

EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY 2025

ISSUE 207



*Taken at 8.00am on Monday 30th June, the temperature was already in the lower 20s.
The 'tank' on the lawn is the shadow of next door's chimney.*

*The June temperatures have been on a par with the high temperatures in 1976, itself
a record.*

Photo taken with Xiaomi 14 with a Leica lens. Camera phones can be very good!

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EDITORIAL

At the end of this month, we say farewell to the Rector, Julie Read. For twelve years, Julie has supported this small community with her faith and service. There is an appreciation, by Annette Blyth, on page 26. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Julie every happiness for the future.

If you are a patient registered with Mortimer Medical Practice, please make a note of the information that Diane Lee has included in her piece on page 12. In particular, there are important changes to making appointments, and a new telephone number and internet address. If you do not have internet access, there are arrangements in place to accommodate your needs.

I imagine that most of us have suffered the delays in accessing Leominster, with traffic lights on Bargates (yet again). The housing developments are coming on quickly, with the attendant roadworks and inconvenience. I do wonder, though, whether sufficient regard has been given to support services – dentists, healthcare, education etc. It's one thing to build houses, another to support the new residents and their families.

Roger Phillips' writing on page 5 touches on the thrust to build new houses. This will affect all communities throughout Herefordshire as well as nationally. It will be important to examine all future planning applications to ascertain how viable they really are.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the fine weather. It will be welcomed by some, but not, perhaps, by farmers whose produce is affected by the heat and lack of rain.

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY

Saturday 12 th July	Bingo Night, p.7
Friday 8 th August	Quiz Night, p.8
Sunday 24 th August	Duck Races – 2.00pm, Millstream, p.9
Thursday 4 th September	Community Shop AGM, p.6
Friday 5th September	Magazine copy date
Saturday 6 th September	Eardisland Village Show, 2.00pm, VH, p.16
Thursday 11 th September	Parish Council meeting
Friday 19 th September	Auction of Promises, p.22
Friday 26 th September	Quiz Night
Saturday 4 th October	Craft and Produce Fair
Thursday 9 th October	Parish Council meeting
Monday 13 th October	Severn Freewheelers Blood Bikes, p.12
Friday 14th November	Magazine copy date
Friday 14 th November	Flicks in the Sticks
Thursday 13 th November	Parish Council meeting
Saturday 6 th December	Christmas Lights / Santa's Grotto
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Quiz Night

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.

FINISHED COPY

Please check your copy carefully before sending it to me for publication. In every edition there are dozens of mistakes. Most, if not all, are identified by Ruth Brinton-Bivand, who does the

proof-reading, and subsequently corrected. The checking and correction process takes many hours which is tedious and should be unnecessary.

Ed.

EARDISLAND PARISH COUNCIL

We've been fortunate to enjoy some wonderful weather recently, which has enabled us all to get out and enjoy our beautiful village. The sunshine has brought Eardisland to life, from colourful gardens, the beautiful, peaceful corners by the river, and it's been lovely to see people taking in the views and appreciating the setting. The beauty of the village continues to draw in visitors, and it's a reminder of how lucky we are to live in such a special place.

On 19th May, the Annual Parish Meeting took place, where Jerry Blyth was re-elected as Chair and Shelley Connop as Vice Chair of the Parish Council. The meeting also included a series of reports reflecting the past year's activity in the village — covering everything from the Village Hall Committee to the Church, the WI, the Environment Sustainability Group and more. A full list of the reports is available to read on the Parish Council website.

On Monday 10th June, Eardisland was included in a formal site visit as part of a Section 19 Flood Investigation, commissioned by Herefordshire Council following the dreadful flooding we experienced in January and October 2024. Chair of the Parish Council, Jerry Blyth, and Councillor Rebecca Rhys-Evans attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

Section 19 investigations are a legal duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. They aim to identify what caused a flood event, clarify which organisations are responsible for managing the risks, and make recommendations for future action.

