

# The Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

Summer 2025

## In this issue:

The Bells in Yarpole Bell Tower .....	21
Leon Fentem.....	21
Creating Wildlife Margins .....	22
Mentor Link Appeal .....	31
Bobbie Jones.....	31

## And all our regular features





Thanks to the following for their photos:

Front cover

Louise Hodges: Yarpole village

This page:

Keith Smith: 'Dinosaur', Croft,  
Fishpool Valley, Croft,  
Solitary Bee

Mary Cook: Pond Lily, Bircher

Carol Clare - The Mayflower



# FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Greetings to all our readers!

Judging by the excellent photos submitted by our readers, summer has got off to a good start this year. Let's hope it continues!

You may know from our previous editorials that RNIB recently discontinued the audio transcription service which allowed us to provide an audio version of *The Parishioner* to residents with sight problems. Commercial alternatives are available but, unfortunately, they are far too expensive to offer a solution in the long term. Hetty and I are absolutely committed to continuing this provision and we have been exploring ways of doing so that are affordable and sustainable.

This month we trialled producing the audio version of the newsletter ourselves using the Read Aloud feature on Microsoft Word alongside a Voice Recorder. Although we have succeeded in producing an audio transcript of the Summer 2025 newsletter, we have concluded that this approach is not viable in the long term because the procedure is far too convoluted and extremely time consuming.

All things considered, we now think that the best alternative is to recruit volunteers who are willing to read and record the newsletter on an occasional basis, using a mobile phone with a standard voice recording app. We hope to put a team together so that no individual is overburdened. We are grateful to those in the parish who have already offered to help in this way.

If you would be interested, whether as a reader or to co-ordinate the team, please email us at [newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org). You won't need a recording studio, but access to a quiet room is essential.

Lynne

**To send in articles and news items, please email us at:**

[newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org) and we'll send you more information

**Prices start at £5 for a ½ 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 USB stick

The Parishioner is also available on a USB stick for parish residents with sight problems. If you'd like to receive it in this format, or know someone who would, please let us know at [newsletter@yarpole.org](mailto:newsletter@yarpole.org).



Adverts are not read out in the audio version; here are contact details for some services:

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

**Builder:** Colin Vickress 07968 768011 / 01568 612699

**Handymen:** Simon 07846 259549; Andy 07855 813303

**Gardening:** Shaun Yapp 01568 780929 / 07876197770

**Oven cleaning:** Oven Wizards 07817 477850

**Chimney sweep:** Phil Mundy 01568 780417 / 07837 935102

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

**AppleMac Mechanic:** Lee Jones 07875 267790

**Mobile hairdresser:** Dawn Goodwin 01568 770387

**Foot health:** Stacey Gardner 01568 368306 / 07540 566871

**Osteopaths:** Leominster Osteopaths 01568 610610

**Homecare:** 07375 520646

**Solicitors:** Norris Miles 01584 810575

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

**Catering:** Jackie Thomas 01584 77190 / 07526 12176

**Vets:** Mortimer Vets 01544 388262

**Waste Management:** Maygothling 01544 230364

**Pest Control:** HWS 01544 231509 / 07818 034301



WhatsApp

## Stay in touch: Yarpole WhatsApp Group

Share local information & news, relevant to our community, via the Yarpole Whatsapp group. We now have over 150 members! To join send a message with your mobile number to: Katie Daniels **07786 515922**



WhatsApp



## 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](mailto:susanmarylangley@gmail.com).

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

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



## WHAT'S ON

## WHAT'S ON



### CHESS IN THE GALLERY



Monday afternoons, 2.00 - 5.00pm at the Gallery Café, St. Leonard's Church.

All welcome, including beginners. Refreshments provided. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information contact John Nurse: [bandjo@btopenworld.com](mailto:bandjo@btopenworld.com)

### Police Community Support Officer meetings

Our local (Leominster) PCSO Steph Harper aims to visit the Gallery Café every 5 weeks on a Wednesday at 11.00. Her next visits, all being well, will be on 9 July and 13 August. Join her in the café for coffee and chat.



### 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



### Do you like singing ?? If so,

there is a friendly choir on your doorstep, which welcomes new members

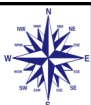
### The Birchpole Singers

rehearse every week in Yarpole Church (Wednesday 7.15pm)

For more information, contact Steve Walter: [stevewltr7@gmail.com](mailto:stevewltr7@gmail.com); 07791 490439



### Walking Group



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

Summer walks: **Friday 11 & Sunday 27 July, Friday 8 and Sunday 24 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](mailto:seiftonbatch@gmail.com)

## COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting

**Monday 14 July & Monday 11 August - 1.30-3.30pm**

At Yarpole Parish Hall, Green Lane, HR6 0BL

We invite a small voluntary donation per session.

We are a friendly group of crafters of all abilities who meet once a month to craft/knit/stitch together and enjoy a lovely chat!

**NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME!**

Please contact me, Sue Beagley on 07816 060746 or email

[suebeagley@aol.com](mailto:suebeagley@aol.com) for info.



## Orleton Evergreens 2025



**28 Aug:** Dragonfly Cruises, canal boat trip Brecon

**25 Sept:** Malcom Penny, talk about National Trust, Brockhampton

All Welcome (50+)

Hall meetings at Orleton Village Large Hall **2.30pm**

Further details contact Sue Turner 01584 831324, [sue.a.turner@gmail.com](mailto:sue.a.turner@gmail.com)

## *The Creation*

**Saturday 12 July, 7.30pm** at St. Andrew's Church, Presteigne, Kington Choral Society's next concert Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*, accompanied by the *Central England Camerata*, an 18-piece orchestra. The soloists will be, Naomi Sturges (soprano), James Beddoe (tenor) and Peter Challenger (bass).

Early bird tickets will be £18 (under 18s free) when booked through [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com), [www.kingtonchoral.org.uk](http://www.kingtonchoral.org.uk), Salty Dog (Presteigne), Border Bean (Kington), or Tower House Gallery (Kington).

£20 on the door.

