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April 2026 No 377

Your magazine for local news and services



Copy deadline for May edition: Saturday 4th April

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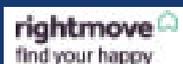
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EDITORIAL

"April 1st. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty four"

Mark Twain

The cover of this month's Chimes is a photograph of The Astronomical Clock of Prague. It is six hundred years old and not only tells the time but shows the position of the sun and moon in the sky; on the hour chime the twelve apostles move in procession and, if this wasn't enough, it shows the twelve months of the year in medallion form.

In this present time of uncertainty, with doom and gloom being the major part of our media diet it's important that we have time to laugh with others and, at ourselves to provide some kind of balance to our lives. It is with this in mind that the centre pages of this magazine are dedicated to providing a little information on the origins of April Fools Day and some of the ways different countries celebrate this date.

Consequently, I hope that this might provide a stimulus for you to look further into this tradition to give some light relief from some of the never ending gloom that surrounds us at this present time.

Finally to quote Joe Marler on this year's Red Nose Day celebrations -

"If we can't have a chuckle at ourselves, what have we got left ?"

Steve Tommey

The Saturday of the first week of each month, prior to publication is our deadline for submitting copy, and is confirmed on the front cover. If in doubt, please contact your sub-editor — their details are in the heading of each section. PHOTOGRAPHS are very welcome to illustrate news reports and should be a minimum of 300 dpi for the magazine or less for the website. Events included in *The Chimes* will be limited to a 2-month in advance cut-off. If beyond this please resend. Thank you

A VIEW FROM THE HILL



Grass

Have you noticed how green the countryside looks at this time, late February? The fields are full of green grass or growing cereals. Think back six months or so, when the fields were brown with shrivelled grass and cereal crops, and our lawns looked ruined, what a transformation nature has made. The grass meadows are not a sea of mud as most stock is now overwintered under cover. Winter grown grass is of low food value to sheep and cattle. Also, the fields are cleansed by not having stock on them and I am sure the animals prefer to have a roof over their heads; if they are outside in foul weather they always look for somewhere where there is a bit of shelter. Most lambing is done undercover these days; I can remember as a boy having to put ewe and lambs under cover during wet and cold weather, and of course most ewes would lamb during such weather. Soon the fields will have thankful sheep, lambs and cattle in them and the sun will shine!

Peter Lockwood

COMBINED VILLAGE NEWS

THE ASHBOURNE FAMILY SAGA

In this month's edition of the Family Saga Edward is dispatched to the recently acquired protectorate on the West coast of Africa. This historical novel is exclusive to the Chimes Online, a chance to absorbed history without it being boring.

Read the whole story only in The Chimes on line at <http://www.thechimes.org.uk>, then select Extras, Info & Blogs, then Historical Blog. It's all there. Dorian Osborne

LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY- UPCOMING TALKS

All held at Linton Village Hall, 7:30pm the first Wednesday of the month.

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
1st April 2026	Teresa Squires	AGM followed by: A National Trust Pot-Pourri
6th May 2026	Mike Burstow	History of Radar
3rd June 2026	Clyde Hoare	Living History: a willow-weaving demonstration
1st July 2026	Heather Hurley	Railways of Herefordshire
5th August 2026	Chris Barnett	William Cobbett's Rural Rides and his road to reform
2nd September 2026	Bill Laws	Apples, Pears and the Herefordshire Pomona
7th October 2026	Professor Ron Hutton	FOUNDERS' LECTURE: Oliver Cromwell
4th November 2026	Michael Fass	Wellington's Warehouse: The great military depot at Weedon Bec
2nd December 2026	Fiona Morison	A summer in colonial Simla
January 2027	NO LECTURE	NO LECTURE
3rd February 2027	Neil Thornton	Henry Hook VC: A Rorke's Drift Hero
3rd March 2027	Roger Davies	CHAIRMAN'S LECTURE: Defending Herefordshire in WW2

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ROB THE RAINMAN

RAINFALL REPORT

February's total was 136.1mm making it a very, very, very wet one as this is just over 2.5 times the average (50.6mm). The month continued where January left off with rain recorded for the first 21 days with significant amounts of 25mm on the 5th and 16.6mm on the 18th. Daylight hours were dry at times but were largely grey and dull. There were a couple of frosty starts but otherwise it was relatively mild. Finally the rain relented and we had a period of no rain at all for a whole 4 days. This was accompanied by much warmer weather with temperatures up to the mid teens on a couple of occasions. Then February left us in no doubt what an awful month of weather it had been with a very wet end with 22mm on the 27th alone. In the 10 years I have been recording this winter has been by far the wettest. Indeed the West Midlands as a whole had its wettest winter on record. No snow to speak of and little frost either. It was a warm, very wet, very dull and a, seemingly, very long winter (with apologies to those, myself included, who prefer the astronomical seasons).

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ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS



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ASTON INGHAM and KILCOT NEWS

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Church News

Holy Week Walks

Monday 30th March Reception of Cross in Church followed by short service.

Easter Sunday

Evensong with Communion at 4.30pm

Regular Services

1st Sunday Evensong at 4.30 pm

2nd Sunday Parish Communion at 10.30 am

3rd Sunday Village Praise at 10.30 am

4th Sunday Parish Communion at 10.30 am

Every Monday at 5.30 pm short service of Evening Prayer.

Church Information

Vicar Reverend David Howell 07903790049 revdavidhowell@icloud.com

Reverend Ewan Gillings 07568515628 revgillings@gmail.com

Churchwarden James Harding 07749188185 daffodil.rose1968@gmail.com

Village News and Events

Aston Ingham W.I. Craft Afternoon

On Tuesday 10th March, the Village Hall hosted a cheerful craft afternoon organised by the Aston Ingham W.I. Members enjoyed a selection of simple seasonal crafts, including decorating jam jars and keyrings, as well as making Easter nests and pinecone bird feeders.

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ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

With plenty of glue, string and wood to hand, the hall was soon filled with chatter and laughter as everyone got busy creating their pieces. The event was very well received, with many members commenting on how relaxing and therapeutic the afternoon had been.

A light-hearted competition was also held, with entries required to represent the theme of Springtime. Congratulations go to Julia Yates, who won with her delightful miniature flower arrangement.

Many thanks to the sub-committee for organising such an enjoyable and successful event.



Coffee Morning on Friday 27th March

This was another great success, and this time there was an extra treat on offer – freshly made Welsh cakes to celebrate St David's Day. More than 50 local people joined us for the morning. If you haven't yet been to an Aston Ingham coffee morning, why not pop along next time and see what all the fuss is about? You'll be very warmly welcomed.

ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

Forthcoming events at the Village Hall

Country Dancing	Friday 3 rd April at 7 pm	If you'd like to join us, you'd be most welcome. Any age, ability, or gender. No partner needed. £3 per person	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Village Hall Committee Meeting	Tuesday 7 th April at 11:30 am	Monthly meeting of the Village Hall Committee.	Sue Harding 01989 720528
Crochet Club	Tuesday 9 th April at 2 pm	This group meets in the on the 2 nd Tuesday of every month in the committee room at the Village Hall All are welcome; you don't have to crochet, but we have a teacher on hand if you would like to learn. Come and join a great group! £2.50 per person includes refreshments.	Tania Clayton 01989 720229 or 07796 955424
Short Mat Bowls	Friday 10 th April at 2 pm	If you'd like to join us, please come along, you'd be very welcome. We are a very friendly group, and our bowling is non-competitive. £3 per person	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Quiz Night	Saturday 11 th April at 7pm	Teams of up to 6 competing for prizes and bragging rights! A supper of Chilli will be provided in the entry price of £10 per person.	
Aston Ingham W.I.	Tuesday 14 th April at 1:45 am	This will be our AGM & we will also vote for the resolutions. Everyone is welcome.	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Pop-Up Pub	Saturday 18 th April	Usual pop-up pub with a great selection of beers, wines, soft and zero alcohol drinks and snacks.	Tania Clayton 01989 720229 or 07796 955424
Knit and Natter	Tuesday 21 st April at 2 pm	We will be focussed on knitting for Ukrainian children. All welcome, you don't have to knit just come along & join in the natter.	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Book Club and Coffee Morning	Friday 24 th April at 10:30 am	There will be the usual selection of cakes. Puzzles & books can be borrowed & Cobalt Charity cards are available to purchase.	Janet Potter 01452 830556 or 07340 078520
Aston Ingham Reading Group	First Saturday of every month 09:30 – 11:00 am	April – Orbital by Samantha Harvey May – The Death of Grass by John Christopher	Jan Falkiner 07899 728346

ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

The photo is of Janet and Julie, always welcoming with a smile and a coffee!



Toys for Ukraine

When the air raid sirens sound in parts of Ukraine, schoolchildren must leave their classrooms and make their way quickly to the nearest bomb shelter. Sadly, this has become a familiar routine. The children practise the drill and know exactly what to do, and the shelter has become a regular part of their school day.

While we cannot change their circumstances, we can offer a small gesture of comfort. We have been asked for small toys that can be sent to Ukraine for the children to take with them into the shelters — something simple to hold that might provide a little reassurance during a frightening time.

Our Knit and Natter and Crochet groups are, as always, ready to lend their needles and their time, and would very much welcome the support of anyone in the community who might like to help. Whether you are an experienced knitter/crocheter or just willing to have a go, every small contribution will make a difference.

If you would like to take part or just drop off any small toys (they don't have to be knitted), please do come along to the Village Hall on Monday 21st April at 2pm. New faces are always warmly welcomed, and together we hope to send a little comfort from our village to children who really need it.

Closure of the Village Hall for Repairs

We will be closing the Village Hall in July for six weeks whilst we make the urgently needed repairs we mentioned a couple of months ago. Prior to the closure, we will be hosting a Summer Party on July the 11th .

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ASTON INGHAM & KILCOT NEWS

Although we have yet to reach our fundraising target for the repairs, we have gone ahead and booked the work to be done, as it is very much a summer job. Expect a redoubling of effort to raise more funds!

Dates for your diary

Pop Up Pubs on April 18th, May 2nd, June 27th and July 18th.

May 9th Afternoon Tea.

June 13th Talk by Juliet Whatley with supper.

July 11th Summer Party before we close the hall for 6 weeks for hall repairs.

There will now be a bar at all Village Hall Events & we take cards as well as cash.

To book Village Hall Events, please get in touch with Janet on 01452830556 or 07340 078520

General Village Information

To book the Aston Ingham Village Hall, contact Sue Harding 01989 720528 or email suejharding1948@gmail.com

100 Club

We have room for more players. If you have not yet joined and would like to, please get in touch at treasurer-AIVH@hotmail.com

January 1st Anne Tormey, 2nd – Tania Clayton, 3rd – Maureen Boswell

Many thanks to those who have donated their winnings to the Village Hall restoration, and apologies to any who have previously donated have been missed.

Wheelchair availability

We have a wheelchair stored in the Village Hall for communal use. Contact Janet Potter

Cards wanted

Wanted: Christmas and greeting cards to recycle into new cards. We now have our own group of ladies making cards for the Cobalt Unit. We have a box in the hall lobby for your old cards and stamps, and a card stand with cards for sale. For more details, please get in touch with Janet 01452 830556 or 07340 078520.

Church Cleaning

If anyone would like to join our cleaning rota, please get in touch with Janet 01452 830556. We split

the Church into sections to make it easier and to ensure that no one person has too much to do. The more helpers, the less work for everyone.

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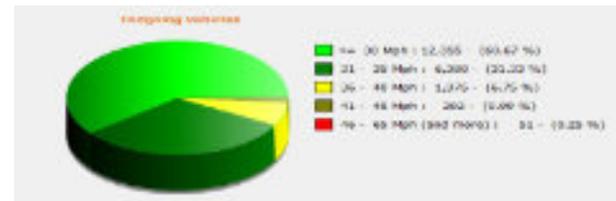
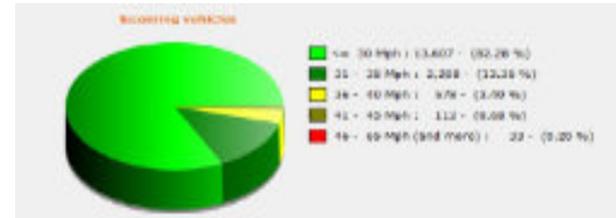
Here are a few highlights of what we've been working on recently. For the latest updates and news, please keep an eye on the Parish Council website.

