

Reports from Parish Organisations to the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 25 April 2019

Church of the Virgin Mary Parochial Church Council

Since the last APCM in April 2018 the PCC has met 5 times. PCC Members were:

Julie Read, Priest-in-Charge and Chair, Beryl Hoda and Dian Cope, Churchwardens; Michael Coleburn, Treasurer; Liz Lever, Secretary and Parish Giving organizer; Richard Kirby, Lay Co-Chair; Annette Blyth, Organist and Choirmistress; Hannah Vernon, Mavis Tantrum, Lotty James, Alister Hoda and John Hope. Deanery Synod Representatives were Annette Blyth and Dian Cope. The no. on the Church Electoral Roll was 57. Katie Smith was accepted for the Ministry and is now Ordinand in Training.

Regular services of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer were held with occasional Taize and Healing Services. Special services were held for Palm Sunday, Easter, Rogation, Christian Aid, Harvest and Christmas. There were 3 funerals and 2 Baptisms. Sadly we said goodbye to Robert Simpson, who was Churchwarden at St. Mary's for over 20 years and Michael Boulton, who, with his wife Angela, had been a generous supporter of the church for many years.

Our thanks go to all who were involved in any way in our regular services but particularly Rev. Michael Denny, Rev. Nick Read, intercessors and readers, sidespersons, and the choir including Avis Denny who has played the piano for us on a number of occasions when Annette has been away. Geoff Cowling continues as our very enthusiastic Tower Captain and we are grateful to him and the Ringers for all their dedication. Their contribution forms a wonderful part of our services as does the artistry of the Flower Guild and the hard work of those on the Cleaning Rota. Our thanks go to Felicity Capon who has kindly agreed to open and close the church and we look forward to welcoming Rosemary Capon as Reader licensed to our Benefice later this year. The Tuesday Prayer and Pilgrim Group continues to flourish. We often get 10 or 12 people on Tuesday mornings and we welcome new members. The PCC continues to support two exciting projects. 1) An audio-visual installation of bell ringing in the Bell Tower for which Hannah Vernon has obtained a grant. 2) The erection of an extension which will house toilet, kitchen and storage facilities. Hannah Vernon continues as our advisor on grant applications and we now also have the services of a new Architect, Mr. Richard Lamb.

We are grateful to those who have organized and supported various fundraising events over the past year including Open Gardens in August and, in conjunction with the Eardisland in Bloom team, a very successful Auction of Promises in June and Craft Fair in October. In February of this year the Benefice organized a Concert featuring Rev. Stephen Hollinghurst which proved popular and raised enough money to fund a Benefice Administrator, Lucinda Rees, for a further year.

Our Treasurer is providing a more detailed Finance Report, however I would just like to add that our Parish Giving Scheme has proved very successful. Do consider joining the Scheme.

As many of you know both Dian Cope and myself are stepping down this year as Churchwardens. We would like to thank you all for your support, kindness, helpfulness and love during the years we have been privileged to hold this post and we wish the future Churchwardens every success in the coming years.

Beryl Hoda

Dovecote Trust

No report.

Eardisland Bowling Club

It is pleasing to report that membership for this season remains broadly in line with 2018, with 34 full members and a good number of social members. Of the full members 12 are Eardisland parishioners, the highest in recent history. On the playing side, 2018 was quite successful, with the Men's side finishing in their highest ever position in the Herefordshire Mens League, 5th out of ten sides in the first division (there are 2 divisions).

The club offers a number of social events throughout the season, open to all, which have proved very successful and forges links with the community and raises valuable funds for the club.

Over the winter the clubhouse was restrained and recently a new fence was installed along the recreation ground side of the club.

Phil Milchard

Eardisland Community Shop

The community shop continues to be an asset to Eardisland, both on a social and financial level, with all profits from the business ploughed back into the parish projects.

Last year saw our most major purchase yet; a marquee which is available for parish events. It has already had 2 outings, with another two planned for this year. The shop also donated a gate in the memory of one of our fallen heroes and paid for its installation and a brass plaque.

A new sound system has been purchased for events in the village hall and numerous hampers have been donated to various fund raising events. A dispenser for 'dog poo' bags and hot water containers for parish use have also been donated.

The shop also paid once again, for the insurance on the Dovecote, saving the PC a considerable amount which they are able to channel into other projects. Share a Care also benefits from the shop which provides tea coffee and cake for everyone who attends, the last Thursday in the month.

The committee would like to thank all its customers and volunteers for their continued support.

