

The Parishioner

YARPOLE LUCTON CROFT BIRCHER BICTON

September 2025

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And all our regular features





Thanks to the following for their photos:

Front cover: Carol Clare - stubble field near the pumping station

This page: Keith Smith - peacock butterfly and young robin on spitfire garden ornament, a reminder that Battle of Britain day is on 15 September

Carol Clare - Vintage cars at the Bell 10/07/25

Di Hill - Bell ringers at Norman Churches Open Day in Herefordshire on 21 June

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Welcome back after our summer break! It certainly doesn't seem like three months since I was last in the editor's chair!

As Lynne reported last month, following the withdrawal of the RNIB transcription service, we have been experimenting with different ways of producing an audio-version of The Parishioner for those with sight loss in our parish. Our efforts with text-to-speech software were not very encouraging, so we decided to try recruiting volunteers who could read out the newsletter and make a recording of it. I'm glad to say this approach has been very successful. We now have a team of five readers, a co-ordinator and a back-up co-ordinator. We are extremely grateful to Sue and Peter Russell, Tim Ware, David Cheshire and Lesley Bradford for offering their services as readers, and Ella Sherr and Dave Bradford for all they will be doing as co-ordinator and back-up co-ordinator. We have held a meeting/training session, all the readers are up and running and we have a reading schedule for the next year.

We'd also like to thank Georgie Archer for the hours she has spent transcribing those items that don't change to save our readers having to read them out each month. Georgie is also transcribing this newsletter before she leaves the village to start a new job. We'd like to wish her every success for the future and to thank her for everything she has done for The Parishioner while living in the village.

If you would be interested in joining the team of readers, please email us at newsletter@yarpole.org. The more readers we have, the less often they have to do it so we would love to welcome more volunteers to the team. You don't need any special equipment, just a mobile phone and a quiet room.

Hetty

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

Or leave in the box at the shop

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

There is no newsletter in January or August

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Prices start at £5 for a 1/8 page ad

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

Audio version of The Parishioner

The Parishioner is also available by email in audio files 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

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 / 07540566871

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, or if you have recently moved yourself and haven't received one, please get in touch with Sue Langley:

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



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

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 **17 Sept**. Join her in the café for coffee and chat.



Pete Lloyd



Come and Be Still



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

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

St. Leonard's Church, Yarpole.

All are welcome



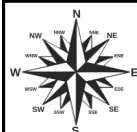
Do you like singing ?? If so,

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; 07791 490439



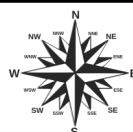
Walking Group

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

September walks: Friday 12 & Sunday 28

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

Contact: Viv 01568 782271 or seiftonbatch@gmail.com



Flicks & Food



Steve Coogan, Björn Gustafsson, David Herrero



The Penguin Lessons

Starring Oscar nominee Steve Coogan, this poignant dramedy from director Peter Cattaneo follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

**Yarpole Parish
Hall**

HR6 OBL

**Saturday
27 September**

7.30 pm

Tickets

Standard: £5.00

Under 18s: £4.00

Enquiries: 01568 780250

This is a Flicks & Food event. Food £9. Film £5. £14 for food and film. Food at 6.30, film at 7.30. Food must be booked ahead:

01568 701996 or 07531599700.



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk

**FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS**

ADVANCE NOTICE – FOR YOUR DIARY

MADE IN HR6

RETURNS!

Yarpole's popular festive

Art and Craft Fair

Saturday and Sunday 22nd & 23rd November at St Leonard's.

**Come and browse the wide range of hand-made items –
Just in time for Christmas!**

Free admission

Gallery Café and Yarpole Community shop open both days

COMMUNAL CRAFTERS

Next meeting:

Monday 15 September - 1.30 - 3.30pm

A 'bring your own project' session

At Yarpole Parish Hall, Green Lane, HR6 0BL

Cost: £3 towards the hire of the hall

We are a friendly group of crafters of all abilities who meet once a month to craft together and learn new skills

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME!

Please contact Sue Beagley on 07816 060746

or email suebeagley@aol.com for info.

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

AUTUMN CAFÉ CHURCH at St. Leonard's



Whether you are a person of faith, on the edge or just curious, you are invited to come along to Café Church which runs on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7.30 in The Gallery Café at St. Leonard's for approximately 1 hour.

We take an informal approach to discussing various aspects of the Christian Faith, often starting with a short video, always accompanied by tea and cake and usually veering off into unexpected discussion territory. However whatever is discussed in Café Church stays there and participants are expected to observe respect and strict confidentiality.

We welcome all who wish to come along whether for one or for many sessions. Past courses have discussed spirituality in art, the book of Daniel and most recently shared "things that have touched our soul".

In the autumn starting on Monday 8 September we are starting a new course – The Bible Course New Edition, presented by Dr Andrew Ollerton which seeks to "discover how Bible characters, stories, and themes are connected, from Genesis to Revelation."

Come along and find out more or you can contact Rose Jenkins on 01568 780536 beforehand.

MarchesTrad Session

An informal afternoon of folk music and dance from the French, Breton and European traditions.

Bring your dancing shoes and/or an instrument and join in this session-style event. No need to bring a partner, just bring your enthusiasm!

Or just come and listen and watch whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a piece of cake.

