

Aymestrey Matters



ummer 2025

Parish Notice Board



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Saturday 19th July- Annual Aymestrey Fete

Saturday 2nd August - Produce & Flower Show

Friday 26th September - Clairvoyant Evening with Angela Gillet

"Tea / Coffee in the Hall"

*Come and join us for the **weekly** social event.*

Meet new people, have a chat, all parishioners welcome.

Every Tuesday in the Parish Hall

10.30am to 11.45ish

Dog Show @ Aymestrey Fete

*Fun Classes including best young
handler and musical sits
Please see schedule*

*Dog Owners
Please Note*

Parish Council Meetings

held in the Parish Hall

7.00pm

*4th Wednesday in the month
(not August)*

*ALL Parishioners are welcome to
attend*

FUN QUIZ

**2nd Friday in the Month
In the Parish Hall
7.30pm**

**New season starts
September
Teams of up to 4
or
come along and join in
anyway**

**Whist Drive
11th September**

In the Hall

2pm

Cash Prize & Refreshments

£3pp

**Carpet Bowls
Monday
Evenings
@ Parish Hall
7pm
All Welcome**

Clairvoyant Evening with Angela Gillet

**Friday 26th September @7pm
in the Parish Hall**

Refreshments (Wine, Tea and Coffee) available

Tickets £12

text/ph to 07496 180332.or 07434621260

EDITORS' PAGE

What do you think of when trying to define 'Englishness'?
My first thought was Afternoon Tea, then I considered a sense of 'fair-play', what about Pantomimes?.. Cricket?... then I remembered the Village Fete!

We are lucky in our parish that we have both a venue and willing group of volunteers, to hold an Annual Summer Fete. An event where you can watch the children's sack races, or teams of would be gladiators test their strength in the Tug-o-War. Proud dog owners showing how well trained their four-legged friends are, whilst onlookers eat cake and drink tea, (or something a little stronger). It is the social event of the year, the chance to meet up with old friends and acquaintances; to forge new friendships or just catch up with what is happening in Aymestrey Parish.

There's so much to do, there are coconuts to be won, and treasure to be hunted for on the Bric-a-brac stall, to name but a few. In the yearly feat of 'skilled' engineering that is the large marquee, you can admire the skill and artistry of fellow parishioners in the Art & Crafts competition. A highlight of day is the Duck Race, where brave 'bath-toys' compete to be first to navigate a stretch of our river Lugg.

Then twenty four hours later, it's all gone, the willing volunteers have returned the tents, gazebos, tables and chairs back into the shipping container, where they will be stored for 12 months until next years fete.

As stated earlier we are very fortunate in Aymestrey Parish to be able host such a quintessential English event and we urge you all to give it the support it deserves.

Dee & Martyn

Thank you to all contributors and distributors, regular and occasional, not forgetting Imogen Davis for her lovely front covers.

***Please forward all articles, photos, notices and letters
to editor@aymestrey.org***

HEREFORDSHYRE 1642

In 1642 after occupying Hereford, the Parliamentarian Earl of Stamford wrote to Parliament:-

"Herefordshyre is poorly provided with roadways, there be few plaices where two carriages may passe. There are but two crossings of the Wye making it diffyculte to gain passage to Wales to purge the Heathen therein. The people of this County and this vyle and malignant City are devoid of wealth and culture and totally ignorant of the waies of God. They are much addicted to drunkenness and other vyces, principally unto swearing, and so unfamiliar with learning that the children though barely able to speeke, do swear stoutlye"

Henry Grey the 1st Earl of Stamford was the leader of the Parliamentarian forces which occupied Hereford during the English Civil War

He later applied to be the head of the Herefordshire Tourist Board, but sadly he was rejected!

Church Notice Board

VICTORY IN JAPAN 80

In commemoration of
VJ Day

There will be a PEAL OF BELLS
in Aymestrey Church
starting at 2pm
on FRIDAY 15th AUGUST

Do come and listen!