Margaret Milchard

Eardisland in Bloom

It is pleasing that over the last year we have had up to 9 volunteers join our regular Thursday morning sessions, with several others performing vital behind the scenes roles. 2018 saw us complete the landscaping work o/s the dovecote and add 2 further planters. Borders and raised beds were maintained and the Spring display of tulips received very favourable comments. 2019 will see a noticeable change in some of the border gardens as we introduce perennials in place of annuals.

The team continues to give assistance, both physically and financially to the Children's Allotment, now the Community Garden.

It is pleasing to report that around 30 volunteers came forward for this year's Litter Pick and that the general opinion was that the litter problem was not as great as in previous years.

We continue to raise all our own finances through both the Plant Sale and the Craft & Produce Fair, which is almost sold out for October.

Phil Milchard

Eardisland Heritage and History Group

Although now few, we still exist and meet weekly when we discuss and record progress with the various projects and topics of research current at the time. Some projects involve getting out to see particular sites and features around the parish; often important to help to put the documentary record in context.

Our focus is on this parish where there is more than enough of interest or historical importance to keep us busy. Any aspects of the history of this parish, at whatever dates, are of interest to us. During the year we have responded to various requests for information from parishioners past and present; although we do not engage in recent Family History.

A major activity has been the work, completed early this year, towards the technical cataloguing and archiving of the about 2 thousand and 50 sherds of Norman period pottery which we excavated at Burton Court over several years. The technical aspects of finalising this was done by Mrs Pat Kay in association with Peter Reavill of Ludlow Museum. Whilst the excavation happened several years ago, found in the same general area was a Bronze Age Dirk or Dagger dated by experts to 1400BC. This has recently gone on display in Hereford Museum ... well worth a visit whilst it remains on view.

Both Paul Selfe and I contribute separately to every edition of the Parish Magazine and up on the parish website there are quite a few fully detailed Papers which I have written, for which thanks to Ben Woodcock. I add to these as time allows.

George Alderson

Eardisland Local Link and Share a Care

The 'get togethers' take place in the Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month. They start at 2.30pm. There is tea/ coffee and cake provided free of charge by the Eardisland Community Shop. There is no official committee or set agenda and no minutes are taken as we aim to be as informal and friendly as possible. The meetings are open to anyone who wants to chat about local issues or concerns, to share ideas they may have for enhancing community links or just wants a good natter! We especially welcome newcomers to the area, providing a relaxed introduction to fellow local people and an opportunity to find out about events and issues.

The meetings also give anyone a chance to volunteer to help others - Share a Care gives local people a chance to ask for help or support they might need which is not covered by official service organisations - anything from help with filling in forms to changing a light bulb, occasional lifts to appointments or moving furniture. Anyone who wants this kind of support does not have to attend the get togethers - it can be accessed by contacting the Eardisland shop, but please note emergencies of any kind are not covered.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and supporters.

Thank you also to the Parish Council for funding the cost of the Village Hall each month and to the Community Shop for providing much appreciated refreshments.

Margaret Milchard and Sue Wallis

Eardisland Village Band

Eardisland Village Band was formed back in 2003 which means that we are currently in our seventeenth year - and at a recent count, we now have some 260 tunes in our repertoire. Plenty for us to get our teeth into at our regular practices!

We remain six players covering a range of instruments including fiddle, English concertina, banjo, whistle, flute, guitar and 'cello.

Alongside supporting community events, a key aim of the Band is to remain self-funding. In return for providing the caller and the music for the Village Hall's Halloween Ceilidh last autumn, the Village Band received a payment of £70 for the event. As the Band's main expense is the hire of the Village Hall for practices, the monies earned from the Ceilidh are in effect being returned to Village Hall funds. The Band's accounts are available for inspection on request – as of today, 25th April 2019, the balance stands at £135.15.

In February this year, we played in the newly re-opened Cross Inn to celebrate the birthday of one of the band members and were warmly welcomed by Sophie and Chris.

And in May we have been asked by the Eardisland Twinning Association to play at the traditional tea party during the biennial visit of our French friends from La Vieille Lyre.

As always, the Band expresses grateful thanks for the boundless energy and support of our leader, Andy Davies.

Ruth Brinton-Bivand

Parish Magazine

1. Editorial:

The magazine was published and distributed according to the published schedule during April 2018 – 19. I am grateful to Ben Woodcock for producing one edition whilst I was incapacitated around a year ago. I also extend my thanks to all those who contributed to the copy and Phil Milchard, the Parish Councillor responsible for the magazine.