Further information on Facebook and [www.kingtonchoral.org.uk](http://www.kingtonchoral.org.uk)

## WHAT'S ON

## WHAT'S ON

### St. Leonard's Church invites **you** to join us for **William's First Communion Administration**

Many of you already know William Talbot-Ponsonby through his work on St. Leonard's Management Team and in supporting the shop.

So we are very pleased that he has chosen St. Leonard's Church to be where he will celebrate his first Communion service as a member of the Leominster Priory team.

We hope that you will feel able to come, join us and support William on  
**Sunday 6 July at 10.30am..... with coffee and cake afterwards.**

*Please don't feel you can't come if Communion is not for you and you fear feeling embarrassed. You can still join in the fellowship and choose to either stay in your seat (you won't be the only one) or come up with your hands behind your back for a blessing.*

Joseph Haydn

**The Creation**

KCS  
Kington Choral Society

*The Pillars of Creation*

**Saturday 12 July**

Naomi Sturges, Soprano  
James Beddoe, Tenor  
Peter Challenger, Bass  
and an 18-piece orchestra  
Central England Camerata

7.30pm

Conducted by Simon Harper

**St Andrew's Presteigne**

**Earlybird tickets £18**

Online from [www.kingtonchoral.org.uk](http://www.kingtonchoral.org.uk), [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com),  
from Salty Dog (Presteigne), Tower House Gallery (Kington)  
and Border Bean (Kington). £20 on door (<18s free)

Poster design - Terry Wells

**Orleton Open Gardens**

**6 July Midday - 5pm**  
(last entry 4pm)

**A mix of new gardens  
& old favourites.**

**Tickets in advance  
from the Village Shop,  
or from the Village Hall  
on the day.**

**Tickets £8**  
(free for under 15's)



## EVENTS DIARY FOR JULY & AUGUST

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Tues 1 July	Parish Hall	Parish Council meeting	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed 2 July	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 - 6pm
Thurs 3 July	The Bell	Charity Quiz	tbc
Tues 8 July	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00pm
Wed 9 July	Gallery Café	Police Community Support meeting	11.00am
Fri 11 July	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
Mon 14 July	Parish Hall	Communal Crafters	1.30 - 3.30pm
Sat 19 July	The Bell	"Sports Day"	tbc
Fri 25 July	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00 - 12 noon
Fri 25 July	Gallery Café	Vintage Car Rally	From 10.30
Sun 27 July	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
Wed 6 Aug	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 - 6pm
Fri 8 Aug	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
Mon 11 Aug	Parish Hall	Communal Crafters	1.30 - 3.30pm
Tues 12 Aug	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00pm
Wed 13 Aug	Gallery Café	Police Community Support meeting	11.00am
Fri 22 Aug	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00 - 12 noon
Sun 24 Aug	Various	Walking Group	10.30am

### Regular Weekly Activities

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Mondays	Parish Hall	Move it or Lose it!	11.00 - 12 noon
	Gallery Café	Chess	2.00 - 5.00pm
	Parish Hall	Zumba	6.00 - 7.00pm
Tuesdays	Parish Hall	Move it or Lose it!	11.00 - 12 noon
Wednesday	Parish Hall	T'ai Chi	10.00 - 11.00am
	Parish Hall	Art Group	2.00 - 4.30pm
	St. Leonard's	Birchpole Slingers	7.15 - 9.30pm
Thursdays	Parish Hall	Pilates	10.45 - 11.45am
Fridays	Parish Hall	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm

Note: Modern Jive will resume in the autumn.

Check [www.yarpole.org](http://www.yarpole.org) for up to date information and any changes



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# SUMMER CLUBS

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August

9:00am to 4:00pm

Lucton School's Summer Clubs offer the perfect blend of fun, learning, and friendship in the heart of the countryside.

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- CREATIVE CHALLENGES AND TEAM BUILDING
- WOODCRAFT AND ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES



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**Orleton and District  
Gardening Club**

[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)

**44th Annual Show**

**Saturday, August 16th, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm, Orleton Village Hall**

**Flower and Vegetable Classes, Baking, Preserves**

**Afternoon Teas, Stalls**

**FREE ENTRY – ALL WELCOME!**



## LOCAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### St. Leonard's Church and Community Hub

Our church and community hub is a superb venue for your next celebration or special event – whether it be for an exhibition, an illustrated talk, a musical soirée, a family gathering, a special anniversary or a public event.

With flexible space, outstanding acoustics, an atmospheric setting and superb support from a team of volunteers, it is a unique location for you.

For booking enquiries email us at : [yarpolechurchbookings@gmail.com](mailto:yarpolechurchbookings@gmail.com)

### Mortimer Medical Practice

#### Patients' Participation Group (PPG)

Dr Bartlett will be retiring later this year. Dr Howard will join the practice in September.

#### Surgery Information

There is now one email address for all the surgeries: [mortimer.medicalpractice@nhs.net](mailto:mortimer.medicalpractice@nhs.net).

#### Staff Training Closures

The surgeries and dispensaries will be **CLOSED** from **12noon** until **8.30am** the next day on **Thursday 10 July** and **Tuesday 14 October**.

A receptionist will be available for urgent calls 01568 708214 until **6.30pm**. Outside these hours, and at weekends/Bank Holidays, call 111.

#### Repeat Prescriptions

Please allow 72 hours (three working days) for repeat prescriptions. When ordering online, please state from which surgery you wish to collect.

#### Carers

Help is available for carers who support those needing help with everyday living. Elaine Whitcome or a member of the team can let you know what support and help is available. Alternatively, ask for a carer's identification form.

#### Volunteer Gardeners Needed

Volunteers are needed to improve the gardens at Orleton and Kingsland. Please contact Fiona Harper, Practice Manager on 01568 708214.

Gilly Lloyd 01568 780328 [gillymi.lloyd@yahoo.com](mailto:gillymi.lloyd@yahoo.com)



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Based in Yarpole



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# YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

**Summer 2025**



## **Berry good fruit**

Moorcourt Farm is once again providing us with fresh berries, and also fruit juice.

