

EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2025

ISSUE 209



I took this in 2017, this is still one of my favourite pictures. Happy Christmas and New Year!

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EDITORIAL

Storm Claudia caused damage across the west of the UK, but Eardisland escaped relatively lightly, although leaving the usual mess and smattering of flooded vehicles. It never ceases to amaze me that drivers think that they can beat nature, with actions which are both thoughtless and dangerous. Drivers of larger vehicles still think that speed is king, completely neglecting the effects of their bow-wave. The police take this to be 'driving without due care and attention', and rightly so. Please note that video evidence can be submitted to the police with a mind to possible prosecution if the offending vehicle can be identified.

Just as I was completing this magazine, I received an email from Rev. Rosie Roberts, informing me that she has been appointed as Rector in another group of parishes. I am sorry to announce her departure, and wish her every success in her new role. Rosie will stay with us until around June of next year.

You will see from the report from the Chair of the Parish Council, page 4, that Angus and Sarah Wrixon have been appointed to continue the Eardisland Magazine after the March edition next year. Patricia and I look forward to working closely with Angus and Sarah to ensure a smooth transition.

As we approach the end of the year, I wish to thank all those who have enabled the production of the Eardisland Parish Magazine over the last twelve months. The whole enterprise is a large jigsaw puzzle, involving the contributors, graphics, advertising, compilation, editing, proof-reading, printing, the internet, funding and delivery. So, very many thanks to all who make the magazine what it is.

Finally, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY

Friday 21 st November	Film Night, p.15
Tuesday 2 nd December	Christmas Tree Closing Date, p.8
Friday 5 th December	Christmas Wreath Making, p.13
Sunday 7 th December	Eardisland Christmas Lights, p.16
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Thursday 31 st December	New Year's Eve Party, p.9
2026	
Saturday 3 rd January	Sacred and Profane, p.24
Friday 16th January 2026	Magazine copy date
Friday 13th March 2026	Magazine copy Date

The magazine circulation date is usually about ten days after the copy date, but this can vary. If you are advertising an event, please work on the basis that the distribution date is two weeks after the copy date. This, of course, depends on there being no technical problems.

Please note that there may be other dates in the magazine that refer to individual organisations, such as the Women's Institute and Eardisland Church services.

COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE – IMPORTANT UPDATE

THE COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE, PREVIOUSLY RUN BY
NRS HEALTHCARE, IS NOW PROVIDED BY HOOPLE.

If you, or your family members, have assistive equipment
such as shower stools, toilet frames, chairs and beds labelled
NRS Healthcare that need to be returned or repaired:

please contact the Community Equipment Service
on 01432 261 818

or email: communityequipmentservice@hoopleltd.co.uk.

Please note that crutches and Zimmer frames
should be returned to the hospital or local authority after use.



Auxilium House, Legion Way, Hereford HR1 1LN

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR NOVEMBER 2025

As I sit and write this update this morning the 13th of November, there is a feeling of “calm before the storm”. It is a wonderfully sunny and bright autumn morning with bright sunshine, pale blue skies and wonderful autumn colours on the leaves falling. And yet, we have already had our first Flood Alert Warning of the season. The river has risen at both Titley and here in Eardisland and, if the forecasters are to be believed, we could be in for a torrid end to the week as more storms role in. As a sailor, I welcome approaching low weather systems as they provide some wonderful winds and sailing conditions. However, as a resident like you all in a flood affected village I do not. Like so many of you I am sure, I find myself wondering as to whether, and indeed when, will we flood again?

We have had two wonderful events since my last note, the first being the annual craft fair with both new and old exhibitors demonstrating just what a wonderful talented group we are. I am conscious of the huge amount of work and sheer effort that goes into events such as this and would like to place on record my thanks to Phil Milchard and his team for all that they do in bringing together this event and show casing our village in such a positive way. Thank you, Phil!

The second event was one we share annually with so many communities and organisation around our country, namely that of Remembrance Sunday and the laying of wreaths at the war memorial. It is always such a moving ceremony. We owe so much to those that gave the ultimate so that may we live, as we do, in such a peaceful and beautiful part of the country. We will remember them.

As I am sure you are aware, many properties in the village have now had the Property Flood Resilience Measures promised by the EA fitted and installed. The yellow Whitehouse vans have been regular visitors to the village over the course of the summer and are only now finishing the final properties. I can only hope that the measures do help but am extremely conscious of the fact that there remain numerous properties that still need such measures and indeed some that would have benefitted from a more flexible approach and a greater understanding of the challenges faced.