Sunday 21st September, 2.30 - 5.30pm

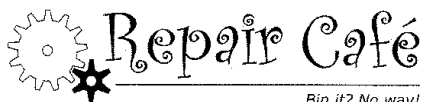
Free entry

Tea, cake and biscuits
provided
contributions/donations
welcome

Dance Instruction
available

Cawley Hall
Eye HR6 0DS

More info 07731 194797



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

Online bookings open two weeks before:

<https://leominsterrepaircafe.org.uk>

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

Refreshments available

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furniture, sewing repairs & tool
sharpening

For more information email:

repaircafeleominster@googlegroups.com

Or find us on Facebook.

Arts Society Lectures

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



Next meeting on **Wed 17 September 2025**

Sorolla: the master of light

Aranxta Sardina

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

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

For help with transport contact:

Membership Secretary Jeff Walker on **01694 781489**

Eleanor Dunsdon & Gregor Black

Thursday 25 September, The Rankin Club, Leominster

Glasgow-based harp and percussion duo blending jazz, folk and classical genres

Tickets £10 from shirefolk.co.uk

An Evening of Opera at Eastnor Castle

Thu 11 September 2025

Wild Arts returns to Herefordshire, presenting an evening of operatic and musical hits in the wonderful surroundings of the Great Hall in Eastnor Castle. An opportunity to dress up and enjoy the power of storytelling through music.



Arrive from **6pm** for reception and complementary glass of Prosecco, Performance **7pm**

Prices: Front Rows - £55, A Ticket to the Opera - £45

Tickets and more information: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/wildarts/1580922>



Orleton Evergreens 2025



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

30 Oct: Nigel Gibbons, Blood Biker

27 Nov: Ian Smith, talk 'Random Ramblings of a Retired Dentist'

11 Dec: Christmas lunch

All Welcome (50+)

Hall meetings at Orleton Village Large Hall 2.30

Further details contact Sue Turner 01584 831324, sue.a.turner@gmail.com

EVENTS DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Events this month

Date	Venue	Event	Time
2nd	Parish Hall	Parish Council meeting	7.00-9.00pm
3rd	St. Leonard's	Be Still	5.30 - 6pm
4th	The Bell	Monthly quiz	6.00pm
9th	Gallery Café	Tasty Tuesday	1.00pm
12th	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
14th	Parish Hall	All day private event	
15th	Parish Hall	Communal Crafters	1.30-3.30pm
17th	Gallery Café	Police Community Support Officer meeting	11.00am
28th	Various	Walking Group	10.30am
26th	Parish Hall	4Cs	11.00-12 noon
27th	Parish Hall	Flicks and Food - Penguin Lessons	From 7.00pm

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
Wednesdays	Parish Hall	T'ai Chi	10.00-11.00am
	Parish Hall	Art Group	2.00-4.30pm
	St. Leonard's	Birchpole Singers	7.15-9.30pm
Thursdays	Parish Hall	Pilates	10.45-11.45am
Fridays	Parish Hall	Bowls	7.30-9.30pm

See 'What's on' pages for more details of events
Check www.yarpole.org for up to date information and any changes

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

The
Children's
Society

No child
should feel
alone

Thank you, to all boxholders, for your support of The Children's Society. I deposited £273.41 on Friday

Most of you noticed and some mentioned the fact that I had been very remiss in collecting the boxes, but the truth is, first Covid then health issues got a little in the way. So, I have decided that I will not be continuing as the Box Coordinator.

If there is anyone out there that would like to consider taking it over, please contact me, Sue Smith, on 01568 780408 or email whiteowlbarn@gmail.com and I will happily talk through the responsibilities, it really isn't too demanding.

Donations from The Christmas Card Tree and the Christmas Eve, Carols around the Tree, will still be in aid of The Children's Society.

Plant Stall

The plant stall is now closed for this year.

We would like to thank all those who donated plants and those who bought them from the stall. We made just over £860 which is very encouraging considering our strange weather this year. The money will go towards the upkeep of the Church.



Janet Lesley & Gilly

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YARPOLE COMMUNITY SHOP

September 2025



What a hot summer we have enjoyed!

The shop has been frequented by many holiday makers who have chosen to stay in the UK rather than travel abroad and they have been delighted to find our wide range of grocery essentials as well as more artisan and local products.

Several commented how they had assumed the shop would be more expensive than the supermarket and were delighted to find the prices were comparable - and even happily cheaper in some instances!

Keeping guests happy

Our delivery service continues to be quietly popular and we have been pleased to have some of the owners of the holiday homes book a regular welcome box to have ready for their guests' arrival. If you would find it convenient to have your shopping, or even just a pint of milk, delivered - or indeed would like to have a few items put together to welcome your guests - then do e-mail the shop with your request or simply leave your contact details and we will contact you to arrange details: yarpoleshop@mail.com.

Many guests also find the idea of a community run shop, not to mention a café and pub, very intriguing and often make a point of investigating - to the benefit of all.

A financial challenge

Please remember that if you have ventured abroad this year and have left-over currency do consider donating any coins - or even notes! - that you didn't spend on your holiday as we collect in the shop and pass it to the British Airways One World Alliance where it goes to help children all around the world. Thank you to Gordon and Sandy Ewing who delivered the last collected donation on behalf of the village. The staff at BA were very impressed by the amount we had raised and made a special mention to the wider community of Yarpole in their briefing that day - so thank you to all, and let's see how much we can raise this year!