The visit to Eardisland brought together representatives from several key bodies, including:

- The Environment Agency
- River Lugg Internal Drainage Board
- Binnies (technical consultants)
- Highways
- Herefordshire Council officers
- Our local Ward Member
- Eardisland Parish Council

The group spent around three hours walking through the village with us, during which we were able to highlight key areas affected by flooding — including drainage issues and locations where surface water regularly collects and is difficult to clear. It was a constructive and detailed visit, and it was encouraging to have the opportunity to show the reality of the challenges we face first-hand.

The investigation will result in a formal report containing a series of recommendations. While it's important to note that these do not guarantee that

any specific works will follow, the process does mark a step forward in recognising the local impact of flooding here in Eardisland. The Parish Council will continue to follow developments closely and update residents as things progress.

The Parish Council is also in the process of updating the Welcome Pack that's given to new residents. It's a small way of helping people settle in and find out what's happening in the parish. We've already been in touch with many of the regular groups and organisations, but if you're involved in something that you feel would be a beneficial addition to the Welcome Pack, please contact either Rebecca or Shelley to discuss it.

If you'd 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. Meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month, but dates may occasionally vary.

As always, thank you to everyone who plays a part in supporting parish life — whether quietly or visibly. It's that everyday contribution from so many people that helps keep Eardisland the special place it is.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – ROGER PHILLIPS

rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Herefordshire's Call for Sites for Houses

Despite Herefordshire Council's objections, the Government is persisting with its increased housing target on our County of 27,260 new dwellings in the next 20 years. A rate on average of over 1,350 per year which we have never ever achieved in the County, where we currently have 82,000 homes for our population of 190,000 people. We have made the case of lack of transport and public services infrastructure or capacity, and where the people are coming from with the skills to build all these properties, but government has maintained the target.

So, Herefordshire Council, as the planning authority, must begin again a new core strategy identifying potential sites and as a result a call for sites is being issued to landowners in Herefordshire. In the first instance, potential for significant increases in our city and market towns will be examined. I must, however, stress that any new sites must reflect the government's policy of sustainable locations and as such the overwhelming majority of our parishes will be classified as open countryside with planning strictly limited. The most obvious potential sites will be around our main village settlements. Landowners will need to assess the sustainability and deliverability of the sites, consider the constraints and how to overcome them. Last time Neighbourhood Plans were developed with funding from the government to give local communities more say over

local development. However, the government has recently announced that they will not provide any funding for future Neighbourhood Plans leaving costs to be picked up by the parish councils.

For Eardisland, which has been designated a village for development for over 60 years, the issue is identifying sites that are not at risk of flooding or have an impact on the flood plain. I will work with the Parish Council and community, but I know there are differing concerns on future building or the consequences or not. The other problems are we still have to deal with the phosphate restrictions on housing development in the Lugg catchment area and deliver more housing appropriate for our working families and maturing population.

The draft accounts for the County Council 2024/25 have been published and show considerable tight control of finances particularly the pressurised departments of adult and children's care. The Council recorded an underspend on the revenue account of 500K which is a much more stable position than our neighbouring authorities. We will have to wait till December to know of the government support for 2026/27 but indications are they will be tough for rural local authorities.

As ever if I can be of any help please don't hesitate to make contact.

Roger

Report problems on the road – ONLINE - Herefordshire Council FixMyStreet
Home - report app (herefordshire.gov.uk) or Phone 24/7 - 01432 261800

Eardisland Community Shop AGM

Thursday 4th September at 7.00pm
Eardisland Village Hall

**All shareholders and any interested
parishioners are welcome**



BINGO NIGHT

Join us at
Eardisland Village Hall
for a night full of fun!

Saturday 12th July
Bar from 6.30pm | Game starts 7pm

£1 per book (6 games)
Raffle | Prizes

Eardisland
Village Hall
Registered Charity No 1108366



Eardisland Village Hall

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 8th August; 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





Eardisland Duck Race

Sunday 24th August 2025

Fun starts at 1pm with food, refreshments
and games.

Ducks on sale from 1.45pm;
first race at 2pm.

Races | Raffle | Games
BBQ | Pimm's & Prosecco

Come and join us for our annual duck race.
A family afternoon of fun, all in aid of funds
for Eardisland Village Hall.