That said, the EA have been doing what they can. The work they promised to do with regards to clearing riverbanks between the upper and lower weirs has been completed with the aim of speeding the flow of water through and out of the village. I can only hope that it aids us all.

Some of you will have had the new “sandbags” delivered to you by our volunteers in our Flood Group yesterday. This group, under the leadership of Councillor Rebecca Rhys-Evans, deserves our gratitude. They do a tremendous service to our community in helping us all as we face the threats posed by flooding. Thank you all!

As a Council the issue of flooding is one that we focus on and with the help of Roger Philips, our Ward Councillor, we continue to raise the issue and seek action at every available opportunity. We have started on the consultation with regards to a solution to the collapsed riverbank wall on the north bank of the river and are seeking support from Herefordshire Council in the funding of the repair work necessary.

Some of you may have noticed in recent days further collapses in the riverbank wall on the southside of the riverbank. This is of course of concern and I am grateful that the landowner concerned is already in consultation with the EA as to effecting urgent repairs. To all riparian rights owners I make a plea, please do what you can to ensure the banks and ditches etc are clear of debris to aid the flow of water through and away from our village.

In my last report I advised that the remediation work to the kitchen extension had started. The replacement windows were in and work to the cladding was scheduled to begin on the 15th September. Well, I am extremely pleased to advise that it is now completed, and that it does, well at least in my opinion, look significantly better. Once again, I must thank Dave Carr who has done such a terrific job on behalf of us all in overseeing the work on behalf of the Parish Council. We really are most grateful Dave!

You may recall that in my last update I advised you of all the resignations of Chris Bivand as Editor and Patricia Gill as Advertising Manager of this Magazine. Well, I am very pleased to announce that after our last council meeting, we have appointed Sarah and Angus Wrixon to take on the editorship. They are relatively new to the village and are obviously parishioners. They will take over the role following Chris' and Patricia's last magazine in March 2026. I am sure that we will hear a lot more from them in due course and, I am equally sure that they have a lot to offer to the role. Welcome both!

Here's hoping for as dry a winter as possible!!

If you would like to stay informed about Parish Council matters, including upcoming meeting dates, agendas, and minutes, please visit the Parish Council website at www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk.

If you would like to raise any issues or concerns then please do either contact the Parish Clerk, parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk, myself, jerry.blyth@eardisland-pc.gov.uk or any of my fellow Councillors.

Jerry Blyth O.B.E.
Chair, Eardisland Parish Council

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT ROGER PHILLIPS

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

The further collapses on the river bank in the centre of the village highlights the ongoing issues we have with our river and flooding. I continue to liaise and work with the Parish Council, Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty, Lugg Drainage Board and the Environment Agency on prevention and response to our flooding issues. While there are many frustrations, I genuinely believe consistent engagement with these bodies maintains focus on our community, and gains cooperation and sensible support as we mitigate and navigate our way through difficult challenges.

Working with the Parish Council we have invited the head of planning to the next Parish Council meeting on 11th December, to explain the issues regarding future developments in the county and also our own community. The Government has imposed a target on Herefordshire to build nearly 30,000 extra homes over the next 20 years (there are currently 82,000 homes). We are at a critical stage to discuss where and what type of housing is required and understand the pressures on our infrastructure. We all recognise that the recent developments at Barons Cross will certainly have a pressure on the Leominster highways.

For many years I have held a senior role in the Rural Services Network - a cross party English lobby group of over 200 councils and rural organisations campaigning for rural services and areas. Please visit the website for more details – <https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/#>

We recently held an online conference over four days making plain the inequalities that rural areas continue to face: underfunded services, fragile transport, patchy communication connectivity and a shortage of affordable homes. But it also showcased the resilience and innovation of rural places, where councils, private sector members, voluntary organisations and communities are working together to find solutions.

A central theme was fair funding. Rural councils face higher delivery costs, yet often receive less government support per head, leaving residents paying more in council tax for fewer services. The figures are stark: urban areas receive 40% more per head in Government Funded Spending Power, while rural residents pay on average 20% more in Council Tax. Unless funding mechanisms properly account for rural circumstances, communities will remain at a disadvantage.

Equally important is how we measure deprivation and success. Too often, national metrics are designed around urban experience. They miss the realities of

rural economies, where employment may look healthy but masks seasonal work, low wages and high housing costs. Deprivation in rural areas is frequently hidden and easily overlooked, yet policy continues to be shaped by headline figures that reinforce the myth of rural affluence.