For those new to the area Moorcourt is a farm not far from us in North West Herefordshire where they grow the most beautiful fruit which they nurture from blossom to berry.

It is fruit as it is meant to taste and a world away from the supermarket offerings. The fruit season begins in mid-May with strawberries that are bursting with flavour. Raspberries and blueberries begin in mid-June and cherries are available from early July until late August. We have deliveries every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and if you would like to reserve some then do drop us a line or give us a ring as they do sell fast! Email [yarpoleshop@mail.com](mailto:yarpoleshop@mail.com) or phone 01568 780148.

This year Moorcourt have also started producing their own fruit juice. We are stocking their apple, apple and raspberry and sparkling apple juice. The Gallery Café also sells the Moorcourt juices and they have pronounced them "Delicious!", so much so that we have already had to order more in!

We sell Moorcourt fruit at a much more competitive price than our nearby competitors, so as ever pop down to the shop and see what else we can tempt you with!

## **Annual Members' Meeting**

The shop held its annual members' meeting at the beginning of June.

It was really good to see a sizeable number of shareholders turn out to maintain their active interest in our shop and find out how things are going.

This year saw a new artisan-made counter commissioned and installed, funded entirely from donated funds, an IT challenge just before Christmas, new signage around the area, and more.

In brief the shop remains sustainable and against challenging conditions with rising bills (as for everyone) it managed to break even in 2024. It would be great to think that we will all continue to support it and do even better next year.

The current committee all agreed to stand again and were voted back in to serve another year. However, our treasurer and secretary will stand down next June, so we are actively seeking replacements. We will return to this as the year unfurls further!

Rowena & Jon



# GALLERY CAFÉ

Summer 2025



Tasty Tuesday will be on **Tuesday 8 July** and **Tuesday 12 August** at **1.00pm**

Places will be limited so please book early.

Please inform us of any allergies; we are happy to cater for individual needs where possible. To book please email: [gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com](mailto:gallerycafeyarpole@outlook.com), 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.

The Gallery Café is open every day except Sunday, so you can meet friends, old and new, enjoy our excellent cakes, scones and lunches, and - very important – keep us open!

## VINTAGE CAR RALLY 25 JULY

SEE CLASSIC AND VINTAGE CARS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH  
and meet the drivers in the café!

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

Anna Morley

### Gallery Café Opening Hours

Monday – Wednesday 10.30-12.30 for drinks & cakes

Thursday – Friday 10.30-3.00, serving lunch 12-2pm

Saturday 10.30 -12.30 for brunch

For enquiries/bookings, drop in to see us in person,

email [gallerycafe@yarpole.org](mailto:gallerycafe@yarpole.org), or phone 01568 780594 (during opening hours only)

Check [www.yarpole.org](http://www.yarpole.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/>

### SHOP AND POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

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

Tel: 01568 780148 Email: [yarpolshop@mail.com](mailto:yarpolshop@mail.com)

Website: [www.yarpole.com](http://www.yarpole.com)

# MORTIMER VETS

Mortimer Vets is an independently run and owned vets.

Here's a bit about us:

- Truly independent local veterinary practice
- Our friendly experienced team offer professional care for your dogs, cats, horses and small pets
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- Preventative health care plans available
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- Full 24/7 equine emergency service covering Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire
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## CONTACT US AND FIND US:



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Opening hours: Mon-Fri - 8.30am-5.30pm  
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FOLLOW US ON:



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

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



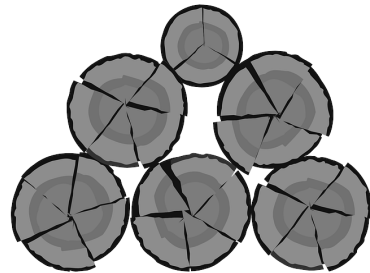
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The Sunday that has just gone, as I write this, was Pentecost, when the 12 Apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit. As a baptised Christian I too have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, but to be honest there are many times when I wonder if the Holy Spirit is still with me.

It is easy in the hustle and bustle of daily life, the problems and difficulties we all face to wonder where the Holy Spirit is in our lives.

I have thought about this and I realise that there are many moments in my life when the Holy Spirit is present, but this does not mean that there are times when it leaves me. I think it means that there are times when I am more open to letting the Holy Spirit into my life.

Those moments when I choose to be kind and caring, not selfish or angry towards others.

Those moments when I know exactly the right thing to say to someone who is struggling.

Those moments when I feel good about myself and the world around me.

I realise that those moments are not about me being good or special of my own accord but are moments when the Holy Spirit is working through me. This is a special gift we can all have in our lives if we let the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds. The Holy Spirit is always there to give us the strength we need, to face the things in life that we fear we lack the strength to achieve or overcome.

*Lord thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, which helps us to be better people and gives us the chance to feel good about ourselves.*

*May we let your Spirit shine through us always, so that it passes from us to others, so they too can feel the warmth of your love and support.*

AMEN.

Jane Higgins Churchwarden

This is the link for the Diocese of Hereford where the parish magazine article, and other material, can be viewed: <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/parish-newsletter/>

## Wow, it's summer! – the season of Wimbledon, summer fayres, picnics, holidays and WASPS!

Sandy and I recently attended a thoroughly enjoyable 80<sup>th</sup> birthday garden party for a fellow Yarpolian where we met some founder members of the Yarpole Wasp Appreciation Society (YWAS). I innocently enquired from some of the other guests, "What is the purpose of wasps – no-one seems to like them, and, in the summer, they are a particular nuisance?" To my surprise, wasps were vehemently defended by those present with assertive claims that they act as natural pest control by consuming aphids and caterpillars. Further research even suggested that wasp venom has antibiotic properties, so the next time you have an infection perhaps you should jump into a swarm of the stripey devils instead of running off to the GP.