LITTER

We are aware that some Parishioners have picked up litter in the Parish for many years whilst some of us engage in litter picking on a less frequent basis. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has played a part in trying to keep our Parish litter free. As litter is felt to be a growing concern, often sprayed by cars travelling through and around the Parish, we would like to appeal to everyone who might spot litter, to pick it up and dispose of it accordingly. The roads where verges containing litter lack pathways, for your safety remember to wear hi-viz and if you would like access to litter grabbers and bags please contact the Clerk which will help us to work out how we need to distribute equipment. Otherwise, thank you for your valued participation

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

Traffic behaviour is a consistent concern to Parishioners, and we can now add to the efforts of the Speedwatch Community Action Group by publishing what SID has captured during the month of February, '26. SID captures speeds of traffic coming and leaving the village We will be considering long term effectiveness and also the siting of SID.



What this is telling us is that most vehicles (82%) entering the village are sticking to the speed limit as they pass the Orles but fewer (61%) are staying below the speed limit as they leave. SID data will be a monthly Agenda item at each Parish Council meeting. Why not come along to the meetings to join in with the discussion or if you are unable to attend please send any comments to Clerk@astoningham-pc.gov.uk?

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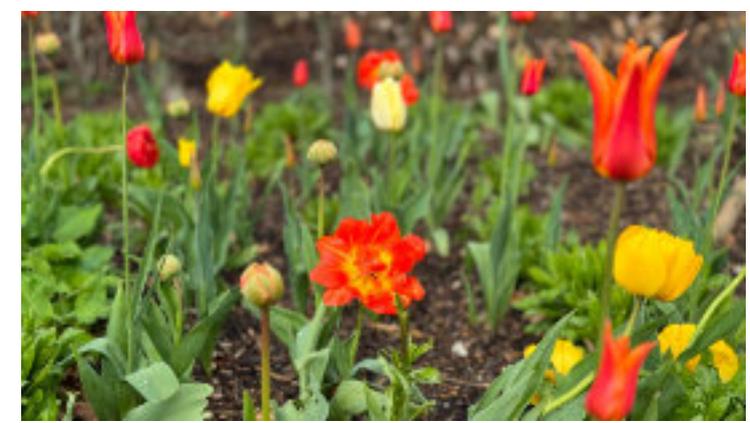


Sub-editor:
Laura Carroll

07837 485929

laurajones13@hotmail.com

If you have any special news, events or ideas about what you would like to see in the Gorsley section of the magazine, please get in touch!



GORSLEY VILLAGE HALL

Our committee meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We always welcome new people to help us put on a programme of activities to involve the village and to raise money for the hall's maintenance. For more information please contact: gorsleyvh@gmail.com
 Hall Secretary, Anne Course: oldmole@btinternet.com
 Treasurer, Sue Scregg: suevillagehall@yahoo.com
 Booking Clerk, Margaret Evans: margaretaevans@icloud.com

100 Club Our March winners: £25 - Roger Hare, £10 - Kate Cooper, £5 - Malcolm Dalby. Funds raised by the 100 Club are for improvements to the village hall, including lighting and heating.

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GORSLEY NEWS

GORSLEY COMMUNITY SHOP & POST OFFICE

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GORSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Everyone is welcome to our Sunday morning service at 10.30am. Separate crèche, children and youth activities take place at the same time so there is something appropriate for the whole family. If you want to see if our service is to your liking, all services are also live recorded and available on YouTube. We would love to get to know you, however, and YouTube cannot go as far as serve you the coffee and conversation which takes place after the service. It would be great to see you.

www.gorsleybaptist.church 01989 720312 office@gorsleybaptist.church

CHRIST CHURCH GORSLEY

Springtime with its refreshing April showers is now with us: and our churchyard here at Christ Church is blooming with early wildflowers.

At this special time of Eastertide we extend a very warm welcome to all at our regular 10:30am weekly Sunday services.

Join us for our joyful Easter Sunday family communion which will be held on the 5th of April. On Sunday the 19th of April at 10:30 am we will celebrate our past year in Christ Church with an Annual Meeting to include refreshments and a social time as well as a review of the year.

For further details of any of our services please contact gorsleychurch@btinternet.com or use <http://achurchnearyou.com/church/14094>



GORSLEY FLOWER, PRODUCE, ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW 2026

Saturday 22nd August 2026

The Show Schedule, in which you will find full details of the show including the 2026 classes and the entry form is now available from the Gorsley Community Shop. The Shop is also the drop off point for entry forms.

The Show Schedule can also be downloaded from the Show website: <https://gorsleyshow.weebly.com/>

Gorsley residents, members of Gorsley based organisations, children attending Gorsley Goffs school and their families are all eligible to enter.

Any questions, please contact us on gorsleyshow@gmail.com

GORSLEY NEWS

GORSLEY AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Visitors and new members are always very welcome. If you think you might be interested in joining our club or would just like to know a bit more about us:- Call Charlotte on 01989780760 or email gorsleyanddistrictgardenclub@gmail.com.



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Careful planning and preparation are often the key to success in many areas of life, and that was certainly the message delivered in a recent talk to the Newent & District Probus Club by representatives from the Older Drivers Forum.

Nigel Lloyd Jones and his sister Alexandra explained that safe and confident driving depends on three important factors. The first is driving ability, which includes eyesight, reaction times, medical conditions and keeping up to date with the Highway Code. The second is vehicle preparedness, ensuring that key elements such as the battery, tyres and windscreen wipers are in good condition, along with carrying essential equipment. The third is journey planning – choosing safe routes, considering weather conditions and allowing enough time for the trip.

During the second part of their talk, they also offered practical advice on how people can begin to plan for the time when they may need to stop driving. More information about their work can be found at www.olderdriversforum.com.

Talks like this are a regular feature of the club's meetings. If you are a retired or semi-retired professional or businessman and would enjoy hearing interesting speakers on a wide range of subjects, why not come along and see what the Newent & District Probus Club has to offer.

The club meets twice each month on the second and fourth Tuesday at 10.00am at Gorsley Village Hall. Meetings begin with tea and coffee, followed by a talk from a guest speaker. Upcoming topics include The Marine Conservation Society, Unusual Operations during the Cold War, Understanding Heraldry, and Pills, People and Pollution.

Visitors are always welcome, and there is no obligation to join. The club prides itself on being a friendly group where members enjoy good company, stimulating talks and lively conversation.

For more information:

Website: www.newentprobus.com

Email: kelvinashby@gmail.com

KILCOT & GORSLEY WI

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GORSLEY NEWS

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library is located in the shed next to Gorsley Village Hall – mind your head as you go in! There is a good selection of books, DVDs, video games and jigsaws to borrow on a 'trust-based' system.

KARATE

Karate classes take place at Gorsley Village Hall on Friday evenings from 6.30pm. For further details, please contact Pam Bennett: farimonds@gmail.com

BINGO

Bingo is held at Gorsley Village Hall on every 4th Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The cost is £5 for 6 games with a break halfway through.