The week's discussions also highlighted the scale of untapped potential within rural areas. A report from the Rural Coalition shows that, with the right policy framework, the rural economy could generate up to £19 billion more each year in tax revenues. Rural England is not simply a place of need; it is a place of opportunity. Unlocking that potential requires investment in infrastructure, fairer funding, and policies that reflect rural realities.

Across the conference we saw examples of how that potential is already being realised: from community-led transport schemes and local energy generation to digital inclusion projects and rural businesses driving innovation.

These initiatives show what rural can achieve when barriers are removed. The Rural Services Network will make sure rural voices are heard, because stronger rural communities mean a stronger nation.

Roger

Lyonshall Bridge Club

We are a friendly club; we play on Tuesday evenings and we are always keen to welcome new members. Info <http://lyonshallbridge.org/> or call Zita Chilman 07790 024765 or Sue Powell 07870 664760.





LIGHT UP *Eardisland*

Let's brighten our parish together!

Get your Christmas tree for just £7!
Eardisland Parish Council is covering
half the cost, so you only pay £7.

Please place your order and payment
by the 2nd of December.

To order, contact Rebecca:
07766 995569 | Rebecca.Rhys-Evans@eardisland-pc.gov.uk



MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)



Total Triage (ANIMA) started on October 1st 2025 which has been a major change in how the Practice operates.

There have been a few teething problems, but the system is now settling down and some positive and helpful feedback has been given. The Friends of Mortimer Medical Practice

Charity kindly funded 3 iPads, one for each surgery so they can be used for patients who wish to complete the Anima forms in the surgery, with help from the reception staff.

Dr Verity Jones (Oloro) will be leaving the Practice in mid-November and Mrs Jackie Hodnet is retiring after 34 years' service with the Practice. There are 2 new staff members in the dispensary and 3 new reception staff.

Building work is being carried out at the Kingsland Practice to provide a new Consulting room as the Practice continues to grow.

The Practice and Dispensaries will be closed from 12 noon until 8.30 the following day on these dates This is to allow protected staff learning and training updates.

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Thursday 16th April 2026

Tuesday 14th July 2026

Wednesday 14th October 2026

For urgent care during these times, please ring reception 01568 708214 before 6.30pm. Total Triage (Anima) will still be working during these times.

Our next PPG meeting is on January 21st 2026 if anyone has any queries or questions that they wish me to raise at this meeting, please phone me on 01544 387685 or email diane.mortimerppg@gmail.com .

Thank you,

Diane Lee

EARDISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Christmas is a time of merriment and good cheer, and a time to let our hair down, but it is a time when we shouldn't let our guard down. Robberies and other property crimes, such as burglaries and thefts, do tend to increase around the Christmas season. This is due to several factors, including longer, darker nights that provide cover for criminals, and the presence of valuable new gifts in homes which makes them an attractive target. Other contributing factors include people leaving homes vacant and businesses closed for holiday travel. Here are a few points that might help.

Secure your home or business: Make sure all doors and windows are locked, especially when you are away from home or your business is closed for the holiday period. Consider using a security system.

Conceal valuables: Do not leave new, expensive gifts visible through your windows. Don't leave presents visible in your car while shopping, and take them inside as soon as you get home.

Be mindful of social media: Avoid posting about your holiday plans or photos of expensive gifts in a way that could advertise your home as an easy target.

Neighbourhood Watch membership provides you with access to the website and further crime prevention advice including a burglary prevention toolkit.

You can register and join the Eardisland scheme using the following link <https://members.ourwatchmember.org.uk/join> and select the Eardisland scheme. Members can also access discounted security equipment and home insurance, and of course your window sticker is a visible deterrent to burglars and thieves.

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

Joe Logan

Phone: 01544 388878. Email: eardisland_neighbourhood_watch@hotmail.com
(please note the 2 underscores)

FLOWERS OF THE ARROW EXHIBITION

Huge congratulations to Ella Curry on painting such an amazing selection of native plants for her exhibition on the 26th of October. It was great to see over eighty people come to the village hall and enjoy tea and cake while also learning about the species' history, folklore and importance to the health of the river. Ella has produced an exhibition booklet (soon available to buy) which contains reproductions of all the paintings and accompanying information.

It's hoped that the exhibition will be shown at several other venues over the next year, allowing a wider audience to enjoy her hard work.