Contact - Meg Thorpe 07943 046450

'TALK & TEA'

THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

by Chrissie Lawson and Kris Johnston

on Saturday 16th August

at 2.30pm

followed by

Afternoon Tea in the churchyard

(Or in the church if raining!)

Further details from

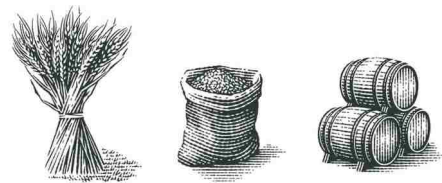
Meg Thorpe 07943 046450

Decorating Aymestrey Church for Harvest Festival

St Alkmund, Aymestrey

Friday 3rd October at 10am

All contributions of flowers, fruit and
vegetables from your garden would be
gratefully received



HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

**St John the Baptist and
St Alkmund, Aymestrey**

Friday 3rd October

at 6.30pm

followed by harvest refreshments
in the church after the service

Volunteers Required

Aymestrey Parish Commons Association

We are looking to form working parties to help with the upkeep of the commons, improving access and biodiversity.

This work may involve clearing pathways, cutting back bracken and scrub, planting trees and general landscape maintenance.

Our intention is to form a 'WhatsApp group', where we will notify members of forthcoming work parties, explain what's involved, and then you can opt in or out.

If you would be willing to help us, please contact the following....

Richard Hammond rjhammond500@btinternet.com

or

Martyn Booth martyn_booth@hotmail.com

Thank you

Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls Churches

Rev. Julie Read



July is a time for endings and new beginnings – school, college and university terms finish, degrees 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, for our journeys are not solitary but in community, with our friends and class mates. 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 finding 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 two 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 that 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

CHURCH MATTERS

REV. JULIE READ TO RETIRE

As most of our village community will know by now, our wonderful vicar Julie is retiring after 12 years as our priest, 12 years in which she has given her all to the life of our churches and to the life of our parish. The last service Julie will take will be on Sunday 27th July at 10.30am when all three parishes in the Benefice will gather in Kingsland church to say our goodbyes. We would like to make this a very happy and special occasion so everyone is invited to join in that service. Please feel free to come and join us and enjoy some laughter and bubbles afterwards.

We want to mark the occasion with a presentation to Julie as a thank you for all her work amongst us and to that end we are asking everyone that can, to please make a donation to fund a retirement gift for her. We do have some wonderful ideas on what that might be but for the moment we must keep it to ourselves so the surprise stays as such. If you can help us please send your donation to 'Kingsland Parochial Church Benefice' account, Sort Code 53-70-12, Account Number 73131792, ref 'Julie', or make a cash contribution to either Meg or Stuart, by no later than Monday 14th July.

Whatever, please come and join in the laughter (and perhaps some tears!)

on Sunday 27th July.

Many thanks.

Meg and Stuart
Church Wardens

CONSULTATION MORNING

As Julie prepares her final few weeks as Vicar of our Benefice, the search begins for her replacement. There is a set of rules which the Church of England requires us to follow and as part of that search, an open consultation with the village community, for all the three parishes of Kingsland, Eardisland, Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls, must take place. This consultation will happen on Saturday 12th July, and the meeting will be in Kingsland Church at 10am. Its purpose is for everyone that would like to, to have a chance to say what they would like to see in the new vicar. High church, low church, evangelical, musical, family - it's an opportunity for you to let us know who you would like to see next inhabiting the Rectory. Please do come along and make your voice heard as we try to set the scene for the right person to join our parishes.

Meg and Stuart
Church Wardens

Mortimer Ward

Carole Gandy



So far this Spring and early Summer the weather has been quite good and I hope that this does not mean that we have just had our Summer early and that for those of us going away in July and August will be able to take advantage of good weather.