PILATES

6-week classes are held on Wednesday evenings at Gorsley Village Hall. Please contact Alex Hall for upcoming dates/further details: alexhallphysiopilates@outlook.com <https://alexhallphysiopilate.wixsite.com/website>

YOGA

Thursday mornings at Gorsley Village Hall: Mat Yoga 9.30-10.30am and Chair Yoga 10.45-11.30am.
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LEA NEWS



Sub-editor:
Angela Kirton

07474 378806

kirtona150@gmail.com

VILLAGE SHOP IS A MIDLANDS FINALIST IN THE RURAL OSCARS!



Lea Village Stores is a Midlands finalist in the 2026 Countryside Alliance Awards for best village shop and post office! The public can vote for the winner of this category (see link below).

Voting closes at midnight on **Monday April 6th**, with the winner being announced in mid-April. So, if you have not yet voted, this is your chance to help our wonderful village

stores represent the Midlands in the next round and potentially go on to win the 'Rural Oscar' for the best village shop and post office in England!

Having chatted with Michelle and Mark about this accolade, they don't actually know who nominated them for this award, but they are thrilled of course. Anyone who lives in The Lea will not be surprised they are finalists – we know how important our village stores is to our community. We also know how much hard work and love Michelle and Mark pour into their business – they always go that extra mile to make sure the shop is open for long hours and well stocked with all the essentials as well as with special treats, many of which are sourced locally. Michelle's ever-changing decorations to match the seasons are always a joy to see.

I am sure the whole village wishes them the best of luck and is crossing fingers for the announcement of the results!

To register your vote, use this link: www.research.net/r/CAA26MCA

For more information on the 'Rural Oscars' go to www.countryside-alliance.org Search for '2026 Countryside Alliance Awards', then scroll down for the Midlands finalists.

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LEA NEWS

OUR VILLAGE PUB IS ALSO A WINNER!
The Crown Inn has recently been awarded the Booking.com Traveller Review Award 2026!

The owners wish to convey their thanks to Maria and Maisie, the housekeeping team, for their continuous meticulous standards at the establishment.

Easter Monday - 6th April - Quiz Night, these are proving very popular events, so to book your Team in please call The Crown Inn on 01989 554100.

Friday 17th April - we will celebrate the First Anniversary of the re-opening of The Crown Inn with Live Music, please visit The Crown's Facebook page for details.



NEWS FROM LEA CHURCH

Hello everyone and hope this finds you all well!

It has certainly been nice to see all the daffodils, wild and planted, blooming in the lanes and fields; in the churchyard all the primroses are coming out and looking very pretty. The trees are coming into bud and starting to look green again - Spring is on its way!

At the church we are nearing the end of Lent and looking forward to the Easter weekend. We start with a Benefice service on **Palm Sunday 29th March** (complete with pony) at **10.30am**, followed by the **Holy Week Walks** through from Sunday to Thursday which goes between the churches in the Benefice. They are lovely walks and a great way to see the countryside from a different angle! If you wish to join us, just look up the details, they should be shown in your church porch. There is a small service at the starting and finishing churches every day. There will be a Children's church workshop at Lea Church on **Good Friday at 10am** which usually involves the building of the Easter Garden in the porch. Our **Easter Sunday service is at 9.30am** with refreshments served afterwards. All are welcome to come and celebrate the most important event in the Church's calendar!

The Crown Inn very kindly held a Quiz Night at the beginning of March for the benefit of the church, which was very well attended. Thanks to Richard and his team for their hospitality and raffle prizes! Similarly, the Pancake Day Races in February were well supported and our thanks go to all who came along, donated and mainly to Chris Rivers who very kindly cooked all the delicious pancakes which were enjoyed by everyone!

We have a Spring Fayre on **28th March** at Lea Village Hall from **10.30am - 1.30pm** with stalls and raffle! We will be serving jacket potatoes with various fillings along with refreshments to include hot cross buns! Free entrance, all in aid of Lea Church.

Best wishes to you all for a very Happy Easter (don't eat too many Easter eggs!) from us all at St John the Baptist, Lea.

WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS AT LEA CE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND GATEWAY LODGE NURSERY

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for ticket information see www.lintonfestival.org

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LEA NEWS



On Thursday 5th March, Lea CE Primary School and Gateway Lodge Nursery celebrated World Book Day!

The day was a wonderful opportunity to promote the joy of reading and celebrate the many stories that inspire our children. To mark the occasion, children were invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. It was fantastic to see such a wide range of creative costumes around the school, with children proudly sharing the stories behind their chosen characters.

As part of our celebrations, we also held a sponsored read. Children spent time reading throughout the day to help raise money for new books and reading resources for our school. We are incredibly grateful for the support from families in encouraging children to take part and helping us continue to develop our reading provision.

Another highlight of the day was creating a whole-school display of our favourite books and stories. Each child produced a piece of artwork inspired by their favourite book, which was then combined to form a display in the school hall, celebrating the stories our children love most.

It has been wonderful to see the diverse range of books enjoyed across our school and nursery.

We finished the day with a second-hand book swap in the hall. Children brought in books they had already enjoyed and exchanged them for a different one to take home. This meant that every child left school with a "new" book to read and enjoy.

To continue the celebrations at home, all children also took home their World Book Day vouchers, which can be used to purchase one of the special £1 World Book Day books.

It was a truly fantastic day celebrating reading, creativity, and the joy of sharing

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LEA NEWS

stories. Thank you to all our staff and families for helping to make World Book Day such a success!

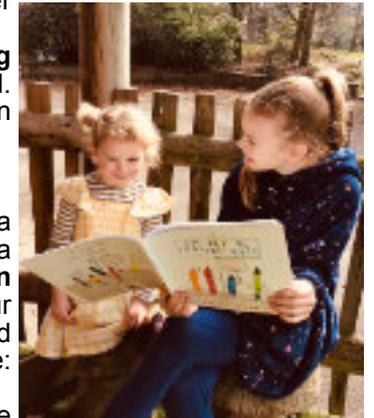
To arrange a visit, please contact Rachel in the school office on 01989 750296 or email admin@lea-primary.hereford.sch.uk.

We can't wait to meet you and show you why, at Lea, "Everyone counts!"