The E&SG would also like to thank all those that helped on the day with setting up and running the kitchen, and especially to Wendy Cross who donated all the cakes. We raised £101 which Ella has kindly donated to E&SG funds.



Ella's work was supported by the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Kew Gardens.

Ben Woodcock

b3nwoodcock@gmail.com

EARDISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

We met up last Sunday for the now traditional clear up and pumpkin soup. The garden has now been weeded and the compost heaps filled. We've left the bed of flowers as many will come back next year, and the birds were still enjoying the remaining seedheads. It was also good to see birds feasting on the berries in the 'Jam Hedge'. We'll have a look next year about how to maintain this hedge – hopefully we can get it laid to start increasing the number of berries it produces. There's also some work to do over the winter replacing a few of the timbers in the raised beds.

A big thanks to all who have turned out and helped over the year, and to those who have enjoyed the produce, the last of the pumpkins made for delicious soup (thanks Jo!).

Ben Woodcock

b3nwoodcock@gmail.com

EARDISLAND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CHARITY 1108366

Following a successful Village Show we hosted the café for the craft fair which was as ever busy and the delicious cakes contributed by the community soon sold out. Despite the weather the craft fair was its usual success. We in October also hosted another of our quiz nights which again brought many villagers and locals together for a fun evening. These events bring much-needed funds towards our “Community Hub” project, about which we hope to bring further news to the parish shortly.

We continue to host a programme of events for all to enjoy with the following events to be noted for your calendar: -

November

Sunday 16th – Funded Craft event - Lampshade making workshop 10am-2pm

This event was oversubscribed so we will look to offer another session early next year.

Friday 21st – Flicks in the Sticks “Mr Burton” 7pm – Village Hall

There will be a free glass of mulled wine for all coming to enjoy this lovely film.

December

Friday 5th - Christmas Wreath Making Workshop in the Village Hall with “Petals & Bouquets,” see poster for further details.

Sunday 7th – Santa & Xmas lights event, outside the shop in village from 4 pm

This offers free mulled wine and mince pies, Santa’s Grotto, lighting of the Christmas Tree and carols for all the parish. Please come along and enjoy the Christmas spirit of this lovely village.

Friday 12th December – Christmas Quiz Night 7pm A great fun Xmas Quiz with bumper raffle prizes and festive nibbles and drinks, All Welcome.

We have several clubs and activities on offer at the Village Hall on a regular basis and each welcomes newcomers.

Eardisland Air Rifle Club meets every Tuesday evening from 7pm. Contact Andy Wood 07540 687573 for details and interest.

Eardisland Stitchers continue to meet twice a month and welcome any new members, whether a crafter, stitcher, knitter, crochet or quilting lover we are all

like-minded and enjoy a shared array of projects. £6/3 hour session, pay as you participate, no membership required. Contact Susie for dates. Tel 07799486210

We offer classes in Pilates, Martial Arts and Tai Chi each week for all of those that want to keep their bodies in shape, with Mandy now offering a class in stretch on Tuesday afternoons. Please see details Village Hall noticeboards for class details.

The Village Hall is a great venue for hire for private parties, christenings, celebrations, hosting a talk or a fundraising event for your cause or charity. It offers large kitchen facilities, tables and chairs as well as WiFi, music equipment, projector, screen and a DVD player at your disposal.

The Costs to hire the Hall are:

Entire Premises: just £69 / day £44 for 4 hours and £15 for a single hour.

Main Hall Only: just £63 / day £38 for 4 hours and £13 for a single hour.

Meeting Room Only: just £38 / day £19 for 4 hours and £7 for a single hour.

Our fundraising events are held solely to support the running of the village hall and when possible, make improvements to the hall and supply new equipment to improve facilities on offer to the parish.

We would like to welcome any new members to the committee who feel they would like to be involved in any way big or small! We also have a Volunteers and Helpers list, if you feel you are unable to commit to, but would like to be involved in the fundraising events, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A huge thanks to all supporters of our events. Please look out for our Village Hall Activity Posters for what is coming up in the next few months.

The team at EVHMC would like to wish all supporters and parishioners a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026".