Eardisland
Village Hall

Charity for Eardisland

We have had some successful fundraising events recently that have been enjoyed in the Village Hall including another of our Quiz Nights where teams have challenged each other in the amusing question rounds. Our quizzes are fun and suitable for all. We are hoping to increase the frequency of the quiz nights as requested and the next one is Friday 8th August. We also have another Bingo Night on the 12th July, due to popular request: Why not come and join in?

I must say a huge thank you to everyone supporting our events. I am pleased to say we raise much needed funds for the upkeep of the village hall and improvements to the facility. These funds have been put to use recently with a new front door to the Hall, in keeping with the style of the old one, however the new one offers more security, low maintenance and is floodproof (we hope). This was part-funded with a grant. We also needed to replace the sound system with a new one which will give much improved sound quality and further features, so no more crackle and back noise as experienced so often. We will now return to hosting Flicks in the Sticks film nights from September.

The Hall has been fitted with flood barriers to all doorways and has been issued with a number of pumps with the aid of the Environment Agency, so we should be well prepared for the next flood incident!

We appreciated enormously all those that completed our survey in April, we had surveys from over 35% of the parish, thank you! It has highlighted to the committee the many things you would like us to try and host and services you would welcome should we be able to initiate. We will bear these in mind and do our best to facilitate. If you would like to start up a club at the hall, you are more than welcome, and we will be happy to support.

Mandy has joined the regular hirers with her offer of stretch classes every Tuesday afternoon 2 – 2.45pm. The classes are aimed at anyone looking to improve their balance, bone health, flexibility and strength.

We have started collecting items for our Tombola stand at this year's Annual Duck Races on the 24th August (save the date), please have a look at home to see if you can spare some items. There are boxes placed in the following locations for your convenience – Village Hall, Community Shop and Arrow Bank Caravan Park Office. Alternatively, you can give to any committee member.

The Village Show is also not far off, and we would love as many entries as possible please. The subject this year is "Rain or Shine", we have had more shine than rain recently! Entry forms can be found enclosed in the magazine and spare ones can be found at the Village Hall or Community Shop. Date for the show is Saturday 6th September.

We are also looking at creating a community hub in the committee room for health, wellbeing and IT services for the community. This is a big project and

needs funding, we are hoping to be successful in some of our grant applications and are working hard to raise the funds so this can be actioned as soon possible.

If you feel you have a little spare energy, enthusiasm and ideas then volunteer with us or join the Committee to ensure the Village Hall stays the vibrant heart of our terrific community. It's also a great way to get involved in village life and make new friends.

Please look out for our future events and Village Hall activity posters and information on the slider board for what is coming up in the next few months.

We look forward to seeing you all soon,

Susie and team – EVHMC

EARDISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



If you use the internet, email, telephone or merely answer the door to a stranger, you could be the target of unsolicited approaches by people who, by way of fraud, want to obtain your personal information or even your money. There are many different types of fraud and scam with Phishing, Vishing and Smishing being some of the more widely used.

Along with more general crime prevention advice, Neighbourhood Watch membership provides you with weekly Fraud Alerts from West Mercia Police along with access to online resources that provide information about these fraudulent activities, how to recognise them and avoid falling victim to them.

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)

EARDISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The WI enjoyed an afternoon at Hergest Croft Gardens in May to see all the rhododendrons in full bloom. We thought at the time we were lucky with the weather but as it appears now this was the start of a very early summer.

Our June meeting was the next part in the History of the English Language with Carole Millin. Such an interesting talk, we all would have loved to have heard more, especially when it came to William Shakespeare's influence on the modern English language.

We have had to amend our programme for July and August and will now be having the Summer Social in the village hall on July 14th and the Garden Party on 11th August.

We will resume our programme in September with the visit to The Cart Shed on the 8th September.

Monday 13th October

Eardisland WI

2.00.p.m. Village Hall

Severn Freewheelers Blood Bikes

Open Meeting – All Welcome

£5.00 on the Door

MORTIMER MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

The new telephone number for all 3 Practices Kingsland, Orleton and Leintwardine will be **01568 708214** this will come into operation on: Monday 7th July 2025.

The new email address for all 3 surgeries is now:

mortimer.medicalpractice@nhs.net

Dr Callum Bartlett will be retiring this summer. Dr Matt Howard will be starting as a new GP on 1st September.