In the May edition, Paul Humphrey took a nostalgic trip back to the 1990's by looking at past issues of the Parishioner. I particularly noticed that Yarpole had previously held a two-day Summer Fayre, and I wonder now whether there is an appetite for reviving this event in 2026 as a big fund raiser for St Leonard's Management. We need to raise significant funds over the next five years to keep our church, bell tower and community hub in good repair. What are your thoughts, please? By all means, see me when I am on duty in the shop (alternate Fridays am) or café (Weds am) or whilst on our daily walk. Alternatively, email me your thoughts at [gordon.ewing@me.com](mailto:gordon.ewing@me.com). Fund raising should be fun raising and our community is great at this. You only have to look at May's record-breaking sales in the Gallery Café, boosted by the fabulous events for VE Day, the Histories Festival musical Afternoon Tea and the continuing success of Tasty Tuesdays and lunches and brunches on Thursdays to Saturdays! Well done to everyone for an epic month!

The new automated door entry system seems to be operating well. We have had the timings adjusted so that the doors remain open for longer. This allows more opportunity for those needing extra time to enter or leave the church safely.

Our hard-working trustees (Stefano Street, Sebastian Bowen, William Talbot-Ponsonby and I) continue to support the work of the Gallery Café, the village shop and Post Office and the use of our church as a community hub and place of worship. We currently have two churches in Herefordshire tapping into our experience as our community provision is an example of very good practice. We are, therefore, looking for another member of our community, to join our team either as a trustee or as a behind-the-scenes supporter to really build on our excellent record to date. Commitments include a meeting every 6-8 weeks and supporting an existing trustee in achieving our community-based objectives. The reward is the satisfaction that you are making a difference in your local community and improving the lives of everyone. If tempted, please get in touch.

Thanks.

Gordon Ewing, Trustee



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## The Bells in Yarpole Bell Tower

The oldest of the three bells in the bell tower was cast in the middle of the fifteenth century, followed by the second cast in 1605, and the third in 1652.

In 1968 an inspection confirmed that the bells had to be “dead hung” i.e. could be struck but not swung due to the dangerous nature of the structure suspending them and the discovery that one bell was cracked. The cost of repairs was deemed to be too high and so the bells were silent for the next three decades.

Dr Kenneth Marsh and his wife Joan Marsh J.P. lived in Plainsbook, Yarpole, the cottage in the low dip on the left between Bircher and the Cockgate Crossroads. They became the driving force of the Bell Committee to raise the money needed, estimated at £10,000 to recast the cracked bell and make safe the structures in the tower.

The money was raised, the cracked bell was recast, the internal structure was made safe, new ropes purchased, and the bells were rehung. In September 1996, The Bishop of Hereford dedicated the restored bells, and they were heard again in the village for the first time for over three decades.

Nora Barker who farmed with her husband Ernest at Lower House Farm, remembered the bells ringing when she came as a young bride to the farm, prior to them being silenced. When she heard the bells ringing for the first time since the refurbishment, she came up the church drive crying saying, “I never thought I would hear them again, thank you all.” Both she and her husband are buried in the burial ground. Perhaps they can hear them still.



The stained-glass window on the right of the church porch depicts the bells ringing to the heavens and bottom right there is an inscription to Dr Marsh, who died in 1998. His ashes and those of his wife are in the Garden of Remembrance alongside the Bell Tower.

Carol Clare

### Leon Fentem

The Parishioner is sad to announce the death of Leon Fentem of Westbank, Green Lane, Yarpole. Leon came to live in the village more than 40 years ago with his wife, Joy, who predeceased him. He worked as a poultry specialist at Sun Valley Foods Ltd and lived into his late 90s. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

## Creating Wildlife Field Margins

We have recently created wildlife field margins on two of our fields at Pound House, with the help and guidance of the Wye and Usk Foundation plus Dan Jones Agri. Contracting. One of the fields abuts the new wildlife project being created by Border Oak, which was mentioned in a previous edition of *The Parishioner*. The new field margins will complement that scheme very nicely by providing wildlife corridors across a larger area.



Our western field's hedge, which abuts the new wildlife project has a small brook running along the side. This takes water from the surrounding fields, and runs into the Ridgemoor Brook, via our Stoney Brook. An attenuation pool will be added halfway along the brook in our field, to help with control of winter rain flows. The photo on the left was taken halfway along the field margin which contains our brook, looking south.

Over two hundred and forty trees have now been planted in the new field margins to help overall control and drainage in this catchment area. The tree whips include oak, beech, copper beech, hornbeam, goat willow and cricket bat willow, field maple, cherry, rowan and lombard poplar etc. The majority seem to have taken but all the cricket bat willows are struggling because at the time of writing it has hardly rained at all since they were planted at the beginning of April. This was the soonest we could get onto the fields after all the wet weather we had earlier in the year. It's a tricky business planting trees now that our seasons are so variable, either too wet or too dry! Perhaps it's always been so, but now it seems even more so.

The photo on the right was taken halfway along the second field margin looking east, towards where it connects to the other field margins at the far end.

You may just spot on the photos a good number of buttercups showing in the new field margins. We are happy to say that over May the number increased dramatically. The new margins are therefore already providing nectar, and the new trees will hopefully go on to provide berries etc. as they develop next spring, just when the birds need them most.

We think of it as the "new form of strip farming" something that can be passed from generation to generation to protect, maintain and cherish.



Osborne and Jane Vaughan

Hello everyone! Welcome to another edition of Lisa's Book Nook. It is early June as I write this, and summer is literally just around the corner. Unless you go by the meteorological calendar of course, in which case it is already here. Today I have decided to recommend some fiction books that I read over recent months and really enjoyed. Hopefully they will appeal to you too. Have a lovely summer!



***When Christ and His Saints Slept* by Sharon Penman** - Sharon Penman is one of my favourite historical fiction authors, and this book is a fantastic example of why I hold her in such high regard. Set largely in England in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it covers the period known as the Anarchy, a brutal and bloody civil war for the throne fought between the Empress Matilda and her cousin, King Stephen. Penman's books are always well researched, and she uses said research to great effect here, creating a story that is both historically accurate and utterly gripping to read. It is one of those books you will read for fun but end up learning a great deal from. She also avoids falling into the trap of portraying the main characters as wholly good or wholly bad, instead presenting them as complex human beings who think they are acting for the greater good but instead plunge the entire country into chaos. If you have never read any of Penman's books before, this would be a fantastic place to start. It is long but totally worth the time.