Another money-related challenge

Please remember that we are still looking for somebody to assume the role of treasurer for us from next June. If this vital role is one you could help us fulfil we would love to hear from you. The sooner the better really as, although the vacancy is not imminent, it would give us longer for you to learn the ropes. Please let our current treasurer, Toby, know, via the shop, or Jon at chair@yarpoleshop.org.uk if you might be interested and would like to find out more.

Jon & Rowena



GALLERY CAFÉ

September 2025



Tasty Tuesday will be on TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER at 1.00pm
Ham with a pineapple salsa and vegetables; vegetarian option is stuffed
peppers, all followed by peach melba.

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 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!

Look out for our Autumn menus

We are sorry but we need to increase our prices slightly from 1st September.

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 or

email gallerycafe@yarpole.org, phone 01568 780594 (during opening hours only)

Check www.yarpole.org or <https://www.facebook.com/GalleryCafeYarpole/>

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: yarpolshop@mail.com

Website: www.yarpole.com

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CHURCH MATTERS

Today I was at a funeral as part of my role as a Churchwarden. During the service, members of the deceased's family spoke about him and different aspects of his life and personality.

Reflecting on this afterwards, I thought about how, during our lives, we meet and get to know many people and they us. If we were to ask these people to describe who we are, it is likely that there would be different descriptions of us from different people. Some people may know us very well, whilst others will only know us on a superficial level. We are all complex beings with complex personalities and we present differently depending on who we are with and the circumstances. It is unlikely that anyone knows all aspects of who we are.

God however knows us in our entirety, warts and all, down to our last atom. Yet in spite of God knowing all our failings and weaknesses, He still loves us unconditionally. This is pretty amazing.

It would be nice if we could feel that way too about others. We may know things about a person that we don't like, but it would be good if we could remember that what we see of a person may be only one aspect of who they are. We don't know why someone behaves the way that they do, and we don't know what good lies beneath the surface.

In St. Luke's Gospel chapter 23:39-43 is the story of the penitent thief. Those who crucified him saw a bad person, who deserved to die, but Jesus sees a different side to this man. The thief rebukes the other thief who is crucified, for mocking Jesus. He says that they deserve to be punished for their sins, but that Jesus has done nothing wrong. The good thief asks Jesus to remember him, Jesus responds by telling him that he will join Jesus in Paradise.

Jesus was able to recognise that this man was more than just a thief, he had good in him. We too should try to see the good in others.

Jane Higgins

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/>



'The village has done a wonderful job in converting a living church into a prospering community hub with a lovely café, shop and meeting place – yet retaining that special feel that you always find in a thriving place of worship.'

So true! So said one of the many visitors to St. Leonard's during the very successful vintage car rally in July. The event itself was a marvellous spectacle and a celebration of vintage cars from generations past. Many of the visitors commented that it was their first visit to Yarpole but not their last! A big thank you goes out to Jackie and her incredible Gallery Café team for their dedication and endeavour during the very hectic service.

SLM has invested in an industrial-quality aluminium scaffolding tower with a maximum working height of 6.2m (20 ft). (See separate image on next page). It will be used by contractors and volunteers in carrying out necessary repairs to the church and Grade 1 Bell Tower. For example, exterior repointing of the eastern end of the church is planned soon, followed by the replastering of the interior walls behind the altar. Furthermore, Chris Howell has kindly offered to repair our beautiful hanging murals so that they continue to celebrate the outstanding conversion of the church in 2010. It is SLM's intention to make this scaffolding tower available to community groups and private individuals in the parish for other repair work to community buildings and private dwellings. Trustees are just discussing this idea with our insurers so that any potential issues of liability and safety are fully covered. We will update you in due course.

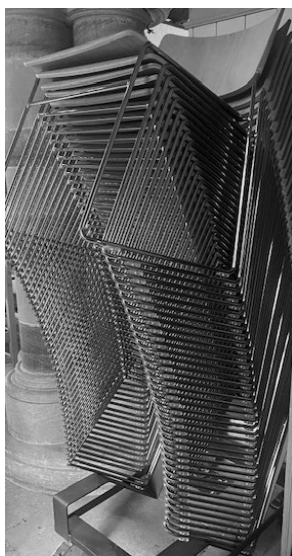
The Gallery Café continues to receive plaudits for the quality of the setting, the tasty goodies on offer and the lovely atmosphere that is created daily by our volunteers. There has been, for some time, an identified need to update and extend the preparation and serving area so that Jackie and our valued volunteers have a workable and safe environment, particularly when preparing and serving lunches and brunches on Thursdays to Saturdays. A working group has been set up to extend, redesign and refit the whole Gallery Café preparation and serving area. This project will require significant funds so an application to the National Lottery Community Fund is planned. If you know of anyone with an interest and experience of seeking such funding and who could advise the trustees accordingly, please contact me. SLM trustees are delighted to welcome Tim Ware and Jeff Woodfield to our 'back-room team'. Tim will be supporting trustee Stefano Street on all matters relating to buildings and maintenance and Jeff has kindly offered his enormous experience in working with heritage buildings so that trustees receive informed advice on contract procurement and best value for money.

Finally, a really big thank you to the PCC for its generous contribution of £2,000 as well as an anonymous donation of £500 towards the cost of our very popular automated doors system.

Gordon Ewing - Trustee



The new scaffolding tower as described in SLM article on previous page



Thanks to Maura Boden for her photo 'interesting installation in the church' and to David Bradford for his photo of the litter pick around Yarpole on 12/07/25, showing the new equipment bought for the group by the Parish Council.