I have been very busy during the past few months as Adult Social Care awaits its CQC inspection. Hospitals and Care Homes have been inspected regularly but Local Authority ASC has not been inspected for about 20 years so it is difficult to know what issues they will be focussing on.

I recently attended, during Unpaid Carers Week; an event at the Kindle Centre in Hereford. About 100 people participated, many of whom were caregivers and it gave Herefordshire Council the chance to really understand the needs of the carer. A lot of time is spent by professionals ensuring that the cared for person is looked after, but often they as well as, friends, neighbours and even family fail to ask the caregiver “how are you, is there anything you need, can I help in any way” and of course often there are those who do not recognise themselves as carers but ‘just looking’ after a child, a parent, or a partner and seeing it as part of what they signed up to. There is a lot of help in Herefordshire for unpaid carers and if you are someone in that position do not hesitate to contact Carers Link who will signpost you to all the services available.

It is also important that we do everything we can to allow people with a disability or those who become more frail to remain in their own home, if that is what they want to do. If you get a chance google www.herefordshire.gov.uk/hcvh and it will bring up a virtual house showing all the different aids residents can obtain, to help them live more independently and also TEC (Technology Enabled Care) which will put relatives at ease. I am really proud of this innovation which has been produced by my Directorate.

I recently attended Leominster Leisure Centre and saw the marvellous work they were doing on a Tuesday at their Feel Good for Life sessions. These sessions which include swimming, art and music are held each week for those with dementia and it was so uplifting to see the change in the clients facial expressions once they got into the water and were able to swim around or just float. We later sang some old songs performed by the Bromyard Ukulele Group who are part of a larger Worcester band; we all shook tambourines and maracas and sang along. On a more serious note, if you know of anyone who is caring for someone with mild to moderate dementia please inform them of this service which also gives the carer some respite.

As I write this article Barry and I are looking forward to attending the Aymestrey Fete as it is always an enjoyable occasion. I shall also be studying along with the Parish Council, the planning application for the extension to the Leinthall Earls Quarry to ensure it does not impact negatively on the residents of Aymestrey and Yatton in particular.

As ever if you wish to contact me do not hesitate to do so on carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk, 01568 780583 or 07792882133.

Thoughts from a Retired Gardener

Jim Logan

The last week of May; there has been no substantial rain for weeks, as we drive from Wigmore this bright sunny day with a 'drying' wind wafting the Cow parsley verges that are now past their prime.

There is little traffic and at one stage no other vehicles, as we come upon a gypsy caravan rolling quietly down towards Aymestrey, the horse at a brisk walk and a little terrier scampering alongside.

Have we slipped through a time warp to a more sedate pace of life, sadly not. It's the wood carver who parks up at Leintwardine in late spring, his caravan painted nut brown this year.

I have an admiration of people who can live the travelling life, belonging to the land without laying claim to it. In the same way that people who garden for a living have proprietorial feelings without ownership of the gardens they tend. But for all I know the wood carver owns an estate somewhere.

Now, on our return journey we stop off at the Riverside Aymestrey for a thirst quenching pint of Weston's. The river doesn't look at its sparkling best, a bit lacklustre. We sit and watch the sullen water slide past to a chorus of Chiff Chaff's and squabbling House Sparrows in the Willows. A Kingfisher

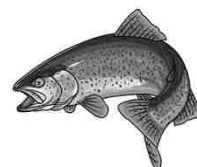


flashes past downstream, probably to feed young in a bankside nest and a few minutes later flashes back upstream to its fishing spot. A dark shadow on the far bank becomes animate, a Mink, blending well with the Alder roots, it slips and flows, in and out of sight, briefly in the river then part way up the Alder trunk, exploring every niche for a possible meal. They are beautiful creatures with cute faces and tiny

mouths full of vicious teeth capable of doing terrible damage in a very short space of time to confined poultry. As we found out last year with a pen of young Runner ducks, all killed with a bite to the back of the head.