LEA PLAY AND CHAT

At Play and Chat we are continuing to explore learning through play with small world, playdough, sand and much more. We have welcomed new families to the group and enjoyed a singing session put on by Katherine who runs Tots in Tune; the children had the opportunity to make musical shakers before she came. We have celebrated Mother's Day and enjoyed Easter crafts. We will be opening the doors for outdoor play (weather permitting) in the summer term.

Come along and join us on **Friday morning 9.00 - 10.30am** Lea Primary School Hall. Everyone is welcome. Contact Carolyn on 07765 555588



LEA VILLAGE HALL

Lea Village Hall is pleased to announce a visiting Italian Pizza van from 'Pizzeria Italiana 2020', starting on **Thursday 9th April between 5.30- 8.00pm** in the car park close to our building. You can check out their credentials and menu on their Facebook page and on-line: <https://www.pizzeriaitaliana2020.com>

This is a trial, which we hope you will welcome and use. We need to advise that orders are placed, and a time slot is arranged, **24h in advance**, so they know how many pizzas to prepare and also if there are enough orders as, due to the distance, it will need at least 40/50 to make it worthwhile. Orders can be made by text or call on: 07809 485821 – mention Lea Village Hall.

Please support this new venture which will provide a small donation to Lea Village Hall on each visit.

In other areas, Trustees of Lea Village Hall are working hard to support new ideas and encourage further take up of our premises. Hire costs are currently being considered to ensure fairness to our residents/ regular users.

Children's parties are most welcome - the large area inside the hall allows for plenty of space for excited children to let off steam. Being able to spill out into the patio area, or swings, is also a bonus. Do contact our Booking Secretary, Liz Reeson, if you wish to take up the idea. By checking our website you will see the diary, to ensure your preferred date is free before contacting her, and then you can even complete the form on-line: leavillagehall.com or call 07821 593151 or email: ereeson@hotmail.com

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

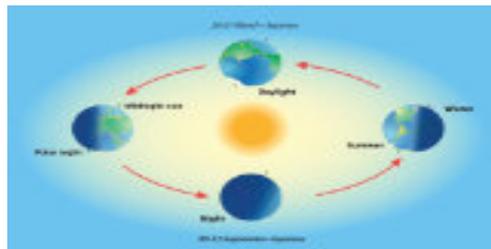
This year April Fools' Day falls during the first week of the school Easter holidays allowing teachers to breathe a sigh of relief. It's possible that people have 'celebrated' this day in many countries for hundreds of years.

Possible origins of April Fools' Day include

- i) the Roman Festival of Hilaria which honoured the Roman goddess Cybele and the god Attis. At this festival people enjoyed dressing in costumes as well as playing practical jokes;



- ii) the Vernal Equinox also called the Spring Equinox. This is a time of year when the weather plays tricks on us;



- iii) the Julian calendar was replaced by the Gregorian calendar in 1582 because it was slightly inaccurate, drifting by about 10 days over 1,600 years, which caused Easter and other religious feasts to fall out of alignment with the seasons. The Gregorian reform corrected this drift, refined the leap year rule, and standardized the calendar to better match the solar year.

However April Fools' Day started it is clear that people have always loved a good joke in this country and throughout the world.

In **Ukraine** the **Humorina** festival has been celebrated each year in Odesa since 1973. The festival's first slogan "Odesans of all countries – unite!" paraphrases the communists' "Workers of the world – unite!". Since 2010 Odesa has hosted the International Festival of Clowns and Mimes alongside April Fools' Day activities.



(Picture from a 2025 festival in Odesa !)



In **France** April Fool's Day is known as April Fish. People stick a paper fish onto the back of as many people as they can, yelling "**Poisson d'Avril**"!



In **Scotland** April Fool's Day took place over two days. One of them was known as **Gowk's Day** - a Gowk has two meaning, a Cuckoo or a fool. A usual trick is to send someone on an errand to fetch things like "Tartan Paint" Mischief making is not confined to the month of April

Els Enfarinats is the **Spanish** equivalent of April Fools' Day. It takes place annually in Ibi (Andalusia) on 28th December and is an annual food fight festival in which participants wearing military-style costumes attempt to take over the town armed with fireworks, flour and eggs.



Many thanks to my wife Sue for the research !!

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LEA NEWS

LEA VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

In line with just about everything else, we are increasing, very slightly, the cost of a 100 Club entry, to £20. But the prize money will increase as well: the 1st prize will be £30, the 2nd - £15 and the 3rd - £10. The two £100 prizes stay the same. It still remains a good way for everyone to contribute to the Village Hall costs, and at the same time be in with a chance of a windfall.

Please note: If you pay by bank transfer our bank account has changed, so please get in touch wgalker522@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who joins in.

Winners for February:

1st Prize £25 – Angela Kirton

2nd Prize £10 – Sarah Pierce

3rd Prize £5 – N Price

LEA CAFÉ

March coffee morning was nice and busy with lots of old faces, but also nice to see some new ones.

The next one falls on April Fool's Day, **Wednesday 1st April from 10am** at the village hall. A couple of things on that:

Firstly, Herefordshire Fire Safety will be having a table with someone who can offer free advice about our homes and property.

Secondly, there will be a table for a Plant Seed Swap so do bring along any surplus seeds or plants you are happy to share and hopefully pick up something different for your own pots or garden.

Lastly about this year's annual day out on **Wednesday 3rd June**. We will be visiting Corsham Court & Gardens, followed by the National Trust village of Lacock, followed by Afternoon Tea. To be clear about the cost, all regular coffee morning attendees will pay a total cost for the day of £10. We have a waiting list for any other Lea residents who may like to go and that will be at a total cost for the day of £22.50.

Contact me, Gill Davis on 01989 750442 or gilldavis55@hotmail.com with any queries.

LEA LUNCH CLUB

The lunch club meets again on **Wednesday 29th April at 12.30pm** in the village hall. We have a waiting list for the lunch, so if you're interested in coming along, please speak to Nicky on 07718 065946. Priority is always given to Lea residents

LEA FRIDAY PAINTERS

Join us at our regular Friday morning meetings at the village hall, starting at 9.00am. Hope to see you there. For any queries contact Di Brice: 01989 750403.

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LEA NEWS

THE LEA PARISH COUNCIL

The agenda and full minutes of Parish Council meetings are available on the Lea Parish Council website www.theleaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Anyone in the parish can contact the council by e-mailing clerk@leaparishcouncil.gov.uk

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 27th May at 7pm** at the Village Hall. Please come along or submit any questions/queries via the Clerk. Meet your councillors and become involved in the village management. Please submit any questions via the email address above.