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PARISH HALL

September 2025

200 Club winning numbers for July & August

July: 133 - £50 45 - £20 30 - £15 135 - £10

August: 64 - £50 139 - £20 87 - £15 85 - £10

Jan Tandy - Lottery Administrator

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed with the 200 club for a further year.

July and August numbers are slightly down on last year so we have had to adjust the prize money from 4 winning numbers to 3 because of this. The top prize remains the same at £50. Second prize is £20 and the third prize is £10.

If anyone would like to subscribe or wishes to renew, there is still time. The cost is £12 per person for 12 months, but if you do so now then it will only cost you £10 for the remaining 10 months.

Subscriptions paid by one of the following:

BACS transfer: sort code 40-28-13. account number:- 81438298. Yarpole Village Hall. Please mark with your name and 200 club and email parishhall@yarpole.org so we are aware of your payment and can send a reply.

OR pay by cheque (made out to Yarpole Village Hall Management Committee), or cash and return to either:-

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

Can you help us please?

We are looking for somebody (or two people to share the role) to take over as our Booking Secretary as soon as possible please. You don't need any experience. Amanda, our current Booking Secretary, will be there to guide you through everything and ensure a smooth handover.

We are a very friendly committee who very much work as a team and meet approximately every three months. We would be pleased to hear from anybody who might like to come and join us.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact me on 01568 701996 or email: parishhall@yarpole.org for an informal chat, just to find out a little more about the role before making any decision.

The Parish Hall is an important part of the community and is well used for regular classes & private functions, but it does need a **Booking Secretary – could this be you?**

Amanda Hordern - Chair



PARISH HALL

September 2025

Future Parish Hall dates

27 September	Flicks & food - Penguin Lessons
15 November (note change of date)	Flicks & food - David Attenborough's 'Ocean'
13 December	Christmas Party

Parish Hall activities are on our events calendar (on page 10 this month)

To make a booking please contact Amanda Hordern

01568 701996 / parishhall@yarpole.org. Or go to www.yarpole.com

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

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



Don't forget that books can 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.



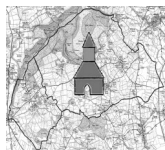
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Yarpole Group Parish Council

This update includes information from and after the last meeting on 1 July. A new Councillor, Sam Colledge, was co-opted in July and warmly welcomed by the Parish Council (YGPC).

It was noted that funding for Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) has been withdrawn, and it was agreed to write to Ellie Chowns MP and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Angela Rayner MP), highlighting the need for long-term funding support.

A new notice board has been purchased for Bircher. Thanks are due to two residents who helped Cllr Cadwallader with its installation. Thanks are also recorded to a resident who has looked after the Yarpole board for many years. The baton has now been passed to another generous volunteer. Thanks also to a resident who has recently swept up Yew leaves on Green Lane.

YGPC considered the problem of ruts in the grass at the junction of Green Lane and Brook Lane and a product which might resolve the issue. It was agreed to wait until after the anticipated development at Brook House Farm is completed. Please do not park opposite this junction – it forces large vehicles to mount the kerb when turning in or out.

The condition of the white railings along the C1039 was discussed. Since the meeting, Cllr Hill met the Locality Steward and considered riparian responsibilities, erosion of the banks (undercutting the highway) and the stability of the posts and rails. The Steward also looked at hedges, some of which are overhanging the pavement impeding access for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility scooters or pushchairs.

Following a road traffic accident, oil absorption pads and a boom were left in the stream near Mulberry Meadow. The Environment Agency arranged for their removal. The situation was monitored by Cllr Hill, who also helped by moving the pads to the bank, as instructed.

Herefordshire Council's Traffic Management team has approved the installation of "Children Playing" signage near the Community Meadow; costs are to be discussed in September. A proposal for a gazebo, included in the original plans for the Meadow, remains under consideration. YGPC has asked whether planning permission is required. It was agreed to have woodchip under benches/tables removed. A more effective solution will be implemented in due course.

Cllr Di Hill and two Yarpole residents attended a joint meeting with the Luston Flood Group on 30 June with a view to working collaboratively on problems affecting both parishes.

YGPC agreed to arrange weed spraying along both kerbed sections of Green Lane and at the entrance to Croft Crescent. The road was swept in August.

Several Planning Applications were discussed at the July meeting. No objections were raised to three applications, and comments were submitted regarding [P251683/V - Certificate of Lawfulness \(CLOPD\)](#) at Homelea, Bircher. Further details are available in the Minutes, and on Herefordshire Council's website.

Residents are welcomed at Parish Council meetings – upcoming dates are Tuesday 2 Sep, followed by 7 Oct, 4 Nov, and 2 Dec, all at 7pm at the Parish Hall.

Mrs Maggie Brown, Clerk. clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk 07398 222 310



News from our County Councillor

It has been two months since I last wrote a column for the Parishioner and I'm glad over that time we have managed to enjoy a proper summer (even if we could have done with a little more rain!). I have tried to use the summer to attend as many events as possible and to get out and about to see those residents who have contacted me on various issues.

Over the summer, I have had reports locally of dogs barking at a frequency which is disturbing some local residents so please can I remind all those with four-legged friends that they should be mindful of their neighbours and try to ensure that dogs are not left to bark for long periods of time. I know this can be difficult at times but hopefully by mentioning it here we can avoid the need for action to be taken by Herefordshire Council.