A new system called Total Triage will be coming into operation 1st October 2025. This will be an online service which hopefully will help the 8.30am telephone rush for appointments. Patients will be asked to complete an online form with questions about their symptoms / problems. This will be triaged by a GP in the

surgery and patients will be offered either a same day appointment, an appointment for another day, a telephone conversation, a prescription left at the dispensary to be picked up, or an appointment to see a Practice Nurse, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Physician Associate, or advice to attend a Minor Injuries Department or Accident and Emergency Department.

For patients who have special needs or have no internet access they will still be able to ring the surgery normally. More in depth information will be available in the coming months as to how this service will come online. The Practice wanted the PPG members to inform as many patients as possible before its implementation.

Our next PPG meeting will be 25th September. If anyone has any issues/concerns they would like me to raise, please contact me on 01544 387685.

Diane Lee

EARDISLAND PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

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

CRAYFISH PLAGUE

The Environment Agency is investigating the deaths of our rare and legally protected native white-clawed crayfish on the River Arrow (Herefordshire) between Kington and Pembridge.

White-clawed crayfish look like miniature lobsters; they hide away under rocks and logs during the day and emerge during the night to eat. They are our largest native, freshwater invertebrate but are now rare in Britain. The few remaining populations of white-clawed crayfish are very vulnerable to this disease and also face local extinction due to competition from non-native crayfish species and loss of habitat.

The disease can be transferred to white-clawed crayfish in other parts of the catchment via water and mud on damp clothes, footwear, bike tyres, vehicle tyres, fishing or boating equipment or any machinery, or by dogs, horses or livestock.

If you are using equipment in any river, to stop the spread of the plague, other infectious diseases or invasive species, please follow these steps: clean off any mud or vegetation and remove any standing water. Either thoroughly dry the equipment, preferably in sunlight, making sure all nooks and crannies are dry OR treat with a disinfectant capable of killing fungal spores. Do not use damp equipment in another stream on the same day.

In addition:

1. Report any sighting of dead or distressed crayfish to the EA incident line.
2. Avoid entering the River Arrow, between Kington and Pembridge.
3. Biosecurity measures should be taken when visiting any watercourse to avoid spreading invasive species and disease. Particularly, thoroughly check, clean and dry anything entering the water courses on the River Arrow, between Kington and Pembridge

If you see dead crayfish or an environmental incident, please phone the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

Please do not handle or remove live or dead crayfish. It is illegal to do this without a licence.

Ben Woodcock
b3nwoodcock@gmail.com 01544 388976

EARDISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden will be at its most productive over the next few months so please go down and help yourself. There should be plenty of green beans and courgettes. There will also be some pumpkins and squashes growing for later in the year.

Feel free to pull up a few weeds or empty a few watering cans while you are there!

Ben Woodcock
b3nwoodcock@gmail.com 01544 388976

FLOWERS OF THE ARROW

Ella Curry has been making progress on her Kew Gardens Grow Wild Youth Grant project 'Flowers of the Arrow'. She was awarded a £500 grant earlier this year to identify, survey, record, and paint native river plants along the River Arrow.

You may have spotted Ella carrying out her botanical surveys throughout the village recently, accompanied by Ben Woodcock (who is helping to support Ella throughout her project). She now has a species list for the native river plants of the Arrow and will be spending the next few months producing paintings of many of these species. She will then be compiling a pamphlet containing reproductions of her paintings alongside information on how to identify each species, as well as their importance for the Arrow (and of course, some fun facts too!). Once created, it is planned that copies of this pamphlet will be stocked in the Eardisland Community Shop for all to enjoy.

Ella's paintings will be exhibited in Eardisland Village Hall, with the exhibition currently planned for September. This will be a free exhibition, with prints of her paintings available for purchase. All proceeds and optional

donations will go to the Eardisland Environment and Sustainability Group to support further environmental initiatives within the community. She hopes to see many of you there!

Ella also plans to use her newly refreshed botanical identification skills to run a series of identification workshops and/or talks for the local community as a way of further sharing her knowledge and passion for native plants and the natural world. She will share details of these sessions in due course.