***The Turn of the Key* by Ruth Ware** - This creepy thriller sees a young woman take a job as a nanny at a remote "smart" house in the Scottish Highlands, only to later find herself in prison on a murder charge. So what went wrong? You will have to read it for yourself and find out! Although I'm mainly a reader of historical fiction, I do like a good thriller every now and then, and this one is particularly suspenseful. With more than a passing similarity to the classic chiller, *The Turn of the Screw*, this has all the ingredients needed to keep you glued to the pages as you try to work out what might be going on. Is our narrator going mad? Is the house haunted? Or is something else afoot? With plenty of twists and turns to keep you guessing, some of which you will not see coming, this is a perfect read for the summer, or any other time of year really. The Scottish Highland setting is an added bonus, as it adds a whole other layer of tension and unease to the proceedings.

***The North Water* by Ian McGuire** - In 1850s England, a whaling ship sets sail for the Arctic, only to discover they have a violent, psychopathic killer onboard. What's more, we know who he is, as it's made clear to us from very early on. But how long will it take for the other crew members to work out the identity of this dangerous individual? As you will probably have already gathered, this is an incredibly dark book and therefore won't be for everyone. Because the killer is one of the point-of-view characters, we spend a fair amount of time in his company, which is not the nicest place to be. McGuire also doesn't shy away from showing you the reality of life onboard a 19<sup>th</sup> century ship, which was far from pleasant. However, there is a whole lot more to it than that, as it proves to be not only a fascinating character study, but a gripping historical thriller as well. If it sounds like the sort of thing you might be interested in reading, please do give it a try. It is dark, but it is satisfying.

Lisa North

## Leominster Food Bank

We have been experiencing extremely busy times during the first quarter of this year. We hoped the cost-of-living crisis might be receding by this point, but this is not reflected in the numbers of people we are seeing, or the experiences people in difficulty are sharing with us.

By early May we had already distributed more than 1,000 food parcels to people in Leominster and its surrounds, of which over 500 were for children.

In January of this year, we had to move to much smaller premises while building work was being carried out at the Old Priory. We hoped this would be very short term, but we are still unable to return and anticipate a long wait, so we are now considering alternatives. This has increased our costs as we are giving some food parcels via supermarket vouchers to reduce the number of food bags we transport across town.

We now shop for the majority of our food items, topping up with food donated to us. This means that we have become increasingly appreciative of the generosity of our regular givers, because this consistent monthly income affords us some security in which to plan and weather the storms of ever-increasing food poverty.

If you would like to set up a standing order or to donate money it can be sent directly to the Leominster Food Bank account:

Sort code: 30-94-99 Account number: 00281106

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, please email [admin@leominsterfoodbank.org](mailto:admin@leominsterfoodbank.org)

We are very grateful for food donations and need all basic items as listed on our website. The Bank the Food app keeps people up to date with the items we need most. [www.bankthefood.org](http://www.bankthefood.org)

Thank you to everyone who supports this important work.

Caroline Arthur

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## PARISH HALL Summer 2025

### Annual General Meeting

Following the AGM on 10 June, there are a few changes to the Hall Management Committee.

Jill Grant has stepped down as Chair, but she will remain on the Committee.

The changes are as follows:

Chair: Amanda Hordern

Treasurer: Jeremy Gray

Secretary: Janet Owen

Booking Secretary: Ali Williams

Other members continuing are Lynn Ashton, Joan Waters, Tony Kinsey and David Rackham.

The Committee would like to thank Jill for all her hard work as Chair over the last few years, leading the ongoing success of the Parish Hall.

### Future Parish Hall dates

27 September	Flicks & food
22 November	Flicks & food
13 December	Christmas Party night with bring & share buffet



Don't forget that books can be taken out from the Parish Hall Library whenever the building is open. Just sign the book and there is no time limit.



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

Parish Hall activities are on our events calendar (on page 8 this month)

To make a booking please contact Ali Williams

07788 547255 / [parishhall@yarpole.org](mailto:parishhall@yarpole.org). Or go to [www.yarpole.com](http://www.yarpole.com)

and click on 'Church & Parish Hall Bookings' to book online.

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



## PARISH HALL Summer 2025

### 200 Club

The winning numbers for May were:

69: £50, 53: £20, 83: £15, 149: £10

June was the last draw of the 200 club until September. This is a final reminder for you to renew your subscriptions.

You can pay by BACS transfer or direct debit - sort code 40-28-13. account no. 81438298, Yarpole Village Hall. Please include your name and 200 club and email [parishhall@yarpole.org](mailto:parishhall@yarpole.org) so that we are aware of your payment and can send a reply.

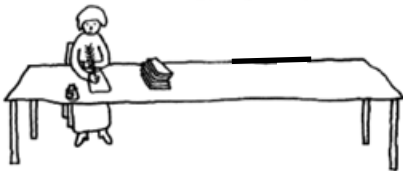
Alternatively, take cash or a cheque made payable to Yarpole Village Hall Management Committee to one of the following collection points. Please enclose a slip with your name and contact details.

- Yarpole Community shop
- Jan Tandy, 3, Mulberry Meadow, Yarpole
- Janet Owen, 5, Farm Court, Lucton.

Thank you for your ongoing support, Yarpole Parish Hall Committee.

## PARISH LIFE

BEFORE THE INVENTION OF THE COMPUTER



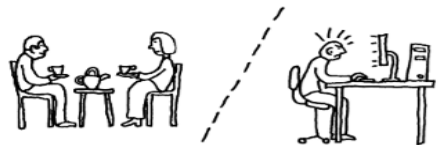
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ON FOOT



A GREAT BIG BELL WAS RUNG  
TO TELL PEOPLE THINGS



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AFTERNOON TEA, AND DID NOT SPEND  
EVERY SPARE HOUR OF THE DAY  
IN AN EXASPERATED STATE TRYING  
TO MAKE THE WRETCHED THING WORK



## Yarpole Group Parish Council

Firstly, an apology to The John Greene Foundation for misspelling its name in a previous edition. The Foundation funded the installation of the defibrillator at Lucton.

