

# **EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE**

**JANUARY 2024**

**ISSUE 198**



The dreary, dull and wet weather will come to an end. So, let's look forward to spring!

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Eardisland.

Photo: Kathleen Freeman

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### **EDITORIAL**

Welcome to the first edition of the Eardisland Parish Magazine in 2024. I couldn't bring myself to publish pictures of the floods that hit the community on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. The storm surge descended from the Titley area on the Tuesday evening and flooded roads and homes (including mine).

If you were lucky in not flooding, but came close, now is the time to think about what to do when a more serious flood happens. This not an 'if' question, rather a 'when' question. So, make a plan.

If you were unlucky, and found yourself paddling through your home, it would be a good idea to consider what improvements could be made to the fabric or equipment to prepare for next time – there will be one. I have given the website for river height here and upstream information on page 9.

On a much brighter note, the village is as active now as it ever was. The village hall is gearing up for a busy year as are the various groups within the community. The village shop continues to provide a vital service, although volunteers are always needed – the emphasis is on volunteers, nobody is paid.

The E-Team keeps the village neat and tidy, a service that is exceptional in this small community, and there are various interest groups such as the W.I. and village band. Then there is the church community and, of course, special events like the litter pick in March and the Duck Races in August. All in all, this is an active village. This is only possible through the generous time that is given to ensure the success of all these events and more.

If you want more evidence, just look at the way villagers helped one another when the water invaded the community.

Chris Bivand

## **EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY 2024**

<b>2024</b>	
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Quiz Night, p.10
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Village Hall Committee Open Meeting, p.11
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Film Night, p.12
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Litter Pick, p.15
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Eardisland Twinning Association AGM, p.13
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Egg Hunt, p.14
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Craft and Produce Fair, p.24
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Magazine Copy Date</b>

Please note that there are various other dates relating to events associated with the church detailed in the section 'Church Matters'.

### **OH NO, NOT AGAIN! (FROM FACEBOOK)**



## **PARISH COUNCIL**

1. The Environment Agency has confirmed they will continue to add properties to the Flood Defence Scheme. If you were affected by the most recent flood and are not already part of this Scheme, please email [parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk) your details (name, address, reasons and evidence) I will then forward the same on to the co-ordinator.
2. The winter season can be difficult. Here are a few helplines for those wishing to reach out:

### We are Farming Minds

24/7 support line 0808 802 0070 or text 07786203130

### CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably)

5pm-midnight 0800 58 58 58

### Tackle Loneliness with The British Red Cross

24/7 support line 0808 196 3651

3. The **Parish Council Website** can be accessed at [www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk) with the community website continuing to provide all other information at [Eardisland Community Website](#)
4. **Parish Council News Alert emails**

Keep up to date with news from the Parish Council by registering for news alert emails. Go to [eardisland-pc.gov.uk](http://eardisland-pc.gov.uk), scroll down to the bottom of the page and complete your details in the space provided bottom left. This will enter you onto our “Mailchimp” email list. Emails are only sent out occasionally – we will not flood your inbox!

GDPR requires people to give positive consent for the Parish Council to hold personal data and to allow you to receive emails. Please contact the Clerk if you wish your name and data to be removed from the list for news alerts.

5. The following **Planning Applications** have been considered or noted at recent Parish Council meetings:

**P233235/FH** – Planning Permission: Home Farm, Eardisland, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 9DN. Proposed extension to dwelling – SUPPORT

**P231545/FH** – Planning Re-consultation: 1 Lynch Cottages, Eardisland, HR6 9BE: Proposed extensions and detached garage – SUPPORT

**P231444/L** – Listed Building Consent: Staick House, Eardisland, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9BU – Proposed internal and external works to Listed Building (part retrospective) – SUPPORT.

Amber Littleworth, Parish Clerk

### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – CLLR. ROGER PHILLIPS**

Following lobbying by the council and our two MPs the Government has awarded a grant of 1.76 million pounds to support work on Local Nutrient Mitigation to allow the development of housing in the Lugg catchment area – this of course includes the River Arrow. It is four and half years since a ban on the granting of new houses was brought in by Herefordshire Council acting on the directions of Natural England.