Ella says: “My project aims to highlight the importance of native aquatic flora in and around the River Arrow, particularly regarding native river plants’ roles as indicators of river health and the importance of river buffer zones and aquatic biodiversity. I hope that my project will enthuse and educate the local community on these topics through my art exhibition, informative materials, and future botany identification sessions.”



A NOTE ABOUT ADVERTISING IN THE EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

The Advertising Manager is Patricia Gill. The basic principle is that adverts that are for personal or corporate gain are charged at the advertised rates. Posters for parish and local events are free of charge. Charities are not charged. We do not run political advertisements.

Inserts are defined as item(s) delivered with the magazine, but NOT stapled into it, and are charged for delivery. There are some exceptions - for example, the Christmas and Easter cards from the church community.

Funds from advertising are paid directly to Eardisland Parish Council and accounted for by them.

It is not, and never has been, the intention that the cost of producing the magazine is covered in full by advertising. The Eardisland Parish Magazine is regarded as a service to the community, provided by the Parish Council.

Chris Bivand, Editor



"Come Rain or Shine"

Eardisland Village Hall and
Recreation Ground

Saturday 6th September 2025

2.00 - 4.30 pm

Prizes will be awarded at 4.00 pm

£1 admission charge for adults

Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee (EVHMC)
Registered Charity 1108366

Section A

COOKERY

- 1 Flapjacks (see recipe on entry form)
- 2 A jar of homemade jam
- 3 A jar of homemade marmalade
- 4 A jar of homemade chutney
- 5 Savoury snack for a picnic basket (please specify)
- 6 A birthday cake for family or friend (any type or size)
- 7 A loaf of bread (any type- please specify) men
- 8 A loaf of bread (any type- please specify) women

Section B

DRINKS

- 9 A flavoured gin
- 10 A flavoured spirit
- 11 A non-alcoholic drink
- 12 A cocktail

Section C

FLORAL ART

- 13 A wildflower bouquet
- 14 An arrangement in a basket.
- 15 An Autumn wreath.

Section D

CRAFT

- 16 An item for the home (any material)
- 17 An item made from felt or wool (any medium)
- 18 An item representing "Come Rain or Shine" (any medium)

Section E

HORTICULTURE- Division 1

- 19 A single yellow rose (Megan Lloyd Trophy)
- 20 Dahlias (3 stems, any variety)
- 21 Garden flowers (3 stems, any variety)
- 22 Sweet peas (5 stems, any colour)
- 23 Family Favourite (any single flower head)

HORTICULTURE- Division 2

- 24 3 cooking apples (Leslie Evans prize)
- 25 3 tomatoes
- 26 A display of garden fruits (any size)
- 27 A display of garden produce (any size)
- 28 A hand-tied bunch of fresh herbs (may be displayed in a jug)
- 29 Free choice (1 item of produce)

Section F

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 30 Out in all weathers
- 31 Reflections
- 32 My favourite spot in Eardisland

Section G

ART

- 33 Landscape picture
- 34 Eardisland
- 35 Autumn (1 piece of art, any medium)

Section H

JUST FOR A LAUGH

(entries free and open to all ages)

- 36 Limerick beginning, "Come rain or shine"
- 37 A vegetable animal
- 38 Heaviest pumpkin

Section I CHILDREN

Children are also welcome to enter the adult categories.

Children under 5

- 39 Rainbow (craft)
- 40 A decorated cup cake
- 41 A Lego model

Children 5-10

- 42 A painted pebble
- 43 Rainbow (craft)
- 44 A decorated cup cake
- 45 A Lego model

Children 11-15

- 46 A painted pebble
- 47 Rainbow (craft)
- 48 A decorated cup cake
- 49 A Lego model

Children 16-20

- 50 A sculpture or model
- 51 Rainbow (craft)
- 52 A Landscape picture
- 53 A birthday cake

**See Entry Form for details of how to enter
Entry Forms available from the Village Shop, Parish Magazine or Parish
Website from July.**

**Entries cost 50p per item for adults. Children may enter free of charge
in the Children's Sections but fee payable in the adult sections.**

EARDISLAND VILLAGE SHOW ENTRY FORM 2025
Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee (EVHMC)
Registered Charity 1108366

Please circle the numbers of classes you wish to enter. Entry costs 50p for the adults' section, children are free in the children's section.