At the time of writing there is still a vacancy on the Parish Council, to be filled by co-option at the meeting on 1 July or thereafter. If you are interested in applying, please contact the Clerk, Mrs Maggie Brown, [clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk) 07398 222310 .

There were no members of public at the June meeting. Ward Councillor Dan Hurcomb was present and gave an informative report.

The Council agreed to renew its insurance with Zurich for another 3-year term. The annual premium is £460.45, including a £32 discount. This may change if Parish Council assets increase.

A 50% deposit of £588 has been paid for a new notice board, matching those at Bircher Common and Lucton, to be installed at Bircher. One side will be lockable for Council use, the other open to the public.

The gate at The Community Meadow is now left open, locked to the fence on a temporary basis until a new gatepost is installed. Grids removed during the car park upgrade will be kept for potential re-use. A "No Parking – Passing Place Only" sign will be purchased, and child safety signage is being considered. The Council cannot install signs on the highway without Herefordshire Council's approval.

Recent purchases include litter-picking tools and "YGPC Volunteer" high-vis vests for community use.

Two planning applications were reviewed. The first, at Pound House for a [P251464/PA4 - \(Part 3\) Class Q - Prior Approval](#) for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings and land within their curtilage to form one smaller dwellinghouse and two larger dwellinghouses. Councillors raised concerns relating to surface and foul drainage, access to the site, the lack of gardens shown on plans, and the proximity to a Grade II Listed building. As it lies within the Lugg Catchment area, the Council has requested confirmation that environmental impacts will be assessed.

The second, [P251404/PA7 - All others - Prior Approval](#) at Home Farm, Croft, for proposed demolition of four redundant farm buildings. As comments were not being accepted, none were submitted.

The Tree Warden provided a second report on damage to a hedgerow near Public Right of Way YP14. Councillors are disappointed that Herefordshire Council has not enforced its reinstatement, despite a replant notice issued in April 2018, which was expected to provide 30 years of protection.

Come along to the next meeting on **1 July 7.00pm** at the Parish Hall. As there is no scheduled August meeting, this will be the last opportunity before **Tuesday 2 September**, followed by **7 October** and **4 November**.

Mrs Maggie Brown, Clerk. [clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk) 07398 222 310



## **News from our County Councillor**

By the time I write another column for the Parishioner the summer will most likely have been and gone given the August hiatus. So I want to start by thanking all those involved in making the magazine happen – it really is a special thing and without the countless hours you give up to make it work it simply would not exist.

In May the County Council published its Q4 results and end of year accounts for the 2024/25 financial year. Despite the strong financial headwinds (including high inflation) the Council managed to deliver under budget by £0.5m. This strong performance is in contrast to large overspends in previous years and shows that the measures taken to control budgets and ensure value for money are working. The Council is, however, no different from a large number of households across the country in that it is having to make the money it has go much further than ever before. For us the next big test is the government spending review (published in June) which will determine our budgets for the short and medium term. Let us hope it is kinder to us than in previous years.

You may have read in recent news that Phase 1 of the Hereford Western Bypass is progressing with funding allocated and discussions taking place around the appointment of a contractor. Whichever side of the bypass debate you are on, the government housing targets for Herefordshire (30,000 new homes) mean that the bypass and the development space this will unlock are essential. If the project does not happen, then some 12-15,000 homes will instead have to be distributed across the county including in villages like Yarpole, Luston, Orleton and Kingsland. To me this is unacceptable and further strengthens the case for the bypass.

In happier news, it seems that not a month passes by without there being more highways resurfacing news and long may it continue. As I write this the B4362 at Comberton is being worked on and the B4362 between Yarpole and Lucton has been marked up by the Highways Team in preparation for works later in the year. These works will be a combination of resurfacing and large-scale patching where appropriate. I am trying to expand this to include the Mortimer's Cross junction to Lucton, but this will be very much budget-dependent.

On a final note, we are lucky in Bircher Ward to have three local shops (one community owned), seven local pubs (two community owned) and a local community run café. However, with rising costs making it increasingly difficult to run a business, they now need our support more than ever. So please, where you can, make it your mission to support these businesses.

As always, if you have any concerns, issues or would just like a chat then please do get in touch.

Dan Hurcomb [dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk) 07837 726821



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



By the time you are reading this, the nights are already drawing in. Let's not worry about that for several months yet as we still (hopefully) have a glorious summer to enjoy. Look out for the 'wine quiz', the summer afternoon music sessions, plus on **Saturday 19 July** we have 'sports day'. Don't panic, no one will make you run, but it may involve an egg and a spoon at some point. A free afternoon of fun and mayhem for everyone aged 5 to 95.

As you may have seen, our monthly charity quiz night has now moved to a Thursday and at the time of writing, the June quiz is sold out. £8.50 not only gets you a great fun night out, but you also get your dinner thrown in for good measure. Make sure you book for the next one on **3 July**.

As our ever-popular Sunday lunch continues to regularly sell out, we have taken the decision to slightly scale back our brunch service. We will still be open from 10am on Sundays for all your favourite teas and barista coffees, breakfast baps, ciabattas etc, but we will stop doing the full breakfasts and eggs royale for the time being.

In other news, we will shortly be stocking Robinsons Flagon cider on draught, so if you are a big fan, you need to come down and help finish the barrel of Westons vintage so that we can install the new line ASAP.

Also, our lighter bites sandwich, jackets and omelette menu is currently available Wednesday to Saturday lunchtimes. You will probably recall that we are trialling opening for lunch on Wednesdays and Thursdays, but we do need your support to make it viable. If there is something you would like to see on the menu, do please let us know.

On a more serious note, as we get closer to the Annual Members' Meeting in the autumn, we are repeating our plea for help on the management committee of the MCBS. We are losing some key members from this group and without volunteers to replace them, the pub will face a difficult future. There are various roles you could help with.