The Mink has disappeared now but a chuntering squirrel still has eyes on it from half way up the Alder. It's always best to keep a predator in view if you are possible prey.

It's late afternoon, there is little sign of fly life on the water or of fish activity from where we are sitting. But from the bridge there are small Chub visible on the upstream side, pale mouths and dark fins the give away. And from the downstream side small Brown trout and a sizeable fish that my son claims is a Rainbow trout, all are spooked by a high sided lorry crossing the bridge, startled me too.



We could also see a big crayfish clambering amongst the rocks, from its size I wonder if it's a Signal crayfish, are they in the Lugg?.

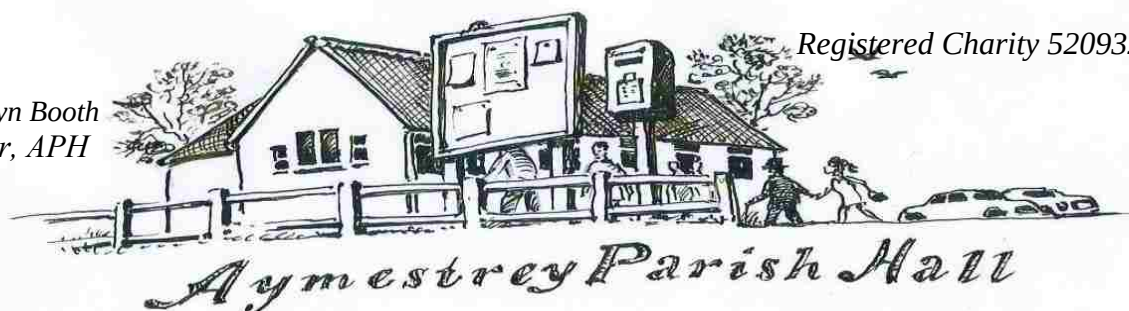
We have seen today quite a few non native creatures, American interlopers, and some of them not welcome over here. As we are on the bridge the companion caravan to 'nut brown' sails past on the back of a flatbed truck using considerably more than one horse power.

Now in the first week of June we've had some useful rain and in the evening it smells delicious walking in the lane, the fruity Elderflower dominates, near the cottage my sweet briar (Shakespeare's Eglantine), Honeysuckle is in the hedges randomly and all meld with the smell of damp nettles and Hogweed. All redolent of a sometimes feral childhood misspent searching for birds nests and newts, returning home nettled, scratched and hungry. I don't think it was misspent, well perhaps some of it was.

Jim

Martyn Booth
Chair, APH

Registered Charity 520932



Summer has arrived and the Parish Hall enters a quiet period and whilst many of the weekly events do continue; Carpet Bowling, Pilates, Sequence Dancing and the Tuesday Coffee Mornings, the monthly events take a back seat, and attention is focussed more on the annual Aymestrey Fete and the following Produce & Flower Show.

In April owing to the unpredictability of the Bluebells blossoming, this year we held a 'Walk into Spring' instead of a 'Bluebell Walk'. Unfortunately the number of walkers was down on previous years, possibly a result of the forecast of poor weather, however the walk was most enjoyable and plenty of Bluebells were admired along the way. As now customary, delicious cakes and tea were waiting for us on our return to the hall. Thanks go to Steph Dunn for planning the walk, and all who helped with the organising and catering.

This year saw the eightieth anniversary of the end of the second world war in Europe – VE80. Along with other events such as the ones held by the church, we had a very successful celebratory tea; see inside the back cover for more on this.

On Spring Bank Holiday Monday, we saw the Plant & Produce Sale at the hall. This was well supported with plenty of keen gardeners snapping up bargains from the diverse range of quality plants on offer. Several other charities also had stalls to raise funds for their good causes, 'Dogs for Good' and 'Scouting for all'.