The Lea Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Footpath Officer (PFO)

This vital voluntary role involves surveying, maintaining and enhancing the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network within the Parish of Lea.

Key Responsibilities are:

- Carry out regular surveys of public rights of way within Lea parish within established PROW survey protocols.
- Perform basic vegetation clearance around signposts, gates and stiles using hand tools.
- Inform the PROW inspector and Parish Clerk of any issues that you cannot easily fix yourself or are of safety concern.
- Carry out way-marking as may be needed.
- Report issues on the network via the Herefordshire Council website using the 'reporting an issue' facility including a note of any remedial work carried out.
- Liaising with Lea Parish Council to exchange information and keep the council informed of your activities, through a regular report to Council meetings.
- Engage with the PROW team at Herefordshire Council and take part in available training and follow guidelines provided.
- Liaise with landowners about public rights of way on their land, with the support of the PROW team where appropriate.
- Attend PFO meetings to stay updated with the PROW team and share best practices.

Optional Duties:

- Engage in more extensive vegetation clearance (training may be required) as may be agreed by Lea Parish Council.
- Offer advice to landowners about PROW management (training provided by PROW team at Herefordshire Council).
- Participate in ad-hoc volunteer work parties.

Please contact us at Clerk@theleaparishcouncil.gov.uk or visit our website www.theleaparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information. Do join us in keeping Lea's footpaths safe and enjoyable for everybody!

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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS



Sub-editor:
John Lancaster

01989 720642

john.lancaster17@gmail.com



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Linda Irene Webb(Lin) on 1 February 2026. Lin and her husband Graham were of course very well known in Linton in their capacity as licensees of the Alma from May 1997 to February 2015. (Many will remember there was a third partner in the enterprise - Ellie, their border collie). Following retirement, they had moved to Dorset. Lin and Graham relocated to Linton from Sheringham where they had been licensees of the Windham Arms. The success they enjoyed there was emulated in Linton and they were awarded Herefordshire Pub of the Year in 2002, a CAMRA representative declaring, "The Alma's real secret is the genuine warmth of the welcome." In the intervening years Linton saw significant changes including the renovation of the church steeple, the extension to the village hall and the revitalisation of the Parish Council. And at the heart of the discussions these changes involved, was the Alma. Their period of tenure also saw the establishment of the Linton Music Festival in 2001 and at a later date, the Summer Sessions. Lin's funeral was held at the Bethany Baptist Church in Caldicot (where her sisters resided) and the village of Linton was well represented in the congregation. A testament to the esteem in which she was held in our community. Lin is survived by her husband, Graham, and by her sisters, Barbara and Pauline to whom we send our deepest condolences.



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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

EASTER

April sees the celebration of Easter, preceded by the Holy Week walks around the Benefice. See elsewhere in The Chimes for details of the Itinerary. The walks are a lovely way to see the whole Benefice and chat to people from the other villages. Please feel free to join in with any of the stages. Each leg of the walk finishes with refreshments and a short service. Dogs and children always welcome. There will be a service on Good Friday at Linton at 2pm on 3rd April. Easter Sunday, 5th April, will include a Communion Service at 11am. For those early risers wishing to see in the dawn on Easter morning there will be a Benefice Service at Upton Bishop.

BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Bible Book Club is an informal monthly book club reading through the Bible one book at a time. For April, in preparation for Easter, we are reading the Gospel of Matthew, the first book of the New Testament and the Gospel from which many of the Sunday readings are taken this year. In this we will find the many familiar stories and events: The visiting of the Wise Men; The Sermon on the Mount; Parables about The Kingdom of Heaven; as well as a number of chapters taking us through the events of Holy Week and on to the Resurrection and Ascension. The next Bible Book Club will be on Sunday 12th April at Wrens Nest. Each session is stand alone and starts with refreshments at 10.30am, everyone welcome.

Contact Charlotte for more information.

ORGAN RECITAL

The **Music at St Mary's** programme for 2026 starts on Saturday April 18th at 7pm when we welcome Northwick Baroque. This ensemble from Worcester is coming to Linton for the first time with music for strings, woodwind and harpsicord.

Admission free: interval refreshments and retiring collection.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Monday 20th April is the church's APCM. This annual meeting, which is open to all, reports on changes to the electoral roll, parish activities and financial matters. Copies of the report for 2025 are available on request or can be picked up from the church. If anyone wishes to stand for church warden or PCC, forms are also available on request.

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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

For up-to-date news on St Mary's Church please go to the website

www.lintonvillage.com/st-marys-church

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

There are two vacancies on the parish council which can be filled via co-option. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the Clerk, Rich Hunt, e-mail: pcclerk@lintonpc-herefordshire.gov.uk, or telephone 07763793695. There is also a vacancy for a Public Footpath Officer (PFO) for the Linton area. Information on the role of a PFO can be found via:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/hbsi43dj/a_guide_to_public_rights_of_way__parish_footpath_officers.pdf. If interested, please contact the Clerk.

Village gateways with welcome signs have been erected at the western boundary of Gorsley village to act as a deterrent to speeding drivers. The parish council is considering a similar approach to curb speeding in Bromsash.

Buses4Us are processing a parish council request to extend the route of the Daffodil Line between Upton Bishop and Gorsley to include a stop in Linton.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL LITTER PICK

Saturday Morning 18th April

Come and join us for the inaugural Linton Parish Council Community Litter Picking event on Saturday 18th April. Together, we can make a difference!

Where Should I go?

Please come to your most convenient collection hub where you will be met by one of our friendly stewards. They will be able to brief you, suggest a suitable litter picking spot and provide you with the necessary equipment. The collection hubs will be outside Gorsley Village Hall, Castrees Nursery in Bromsash and Wrens Nest in Linton (by the Village Hall road junction).

When Is It And How Long Will It Take?

The collection hubs will be manned by our stewards from 10am to 12 noon. The length of time you spend litter picking is entirely up to you, but we think a maximum of about one hour is plenty for most people.

What Do I Need To Bring?

High Viz jackets, litter pickers, plastic bags and gloves will be provided on loan from Herefordshire Council. However, some people do prefer to wear their own gloves so do feel free to bring a pair if this is your preference. Stout

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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

shoes are recommended.

Will Refreshments Be Available?

Well-earned teas, coffees and home-made cakes will be available to litter pickers!

Will It Be Suitable For Children?

Yes! Our stewards will reserve some quieter litter picking spots which are suitable for children and we plan to have some special rewards for children who take part. Of course, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Is Parking Available?