The Government announced its provisional settlement to local authorities on 18<sup>th</sup> December for their revenue accounts and with a 4.99% Council Tax increase (including the social care charge of 3%) the council is proposing a balanced budget for 2024/25. There are national and local concerns about the rising costs of Adult and Children’s care services, home to school transport and special educational needs.

The Council has been carrying out a consultation on future fortnightly collection of garden waste from properties from March to October using a 240 litre brown bin. There would be a cost of £55 per annum with the garden waste being composted. Details can be found at <https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/105/garden-waste-collection-survey>

Last month the council voted and supported by a majority the Capital Programme of the minority administration. It includes 10.6 million pounds for highway resurfacing, another 10 million to re-establish the building of the southern link road south of the city (from A465 Belmont to A49 at Grafton). Previous funds were received from government for this road, plus planning permission granted and some land compulsory purchased but the previous administration cancelled it and sold the land back.

The relocation of the library and learning centre to the Shirehall, the be funded with a further 3 million to reopen and make the building operational again. Also, jointly working with Hereford hospital and the H&W Group Training, to build and open an education facility to train local people for careers in the Health and Care sector.

There is also provision to invest in Employment land and incubation space at the market towns.

Winter brings the biggest stress to our highways so please report any concerns: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/> To report a serious pothole, flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places: 01432 261800. Roger [rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

### **EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CHARITY 1108366**

A very successful 2023 was had with a large number of fundraising events enjoyed in the Village Hall each month throughout the year. These included quarterly fun quiz nights each which filled the hall and brought hearty laughter through each evening.

An Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by over 50 children, each having great fun exploring the park for clues to win an Easter egg. Watch out for this year's event! An exciting race night, which was a warm night in July, packed the hall with cheering punters and shouts of encouragement for horses to win.

We hosted another Oktoberfest celebration and a new Christmas Food and Gift Fair which offered delights for Christmas shoppers and allowed local craft stalls to offer their wares. We finished the year hosting, in conjunction with our village partner groups (The Community Shop, The E-team and St Mary's church), a wonderful Christmas lighting of the village Christmas tree, a Santa's grotto, carol singing led by the church choir all washed down with mulled wine and mince pies, what a perfect end to the year.

Last year allowed us to host and be a large part in the Coronation celebrations which offered a very successful village "bring your own lunch event" and a much-awaited repeat of the famous Eardisland raft race, both hugely enjoyed by many parishioners and with numerous requests to repeat again in 2024. We are hoping to repeat this in May this year.

The Village Hall Committee has managed with the support of our great community to raise sufficient funds for improvements to the hall. We have purchased a wide screen and projector to host film nights, the first being in February. We hope to repaint the hall and organise a number of further upgrades during this year.

We are open to all suggestions for future events for all ages and requirements in the village. If you have a request, please put it forward to a member of the committee. Please complete our questionnaire (see following pages) to aid us in improving the events and services offered. Alternatively come along to our open AGM and be part of the team.

A huge thanks to all supporters of our events and I am pleased to say we raised much-needed funds for running the Village Hall. Look out for our future events and village hall activity posters for what is coming up in the next few months.

Susie Curtis and team – EVHMC

## EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Your Village Hall Committee would like feedback on last year's events,  
and any suggestions for the coming year would be welcomed.

BELOW IS A LIST OF EVENTS FROM 2023

PLEASE V (LIKED) OR X (NOT BOTHERED)

EVENT	V	X	COMMENTS
Quarterly Quiz			
Attic Sale / Preloved			
Easter Egg Hunt			
High Tea			
Coronation Picnic			
Raft Race			
Race Night			
Duck Race			
Manor House BBQ			
Village Show			
Dog Show			
Oktoberfest			
Xmas Food & Gift Fair			

FURTHER COMMENTS:

PLEASE SEE OVER →

# **AGM EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2024**

**7PM EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL**

The first item on the agenda will be an open meeting  
for your feedback and comments on future events.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING BUT WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE  
GIVE US YOUR IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS BELOW FOR EVENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS YEAR:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CUT OUT THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY SHOP  
OR THROUGH THE VILLAGE HALL POST BOX**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING**



## **EARDISLAND WI**

We would like to take the opportunity to look forward to our programme for 2024. The actual programme from April is not finalised as yet, but the dates can be put in your diaries as the Eardisland WI always meet on the second Monday of every month, except in August, dates which this year are not going to be interrupted by bank holidays and Coronations!