2. Advertising:

The advertising revenue is a significant contribution to the cost of the magazine. The proportion of advertising in the magazine varies from edition to edition but remains around 20% - 25% of the content – this was always the stated aim. Patricia Gill continues to do an excellent job with this aspect of the magazine. Additionally, Patricia Gill will update the supplement 'Who's Who and Organisations', a surprisingly time-consuming task. This will be done and re-distributed after the Parish Council elections in May 2019. It hoped that distribution will be in July.

3. Distribution:

Barry Freeman continues to co-ordinate the delivery team and I pay tribute to their work and dedication. The team leader is Barry who distributes magazines (and inserts) to the deliverers who are: David Cope, Wendy Cross, Kathleen Freeman, Patricia Gill, John Hope, Lottie James, Rita Kirby, Pat Newcombe, Paul Selfe, David Wallis and Ben Woodcock. Thanks to all.

The magazine is still delivered free to all villagers, with additional copies left in the church, dovecote and Arrow Bank Holiday Park. In addition, I post copies to two ex-Eardislanders.

The Eardisland Parish Magazine continues to be published on the parish website and I am pleased to report that Ben Woodcock and I continue to cooperate about village information.

Finally, I wish to thank the Eardisland Parish Council for its continuing support for the magazine.

Chris Bivand

Speedwatch Group

The Speedwatch group started in July 2018 after 6 volunteers were trained by Adnan Ali from West Mercia police.

Four sites in the village had been risk assessed for use:

1. Lay-by at the end of Lyme Lane targeting traffic coming into the village from Leominster.
2. Bus stop, traffic can be targeted both ways
3. Entrance gate to the Harold Speke walk, targeting traffic coming in the direction of the Old Post Office.
4. Opposite the green barn targeting traffic both ways.

I offered to take responsibility for co-ordinating the Speedwatch as no one else wanted to. My aim was to run at least one per month in the summer months but as 3 volunteers are required at each session it soon became apparent more were needed. Seven more volunteers were trained in September.

It is time consuming organising the sessions; the “gun“ has to be charged and calibrated before each session. Placards have to be erected on the 30 mile per hour signs at both ends of the village and of course organising when 3 people can actually run the session, even though we now have 13 volunteers, can still be problematic. Sessions cannot be run in fog, rain or bad visibility, so although they can be arranged it is very weather dependent. Also Adnan, the Kington Safer Neighbourhood Team and Alison have to be informed prior to each session. The paperwork from the session, which is confidential i.e. how many vehicles we have caught, has to be faxed as soon as possible to Adnan and I’m grateful to Alison for agreeing to do this. All the equipment is kept at my house as there was nowhere suitable or secure enough in the village.

We have run approx. 5 sessions so far; none were run during the winter months. The next planned one is May 8th, as long as the gun is back from being serviced. The three people needed for a session each have a job to do: one to hold and point the gun, one to record the speed and vehicle registration number/make and model/colour/direction and ethnic code and gender if possible. The third person to count how many vehicles pass each way through the village in the hour session and to help with recording the other information. If nothing else it keeps our little grey cells working.

We have found the best times are 8-9 am or 4-5 pm. We have recorded in one session 90 vehicles travelling through the village. On an average its 50-60 in an hour. Anyone caught by the gun with a reading of over 35 miles per hour has their details documented. We have had one reading of 50 mph and I hate to say it was a woman.

The Radar Speed Detection System we use is heavy due to the battery pack attached to it. We have asked if perhaps West Mercia Police might invest in some new smart mobile phone technology, as some areas have done, which would make the whole system more portable and easier to use.

Diane Lee, Speedwatch Co-ordinator

Twinning Association

In May, between the 17th and 21st, we are expecting a party of adults from La Vieille Lyre. They have expressed a wish to attend an agricultural show, to understand our region better and a date was chosen accordingly. They will be taken to the Builth Wells Spring Show. As well as the livestock I had the interesting experience of watching a display of “dancing diggers” on my last visit to a Builth show which could prove to be a talking point if repeated! They will also be offered a short tour of Leominster which will highlight the history of the town as well as allowing for some relaxation. It is hoped that those with sufficient stamina will follow the Eardisland Memorial Walk to Pembridge during one afternoon. A Community Tea Party will take place on Monday afternoon, May 20th, after a commemoration of the French men who died from la Vieille Lyre in the First World War, outside the village shop at 2.30. The French Consul from Birmingham will be joining us. Later there will be an equivalent ceremony in France. Tickets for the Tea Party will shortly be available, at no charge, from the Village shop. We very much hope for a good community turn out for those free on Monday afternoon.

As always our wish is to extend a warm welcome to those with whom we have so much shared history, valuing our freedom to meet each other in times of peace. There have been many personal gains as well though over the years: for instance when work experience has been offered in France; accommodation to a young student; economic connections made. These on top of some deep and lasting friendships are greatly appreciated.

