordshire constituency

This election will be held on **Thursday 4 July 2024**.

You will have one vote and you can choose from six candidates, listed here in alphabetical order of surname:

Jon Browning Labour Party	
Ellie Chowns Green Party	
Andrew Dye Reform UK	
Michael Guest Social Democratic Party	
Cat Hornsey Liberal Democrats	
Bill Wiggin Conservative and Unionist Party	

Your polling station is **Yarpole Parish Hall**.

It will be open from **7.00am to 10.00pm** on **Thursday 4 July**.

You will need to take [photo ID](#) to vote at a polling station in this election.

You don't need to take your polling card with you.

If you have a postal vote you can hand it in at this polling station on election day up to 10.00pm. When handing in postal votes, you will need to complete a form, giving your name, address, how many postal votes you are handing in, and why you are handing in these postal votes.

The information above was obtained from <https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>.

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A Big Break

There weren't many things to laugh at school, but careers' advice was one of them. One teacher, either as a perk (if he was paid) or a punishment, sat us down and asked searching questions such as 'Would you like to work in an office?' That was the last thing I wanted. In fact I wanted to put off working for as long as possible, which meant staying in education for as long as possible. A quarter of a century in educational institutions under my belt is, I think, a testament to my success in that regard.

Nobody told me that one of the best jobs in the world would begin with an all expenses paid (by me unfortunately) trip to Bordeaux with wine guide Jancis Robinson. It was a week's break, snatched from an otherwise unrelenting restaurant schedule, with the Sunday Times Wine Club. At the end I bought a few postcards, appended impertinent captions, and sent them to Jancis in her role as Editor of the Club's in-house magazine *Wine Times*, and she filled a space with them.

On the next trip, to south-west France, I wrote *The Gascony Tales*, this time an irreverent take in quasi Middle English on the Prologue to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (not as impenetrably high-falutin' as it sounds), mocking some of my fellow travellers (in a nice way) which went down well enough for the Club's President Hugh Johnson to send me a bottle of wine as a thank you. Look, I'm name dropping because, well you'll see.

When I sold my restaurant I had to look for another job, and discovered that *Punch's* wine correspondent Cyril Ray was retiring, at the tender age of 77. Having devoured the magazine every week for years, and having once won a competition (£12 postal order) they ran for applying a modern and not particularly reverential spin to the Beatitudes, it sounded right up my street. So I wrote to editor Alan Coren to say I was sorry to see Cyril go, but could I have his job?

Now, would he give it to a nobody from nowhere that nobody in the wine business or journalism had ever heard of? Apart that is from Hugh and Jancis. These two starry figures both consented to give me a reference and, at the time, indeed probably to this day, you couldn't get better supporters in the wine-writing business.

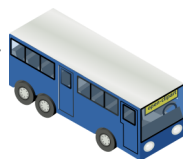
"I've been trying to contact Hugh Johnson for weeks," said Alan Coren, who had obviously suffered a little exasperation in his search for a new wine man (or woman), "and he hasn't returned a single one of my calls. Then you show up and he's on the blower telling me to give this lad a chance. I suppose I better had."

If the old office-recruiter at school had asked if I fancied a job being flown around the world to meet interesting people from Tim Mondavi to Claude Taittinger, from Henri and Remi Krug to Baron Eric Rothschild, from OK I've dropped enough names now, all the while eating and drinking at somebody else's expense, and all I had to do in exchange was spend a morning a week writing a short column for a magazine, and get paid for it, I would have left education a lot sooner.

Jim Ainsworth

Why not join us on the bus?

I recently started using the 489 bus again to go to Leominster for shopping and appointments. It runs on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Friday is the bustling Leominster market-day.



The timings give just the right amount of time to visit the library or have a haircut, drink a cup of coffee in a nice café and to pick up some groceries. This reliable, friendly service has been serving the parish for many decades but is largely unnoticed and why would it be retained in the future if it is not used more?

The trip is very sociable and there is a small 22-seater on the route at the moment. I had a nice chat to the other passengers and friendly driver combined with a pleasant scenic ride into Leominster via Eye and Ashton.

Catch it anywhere between Yarpole Village Hall (9.08am) and the bottom of the village (9.11am) or in Bircher Village (notice board side at 9.16am). You can use your bus pass even though it leaves before 9.30am. It returns from Leominster bus station at 12.

Nancy Morgan

Bus Timetable - 489 Lucton/Leominster Tuesdays and Friday

Lucton, opp school	09.05
Cock Gate Yarpole turn (SE-bound)	09.08
Yarpole, adj shop	09.11
Bircher turn (SE-bound)	09.16
Leominster Bus Station (Stand 4)	09.37

Leominster Bus Station (Stand 4)	12.00
Bircher Common turn	12.20
Yarpole opp shop	12.24
Cock Gate Yarpole turn (NW-bound)	12.27
Lucton, adj school	12.29

Full timetables: www.traveline.info

Answers to Maths Challenge (page 19)

Answers – Gary drank exactly six pints.
The full count was – Alice – 4, Bill – 7, Catherine – 2, Dan – 10, Edward – 5, Freda – 11,
Gary – 6, Kevin – 3, Beryl – 8, Paul – 9 and Rita – 1

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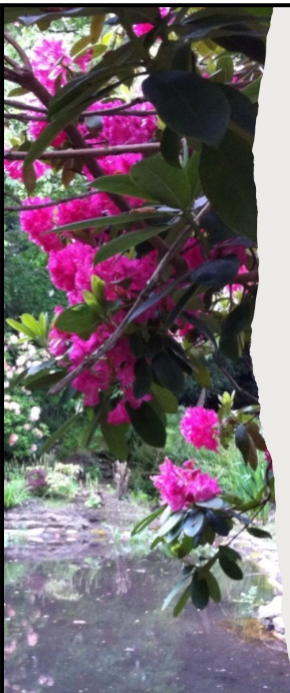
Please ring

07812696810

Or

01568780230

Near Croft Castle





Thanks to the following for photographs on this page:

Jo Foster — Veterans at D-Day Commemoration in Ludlow: Jo Foster (WRAC) and Steve Hart (RAF)

Carol Clare — First Rose

Meriet Duncan — Great Tit

Kate Griffiths — Foxgloves at Croft Ambrey

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton
Parish Church Services for July and August 2024



Date	Service	Church	Time
JULY			
Wednesday 3 July	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 7 July	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Monday 8 July	Course – Christianity Explored	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 14 July	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 21 July	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 21 July	Celtic Evening Liturgy	Yarpole	16:30
Monday 22 July	Course – Christianity Explored	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 28 July	Themed non-liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
AUGUST			
Sunday 4 August	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 7 August	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 11 August	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 18 August	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
Sunday 18 August	Celtic Evening Liturgy	Yarpole	16:30
Sunday 25 August	Themed non-liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
SEPTEMBER			
Sunday 1 September	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Wednesday 4 September	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30

Anyone wishing to contact a priest please phone or email:
 Rev. Matthew Burns on 01568 614399, teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk

To book a funeral, interment, wedding or baptism and for other information please phone:
 Priory Office 01568 612124
 Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00

Churchwardens: Oliver Elphick (01568 515303) Jane Higgins (01568 708390)