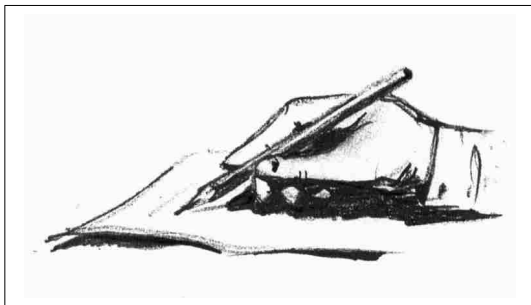
Shopping for plants can be thirsty work and the refreshment staff were kept busy. Thanks to all who donated plants and cakes, and to the organisers, Pauline, Steph and Dee; we raised almost £400 towards hall funds.

So now all the gardens are well stocked after the plant sale, there is a chance to show off how well these have been nurtured, by entering the results of your labours at the Plant & Flower Show. This is being held at the Parish Hall on the 2nd August, please see the list of all the classes you can enter elsewhere in this magazine. So why not enter our 'green fingered' competition and bring along your prized vegetables, or glorious blooms, failing that, just come along and admire other peoples handiwork, and obviously we will be serving the obligatory tea and cake.

Looking towards September we start the monthly Quizzes, Whist Drives etc. it would be great to see more of you supporting these events as they do need your support to survive.

Forthcoming events are included on the Parish Notice Board, Dates for Diaries, on aymestrey.org. and on A-boards at the Parish Hall.

MB



Parish Council

Parish Council doings and extracts from the Clerk's postbag.

Join the SID Squad!

The trusty Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) help keep drivers in check but moving them around the village is currently a one-man mission. Two people are needed for safety reasons...

So, if you are willing and a soft spot for roadside gadgets, your help would be welcomed! Join the SID Squad and help share the load.

Your village (and our lone SID-shifter) will thank you.

Let me know and I will pass your details on.



Enforcement data received from the Road Safety Team at West Mercia Police is shown below. On average each enforcement session was 1hr 20mins. I understand there are no plans to stop enforcing in Aymestrey village.

AYMESTREY	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
Offences	22	56	50	44	16	15	7	1	22	12
No. of Enforcements	3	1	4	3	2	2	1	1	3	2

Simon Hobbs from Herefordshire Council confirms that pneumatic tubes will again be used at Aymestrey. The data will be compared with that collected in November 2024.

The Mortimer Trail sign, part of the Aymestrey Traffic Calming scheme, has been installed. A donation of £72 from The Riverside and a grant from Herefordshire Council for £221.99 help towards the cost of £361.64 net.

Traffic Calming Working Groups are still meeting. They make recommendations, rather than taking decisions. Aymestrey Group members consider the traffic to be slower, and quieter. What do you think? Let me know! The former village gates will be advertised on a Clerks' Facebook page as they may be of use to another Parish Council.

The Mortimers Cross Group will arrange an initial meeting with residents to gather information and to recruit members.

Governance & Finance

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return can be seen on the Parish Council website. The Certification of Exemption from External Audit (for councils with gross income or expenditure not exceeding £25,000) was sent to PKF Littlejohn LLP as required. Notices have been displayed confirming the dates for the Exercise of Public

Rights, during which the accounts are available for public inspection, between 3 June to 14 July 2025.

Public Liability Insurance cover was renewed at a cost of £300 and a donation of £40 made to Wigmore School for a student award. Microsoft 365 was discussed, noting that the cost will increase this year from £49.99 net per annum to £70.83. Cheaper alternatives are to be investigated.

Lengthsman, Drainage & Public Rights of Way

2025/26 Grants to help fund the Lengthsman Scheme, Small Drainage Schemes and Public Rights of Way improvements are being offered by Herefordshire Council.

Lengthsman Grant is £2,747, plus £1374 match funded by the Parish Council making a total of £5,496. Further grants are available for drainage and public right of way schemes and projects are being considered. Landowner permission will be sought, without which these improvements cannot be made.