We have some plans for future events and are grateful to all who support them. They enable us to offer some generosity to our visitors but, we hope, also add to the many events we are fortunate to have on offer here.

New and longer term participants continue to take part in these, usually, annual visits, from France and here. All are welcome: please address any queries about Twinning involvement to Elaine Harper.

Elaine Harper

Village Hall Management Committee

The year 2018/2019 has seen EVHMC busy with routine administration and management issues as always. In addition we have had a programme of social and fundraising events to support our on-going aim of making the village hall an attractive and efficient place to serve the needs of our community.

In May 2018 we were successful in obtaining a substantial grant towards the cost of curtains and blinds from the Prince of Wales Benevolent Fund. Over two weekends in July a team of volunteers painted the main hall and made it ready for the curtains and blinds. Items that had cluttered the space were agreed to be stored off site and the insurers were informed. Following on from the major refurbishment of the toilet facilities this vastly improved the hall. The icing on the cake in November 2018 was the donation of a sound system from the Community Shop. The kitchen and corridor flooring was replaced in February 2019, funded by the parish council. EVHMC arranged for volunteer labour to remove the peninsular unit, making the kitchen a safer place in which all can work.

A review of financial outgoings made it necessary to raise hire costs from February 2019. The main reason for this move was the huge increase in electricity and gas costs. All hirers were given a full explanation and the same information was put into the Parish Magazine.

The hugely popular Village Show applied to become part of the EVHMC and this was agreed, the benefits being that all Village Show events are now covered by the EVHMC liability insurance. Social and fundraising events continued. The August Duck Race was successful as a fundraising event in spite of dreadful weather and was enjoyed by those that attended. A Halloween Ceilidh, Carol singing, with mulled wine to follow, and a DIY New Year's Eve party saw 2018 to the end.

2019 events have been a Soup and Pud lunch in March; we served 67 lunches in one and three quarter hours, an Easter Coffee and Cake morning and the Village Show subcommittee craft workshops: needle-felting and glass coaster making.

From April 1st we have agreed a new cleaning contract with an Eardisland company and renewed all the cleaning equipment. The purchase of a reconditioned laptop for the booking officer should make the job more efficient and GDPR measures have been incorporated into our e-mail system. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with the Parish Council in what must prove to be an exciting phase in the Village Hall development.

Carole Millin

Village Show

- Very successful show – 60 entrants and 119 people through the door on the day.
- Hall looked fab- a real celebration of the talents and attitudes of our wonderful village.
- EVS committee has now been absorbed as a sub-committee of the EVHMC. Many reasons... don't have to pay additional hall hire charges, covered by PL insurance and mainly that the show fits in with the EVHMC charitable aims (to manage a programme of events that will enhance the life of local residents).
- Money raised from the show is to be used to fund related events / workshops over the year. (To date, there's been a needle-felting workshop, glass coaster workshop with a floral arranging workshop and children's event planned over the next couple of months).

Jo South

Whittington Exhibition Foundation

The Trust was set up for the future of the parish children up to & including the age of 23. We advertise by word of mouth & the Parish Magazine. We meet on receipt of an application from a student & following set protocols we confidentially discuss & approve. We can assist with all aspects of education including books, tools, clothing, etc but not travel or accommodation costs. This year up to August 2018 we gave grants of £300 in total. Please spread the word, as money is available to help.

Melanie Gittoes, Secretary

Women's Institute

In December to the New Inn we were to go
But we could not get there because of the snow.
So in January we went and will never forget
The superb food and company to better yet!

Secret Santa was a great start to the year
We all enjoyed it and celebrated have no fear!
Rob Walker in February did us all captivate
With his pilgrimage to Spain we did celebrate!

Geoff Morris in March with "Tipples" us did ply
And after the boozy tasting, yes we could buy.
April we learned about wills and our tax
On 'Toy Boys' and inheritance we were given the facts!

In May to Westonbury Water Gardens we went.
Sunny the weather and our time was well spent!
June, Rebecca Edmunds, with "The Power of the Mind,"
Made us all relax too much we did find!

The Garden Party at Ruth Miller's in July was a winner.
But with a member's 80th cake we did not get any thinner!

September to Darjeeling Railway we steamed.
David Barrie enthralled us with the vision he dreamed!

In October, Carole Millin, on "English Language" did talk
We learned the source of some idioms, she was a sport!
In November our Annual Meeting was planned for the day.
A committee to be formed come what may!
2019 our W.I. in Eardisland one hundred is turning,
Plans are in hand and for this we are yearning!

Mavis Tantrum