In my June piece I mentioned that work was planned on the B4362 between Cockgate and Yarpole. I am pleased to see the signs have gone up confirming this is to take place in September and, subject to any last minute changes, the work will occur between 8 – 19 September. I have used this opportunity to restate the case for a 40mph speed limit through Cockgate and an extension of the 30mph from the Village up to the Village Hall. In addition, I have also restated the case for a reduction of the 50mph down to 40mph at Lucton. I am pleased to say that Herefordshire Council have reacted positively to both requests and following a site meeting with the relevant officer a formal consultation on the speed reductions will follow. Whilst this process will not conclude before the work is completed, provision will be made for any material changes required in either location to facilitate the speed reductions. I have everything crossed that by the end of the year new speed limits will be in place and I thank all those residents who have taken the time to write to me or meet with me to discuss the speed reductions.

Whilst the Parish Council does not meet in August, when they return in September they will be discussing ditching, drainage and Public Rights of Way work. So, if you know of any area that may need a gate/stile repairing or additional drainage work/ditching please do get in touch. A What3Words location is always helpful (and if you haven't used W3W before then please google it, it's a really useful tool).

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

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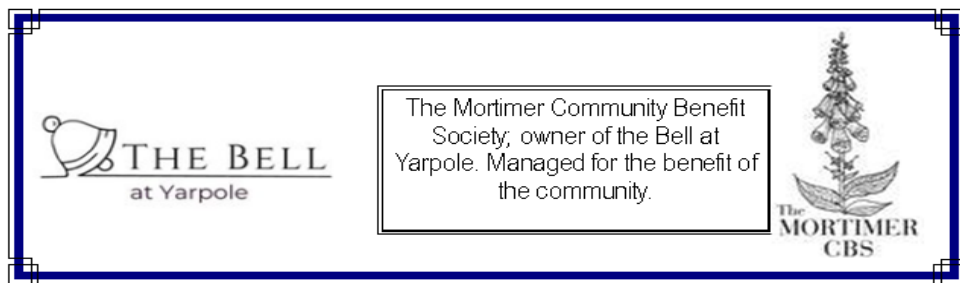
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Firstly a big 'Thank You' to those of you in the community who donated to the MCBS in response to our problems with the Cellar Air Conditioning.

What a great evening we had for the celebratory fund-raising BBQ. It was great to see many from the village attending.

As we highlighted in our email to shareholders, our biggest financial commitment is the repayment of the loans taken out by previous committees to make up the shortfall in money necessary for the purchase of the Bell. If everyone living in the Parish bought 1 extra share we would have sufficient income to repay our outstanding debts leaving the Bell in a much healthier position, financially. It is a small investment compared to the value added to your property by having a viable pub in the village.

Very few of you have responded to our request for help on the committee running the Bell. The committee will need to look seriously at our current model to see if it is sustainable. This is something that will be discussed at the Annual Members' Meeting in October.

Our AMM will be on Thursday, 23 October 2025 at 7.00pm at the Parish Hall. We will be asking shareholders to approve the committee changing the current year end for the business from 31 June to 31 December.

Don't forget our Quiz evening remains on the 1st Thursday of the month. There is a different Quiz Master each time. £8.50 per person including food. A good evening's entertainment for a small price!

Have you thought of hosting a special event at the Bell? We can cater for groups of all sizes. Even if it is on a day that we are normally closed we can still cater for your event. Speak to us about your needs.

If you are thinking of booking a table please use our online service at our website, thebellatypole.co.uk.

Remember, ALL our meals are available to take away and can also be delivered locally.
Call 01568 601110 to book yours.

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

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Julian Stokes

MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE

Patients' Participation Group (PPG) September 2025

General Information

All three practices now have the same telephone number being 01568 708214. The telephone may be answered by any of the surgeries.

Email address is mortimer.medicalpractice@nhs.net

Staff Training Days

14 October 2025 & 14 January 2026.

Surgeries for the above will be closed from 12 noon and reopen the following day at 8.30am. A receptionist is available to take urgent calls from 12 until 6.30. After this time ring 111.

Bank Holidays

25 & 26 December 2025, 1 January 2026

Staff changes

Dr Bartlett is retiring and Dr Matt Howard starts on 1 September.

Reminder

Repeat prescriptions require 72 hours, not including weekends or bank holidays.

Triage System

All patients should have received a letter and be aware of this government's vision to change the existing appointment system on 1 October so that more patient information is received when requesting appointments. Workshops to explain this system take place in September but can be added in October if required.

Next PPG meeting is on 25 September. Please note change of PPG representative and contact details.

Anne O'Brien email 07581 402274 hedgie.obrien@hotmail.com



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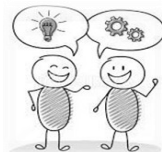
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Community**

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

Anna Morley

WHAT'S ON AT 4Cs

After our lovely Garden Party in August, at which we welcomed new faces to our group, we are now looking at further activities up until Christmas.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ARE:

Friday 26 September

Grand Second-hand Book Sale. Look out your unwanted books in reasonable condition and bring them to the Parish Hall on Wednesday or Thursday September 24th/25th, or we can collect them.

Friday 24 October

A talk by Clare Powell from Leominster Community Centre, entitled "Living with Dementia", upbeat insights into a topic which we all need to think about at some stage.