Works under the Drainage Scheme 2024/25 are being completed by The Lengthsman, Yatton Farm Services. One scheme at Lower Yatton may need further funding due to additional materials required and time spent. Running sand had been found and 1m of sediment removed.

Footpaths Officer

The Footpaths Officer is gratefully thanked for maintaining Public Rights of Way and for arranging works under the 2024/25 grant scheme including refurbishment of steps leading to Pokehouse Wood.

Mortimers Cross Noticeboard

Destroyed in a fire on 28 November 2024. It is now six months since the fire, but no update has been received from the insurance company. Yeomans Travel has confirmed they are still waiting as well. The matter is being followed up every month.

Yatton Defibrillator

The Parish Council agreed that security tags do not need to be fitted each time the defibrillator is checked. Although a tag would show whether the cabinet had been opened, the importance of easy access in case of need is paramount.

Meetings

Despite there being an array of biscuits and Herefordshire strawberries on offer, only nine residents attended the *Annual Parish Meeting* – and five of them were Parish Councillors! A link to the Minutes can be seen on the Aymestrey website homepage.

At the Annual Meeting of the *Parish Council*, Councillor Alison Archer was elected Chairman. Councillor Eleanor Waldron was thanked for her leadership as Chairman since October 2024.

Scheduled meetings take place at 7pm at the Parish Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except August and December). Dates for the coming year are 23 July 2025, 24 September 2025, 22 October 2025, 26 November 2025, 28 January 2026, 25 February 2026, 25 March 2026, 22 April 2026 and 27 May 2026. Mark them in your calendar and come along!

Your input is valued, and you are welcome to attend meetings at the Parish Hall.

Whether you have lived here five minutes or fifty years, your input matters.

For updates, please subscribe on the Parish website: www.aymestrey.org

Mrs. Maggie Brown, Clerk
Email: clerk@aymestrey.org

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 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 admin@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.

Volunteers Needed

Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme is looking for new volunteers to support people within the community.



Our volunteers offer a range of services, including friendly visits, help with errands like shopping or appointments, and assistance with household tasks.

If you would like to find out more or are interested in helping members of our parish by becoming a volunteer, please contact Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme on -

07942 257541



Saturday 19th July
From 12 noon

The Fete will be held at Yatton Court, in the field, over the bridge at the north end of the village, with the kind permission of Mr and Mrs Hurcomb. Gates open at 12noon with the entrance by the lodge, NO EARLY ENTRY (except exhibitors).

There will be the usual stalls including produce, tombola and plants along with games including coconut shy and duck race; Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (HWT); Steel Pan band; also a variety of craft stalls and demonstrations; a Raffle with the usual fantastic prizes and a Vintage Tractor Display alongside the MG classics.

Refreshments in the form of a Bar, the famous Tea Tent as well as a Burger Stand. Arena events will include Children's Games, Fun Dog Show (see schedule) and the Tug of War competition (with prize money), open to teams of 8 from villages, clubs, etc.

Vintage Tractors will display in the arena from

around 1.00pm followed by the Classic MGs, with

Children's Games starting approximately 1.30pm with the Fun Dog Show starting about 2.30pm.

The Duck Race at approx. 3.30pm followed by the Tug of War. The Raffle will be held at 4.30pm.



Entries for the art and craft competitions (schedule overleaf) will be accepted from 10am to 11.00am and will be judged by the start of the Fete.

Donations/Contributions are needed and gratefully received for the-

Produce Stall - cakes, preserves, garden produce etc.

Plant Stall - plants of all kinds please

Bottle Stall - all your spare bottles

Bric-a-brac Stall - books, puzzles etc.