The first three meetings of the year will be held in the village hall, our January meeting covers our wellbeing with an introduction to Reiki with Heidi Caldicot. The February meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> will be with Bridgit Graham giving us an introduction to willow weaving, many of you may have seen her willow angels at the church or even made one yourself. Our annual AGM will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March where we will have the election of new committee members, and which will be followed by a social event.

Our new membership year will start in April and the programme will include a balance of talks, visits and participation in either craft or other activities. The new programme will be published in March or April and will be available on the Eardisland website.

New members are always welcome, and guests may join us for a small fee of £5.

Eardisland WI Committee

## **FLOODS**

One of the most useful resources in times of heavy rain, which happens mostly but not always in the winter months, is this website:

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/2195>

The website connects with the river level monitor, which is situated on the grass on the shop side of the main bridge in the village. It gives real-time height levels.

Of more interest, if you think you are likely to flood, is what is happening further upstream on the Arrow – the next station up is Titley. Water there will reach us around six hours later (this varies according to conditions). In the January 2024 floods, the maximum reading was 2.24m at Titley, whilst the ‘normal’ height there is regarded as 1m. Once a surge starts at Titley, it is inevitable that it will end up here. The website has the ability to give you the Titley height graph (click ‘upstream’). So, if your house is in danger of flooding, check the website. It may not be good news, but it will give time to move valuables and anything of value. By this stage, you should have done this anyway!

Chris Bivand



# Eardisland Village Hall Quiz Night



Friday 19th  
January 2024



7.00pm



Eardisland  
Village Hall

Maximum team of 6 | Bar | Refreshments provided

**£2 ADMISSION, BOOKING RECOMMENDED**

Email [susie.evhmc@yahoo.com](mailto:susie.evhmc@yahoo.com) or  
scan the QR code to book

Eardisland  
Village Hall



# OPEN MEETING

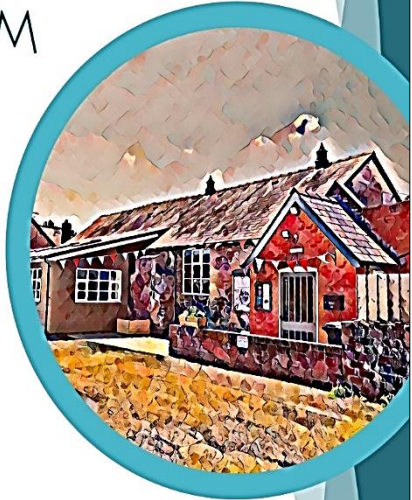
## Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee AGM



**24TH JANUARY 2024,  
7PM**



**EARDISLAND VILLAGE  
HALL**



We invite residents of Eardisland Parish to attend our meeting and we would welcome some new committee members! Please come along or get in touch if you would love to join the team that works to run our brilliant Village Hall.

We are a friendly bunch and would love a few extra pairs of hands to support the great work that goes on.



Contact details: [susie.evmmc@yahoo.com](mailto:susie.evmmc@yahoo.com)  
(Chair)



Date of Notice: 4th January, 2024

EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL  
WELCOMES YOU TO A

# Film Night



Registered Charity No 1108366

**Saturday 17th February**

7pm for a 7.30pm start

**Tickets £6**

Film to be announced closer to the time



To prebook tickets, email [susie.evhmc@yahoo.com](mailto:susie.evhmc@yahoo.com)

Eardisland  
Village Hall



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

## **EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm  
in Eardisland Village Hall**

### **AGENDA: PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

#### **EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Eardisland parishioners and interested  
residents of neighbouring towns and  
villages are welcome to attend all  
Association meetings/organised events  
– there is no membership fee**



# JOIN OUR EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY 30TH  
MARCH AT 2PM

Eardisland  
Village Hall

£2 per child

Tea, coffee & cakes available



Eardisland  
Village Hall



Registered Charity No 1108366

## **EARDISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**

The E&SG is a working group of the Parish Council. Anyone interested in making Eardisland a more sustainable parish is welcome to come along.