Susie Curtis and team – EVHMC



Friday 21st November, 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Tickets: Adults £4 | Children £3

Bar and snacks available

To prebook tickets, email susie.evhmc@yahoo.com

FEATURED FILM

Mr Burton

A 2025 British biographical drama about the early life of Welsh actor Richard Burton starring Harry Lawtey, Toby Jones & Lesley Manville



Registered Charity No 1108366



Eardisland Christmas Lights

Sunday 7th December

Santa's Grotto from 4.00pm | Lights on 5pm

FREE EVENT - ALL WELCOME

Mulled Wine | Mince Pies | Carols

to thank you for your
support this year



Brought to the community by Eardisland Village Hall,
Eardisland Community Shop, Eardisland Parish Council,
Eardisland Church and the E-Team.



Eardisland Village Hall

CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT

Christmas Treats | Bumper Raffle!



Friday 12th December; 7pm
Eardisland Village Hall

Maximum team of 6
Bar & refreshments provided



£2 admission - booking recommended!

Email susie.evhmc@yahoo.com or
scan the QR code to book

Eardisland
Village Hall





In October, Eardisland WI welcomed a fascinating and heartfelt presentation from Severn Freewheelers Blood Bikes, a volunteer-led charity providing urgent medical transport across the region. The speaker, Nigel Warwick, captivated the audience with stories from the road and insights into the life-saving work the Blood Bikes team undertakes daily.

Nigel was joined by Debbie Cottam, an

Eardisland WI member, and her husband Joe Logan—both of whom also volunteer for the charity.

The meeting was opened to the wider community, and it was wonderful to see guests from across the village come together to learn more about this vital service. Nigel made a memorable entrance on his bike, and several attendees even took the opportunity to hop on and experience the vehicle up close.

For more information about Severn Freewheelers take a look at their website: severnfreewheelers.org.uk.

During November Sally Hicks joined us to share her fabulous “Sketch a Day” and members enjoyed the opportunity to have a go at a piece of art for themselves.

Looking forward to the New Year we will meet on Monday 12th January for a talk with the National Trust, on People and Nature Thriving in Hereford.

February’s meeting will be on 9th February and the subject will be Genealogy. Meetings will be held in the village hall and start at 2.00 p.m. Guests welcome for a fee of £5.00.

The Eardisland WI Committee would like to thank everyone for their support over the last year and wish a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our members and everyone in Eardisland.

Helen Kirkham for Eardisland W.I.

EARDISLAND CRAFT & PRODUCE FAIR

A week or so before the fair I hopefully checked the weather forecast for the day of the show and was happy to see a smiling sun with a little cloud. Great I thought, we should be in for another bumper day, with a heavy footfall.

Sadly, from then onwards, the forecast started to change and warnings were soon being given for strong winds and rain. So often these forecasts prove to be wrong, so, thanks to the efforts of a number of helpers, the marquee was erected on the Wednesday morning. That evening it became clear that once again we were facing a named storm, Amy would be with us on the Friday and stay until the Saturday, with heavy rain. A big decision was required. Should we cancel or take our chances? Phone calls were made and the unanimous decision was we would run with it, thus becoming the only local event not to cancel. Stall-holders were contacted and given the opportunity to cancel with a full refund, with a dozen or so taking up this option, mostly those who intended setting up in gazebos.

At 7am on the day of the show, several helpers and I arrived at the churchyard to find the ends of the marquee were exposed, flapping in the gales, with metal fixings having worked their way loose and several bungees snapped. A number of heavy sandbags did the job (thanks Hugh Lowe) and were enough to ensure the structure stayed in place. A few brave stall-holders arrived and valiantly erected their gazebos, some more successfully than others, but by 10am the show opened and our fantastic public started to arrive. Within an hour the show was busy with brisk sales. Understandably not in the numbers of previous years, but by the end of the day a respectable 415, down around 150 on 2024.

We were so fortunate the rain stayed away, although the wind gusted throughout. There are so many people to thank for their invaluable help, not only on the day, but in the build-up and days after. It's impossible to name everyone, but you know who you are. So, to the marquee erectors, the car parkers, the ticket sellers, the sign erectors, those who helped in so many different ways in the village hall, the cake bakers, the barbecue team, the registration team, the table importers and exporters, the social media team, our accountant and not forgetting the stall-holders themselves, THANK YOU!

Finally, a huge thanks to Jon of GRC Ltd of Hereford, for the invaluable use of his company's Starlink satellite system, which enabled all stall-holders to make easy on-line sales through their phones. Jon was present all day, communicating with everyone making sales, ensuring their phones were correctly set up and connected to their system.

To me the money side is not the biggest factor of this event, nevertheless it is important, and for the record it raised £4,077. As in previous years the church takes 50%, with Eardisland in Bloom and the village hall sharing the remainder.