Friday 28 November

Gordon Ewing will entertain us with an illustrated account of his research into the Dorset Coast, looking into pre-history and explaining why this area is so important.

Posters will be up in the usual places on the church path, so watch for further details. All are welcome to join us, especially new faces. The usual CHAT, COMPANY, COFFEE AND CAKE (lots of it) are available at 4Cs on the 4th Friday of each month, 11am until 12 noon.

Need a lift?

Ring Val for September lifts, 780807, in good time. See you there!

Val Ainsworth

Yarpole Men's Shed



In July several members of the Yarpole Men's Shed (known as 'Shedders') attended the annual exhibition and AGM of the UK Men's Sheds Association, a support organisation for the Men in Sheds initiative. There are around 1,200 Sheds in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and all were formed for the same reason; to promote men's well-being and reduce loneliness and social isolation through making connections, developing friendships and finding a purpose in shared, purposeful, activities.

Sheds are funded in a variety of different ways and in Yarpole we are fortunate, and grateful, to have received grants from The Croft Trust. This funding means we can now complete the construction of our shed so we can have our own year-round workshop and meeting place.

For one of our more recent members joining the YMS group has been very important. Recently, after his wife died, he found himself alone without many social connections and at times very lonely. Now he has found a place where he can share stories with other shedders, meet new people and enjoy their company.

I, personally, also appreciate the value of YMS. I arrived in Yarpole three years ago, new to retirement, not knowing anyone here and wondering how I could find my own social group. Then, I was introduced to the Men's Shed and soon became part of a friendly, supportive group. Through the group I've met new people and had some good laughs, which has certainly helped me through some difficult times during the last couple of years.

Now, thanks to the hard work of its members, the generosity of The Croft Trust and other grants from local organisations, YMS can continue to develop its activities and support local community projects.

If you're interested in The Men's Shed group, then get in touch at yarpolshed@gmail.com and find out more about who we are and what we do.

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It can be difficult sometimes to work out just who is responsible for what! Here are a few pointers I have found useful as a parish councillor

Herefordshire council web site is useful tool

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/16062/guidance-on-landowner-responsibilities-for-ditches-and-drainage>

Stream Care – A Riparian Responsibility

If you own land adjoining a stream, you are a *riparian owner*. This means you are responsible for maintaining the banks and ensuring the water flows freely. Keeping vegetation managed and removing obstructions helps prevent flooding, protects wildlife, and maintains water quality.

Hedge Trimming – Keep Pavements Safe

Overgrown hedges can block pavements, making it difficult for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and those with pushchairs to pass safely. Please check your boundaries and cut back any overhanging growth to ensure clear access for all.



Bird Nesting Season:

This typically runs from March to August, so avoid cutting hedges, during this period to protect nesting birds and comply with the law.

Late Summer/Early Autumn:

This is a good time for a more substantial trim, particularly for hedges that have experienced vigorous growth during the summer. Remember they grow fast, I would say perhaps take them back slightly further than your boundary to allow for that

If you are not sure, the parish clerk, Maggie (clerk@yarpolegroupparishcouncil.gov.uk tel 07398222310), will be happy to point you in the right direction.

Diane Hill (CLlr)



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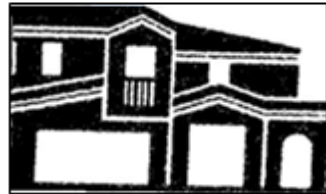


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News from the Leominster Area Branch

Wildlife Passages: Riverside Wildlife

Leominster Area Branch was asked to contribute some information for the Leominster in Bloom portfolio on Wildlife passages. Here is an extended report from Rupert Gulley on riverside wildlife:

Along the Lugg the most interesting bird I've seen is the elusive dipper, which has also been spotted on the Kenwater in the heart of Leominster. Other birds to look out for on the Lugg are the grey wagtail, goosander, grey heron and little egret. Mallards, coots and moorhen are reasonably common along the Lugg near Leominster. If you are observant you are quite likely to see a kingfisher darting along the river and increasingly great white egrets can be seen rising up from the river margins. Large numbers of swans and geese will congregate on the wet fields near the Lugg especially after flooding. In the summer you will get large numbers of sand martins around the Lugg on the wilder bits a mile or so south of Leominster, buzzards and red kites are regularly seen soaring near the Lugg above the surrounding fields. Swallows are also here but unfortunately not in large numbers anymore. Otters can be spotted right in the centre of Leominster on the river.

The river Arrow which loops to the south of Leominster and feeds the Lugg supports interesting birds as it winds through less intensively cultivated land and benefits from local farmer Ben Andrew's concern for the environment. One of the highlights is the Redstart, which can be seen in the summer. In the winter flooding I've seen snipe, short-eared owl and many types of duck. A highlight for me was coming face to face with an otter!

Hérons, egrets and birds of prey, especially kestrels are also seen regularly. Another highlight on the approaches to the Arrow are the skylarks, which trill over the surrounding fields. Corn Bunting, very rare in Herefordshire, have been spotted on hedgerow close to the river and warblers of many stripes are all over. I view the Arrow floodplain as a hidden gem, which must be protected especially within the potential Leominster Southern development.