### **TREE PLANTING**

We will be working throughout the year with the aim of encouraging the planting of trees across the parish next November. As there is limited room on Parish Council land, we are hoping to work with landowners to identify suitable sites, investigate funding and help with planting. More to come in the next Parish Magazine, but if you have an area of garden, land, or existing woodland that may be suitable for expansion please get in touch.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES**

The E&SG were pleased to see the Parish Council use locally grown real trees for the village display. It's hoped this can be expanded for next Christmas, perhaps to include having trees delivered to the village for use inside houses. Plastic trees have seven times the carbon footprint of real trees, so this is the environmentally friendly option and helps support the local economy. Having trees picked up and recycled adds to the sustainability and saves on parishioners having to drive to the recycling centre.

### **PLASTIC FREE EARDISLAND**

Building on The Community Shop's award at the end of 2023 we are now working with several other Eardisland-based businesses to help them become 'Plastic Free Champions' in 2024. It's not about removing all plastic from our lives but reducing the use of avoidable single-use plastic.

**Please get in touch if you would like help in becoming one of Eardisland's Plastic Free Champions.**

### **SPRING LITTER PICK**

This year's community litter pick will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, more details nearer the time.

### **TALKS AND VISITS**

The E&SG is starting to plan a series of talks for 2024. Possible topics include the river Arrow, solar panels / heat pumps / insulation, and sustainable farming. Any suggestions welcome!

Ben Woodcock  
[b3nwoodcock@gmail.com](mailto:b3nwoodcock@gmail.com) 01544 388976



## **EARDISLAND MEMORIAL WALKS**

Walk 3 commemorates Pte Stanley Hughes; born in Luston in 1897. He grew up at Little Broome Cottage, we assume part of the eponymous Farm. Close to the outbreak of war, records show that Stanley joined the Royal Horse Artillery in Woolwich, London, and later transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Princess Victoria's) Royal Irish Fusiliers

Stanley's Regiment fought in the Balkan Theatre, remembered more readerly as the 'Salonika Front'. Weather conditions led to health risks and, especially in summer, malaria became a scourge.

Stanley Hughes was wounded in battle and evacuated to a military hospital, where malaria took hold. Stanley was one of a huge number who died of the disease in the summer of 1917.

He lies nearby, in Lahana Military Cemetery, Greece.



Stanley's commemorative walk leads up Broome Lane to Twyford, then over to Arrow Bridge in Pembridge. It takes you back to our War Memorial over fields following the line of the river, walking (or running!) in places on good paths through crops; and otherwise attractive meadows. Five miles in length, with no hills to climb and the Right of Way properly marked, Stanley's is the most popular of the Memorial Walks.

Please take care as you approach Eardisland and encounter a gate donated by our Dovecote Community Shop. The water underneath can cover your boots throughout the year and the bottom surface is uneven. Beware of any protruding barbed wire on the large round post shown in front of the gate's standing post.

For your interest, there are complications relating to responsibilities for fixing arguable defects on paths, gates, and stiles. This (picture) shows an example, and the Parish Council is fully aware of the situation. With the upcoming engagement of a Parish Footpath Officer working alongside both our Parish Council and the PROW department in Herefordshire Council, things can only get better! Please pass on the details of anything which appears likely to impede or present risks on our Rights of Way to the Parish Council. Also, please copy in [contact@eardislandmemorialwalks.org.uk](mailto:contact@eardislandmemorialwalks.org.uk). A quick fix could be possible.





The majority of Eardisland Memorial Walks are in good/reasonable order. They can never reach the standard of memorials in military cemeteries, but being tidy and safe enough to support the sentiment of recognising the personal sacrifice of our Fallen seems to be appropriate.

In Herefordshire, the Highways Authority is responsible for ensuring the integrity of all Public Rights of Way, including Bridleways and Footpaths. The County struggles to maintain standards which meet statutory requirements. Times are tough, and helping the system work by identifying defects and risks is valuable.

Countryside walking is recognised as valuable in creating wealth, as well as improving health. Buy a brochure guide from the shop or pubs.  
Comments please to the website above.

Hugh Vernon



CALLING ALL  
WOULD-BE THESPIANS  
YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS  
YOU!