On a personal front both Richard Kirby and I have decided to call it a day and bow out gracefully. We started the show 10 years ago and never imagined it would become such a hit with stall-holders and the public alike. I'm very hopeful a new organiser(s) will be found, enabling the show to continue. If you're interested in taking on a role, please let either of us know.

Thank you for your support!

Phil Milchard



The Craft and Produce show has been an enormous success for years now. The volunteers, putting in many hours of work, managed to create a genuinely impressive occasion, especially given the relatively small size of the Eardisland community.

As Phil has written above, this year narrowly escaped the sudden onset of appalling weather in an otherwise calm summer and early autumn.

It is important to note that part of the profits go to Eardisland in Bloom a.k.a. the E-Team, who give of their time to keeping the village looking its best. They do a great job!

So, many thanks to Phil and Richard, who are stepping down, and all the other volunteers who have done so much for Eardisland.

Ed.

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.

Rector's position is vacant

Messages can still be left on Rectory phone

01568 708255

Curate	Rev Rosie Roberts	07720 333383 revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk
Reader	Rosie Capon:	07811 436412
Churchwarden/Organist	Annette Blyth	01544 388241 annette@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk
Deputy Churchwarden	Dian Cope	01544 388317
Treasurer:	Mike Coleburn	01544 388486
PCC Secretary:	Vacant	

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

Date	Time and type	Which church?
Sunday 23 rd Nov	9.30am Holy Communion Christ the King and Stir up Sunday!	Eardisland
Sunday 30 th Nov Advent Sunday	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion The Patriarchs	Eardisland
Sunday 7 th Dec	9.30am Holy Communion The Prophets	Eardisland
Sunday 14 th Dec	4.30pm Candlelit Carol Service and refreshments John the Baptist	Eardisland
Sunday 21 st Dec	9.30am Holy Communion The Virgin Mary 6.30pm Bishop Richard – Benefice Carols	Eardisland Kingsland
Christmas Eve	11.30pm Benefice Midnight Mass	Kingsland
Christmas Day	9.30am Family Communion	Eardisland

Sunday 28 th Dec	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion	Kingsland
Sunday 4 th Jan Epiphany	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 11 th Jan	9.30am iSingPoP	Eardisland
Sunday 18 th Jan	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland

Rector Vacancy – we have had several applications which have been short-listed for interview. The candidates will have an Orientation Day before being interviewed on Tuesday 25th November. However a new Rector, if appointed, may not be able to be in place until the summer, depending on their personal and professional circumstances.

‘STIR UP’ SUNDAY – This is the last Sunday before Advent, when the Collect prayer begins ‘Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people.’ Families traditionally gathered to make their Christmas puddings so that they had time to mature before Christmas. And add the sixpences!

ADVENT is a ‘waiting’ time as we prepare and remember the meaning of Christmas; in church the 4 Sundays of Advent are celebrated with the lighting of candles on our Advent Wreath. The beautiful purple hangings come out for this season and are changed to celebratory White and Gold for Christmas Day. So here are all the lovely things that we have organised for you to enjoy during December.

TRAVELLING CRIB – this is a box containing the Holy Family and all the people who came to worship baby Jesus. Households take turns to ‘host’ for a night during Advent; unpack the figures and arrange them as you like, add the fairy lights to illuminate them, think about the wonder of the birth of baby Jesus.

There will be a list of dates in the shop and you can come and sign up for a day, making arrangements with the family before/after you a convenient time to pass on the box. Whoever has it on Christmas Eve **MUST** bring it to church on Christmas morning!

CHRISTMAS CARD SCHEME

As we are becoming a ‘greener’ village, and as we are working towards being an Eco Church, instead of writing Christmas cards to all your village friends - and to save paper and other resources - we would like to invite you to display your seasonal good wishes in the church. Just a piece of paper/card, decorated if you

wish, with your greeting and first name/s written - or use a prepared card in the church. In lieu of the cost of cards, you could kindly make a donation to the church or your favourite charity.

Christmas Tree Decorating and Carols Saturday 13th December 10.30am

The children of the village are invited to come and help decorate our Christmas Tree, and any adults who would like to come and share the delight and joy of the occasion. Hot chocolate and carols, too!

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

4.30pm Sunday December 14th

Always a special occasion where we sing some favourite carols, listen to the Christmas story, watch the children dress our beautiful crib and enjoy the special atmosphere of candlelight. Seasonal refreshments too as we greet friends and neighbours and foster new friendships in our village.