Parking is not available at the collection hubs. We hope that most people are within walking distance of one of the hubs.

THE LINTON POUND APRIL UPDATE

As the Linton Parish Council has not felt able to accept custodial responsibility for the site, it is now categorised as unowned property. We have sought to clarify the legal position by making enquiries with a number of bodies at government and local authority levels and it seems the only course of action available to us is that of developing and maintaining the site and then claiming ownership after twelve years.

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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

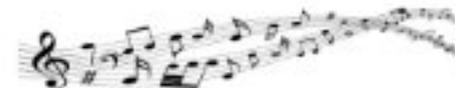
The Herefordshire Council Economy & Environment Directorate has advised the following:

Given the site is currently not in any legal ownership – we could effectively claim the site by erecting a fence around it, and then after twelve years, registering the site as our own with the Land Registry.

"As the site is not owned by anyone, there is no-one to object/ prevent you undertaking activity on the site as such in the interim." HC also advises we would need to consider issues of liability and this would require appropriate insurance. We may also need to arrange various permissions to enable work to be done on the site.

In the meantime we are making enquiries about the establishment of a Trust to oversee the redevelopment of the site and for fundraising purposes. In addition, in view of the unsatisfactory responses of Herefordshire Council to our complaints, we are escalating matters to the Local Authority Ombudsman.

Roger Davies
John Lancaster



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LINTON & BROMSASH NEWS

LINTON VILLAGE HALL

WHAT'S COMING UP

SARAH MCQUAID Friday 24th April 7.30pm (with support from Arts Alive)



We are delighted to welcome Sarah McQuaid to Linton Village Hall! Sarah's lush, chocolatey voice combines with her engaging personality, "subtle mastery onstage" (Huffington Post) and "brilliant musicianship" (fRoots) on acoustic and electric guitars, piano and (occasionally) drum to create a truly immersive experience.

Born in Spain, raised in Chicago and now settled in rural England, she brings the eclecticism of her background to her "captivating, unorthodox songwriting" (PopMatters) and choice of material, spanning genres and defying categorisation. All this is abundantly demonstrated by her new live album *The St Buryan Sessions* - but needs to be savoured in person to be fully appreciated.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/GDnPaW1ibKo>

Tickets £12, Children £6 available from Arts Alive <https://artsalive.co.uk/events/sarah-mcquaid-in-concert/>

Our friendly Bar will be serving decent wines, beers and non-alcoholic drinks. Please remember to bring cash with you. Sarah loves performing at village halls, so we may do a raffle - be prepared! Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm.

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A comedy a cappella touring show combining beautiful close harmony singing and quirky songwriting, with much laughter and even improvised singing sessions, the Pocket Choral Society features four experienced singers blending into one. Singing unamplified, the quartet bring their own songs and new arrangements of some from other songwriters such as Lennon and McCartney, Lou Reed, Flanders & Swann and Tom Waits. "Utterly quirky and hugely engaging very clever and very silly" "Tom Lehrer crossed with The Bonzo Dog DooDah Band" "Bill Bailey Meets The Archers" With lots of touring experience around the highways and backwaters of Britain, The Pocket Choral Society bring their songs of the minutiae of daily life, pastries, love and the poor state of home care for the elderly in the UK.

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 Tickets £15 (U18s £6) Cash Bar as usual, and The Raffle!

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UPTON BISHOP NEWS



Sub-editor:
Annette Colwell

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nettiec1921@gmail.com

UPTON BISHOP WEBSITE ADDRESS: <https://uptonbishop.gov.uk/>
WHAT'S ON IN UPTON BISHOP

AT THE CHURCH:

Vicar - David Howell 07903 790049 revdavidhowell@icloud.com
Curate - Ewan Gillings 07568515628 revgillings@gmail.com
Church Warden - Jane Ayres 07989 572356 jane.e.ayres@me.com
The Church is open every day, a quiet space for all to enjoy.
The Churchyard also offers a peaceful spot to walk or sit and enjoy nature
Dogs are welcome in the churchyard on a lead, but please clear up after them.
Services for April are shown on page 59
All Services at 10.30 unless shown otherwise
Holy week walks and special services begin on Sunday March 29th – see separate benefice timetable

Please note There is no Evensong or Wed BCP Communion on in April

THE CHURCH:

EASTER 2026- 5th April

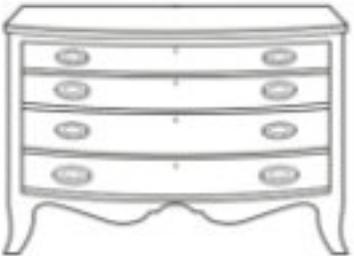
St John's will be hosting the dawn service at 6am.
This wonderfully atmospheric service begins in darkness and continues as the sun comes up and we Celebrate the risen Christ. Breakfast is served after the service.
Patronal Festival for St John – Games, afternoon tea and choral evensong with visiting choir from St Mary's Ross-on-Wye
New service times from the beginning of May
Sunday morning services will start at the new time of 11am.
This will help travelling times for clergy who take two morning services.
1st Sunday - All Age Morning worship without Communion
2nd and 3rd - Parish Communion
4th Sunday alternate between Matins at 11am and Evensong at 4pm

Some good things to look forward to:

Family Bingo night with Fish and Chip 18th April - 5.30pm at the Millennium Hall
Eyes down for a full house and a full tum! we're starting early so that families with children can join in, fish and chips served from 6.30. Tickets £12 to include fish, sausage or vegetarian pasty with chips
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UPTON BISHOP NEWS

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AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL:

SOCIAL:

SOCIAL AFTERNOON - Monday 20th – 2.30pm- 4.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all for cake and chat

QUILTERS: 3rd Thursday of the month, 2-4pm. Call Sue Jones 07505 977 944

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: Offering a safe, non-judgemental space for women to connect, heal and learn from each other. Open to all women. Please contact Amy to enquire: 07867 761108.

BABY SENSORY Monday mornings during term time. Call Annabel 07341 956056 or hereford@babysensory.co.uk

LITTLE SWALLOWS Friday mornings. Activities for under 5s. Call Nicky 01989 780211

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INDOOR SHORT-MAT BOWLS Tuesday 21st 7-9pm £3 per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits. All abilities very welcome. Call Dave Powell 07794 429090 or just come along!

BADMINTON CLUB: Thursdays 8-10pm all ages and skills. Call Steve Cracknell 01989 720577.

TANGO: Fridays but not every Friday. Check with Beryl Kirk 07743 778799 or bakirk@live.co.uk.