Complete and return this entry form with the fees in a sealed envelope marked 'show' to either the village hall or Community Shop by Friday 29th August.

Enquiries: Susie Curtis ☎ 07799486210

COOKERY	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8						
COOKERY	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8						
DRINKS	B9	B10	B11	B12										
FLORAL ART	C13	C14	C15											
CRAFT	D16	D17	D18											
HORTICULTURE (1)	E19	E20	E21	E22	E23									
HORTICULTURE (2)	E24	E25	E26	E27	E28	E29								
PHOTOGRAPHY	F30	F31	F32											
ART	G33	G34	G35											
JUST FOR A LAUGH (free to enter)			H36	H37	H38									
CHILDREN:	I39	I40	I41	I42	I43	I44	I45	I46	I47	I48	I49	I50	I52	I53

Full name:

Telephone number:

Exhibits must be your own work. Judge's decisions are final.

Entries should be taken to the Recreation Ground on Saturday 6th September between 9 am and 10.30 am. Judging will take place during the morning, and the marquee will be open to the public from 2pm. Prize giving, and raffle draw will take place at 4pm. Prize money will be paid out after the announcements. Any prize money not collected by 5pm will be returned to Show Funds. All exhibits must be collected by 5pm.

FLAPJACK RECIPE – A1

INGREDIENTS

250g jumbo porridge oats
125g butter plus extra for the tin
125g light brown sugar
2-3 tbsp golden syrup
(depending on how gooey you want it)

METHOD

Step 1

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

Step 2

Put the oats, butter, sugar and golden syrup in a large bowl and work until well mixed – be careful not to overmix or the oats may lose their texture.

Step 3

Lightly butter a 20 x 20cm baking tin and add the mixture. Press into the corners with the back of a spoon so the mixture is flat and score into 12 squares.

Step 4

Bake for around 15 mins until golden brown.

Step 5

Leave to cool the ready to serve.

Auction of Promises



Fantastic lots including artwork by local artists, hampers, afternoon tea and loads more!

St Mary's Church, Eardisland
Friday 19th September 2025, 7pm
£5 entry to include a drink and nibbles

For tickets and more details contact
revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk /
07720 333383

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 until July 31st	Rev. Julie Read, The Rectory, Kingsland. 07826 194400 01568 708255 rev.julie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk
Curate	Rev Rosie Roberts 07720 333383 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 13 th July	10.30am Holy Communion Benefice farewell especially including children	Kingsland
Sunday 20 th July	9.30am Taize service – Julie’s final service here with refreshments	Eardisland
Sunday 27 th July	10.30am Final farewell to Julie, presentations etc	Kingsland
Sunday 3 rd August	10.30 Holy Communion Archdeacon Derek Chedzey	Aymestrey
Sunday 11 th August	10.30 Holy Communion celebrating Lammas – presentation of first bread of season in church	Aymestrey
Sunday 17 th August	10.30am Holy Communion Patronal Festival for St Mary the Virgin with refreshments!	

Sunday 24 th August	10.30am Holy Communion	Kingsland
Sunday 31 st August	10.30am Holy Communion led by Benefice Youth Group	Kingsland
Sunday 7 th Sept	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 14 th Sept	9.30am iSingPoP	Eardisland

Sat 12th July – 10am Kingsland Church Consultation Meeting

This will be chaired by Rev Nicholas Lowton who is experienced in helping congregations shape and hone their views as to the desired skills that they would like to see in a new incumbent.

Everyone, churchgoer or not, is welcome to come to this meeting.

Sunday 13th July – READ Family Concert Kingsland, 7pm. BYO drinks, and donations for Muscular Dystrophy will be welcomed. Julie and Nick's family are a very talented bunch, and it will be a most enjoyable evening.

Julie's final service here is going to be worship in the Taize style; it is a quiet, contemplative time, interspersed with easy-to-sing chants, short prayers and readings. She introduced this type of service to us quite a few years ago and we have come to love it so it seems fitting that it is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of her ministry with us.