Bishop Richard is coming to sing carols with the whole benefice at Kingsland Church on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm.

Often during a vacancy, there is pressure to find enough priests/leaders to take services. We have been fortunate not to have cancelled any services so far, but Midnight Mass this year will just be held in Kingsland Church.

Do join us on **Christmas morning (9.30am)** to celebrate Christ's birth – and anyone is welcome to bring along a Christmas gift to show the congregation. This is a very relaxed service and always a very happy occasion.

Together with Rev Rosie and the church community, I wish you a very blessed and joyful Christmas.

Annette Blyth
Church Warden

REV ROSIE'S NEWS

Rev Rosie has been appointed as Rector of the United Benefice of Cradley, Mathon and Storridge (near Malvern on the Worcestershire border). Rosie has been with us for just over two years as a curate (like an apprentice vicar) and it was inevitable that she would be moving on to look after her own parishes towards the end of her third year. She will be taking up her new post in July 2026 so will remain in these parishes probably until sometime in June.



Sacred and Profane...

An evening of music for Christmas and Epiphany, overseen by the 'Boy Bishop' and the Lord of Misrule!



Saturday 3 | 7.00
January 2026 | pm

Aymestrey Parish Hall, HR6 9SU

Tickets £12, including light refreshments
available from Rev Rosie on 07720 333383 or
lucinda@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk





NEW RELEASE – *Little Cat Lost* by Sarah Spinks

A heartwarming story that helps children understand animal safety and the power of asking for help.

When fireworks light up the sky, little Dot the cat doesn't feel excited—she feels *frightened*. The loud bangs and bright flashes send her running from home, lost and alone. But as Dot meets new animal friends along the way, she learns something very important: it's okay to be scared and it's okay to ask for help.

Beautifully written in rhyming verse and brought to life with adorable illustrations, *Little Cat Lost* gently teaches children about compassion, honesty, and communication. It's also a perfect way to open up conversations about firework safety and caring for animals during noisy celebrations.

Written by veterinary nurse turned author, **Sarah Spinks**, whose career in animal welfare and education inspired her to create a story that's as *educational* as it is *heartwarming*, this book is ideal for parents, teachers, and animal lovers alike. Whether you're cuddled up for story time or using it in the classroom, *Little Cat Lost* will delight young readers while helping them understand that courage sometimes means simply saying, "I need help."

Available from 28th October 2025

Paperback (£7.99) & Kindle Edition

Find it at **Waterstones | Amazon | Cranthorpe Millner Publishers**

Because every little cat—and every little reader—deserves to feel safe, seen, and heard. 🐾

An author in the village! Sarah has made a very valuable contribution to community life with her work on the various posters that you can see in the magazine. In particular, the Village Hall has benefited from her work.

The book, highlighted above, sounds a very interesting addition for those with animals, or simply those interested. I hope Sarah's publication is a success.

Ed.

HELP US PLANT 6KM OF HEDGEROW IN HEREFORDSHIRE BY APRIL 2026!



Once again CPRE Herefordshire (Campaign to Protect Rural England charity) will be planting hedges and running hedge laying courses across our county this Autumn and Winter. We are seeking volunteers to help with our hedge planting, working together for a better

environment in our beautiful county. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Hedges sequester carbon, help mitigate flooding and soil loss by slowing down run off and they create new wildlife corridors and habitats for mammals, birds and insects. We have sites throughout Herefordshire. Our planting day is between 10.00am and 2.00pm both during the week and at weekends.

To volunteer please email info@cpreherefordshire.org.uk or visit our website www.cpreherefordshire.org.uk to learn more about our hedge laying courses, hedge planting dates and locations.

FRAUD

Unfortunately, fraud has increased considerably in recent times. I get information from West Mercia Police, but it is impossible to give alerts, given that the magazine is bi-monthly. Essentially, tricksters will take any opportunity to separate you illegally from your money. Always be suspicious of telephone calls about your bank account (see BBC's Scam Interceptors). If you get a call supposedly about your bank account, winter fuel allowance, tax or anything similar, listen carefully to what is said BUT DO NOT SAY ANYTHING. If they do not provide specific contact details, put down the phone WITHOUT ANY COMMENT.

If they do provide details, still put the phone down and check numbers or details on your bank card, statement or any official communication. If you have any doubts, ask a friend or family member before taking any action.