**PLEASE GET IN TOUCH if you think you may be able to help in any way.**

Remember, ALL our meals are available to take away and can also be delivered locally.

Email us on [dine@thebellatypole.co.uk](mailto:dine@thebellatypole.co.uk) or call 01568 601110 to book yours.

If anyone has an excess of vegetables, we would love them for the pub.

There is something for everybody at **YOUR** local pub. Details are on the website, or our Facebook page. We also try to get as much info out via old fashioned posters, so keep your eyes peeled.

***You can now easily book a table directly via [thebellatypole.co.uk](http://thebellatypole.co.uk) and get instant confirmation.***



## MENTORS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Children's charity Mentor Link provides one to one mentoring and therapeutic support to children and young people in schools and the community who are facing social and emotional difficulties, impacting on themselves and their motivation to learn.

Due to the demand for our service from schools in Herefordshire, we are recruiting additional Volunteer Mentors. We are looking for volunteers who want to support and help the next generation, have a good listening ear and can spare a couple of hours each week.

The charity has an excellent track record of success in achieving positive outcomes with children and young people.

If you are interested in supporting a child/young person with social and emotional issues, we would like to hear from you [enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk) Tel: 01299 822336 [www.mentorlink.org.uk](http://www.mentorlink.org.uk)

Life experiences a must!

Travel expenses paid.

Training and ongoing training and support provided.

As a safer recruiter the role is subject to 2 character references and an Enhanced DBS.

Reg Charity No.1169026

### **Bobbie Jones**

Our darling Bobbie died at St. Michael's Hospice, Hereford, on 4 June.

She was often to be seen driving her home-converted camper van through the village, returning from gliding in Shobden. She loved the tranquillity of Yarpole, and particularly found peace walking on Bircher Common.

Forever in our hearts.

Jenny, Lizzie and Andrew

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## **YARPOLE PARISH GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME**



**Yarpole Talk  
Community**

*Our mission: to provide the kind of  
practical assistance and support that a  
good neighbour would offer.*

### **CAN THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME HELP YOU?**

Perhaps your garden needs an hour's attention, or you need help with filling out a form, a little job around the house, or a lift to an appointment?

**We'd love to help.**

**Call 07885 525776**

**Thank you for your donations; they pay our expenses and keep us going.**

### **WHAT'S ON AT 4Cs**

4Cs continues to meet on the 4th Friday of each month, at 11:00 in the Parish Hall.

On **Friday 25 July**, Patrick Faulkner, ex-Yarpole resident, will be presenting a talk about the local deer population, their habits and life cycle. This promises to be very interesting, so come along, even if you've not joined our 4Cs group before now.

Our group will meet as usual on **Friday 22 August**.

**Coffee, Cake, Chat and Company awaits you. Need a lift?**

**Ring Val 01568 780807, or Avis, 01568 780874.**





# ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



## It's Not Time for Bed Yet!

On 27 May we welcomed Helen Picton who is a proprietor of Old Court Nurseries and Picton Garden, Colwall, a family business established in 1906. The 1.5-acre garden holds the Plant Heritage National Collection of Michaelmas daisies. The total area of nursery and garden is 2.5 acres.

Although the stars of the garden are the 430 varieties of Michaelmas daisies, which peak between late September and mid-October, Helen - aided by a colourful slideshow - stressed the importance of colour throughout the year beginning with a wonderful display of 300 varieties of snowdrops.

Entering the garden in late summer the visitor is greeted by the glowing spikes of Kniphofia rooperi followed by the later flowering yellow K. 'Happy Halloween'. The path winds through a former rockery occupied by Acer palmatum and pines and underplanted with late Crocosmias, Japanese anemones and Heleniums. Moving into mixed herbaceous borders, bright yellow swathes of golden rod contrast with pastel asters. Solidago rugosa 'Iowa' is a dainty and restrained example, untroubled by mildew.

Height is provided by the white bottlebrushes of Sanguisorba canadensis and white daisies of Doellingeria umbellatus which also provide winter interest as does the shrub-like aster, Symphyotrichum horizontalis. White spikes of Actaea add height and scent.

Small trees - Japanese acers, Crataegus prunifolia and Euonymus compactus provide autumn colour. Ferns flourish in the shadier areas. Polypodium is dormant in summer producing its fresh green leaves in early autumn and retaining these throughout winter. Grasses also provide winter interest though space is needed to accommodate Miscanthus transmorisonensis!

The stars of the garden are not forgotten. Aster frikartii 'Monch' blooms from July to November, Symphyotrichum ericoides 'Snow Flurry' provides clouds of daisies into November and deep violet aster trivertius will bloom from October to Christmas, after which it is time for the snowdrops to return.

Ghislaine Arundale

**On Thursday 10 July** we have an afternoon outing to Field Farm, Tenbury Wells, further details and how to book on our website.

**On Tuesday 29 July our AGM is followed by Bring and Share Club Supper  
7.30pm, Orleton Village Hall**

Annual membership £15  
[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)

# THE CURIOUS GARDENER

## The Thrill of the Chase

I have a dark secret. I hesitate to share it in such a public way for fear it makes you think worse of me, but I feel it's time you knew. I am not the upright, clean-living soul you may have believed me to be; at night in the summer I become a ruthless killer. What is worse, I enjoy it.

I wait till it's completely dark. By this point my other half is snoozing, dreaming innocent dreams on the sofa. I tiptoe out of the room so as not to disturb him, pick up a torch and slip outside into the darkness. Then the fun begins. I work my way round the garden, searching out my prey: slugs and snails.

They come in all shapes and sizes, depending on the plant that they're destroying. The bigger, more leathery Hostas seem to attract the largest snails, while my soft, golden-leaved Hosta is home to the tiniest newborns. I find giant slugs on my Aconitums (last year in the wet summer I found more than 40 on one plant in a single evening), while the sweet peas attract baby slugs so small that I can't see them without my glasses. But regardless of whether they are fully-grown grandparents or wet-behind-the-ears hatchlings, all that I find are doomed.