Tombola Stall -miscellaneous gifts

***please take to Parish Hall 10.00am 12noon please on Tuesdays
8th and 15th July, and on Friday 18th July 5.00-6.30pm***

OR

to the stall on fete morning 10-11am

*Fete Preparations -Volunteers most welcome
Please meet @ Fete Field 6.00pm on Thursday 17th July*



Arts & Crafts Schedule

Food and drink

The winner of Class 1 will win the Margaret Probert Cup

The entrant with the most points accumulated from Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 will win the Joyce Pugh Cup for cookery

Class 1 – A Victoria sponge cake, any filling

Class 2 – 3 bread rolls on a plate, any recipe

Class 3 – 3 scones on a plate, any recipe

Class 4 – A savoury pastry item

Class 5 – A home-made fruit or alcoholic beverage

Class 6 – A jar of sweet preserve

Class 7 – A jar of savoury preserve

Class 8 – An item of homemade confectionery

Class 9 – Three eggs on a plate



Handicrafts

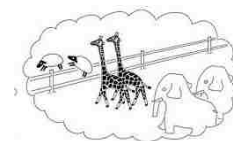
Class 10 – A handmade item using any materials

Class 11 – An item of knitting or crochet

Class 12 – A piece of cross-stitch or embroidery

Class 13 – My best photograph “in the wild”

Class 14 – A drawing or painting on a subject of your choice



Floral Art

Class 15 – A single rose in a vase

Class 16 – An arrangement of 3 fresh flowers and foliage

Class 17 – A miniature arrangement of fresh or dried flowers (max 6 inches x 6 inches excluding base)

Class 18 – Sweet peas in a vase

Class 19 – A vase of lilies



Junior Section

Please state age on all exhibits

Class 20 – A Lego model, not from a kit

Class 21 – An animal made from fruit and/or vegetables

Class 22 – A drawing or painting of flowers

Class 23 – 3 home baked and decorated biscuits on a plate

Class 24 – A poem about a River

Class 25 – A miniature garden or flower arrangement displayed in a teacup.



Rules for Exhibitors of Arts and Crafts

1. All Exhibits **MUST** be the work of the Exhibitor. *Items entered previously will not be eligible.*
2. Entrance fee by donation please.
3. All exhibits to be staged on the day of the show, 10.00 - 11.00am.
4. Judging will start at 11.15am. The marquee will reopen shortly after 12 noon.
5. The judges' decision is final.
6. No exhibit may be removed before 4pm. Items not collected will be disposed of after 4.45pm.

FIT STRONG MEN and WOMEN



YOUR FETE NEEDS YOU
(Wimps also required)



The Fete needs volunteers for setting up on Thursday 17th July (meet at Fete Field 6.00pm) and on the Saturday morning. If you are willing and able please come along.

The Produce and Flower Show

will be held on

Saturday 2nd August

at the Parish Hall, from 2pm



19th July 2025 Fun Dog Show

Starts at approx 2.30pm



Rules

1. This is a fun show first and foremost
2. The Judges' decisions are final
3. The competition is judged under local rules as determined by the judges (Not Kennel Club!)
4. All dogs to remain on a lead

Classes

1. Best Looking dog or bitch
2. Best young handler (under 12 years)
3. Musical sits - like musical chairs. Dogs must sit on command when the music stops. No touching
4. Best biscuit catcher
5. Best in Show (chosen from winners of the above classes)



Polite and Important Notice

Out of consideration to other visitors to the Fete and to the livestock that will graze the field later **PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG.**
Dogs must be under control at all times, preferably on a lead.



h.Art Week '25 (6th – 14th September)

Experience the Art of Weaving at Woollen Tree –

We're thrilled to announce that Sue at Woollen Tree, Aymestrey will once again open her weaving studios for h.Art Week '25! Step into a world of craftsmanship and creativity, where you can explore a stunning selection of handwoven, hand-knitted accessories and homeware, along with naturally dyed, hand-spun works and beautifully crafted wood-turned items.

Immerse yourself in the artistry with live demonstrations of weaving and spinning, and if you're feeling inspired, try your hand at weaving on a loom—back by popular demand after last year's enthusiastic response!