Always be suspicious and stay safe!

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT

The weather for Eardisland began to change after the dry summer. September's rainfall measured 97mm (3.82 inches) and frost showing on the 22nd and 23rd. Barometer pressures ranging from 29.24 to 30.1 were recorded and temperatures ranged from 16°C to 23°C. The river levels were low at 9 inches.

The weather for October continued to show more rain with 56mm (2.20 inches) recorded. Barometer readings ranged from 29.00 to 30.14 with temperatures recorded at 11°C to 19°C. Despite the increase in rainfall the river remained low at 9 inches.

The equivalent rainfall for September 2024 was 142mm (5.6 inches) and October 154mm (6.06 inches).

Doug Tantrum reporting for Kingfisher House

STORM CLAUDIA

Subsequent to Doug's report above, storm Claudia moved up from the south, hitting Herefordshire on the afternoon and night of Friday 14th November. The storm had made its way through Tenerife and other Canary Islands, where considerable damage was done from the rain and high winds. It progressed, mainly to the west of the UK, hitting Devon and south Wales, then up to our part of the world and thence further up the country.

Eardisland was cut off because of flooding, but it has to be said that we escaped relatively lightly. Pictures of Monmouth and Eywas Harold – to the south-west of Hereford, showed scenes of considerable flooding.

Whilst our house, Arrow Bank, is prone to flooding, Ruth and I escaped with no water ingress (at the time of writing!).

Over this year, the considerable efforts by the Parish Council and our Herefordshire Councillor, Roger Phillips, have persuaded the Environment Agency to undertake considerable work to ameliorate the effects of flooding on many individual properties. The work in the village has now mostly been completed. I, for one, am grateful to all concerned for the efforts made.

The best way to check river levels is to go to this website:

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

This gives the river level at Eardisland (the sensor is on the grass by the bridge). It is helpful to look upstream, to Titley. Water from there usually takes around six hours to get here, although this time, for unknown reasons, the time-lag was longer at around seven hours.

Postings on Facebook are also invaluable because they give very local information. Thanks to those who post so usefully and Eardisland Parish Council Flood Response Group.

Chris Bivand

Volunteering Opportunities with ONSIDE

ONSIDE is a charity that supports local people who may be finding life particularly hard. They may be isolated, living with dementia, mental or physical ill health, learning difficulties, or be children or families in crisis without the ability, confidence or knowledge to take the first steps to reach out for help.

There are lots of ways you can use your skills, experience and interests to support local people to overcome difficulties and live their best possible life.

Volunteer Benefits

Initial and ongoing training
Peer & Service Support
Mileage and expenses paid
Rewarding roles that make a difference
Discounts: Charity Worker and Community Cafe
Flexibility around your availability
Social Gatherings
Company Events
Mental Health First Aid
Regular Catch-Ups

As a **Community Advocacy Volunteer** you will support vulnerable people in a variety of ways. You may help them to:

- Live independently by dealing with issues with utility providers or setting up a bank account
- Make a complaint about a service or situation they are unhappy with, such as a housing or benefits issue.



As an **Independent Health Complaints Advocate Volunteer** you will be supporting adults who want to complain about their NHS care or treatment. This is a free and confidential service independent of the NHS.



As a **Relevant Persons Representative Volunteer** you will be 'looking out' for an older or disabled person living in a Residential or Nursing care home, making sure they are getting the right care and support and are being treated fairly. This role provides support for people in with a DoLS in place. A DoLS is a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding meaning the person you support is unable to leave of their own free will.



Why not listen to our amazing volunteer, Sarah, chat about her volunteering with ONSIDE



Get in touch today to start your volunteering journey
Email: volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk Phone: 01905 27525



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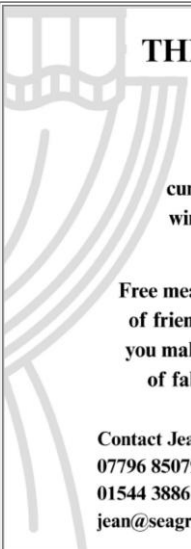


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CONTACTS

Editorial: CHRIS BIVAND
Arrow Bank, Eardisland, Leominster, HR6 9BT
01544 388375
Email: chrisbivand@gmail.com

Advertising: PATRICIA GILL
01544 388757
Email: parishads@btinternet.com

Distribution Manager: BARRY FREEMAN
01544 – 388226

Website: BEN WOODCOCK
Email: ben@eardisland.org.uk

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