The final 'big bash!' will be at Kingsland Church on Sunday 27th July at 10.30am. Everybody is welcome, or if you'd rather, come along at 11.30am to join in the farewells, speeches etc, have a glass of bubbly and enjoy the laughter and maybe a few tears....

FROM THE RECTOR – JULIE READ

July is a time for endings and new beginnings – school, college and university terms finish, degree ceremonies and leaving events happen and new chapters begin. A time to say thank you for those who have been on those journeys – teachers and all who work in those places to support and encourage us for our journeys to be not solitary but in community, with our friends and classmates. It maybe that you are not moving far, to the next classroom and a new teacher, or it maybe that you are off to a new school or to find a job. If the latter, then it is time to pack your bags.

What do you need to pack? An education - well that is something that is part of you from the process, an ethos – a set of values that formed how you worked with others and how you view the world, a group of friends that have gone on the journey with you and you enjoyed their company, a few precious

things – awards or special pieces of work that taught you something, a picture or two to remind you, a leaver's sweatshirt seems to be a thing, and memories of lessons learnt (they always seem to come to mind first) and the general security of everyday life.

I am always struck by the parents of children at Kingsland Primary School when it is their time to leave the community of the school family. They too are sad to be leaving, as secondary schools are a time for the young to learn independence and the role of the parent changes. This time I will be joining them in the leaving process, and I take my lead from the school who have lots of celebrations and a song and words marking the time of leaving and moving on to new things.

There will be two events on Sunday 13th July which I am calling Going, Going....., a service at 10.30am rather like a songs of praise to give thanks for the last 12 years, and in the evening a concert organised by my 2 sons at 7pm which is a concert/party bring along a bottle. This will be free entry but there will be a donation plate for Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy Charity which is set up for research into this genetic condition and affects one of our grandchildren. Then on the last Sunday, July 27th at 10.30am, there will be my last service with you all Going, Going, Gone. All are invited to this special service at which I know the churchwardens will be sending me out on the next adventure. I hear that retirement is as busy if not more than work??

Jesus said to his disciples when he was leaving them - *Do not let your hearts be troubled, Trust in God, Trust also in me..... I go to prepare a place for you.....*(and when Doubting Thomas said we don't know the way) Jesus said *I am the way, the truth, the life*. I will be trusting that Jesus/God/The Holy Spirit will show me the way forward and I hope and pray that that will be the same for you. So there's something to pack, pack the faith you have found, it might be something that you can share with new friends who haven't had that kind of education and don't know about the love of God that means that they are very precious.

Pack your bags carefully – you need to travel light but don't throw away something precious.

Every blessing

Julie

FAREWELL TO JULIE READ

Julie... how to sum up twelve years of ministry and all that you have come to mean to us?

All of us will have shared different experiences and relationships with Julie during the twelve years she has been our priest. And as she said in the May Parish Magazine it has certainly been a journey. Some know her only in passing, or have met her at events, had brief chats or attended services she has taken. Some will know Julie as she has been with them in times of illness and sadness, marriage or baptism. Others have seen her more regularly, worked and worshipped with her, and got to know her well.

Julie is our example of true Christian love, care, generosity and faithfulness. She listens intently and observes keenly, caring for her flock in ways seen and unseen. She encourages gifts, talents, ideas and helps bring them to fruition. For many she is a confidante with wise counsel and presence in the various happenings in our lives.

Her musical gifts have brought us joy – in Taize worship, the Steel Pan group, conducting choral items, accompanying our singing on the piano, playing her oboe, introducing new, beautiful music and words and always leading singing with her beautiful soprano voice.

The Bishop has entrusted to her the responsibility the care and training of two curates and an intern – all of whom are now ‘flying’ as priests with the wisdom of her insightful guidance. She has encouraged and supported a Reader through her training. Bishop Richard also appointed her Prebendary (known as Canon in some places) which is an honour given to priests for accomplishment and esteem. It was our joy to attend that service and see her led to her special stall in the quire of the cathedral.

I know she means a lot to the children in our area, for being a school governor and supporting the staff, taking assemblies, bringing the children to church for special events and services, planning activities for them. Now we have a thriving children’s ministry in Messy Church (family worship with activities, stories and breakfast), Open the Book (acting Bible stories with everyone taking part), iSingPop (activities and worship for slightly older children), Forest Church and now a Youth Group. A tremendous achievement: attendance at those services is now higher than the total adults across all our churches!