WE ARE PLANNING TO DO A PANTOMIME THIS YEAR  
AND ARE NOW SEEKING PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE

If you would like to act, sing or dance we'd love to hear from you,  
both adults and children!

Also, we will need people to help in set building, costume making,  
and all the other behind the scenes activities associated  
with the panto.

If you would like to be part of this exciting event please get in touch  
by emailing Carole Perry:

[perrycarole53@gmail.com](mailto:perrycarole53@gmail.com)

and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

(While his owner was recovering from surgery, kind parishioners were happy to dog walk pro tem – one being moved to write and illustrate this lovely poem)

### **A SHEEPDOG CALLED PHANTOM**

Or, a bit of doggerel by Kathleen Freeman

With nose to the ground he lopes along  
Tacking from side to side,  
Sniffing out the scents  
That verges can provide.  
He's alert, intelligent, obedient  
And most affectionate too,  
Always responding to one's voice  
Complying with what's to do.

He always looks round when called  
And will stop for the occasional car,  
Hoping the daily walk  
Will be exciting and possibly far.  
He's sociable with other dogs  
He'll stop and have a chatter,  
But with challenging types  
He'll just walk by  
And not think further on that matter.

I'll miss this quiet dog I've known  
He's been a great delight,  
He's liked by all who've met him  
And has no desire to fight.  
What else can I say about Phantom  
He's charismatic and one of the few,  
So when you get to know him  
That charm may work on you.





### **EARDISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Each day the nights are getting marginally shorter as we start to experience longer periods of daylight, but this is still a time of increased risk of burglaries, so vigilance remains key and reporting your suspicions may prevent a crime taking place.

There are some parts of the Parish that are not yet represented in our membership so please consider joining us. If you are interested in joining this scheme, you will need to become a member and then join the Eardisland scheme using the following link: <https://members.ourwatchmember.org.uk/join> to register by providing your personal details. Once you have done that and you are in your account, select the 'Manage Schemes' option in the 'dropdown' under 'Neighbourhood Watch Tools' in the top banner on the page, then click on the yellow 'JOIN OR APPLY TO CREATE A NEW SCHEME' bar and follow the process, selecting Eardisland to join this scheme and gain access to regular security hints as well as discounted security equipment and home insurance.

If you have any questions on membership please get in touch, or if you don't want to join online, give me a call with your name, address and contact details and I can complete the membership process on your behalf.

Joe Logan

Westgate, Eardisland HR6 9AR, Phone: 01544 388878

Email: [eardisland\\_neighbourhood\\_watch@hotmail.com](mailto:eardisland_neighbourhood_watch@hotmail.com) (please note the 2 underscores)

### **CHRISTMAS TREE**

Once again, a very big thank you to the children and families who did such a fantastic job of decorating the church Christmas tree. I look forward each year to seeing the children sorting through the decorations and having fun dressing the tree.

After the hot chocolate, sausage rolls and lots of sweet goodies, time to have fun, playing on the piano, pretending to give a sermon from the pulpit, plus helping to create angels with Avis at the crafting table, well done all of you.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas – see you next year same place same time.

Love Dian xx

## **CHURCH MATTERS**

**All are most welcome to services and will find a friendly and caring community. Come along and find out more; contact us too, if you are interested.**

**If you would like to volunteer to read a lesson, lead prayers, become a welcomer, sing, play, look after the church in any way or choose a hymn for a special occasion, please let us know.**

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Julie Read, The Rectory, Kingsland.  
07826 194400 01568 708255  
[rev.julie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk](mailto:rev.julie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk)

Curate Rev Rosie Roberts  
[revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk](mailto:revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk)

Reader Rosie Capon: 07811 436412

Churchwarden/Organist Annette Blyth 01544 388241  
Deputy Churchwarden Dian Cope 01544 388317  
Treasurer: Mike Coleburn 01544 388486  
PCC Secretary: Avis Denny 01568 780874

### **Services at St Mary the Virgin, Eardisland and in the Benefice**

Date	Time and type	Which church?
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30am iSingPOP	Eardisland
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.30am Holy Communion	<u>Eardisland</u>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Eardisland
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Ash Wednesday 6.30pm Kingsland</b>	<b>Kingsland</b>
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	Eardisland
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Holy Communion <b>Passion Sunday</b>	Eardisland
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Palm Sunday – Aymestrey 10.30am with donkey!</b>	<b>Aymestrey</b>
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>9.30am Easter Day</b>	Eardisland