We would like to encourage you to use the branch Facebook page to report interesting wildlife sightings, news snippets or relevant events in your area:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61570482571622>

Diana Emes - Communications Secretary LeominsterAreaBranch@gmail.com



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ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



July AGM & Bring and Share Supper

In July Orleton and District Gardening Club held their AGM and a successful bring and share meal with delicious contributions from members.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Our minutes can be read on our website.

On Tuesday 30th September Phillip Aubury will be presenting a demonstration of **'Propagation from Seeds, Cuttings and Division'**. Philip began and concluded his horticultural career at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens where he was responsible for many innovations and improvements until his retirement in 2007. In between he trained, worked in and managed retail nurseries and was a lecturer and so is extremely experienced and knowledgeable.

Orleton Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start.

Non-members welcome at £2.50 per person which includes tea or coffee.

Annual Membership £15.00.

www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk.

Wild flower meadows update

It's been two years since a band of Yarpolians helped us sow wild flower seeds in three of our fields adjoining Welshman's Lane. As part of the project we carry out a meadow survey each year to see what is growing. We send the results to Herefordshire Meadows, the charity that is supporting us, so that they can keep tabs on how well the restoration of the fields is progressing.

Last year was the first survey we carried out since the seeds were sown and we found that 16 species had made an appearance. This year the number of species has increased to 23. What is really interesting is that some new species have sprung up around the margins of the fields where we didn't actually sow any seeds. These new species include pignut, meadow vetchling, golden saxifrage, tormentil and meadowsweet. This suggests that perhaps the plants were there all the time but were constantly being grazed off so we never saw them. Removing the sheep during the summer months has allowed them to flower, perhaps for the first time in years.

What's also really pleasing is how the clumps of wild flowers are spreading. The patches are much bigger than last year, and in places are starting to make quite an impact. Of course it's early days, and there are still wide expanses of ground with nothing but grass. There's also variation between the fields: the top field by the road seems to be the slowest to get established, while the bottom field is racing ahead. There's a footpath through that bottom field (path YP19). By the time you read this it will be too late to see any flowers, but next year, if you'd like to see for yourself what's growing, do take a walk through the meadow.

Sue Russell



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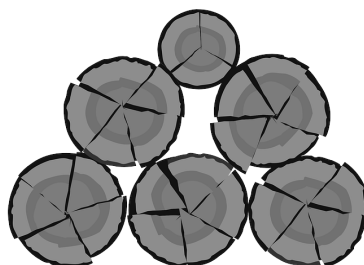
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Two go on Holiday

‘Let’s go on holiday,’ said Val. ‘Yes, let’s,’ said Jim. ‘Where shall we go?’

‘The children have booked a villa in Portugal for a week and asked us to go along, so we can watch the grandchildren splash about in a pool.’ ‘Good idea,’ said Jim. ‘Let’s do that. Will you arrange transport?’

‘No,’ said Val, who had better things to do than spend a month shouting at a stupid screen. ‘You do it.’

‘Right ho,’ said Jim. ‘I’ll make a plan. Crikey! Have you seen the cost of Eurostar?’ So Jim made another plan, and booked a ferry from Portsmouth to Santander, a train to Madrid, and an overnight hotel. ‘This is going well,’ said Jim, congratulating himself a bit too soon.

He was puzzled. There were no trains from Madrid to anywhere near Portugal. Jim got out the map to check. No, it was the only way. Why were there no trains? Jim decided to leave it for a few days in case the system was down, and went to do some shopping and cooking.

Then Jim tried again, but still no trains. ‘If we were going a week earlier there would be lots of trains,’ said Jim, getting a bit cross. ‘I’ll go away and do some more shopping.’ Then Jim saw in some small print that Spanish and Portuguese train companies may not sell tickets until a couple of weeks before travel. It was nearly that now. Jim went to shout at the sink while he did some washing up, as a change from shouting at the screen.

‘Our plane takes about three hours to get there,’ said the children. ‘Why is it taking you six days anyway?’ ‘Because we love travelling,’ we said. ‘Oh yeah?’ they said.

With only days to go, Jim addressed the screen firmly once more. ‘You stupid, STUPID screen,’ he shouted, so loudly that Val, who was quietly reading a book in another room, could hear. ‘You must be **** * me,’ shrieked an apoplectic purple-coloured Jim.

Then Val had a bright idea.

So they went to a travel agent, who said ‘Do you want to come back as well?’ Jim and Val explained that they wanted to return via Marseille and Paris. The travel agent said ‘It will mean four trains in one day with only a ten-minute gap between two of them. Will that be alright?’ By now anything would be alright. ‘And you will be on the same train for nine hours the following day. You might want to consider going First Class.’ ‘We love travelling,’ said Val. ‘We’ll go anywhere in First Class.’

Two days later Jim and Val returned to the travel agent to collect all the train tickets, with seat allocations where available, and hotel bookings. No shouting. No swearing.

‘Thank you,’ said Val. ‘Thank you,’ said Jim.

Then Val and Jim went on holiday.



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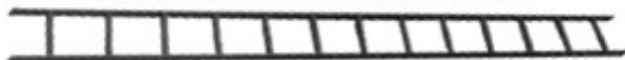
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Voices from the Village: Eddie Hughes

Many of you will recognise the familiar face of Eddie Hughes, making his way down to the shop to pick up his paper at 9 o'clock each day. What you might not know is that, at nearly 90 years of age, Eddie is one of Yarpole's oldest and longest residents.