There is a Pilgrim group in our church; praying, discussing, learning and forming firm bonds of fellowship; across the parishes a Bible study group, a craft group; then there are all the PCCs and Church Wardens she encourages and inspires – and indeed, the huge and sometimes nightmarish task of leading Building Projects!

Of course, Julie hasn't done this single-handed – it is her skill at fostering talents and encouraging that has built teams of people who can lead and organise; that co-operate across the Benefice and share their knowledge.

And then there's God whom she loves, trusts, gives thanks to, asks for help, relies on - this she has taught, given examples, inspired, increased faith.... a never-ending list is possible here! We know that we have been blessed to have her as our priest, and she will always have a very special place in our hearts.

Like the rest of us, she has had her share of low times – including serious surgery; and I hope that she found that we supported her in the manner that she has so well and often supported us. Each time she has found new learning from her experiences and shared that insight.

It has been my privilege, particularly being organist, to work alongside Julie in the 'life events' services – baptisms, marriages, funerals. I am constantly amazed at the particular gift she has of saying the right words, of comfort, humour, welcome, thoughtfulness etc in exactly the right tone of voice, whenever they are needed.

Anyone who thinks a priest just writes a few sermons, visits a few people and takes services on Sundays is very sadly mistaken. It is a mammoth task to organise a Benefice, attend endless Diocesan, Deanery, Chapter meetings; training and initiatives to bring back to the parishes – and keep up with a never-ending stream of emails and phone calls all from people who need to know something or need help. And she is there. Drops everything for anyone in crisis and holds their hand.

In everything there are huge amounts of laughter. Sometimes things have gone wrong, or we have forgotten something, or something unexpected has happened in a service and we have a good laugh either during or afterwards. More laughter in meetings than I have ever known. Then there are sometimes the Mad Ideas – usually after she's been on holiday – we roll our eyes at her and laugh. But mad though they seem, they are generally good ideas, and we get on with the business of putting them into practice. I didn't realise that Mad Ideas were such a priest 'thing' until Bishop Richard preached and said that we were lucky that he hadn't returned from his sabbatical with a long list of them!

Julie is fond of a drop of gin or of bubbly at social occasions and her final farewell service will be followed by the latter. Come and say thank you and show your appreciation of the ministry of this amazing lady, true and faithful servant of God.

Annette Blyth

LEOMINSTER FOOD BANK



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

By early May we had already distributed more than 1000 food parcels to people in Leominster and its surrounds, of which over 500 were for children.

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

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

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

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

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, please email:

adminn@leominsterfoodbank.org

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

Thank you to everyone who supports this important work.

On a purely personal note, I find it tragic that we have food banks at all in this day and age. We are a relatively wealthy country, but we have part of our population struggling for food. This cannot be acceptable.

Ed.



EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT

May saw a continuation of the lack of rain with only 25mm (0.985 inches) recorded, barometer readings ranged from 29.58 to 30.04 and temperatures from 16°C to 24°C were recorded. The river level remained at a steady 15 inches.

June showed a small improvement in the rainfall with 45mm (1.77 inches) recorded. Barometer readings ranged from 29.4 to 30.08. Temperatures rose towards the end of the month rising from 18°C to 30°C. River levels dropped to 10 inches.

The equivalent rainfall for May 2024 was 64mm (2.52 inches) and June 28mm (1.1 inches).

Nature-wise, on visiting the swans this morning, the male swan was on its own swimming up and down near the nest site, eventually leaving the water and going to visit the nest which appeared to be empty, so it looks like another year without cygnets unless she has taken them off somewhere?

Doug Tantrum reporting from Kingfisher House.

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EARDISLAND WAR MEMORIAL

The war memorial lists names of men killed in the first and second world wars. This handsome memorial was designed by Captain A B W Greenhough MC, who lived in the Staick House. It was built in the early 1920s at a cost of £208, which was raised by public subscription. It is interesting to note that this represents around £1200 in today's terms. The land was donated by Mr Gittens who lived in the Court House.