THE MILLENNIUM HALL

If you are interested in joining the Millennium Hall team, please get in touch: 07496 685 960

HIRING THE HALL There is space in the diary for new events so please go on line to book a date: visit uptonbishop.gov.uk and click on 'Millennium Hall' for booking info, or contact pollyannakay@gmail.com

UPTON BISHOP WI : Meeting:

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, 7pm – 9pm at The Hub, St Mary's Garden Village, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7WP. New members are always welcome, entry donation of £5, cake and raffle. We look forward to seeing you. For details and to find out more about the numerous activities organised by the National and Herefordshire Federations of WIs contact 01989 569881 or e-mail Upton_Bishop_wi@herefordshirewi.org.uk

Upton Bishop WI met for its AGM on Tuesday (10th March). Caroline Miller reported on the previous year, in particular remembering the loss of Frances Lawford and commending her legacy to us all. She was then re-elected as president and the committee was confirmed. This is our time of the year for

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UPTON BISHOP NEWS

renewing memberships, so subscriptions were collected and the new programme of events for 2026-2027 was presented to the members. After our usual business had been conducted, we divided into groups for an Easter Bunny drive. The game is somewhat similar to a beetle drive, except that we were making up the face of an Easter Bunny. Much fun and laughter ensued, which made for some enjoyable light entertainment after the formality of the AGM.

Our new programme begins in April, when Caroline Bennett will be giving us a cookery demonstration, and we look forward to tasting what she makes for us.

UPTON BISHOP NEWS:

200 CLUB DRAW FOR February

Tracy Bell £20, Charlotte Crosbie £10, Philip Wood £5.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS – Very many congratulations to Tom and Alice Blandford on the arrival of their bundle of joy, Ernie.

BEST WISHES to everyone who is not too well, or who is undergoing or waiting for treatment.

UPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL (UBPC)

Any parishioner can contact the UBPC at clerk@uptonbishop.gov.uk Parish Council meeting minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

Upton Bishop Parish Council Meeting - March 3rd 2026

Four councillors, the clerk and six members of the public attended the Parish Council meeting on March 3rd. The minutes of the November, December and February meetings were approved. No issues were raised by the public. The ward councillor's report is on the website. Councillors had no objection to the Lynders Nurseries' planning application and supported the change of use for a barn at Phocle Farm but are concerned about the impact this will have on transport and access from the south. There will be a new lengthsman contract from April 1st and the chairman, clerk and footpaths officer were tasked with reviewing it. An extraordinary meeting will be required to award the contract before the April deadline. The lengthsman has been clearing grips to alleviate flooding. Four new stiles are due to be installed once the ground dries out. New audit requirements under Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Statement were considered and the IT and Email policy was adopted. The Financial Regulations were reviewed and the Reserves Policy, Risk Management Policy and Risk Register review were considered and adopted.

The Council has £26,471 in the bank and all invoices were approved for payment. The Council will submit a question on the lack of fast fibre broadband availability to Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting in April. A letter has been received from the Chairman of the Allotments which identifies potential risks from ageing sheds on the site and requesting replacement.

This will be on the agenda at the next meeting on Tuesday April 7th 2026. The Clerk was thanked for her professionalism and the amount of work she has undertaken.

RECTOR'S LETTER



As we prepare for our APCMs in April, I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of the accomplishments and work that has taken place across the Benefice in the past year. During the year, we were very happy to welcome Ewan as our new curate to the benefice. Additionally, I was also commissioned to be the new rural Dean for our deanery. We commissioned five lay worship leaders.

Our church buildings remain in relatively good condition, although we have had several problems with bad weather and leaky roofs! We have carried out many essential repairs to the buildings and made some improvements in lighting and heating. May I say an enormous "thank you" to our churchwardens and all those who contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of our buildings and churchyards, without whom we could not keep going. Although most of our money and resources are spent maintaining and looking after our church buildings and mission, we also support many other activities including the food bank at Ross. They are hugely grateful for your generosity. We have contributed to agricultural charities through our harvest festivals, and we are very proud of our continued links with the farming community. We have supported Christians in Tanzania, helping to provide technology to schools and colleges and providing much needed resources for the street children of Tanga. I hope to visit Tanzania this year with the bishop of Hereford - I think it's always important to remember that we are part of the worldwide Anglican communion.

I would like to take the opportunity here to thank our church treasurers. We have improved our methods of giving, and some of our churches now have card readers. It is more difficult in some of our churches because we do not have Wi-Fi or even a phone signal. Our fundraising activities bring in valuable resources, but they also strengthen our links with the local community giving opportunities for people to meet and socialise. I would also like to thank all those local businesses and groups that help us through their continued generosity.

It is important not to forget the main mission of the church in all of our local engagement - we are proud to have a wide range of services teaching and Bible study courses. We also spend a lot of time ministering to the children in our church schools - the school children come to church regularly, and we have Open the Book services on a regular basis. We hope to develop our work with the schools over the coming year - sharing the gospel with the next generation is a great privilege and an awesome responsibility.
Rev David Howell

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Date	Aston Ingham	Lea	Linton	Upton Bishop
01st February	Evensong	Family Communion	Communion Service	Mattins
Candlemas	4.30 pm	9.30 am	11.00 am	10.30am
Readings	Malachi 3. 1-5.	Hebrews 2. 14-end.	Luke 2. 22-40.	
08th February	Parish Communion	Mattins	Bible Book Club	Communion Service
2nd Sunday before Lent	10.30 am	8.00 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Readings	Genesis 1. 1 thru 2. 3.	Romans 8. 18-25.	Matthew 6. 25-end.	
15th February	Village Praise	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	Parish Communion
Sunday next before Lent	10.30 am	9.30 am	11.00 am	10.30 am
Readings	Exodus 24. 12-end.	2 Peter 1. 16-end.	Matthew 17. 1-9.	
18th February	ASH WEDNESDAY ARICONIUM BENEFICE SERVICE @ WESTON UNDER PENYARD			
Ash Wednesday	7.00 P.M.			
Readings	Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17.	2 Corinthians 5. 20b thru 6. 10.	Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21.	
22nd February	Parish Communion	Children's Church	Communion Service	All Age Communion
1st Sunday of Lent	10.30am	10.00am	11.00 am	10.30 am
Readings	Genesis 2. 15-17. 3. 1-7.	Romans 5. 12-19.	Matthew 4. 1-11.	

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE RECTOR: REV. DAVID HOWELL
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