If you don't want to know the gory details, stop reading now. I grab hold of the offender, drop it onto a hard surface, lift my foot, and – well, the sound depends on whether it's a slug or a snail, but the end result is the same. One fewer mollusc, another plant saved for one evening at least.

There's something very calming about spending an hour in this way. The only disadvantage is the amount of mucus coating my hand by the time I've finished. It's very difficult to wash off, but I've discovered that a spoonful of salt rubbed between my fingers removes the slime very effectively. Since a snail can lay up to 100 eggs at once, and a slug can produce 500, there's not much danger of my garden becoming mollusc-free. Perhaps in a future life the slugs and snails I've slaughtered will come back as frogs or thrushes, hunting molluscs in someone's garden. I only hope I don't come back as one of the slugs.

Sue Russell



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## Summer Churchyard Community Clearing

It's time to strim and clear the churchyard now that most flowers have seeded. Hopefully also before the giant hogweed seeds have spread.

### JOIN THE COMMUNITY CLEARING EVENT!

Can YOU come? **Saturday, 19 July from 2.00pm**

Bring strimmers, rakes, wheelbarrows, shears and **YOURSELF!**



## 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 towards 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](mailto:yarpoletrust@gmail.com).



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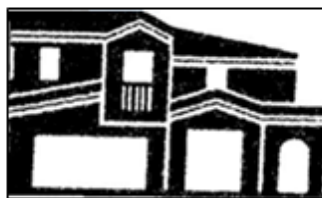


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## It's not just me

Relaxing outside with friends one warm summer evening – a gentle sun taking its slow farewell, bottles of pink wine half empty (or half full if you're one of those), nibbles nibbled appreciatively – it naturally didn't take long for idle conversation to turn to domestic issues.

"His desk is such a mess!" Val explained to the others, who had hitherto expressed no interest whatsoever in the state of it, but who obviously needed to be apprised of its principal shortcoming. In any case this was hardly news since the desk had been so for quite some time.

"Yes, but I know where to find something if I need it," was my stab at defence. I didn't want anyone to think the desk had got that way by accident. If something arrived on it two years ago, I knew roughly how far down which pile it could be found. Besides, tidying everything up would take forever, and decisions would have to be made about where to put different items, and then something else would have to be moved to make room for it, and so on until it all became just a different kind of mess: one that looked better organised but, since items had not been arranged chronologically as before – or indeed alphabetically or in any other way – would be effectively unretrievable. Lost, in other words. Forgive me, but why would I want to do that?

And, I added, striking before the hot iron was snatched away, if we didn't spend so much time shopping, I would be able to devote more of it to the noble pursuit of making books, papers, magazines, lists and bills look as if somebody cared for them. A firm look reminded me that spending time buying food and clothing, and walking for a daily newspaper, was never wasted.

"Yes, mine's like that too," chipped in another, as if this were a common failing among the male fraternity, not pausing to think that if it was indeed common then there might be a reason for it. But before any reason could be brought to bear, the state of my socks was brought forward for discussion. Why people make socks that get holes in so easily I can only assume is because they can then sell me another pair quickly. If they didn't wear out, the sock-producing community would pretty soon go out of business. So, are my feet to blame? I don't think so.

"And why is it that, whenever he puts on a clean white shirt, the first thing he does is get tomato sauce all down his front?" I could be forgiven for wondering if I was being got at with laser-guided nagging, but in fact I was quite cheered because this was said by one of the other merry participants of her other half. And when Val nodded vigorously in agreement, I was still chipper because at least it meant I wasn't alone in this transgression. A pattern was emerging.

If an evening's pleasant entertainment with friends over a few bottles of wine is anything to go by, a wife's selfless duty (one of so many) is to identify – and share – a husband's limitations, a service for which we are of course supremely grateful. Maybe next time we can return the favour.





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## **Crib Festival**

**Friday 28 November to Sunday 30 November 2025**

Ok, so it may seem a little early to be thinking Christmas, but forward planning is the key.

25 years ago, St. Leonard's held a Crib Festival, and it seems like a good idea to repeat it. For three days, the church will be host to as many Marys, Josephs and baby Jesus as we can fit in. Kings, shepherds and sheep, oxen and angels will also be very welcome, and maybe the odd camel or two.

So, do you have a crib set, a nativity scene or your own set of the Holy family that you would be prepared to loan us?

We would like to display as many different sets as possible, to fill the church with a joyful array of figures, lit gently with fairy lights. Do you have any battery sets of lights we could borrow?

Planning permission for the stables will not be necessary; however we will need to know two things:

- The number of families who would like to participate
- The space that they will take up

On the afternoon of Sunday 30 November, we will have an Advent and Christingle service combined.

To register your interest, or for more information, please contact

Sue Smith 01568 780408

[whiteowlbarn@gmail.com](mailto:whiteowlbarn@gmail.com)



Thanks to Anne Pitts for these photos of the art exhibition in St. Leonard's church.

The trailing ivy sculpture is the work of children from Luston Primary School.

The pictures are all the work of children at Kingsland school.



# Croft with Yarpole and Lucton Parish Church Services for July and August 2025



Date	Service	Church	Time
<b>JULY</b>			
Wednesday 2 July	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 6 July	Group Service: William's first administration of Communion	Yarpole	10:30
Monday 7 July	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 13 July	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 20 July	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
	Celtic Evening Prayer	Yarpole	16:30
Monday 21 July	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 27 July	Non-Liturgical service	Yarpole	10:30
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Sunday 3 August	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Monday 4 August	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Wednesday 6 August	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 10 August	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 17 August	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
	Celtic Evening Prayer	Yarpole	16:30
Monday 18 August	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 24 August	Non-Liturgical service	Yarpole	10:30
Sunday 31 August	Group Service	Tbc	10:30

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

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

Monday to Friday 9:30 – 1:00

Churchwarden: Jane Higgins (01568 708390)



Old St Peter's Church  
Lucton



St. Leonard's Church  
Yarpole



St Michael  
& All Angels Church  
Croft Castle