## **CHURCH NEWS**

It was wonderful to meet so many people and families visiting and worshipping with us during December. The moment in the carol service where everybody's candles are lit, the lights go out and we listen to the Gospel reading from the book of John... 'In the beginning was the Word'... is always very special. The Angel Festival has given us delight and pleasure this month; also appreciated were the 'memory' angels and many remembered dear ones by writing their names on an angel and hanging them on the Christmas tree.

The early-flowering daffodils, planted at the base of the church tower by the late Derek Wareham quite a few years ago, were out in their glory by the time we went to church on Christmas Eve.

I should like to thank everybody who has contributed to our December services and events in any way, great or small. The crib will stay in place until Candlemas, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, which falls 40 days after Christmas.

We wish everybody a happy and healthy 2024 – and no more floods!

Annette Blyth  
Church Warden

## **VOTING**

It is likely, but not certain, that there will be a general election during 2024 (it could be very early 2025). In a democracy, it is an important social responsibility to vote if eligible, and I urge you to do so. Whilst national politicians are not held in high esteem at the moment, if ever, it has to be said that their decisions will affect all our lives.

If you have registered for a postal vote, the necessary voting forms will be sent to you in time to vote when the election date is announced automatically. If you vote in person, you will need photo ID. There is a long list of acceptable photo ID formats. In most cases, this will be a driving licence or passport. Bus passes are acceptable for old age concessionaires. However, this is not true for younger people (I can't think why).

Importantly, if you don't have acceptable photo ID, Herefordshire Council is legally obliged to supply you with satisfactory verification if you are registered to vote. Contact the Council.

Please do consider this, because it would be very unfortunate if you wish to vote, but are turned away because you do not have the appropriate photo ID.

Chris Bivand

## **FROM REV. JULIE READ**

A big thank you to Annette Blyth, Dian Cope and the Eardisland PCC for a wonderful Advent Angel Festival and Christmas Celebrations in church. From the craft session to the wisdom of Michael Tavinor, the church was full of life and faith and for that I am most grateful.

We move now into the new year and I know that Eardisland has been battling with flooding and notice what a good resilient community you are as you help each other to deal with these difficulties. I hope and pray that you will be able to deal with all that comes your way and that no one be alone or bereft during this time.

Many of you will have met Rosie Roberts, our curate, who has been on the rota in the shop and getting to know the community from behind the counter. She will be leading an event in the village hall on February 10<sup>th</sup> called My Faith in Music at 7pm where she will be interviewing Mavis Tantrum about her life and faith in a desert island style event where Mavis chooses her tracks and talks to Rosie. It is open to all and I know will be interesting and informative, so if you would like to come along and listen please contact Rosie on [revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk](mailto:revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk) or on 07720 333383. There is a free meal as part of this event, so do come and enjoy this occasion.

Lent comes early this year, from the middle of February and Nick, my husband, will be putting together a weekly study on How the Bible Came to Be. It will be on Mondays during Lent and starts on 19<sup>th</sup> February from 7 to 8.30pm at the Rectory in Kingsland. You are very welcome to come and give this a go, it will be a 6-week course. Do speak to Julie 07826194400 if you would like to come along.

Rosie Roberts will be leading some Tuesday morning sessions starting on Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup> from 9.45 – 11am called Singing the Faith where we get under the surface of the hymns we sing. This has been a great success in other parishes so why not come and try this. Each session stands alone, so you just have to turn up to one session and that will be fine. Do ring Rosie to find out where the venue is, as we will move around over the 6 weeks of this.

And last but not least the monthly Bible Book Club is being held on the second Monday of every month (not during Lent) at the home of Rosie Capon from 7 to 8.30pm and is working through Luke's gospel at the moment. It is really interesting, and Rosie is a fount of knowledge on the Bible, so let her know if you would like to join that group.