Born in nearby Leintwardine, in 1935, Eddie, one of 10 children, went first to Caynham Primary School and then to Ludlow Secondary Modern (now the Mascall Centre). On leaving school, he followed his father into farm work, on George Cadwallader's farm on Bircher. Aged 18, he was called up for National Service and spent three years in the RAF, before returning home to work at Wooferton sawmill. A fanatical footballer and cricketer, Eddie has numerous trophies in his lounge cupboard as marks of his prowess on the field.

Following his marriage to Maureen, at Eye church, they moved, in November 1959, to Yarpole, first to Tudor House (then divided into two properties) and then to a newly-built council house in James Close, where he still lives today. "There was no mains water here then," he recalls. "There was a well at number 4, which supplied all eight houses. You had a rotary pump in the kitchen, which pumped it into a tank in the attic. It took 25 minutes to fill the tank, so you didn't have many baths! The water was excellent though and supplied through lead pipes."

On leaving the sawmill, Eddie went on to work for Herefordshire County Council, eventually becoming a supervisor in the Highways Department. "At that time," says Eddie, "Green Lane was very narrow with just a few passing places. You had a job to get by. I supervised the widening of most of the road, but the council ran out of money before the work could be completed." (Nothing new there, then!) Apparently, there were also plans to build more council houses in Croft Crescent. This project was also stymied by the lack of funds.

"In the sixties," Eddie remembers, "there were two shops in the village, both general stores. One at the bottom of the village (lately occupied by Jill and Duncan Grant), and one opposite the Bell (now Steps Cottage)." The former also included the Post Office, and was the most used. Eddie remembers that "Bill and Annie Richards ran the Post Office and Annie used to deliver the post on a bike!" On his marriage, Eddie was tempted to buy one of the houses opposite the Post Office, going for a princely £500.

The Bell itself was then managed by Margaret and John Lewis, and was extremely popular, especially with the farmhands, of which there were many more in the sixties. "Sometimes, there were cars parked on Green Lane all the way from the Bell to James Close. If you didn't get there early on a Friday and Saturday night, you couldn't get in! They were drinkers then," says Eddie. "And no food was served." Eddie was captain of the Bell darts team, and won trophies for that, too.

Eddie bought his first car in 1960, a Ford Anglia. He remembers that the wipers used to stop when the car was going uphill. (*Continued on following page*).

“There were a lot fewer houses in the village, in those days,” Eddie recalls. “None of the new bungalows had been built, and up Green Lane, there was only Pear Tree Cottage, where Mrs Dale lived, and the Old School House.” Of course the school on the B4362 was open then and Old School House, was once the home of the schoolmaster. Eddie remembers the schoolchildren making their way up Green Lane and along the footpath and back, morning and afternoon.

There was a village hall in Yarpole, but, when the new village hall was built in 1989, Eddie remembers that “The old village hall was taken down in sections, bought by a farmer from Orleton and rebuilt as a farm shop!”

Asked what the biggest village event was, Eddie replied, “The Queen’s Silver Jubilee, in 1977. The whole village came out for the event. A parade, with floats and drum majorettes, made its way from the village up to Croft Castle.” Eddie decorated his blue Mini Pickup with flowers. Perched on the back were a mock Queen (who Eddie thinks might have been one of the Carpenter family from Bircher Common) and two Ladies-in-Waiting. Eddie showed me a penknife he had won on the day for coming first in the slow bike race. “The one who was last, won the race,” he says. “We also had a race where you had to run 100 yards with a bale on your back.” He explains that he only finished second because he wasn’t wearing any shoes!

“We had a pig roast, that night,” Eddie recalls, “at Lucton School. But it wasn’t very successful because the pig wasn’t properly cooked. Not many people stayed.”

1977 was a red-letter year for Eddie, too, as he was able to buy his council house, for £3500!

“Back in the day,” says Eddie. “You knew everybody, but now I wouldn’t know the one quarter. Of course, then you knew everybody’s business, as well! You couldn’t get away with much then!”

Paul Humphrey

See photos of Eddie at the top of the opposite page.

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Thanks to the following for the lower two rows of photos on this page:
 Helen Norris - a hedgehog in her garden in Lucton
 Tim Ware - a juvenile adder eating a rather large lizard on Bircher Common
 And from Mulberry Meadow: Louise Hodgetts - Bumblebee; Sandra Ewing - Lilies & Rose

Croft with Yarpole and Lucton

Parish Church Services for September and October 2025



Date	Service	Church	Time
September			
Wednesday 3 Sept	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 7 Sept	Holy Communion – Book of common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Monday 8 Sept	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 14 Sept	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Sunday 21 Sept	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
	Celtic Evening Prayer	Yarpole	16:30
Monday 22 Sept	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 28 Sept	Non Liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
October			
Wednesday 1 Oct	Be Still	Yarpole	17:30
Sunday 5 Oct	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Croft	9:30
Sunday 12 Oct	Holy Communion	Yarpole	9:30
Monday 13 Oct	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 19 Oct	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer	Yarpole	8:30
	Harvest Festival Service	Yarpole	16:30
Monday 20 Oct	Café Church	Yarpole	19:30
Sunday 26 Oct	Non Liturgical service	Yarpole	9:30
<p>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 phone: Priory Office 01568 612124 Monday to Friday 9.30 – 1.00 Churchwarden: Jane Higgins (708390)</p>			



**Old St Peter's Church
Lucton**



**St. Leonard's Church
Yarpole**



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