The complexities of our world are not going away, and the wars and climate change will continue to plague us as we journey through this year. We have a God who reached down into the heart of the real lives of everyday people with the gift of his Son, as we have celebrated this Christmas, and continues to stand alongside us as we journey through the adventures and challenges, we face

in our everyday lives. That is something to give thanks for, that we are not alone, but have one who knows about life and has conquered the darkness. Let us put our hands into the hands of God as we journey into a new year, and may we be confident that he will hold us fast on our next adventure.

Every Blessing.  
Julie



# My Life in Music

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in conversation with  
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## **EARDISLAND IN BLOOM**

The E Team will report back for duty on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March around 09.45. If you're interested in joining this voluntary group, you'll be most welcome. As I pen these notes the flood waters are receding, but there's an awful mess left behind, so we'll have plenty of work to do.

## **EARDISLAND CRAFT & PRODUCE FAIR 2024**

This year's show will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Applications for booking will open from 0900 on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, but if you live in Eardisland parish and would like to reserve a table, you may apply now. Either email [eardislandcfair@btinternet.com](mailto:eardislandcfair@btinternet.com) to request a booking form or download one from the parish website.

Phil Milchard

## **TREES AND HEDGES**

There is still plenty of time left to plant bare root trees, shrubs and hedging – up to the end of March or even into April depending on the weather. We are lucky in having an excellent tree nursery nearby whose whips are very cheap and of very good quality. They are dug up on the morning of collection and are wrapped carefully so that the roots don't dry out. Once home they can either be planted straight away or will keep quite happily for several weeks if the roots are loosely covered with damp soil.

The Nursery is Bucknell Nurseries, approximately 20 minutes from Eardisland. Location and phone number are online but, unfortunately, they don't have an online catalogue. If you would like a catalogue, please give me a call – I will bring a few back when I next visit.

Example prices are 50p each for 2-3 ft hawthorn whips, or 38p each if 100 or more are ordered. Most other native species are between 50p and 80p each. Large whips are not necessary as shorter ones establish more successfully and usually soon catch up with any bigger ones planted. For hedging each whip will need a cane and spiral and each tree a stake and tube. I take all these off our trees and hedging once they are big enough not to need them and would be pleased if anyone could reuse them. They are several years old, but I have only saved the ones in reasonable condition.

Alternatively, Bucknell can supply everything you need. They also plant the trees or hedging for you for a very reasonable charge so long as you have enough to make it worth one of them travelling. One person can plant hundreds of hedging whips in half a day.



If you would like any advice or help getting started, please give me a call. If you only have space for a few shrubs or small trees, my recommendations are Guelder Rose, Rowan, Wayfaring Tree and Spindle as they have lovely blossom for bees in spring and berries for birds in winter. Our patch will have all of these in blossom soon as well as wild cherry, bird cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, buckthorn, crab apple, wild pear and others. If you would like to visit, please get in touch.

Most hedgerow plants blossom on second year wood. This is why cutting hedges in rotation every 2-3 years increases the flower abundance when compared with annual cutting which often leads to little or no blossom. Cutting hedges incrementally wider and taller also leads to a greater abundance of second year wood and a greater availability of blossom and hence of berries and also provides better cover for hedge nesting birds.

I will put some copies of the Woodland Trust booklet "Twigged" in the village shop as well as a few other booklets on trees and wildlife. Please help yourself. Twigged is a small guide to trees with lovely photos of each tree including blossom, catkins, berries etc. The Woodland Trust's website has a similar A-Z of native British trees with many more tree species and with more information on each. The Tree Council website is also full of useful information, especially on the planting and care of trees.

Di Palmer  
01544 388840  
dpalmer5k@hotmail.com



### **Will Writing Month March 2024**

If you haven't yet made a Will, or already have one but need to update it, make March 2024 the month to put that right!

Local Legal Consultant Alan Hing of Mundy's in Hereford will kindly waive his usual Will Writing fee for a suggested donation of £150 single or £250 mirror, straightforward Will to The Royal National College for the Blind (RNC). Alan has been engaged in legal practice for more than 40 years and has a wide experience upon which he can draw, including Wills, Power of Attorney, Trusts and Probate.

Funds raised from Will Writing Month will be used to give young blind and visually impaired students the chance to learn independent living skills such as shopping, cooking, navigating roads, using public transport and managing money, while studying for the qualifications necessary to progress into employment, university or volunteering.

Dates are available with Alan throughout March and can be arranged by contacting him at Mundy's, 4 King Street, Hereford HR4 9BW, by email: [ah@mundys.co.uk](mailto:ah@mundys.co.uk) or by telephone 01432 265 630. Online meetings can be arranged.

For more information, please contact the RNC Fundraising Team on 01432 376 387 or email [fund@rnc.ac.uk](mailto:fund@rnc.ac.uk).

### **EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT**



The weather in Eardisland for November continued with the wet weather theme mainly due to storms Ciaran on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Debi on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The total rainfall for the month was 106mm (4.17 inches). Temperatures ranged from 5°C to 14°C, with barometer pressures of 28.4 to 30.00. River levels were recorded from 18 inches to 48 inches.

For December, we saw even more named storms, Elin on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Fergus on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Gerrit on the 27<sup>th</sup>. This added to a

total rainfall for the month of 150mm (5.91 inches). Temperatures ranged from minus 5°C to 12°C with barometer pressures of 28.94 to 30.26 recorded. As expected, river levels rose from 18 to 60 inches.

The total rainfall recorded for the year 2022 was 865mm (34.08 inches) and for this year 2023 was 995mm (39.2 inches).

Up-to-date figures for January 2024 show storm Henk on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bringing with it 38mm (1.49 inches) of rain, on top of December's heavy rainfall this caused the river level to rise to a level of 65 inches, my highest recorded to date.

Wishing everybody a happy and drier 2024.

Doug Tantrum reporting from  
Kingfisher House

*Looking at copies of the previous magazines reminds me of how far we have come in a relatively short space of time as far as the quality of the magazine is concerned.*

*Edition 81, extract below, was printed by Oldlands Press run by Andrew Rixon, who lived in the converted barn next to the Court House. The magazine was previously printed by Weobley Comprehensive School, using an old Roneo printer. The then new Head decided not to continue the arrangement and we were desperate for a printer. Andrew stepped into the breach. When he moved out of the village, we transferred the printing to Leominster Community Resource Centre using a similar process. It is only relatively recently that technology has enabled the quality of printing that we enjoy today. How times have changed! Note that I used Times New Roman as the font in those days, which now looks very old-fashioned.*

*Ed.*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

I was interested in your article in the September issue regarding Queen Mary's visit here at Burton Court in the Summer of 1943. She visited Eardisland before 1943 in the Summer of 1937. The Leominster News of July 30, 1937, reported that she was the guest of Lord Somers at Eastnor Castle, and that without stopping in Leominster the Royal car proceeded in the direction of Eardisland.

"Crowds of villagers at Eardisland and visitors who had come by motor-coach from the surrounding district assembled in the village early in the afternoon to catch a glimpse of the Queen as she motored through Eardisland. A short halt was made opposite Staick House by the Royal car, which afterwards moved on and made a brief stop on the old river bridge to enable the Queen to have a view of the picturesque scene provided

by a village which is famed for its beauty. The Royal car passed over the bridge slowly and there arose loud cheers from the crowd of people and school children gathered near the war memorial. At Legion's Cross the car turned left and proceeded by way of Canon Pyon out on the Hereford-Leominster road near Wellington."

Afterwards the Queen performed a tree planting ceremony at Queen's Wood, where my stepfather the late Greville H. Phillips, OBE, the County Land Agent, who had planned and planted Queen's Wood, handed her a special spade made with an English oak handle to plant an oak tree. The same spade was handed by him to Queen Elizabeth to plant a tree in 1957 and I have it here at Burton Court.

Helen Simpson

DANIEL  
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Copy date for the next edition of the Eardisland Parish Magazine:

**FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

## **BUILDINGS IN EARDISLAND**

### **THE SMITHY**



The Smithy, as the name implies, was an active blacksmith's shop until about the time of the second world war. Since that time it has been used as a meeting room, for groups such as W.I. and a 'Men's Club', as well as an Air Rifle Club. It also served as the HQ of the Home Guard during the Second World War. In more recent times it has been a butcher's shop, a Red Cross store and a wool shop. It was converted into a private residence in the late 1980s.

Source: Eardisland  
An Oral History

By: Members of the Oral History Group 1993 – 1995

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