They warmly welcome visitors from Aymestrey Parish and beyond to Hillside Cottage, their creative haven nestled in the heart of the countryside. The studios will be open daily during h.Art Week from 10:30am to 5:00pm; the first house on the left up Bacon Lane, just opposite Aymestrey Parish Hall.

Parking is limited, but you're welcome to use the Parish Hall's car park—if you do, please leave a small donation in their box if you are able.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful experience with you. See you soon at Woollen Tree!

Lingen Stitches

Needlecraft Exhibition



2025

August 23rd - 10.00-17.00

August 24th - 10.00-16.00

in

Lingen Village Hall

Free Entry Raffle Refreshments

Sales including Sandra's Sewing Shop, Knighton

Donations in support of
Motor Neurone Disease Association

SEWING EXHIBITION

Lingen Stitches are holding an exhibition of their sewing work over the August Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday 23th August 10am–5pm and Sunday 24th August 10am–4pm,

in Lingen Village Hall.

Refreshments, raffle and sales tables including Sandra's Sewing Shop, Knighton, with free entry and a charitable donation from profits to go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

This is our first Exhibition since 2023 so there will be plenty to see. Everyone welcome!

A Tribute # 100 Years

Mavis Rothschild, a resident of Mortimers Cross, born 13th April 1925 celebrated her 100th Birthday with her family; even though her health was failing she was determined to have a memorable celebration. Earlier in the same week she was guest of honour at a Parish Hall coffee morning, with bunting, cards galore and fabulous cake; along with a large number of usual attendees there were relatives from around the world, including her Grandson Alex who flew from Australia for the celebrations. A great time was had by all.

It is with deep sadness we have to announce that Mavis sadly passed away on 10th May, she will be sorely missed at the Tuesday morning get together.

A celebration of her life took place on 4th June at Hereford Crematorium, a poem written especially by her Grandson, as a tribute for her 100years, being read at the service. A number of her friends from our parish were present.



AYMESTREY PARISH HALL

Provides excellent facilities for all your events



**Children's Parties, Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Wedding, Christening & Wake Receptions,
Meetings & Workshops**

Large, welcoming main hall with stage & screen.

Comfortably seats 90 + people at tables.

*Well equipped kitchen with large cooker, two sinks, dishwasher, fridge, freezer,
ample preparation space and serving hatch*

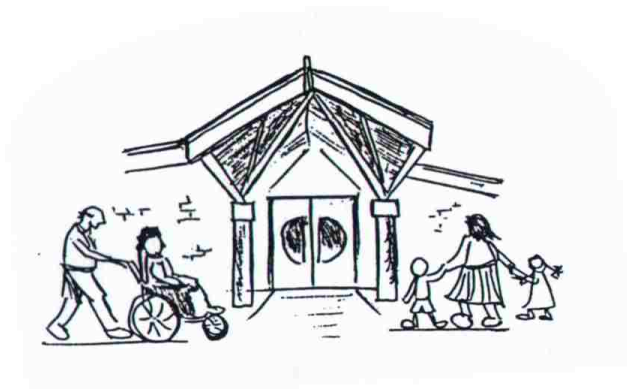
Separate side room

Free Wi-Fi

Very reasonable rates – Tel: 07796 590266

Mortimer Medical Practice

News from the Patient Participation Group (PPG)



The surgery is presently trying to register all caregivers within the practice; this includes ALL carers whether they get carers allowance or not, anyone who cares either full time or part time for a family member or a friend.

You can self refer at the surgery through your GP or just ask at reception. They will put you in touch with Sam Berrows, the 'social prescribing link worker' or one of her team

They are able to talk to you about what you might need to help both you, as the caregiver, or your relative/friend. This might be access to benefits or equipment or just a chat to check you, as a carer are okay.

There is help available within the befriending service to give respite for times when the carer may need to attend an appointment for themselves for example.

The surgery has no plans at present to recycle blister packs as this would come at a great cost to the surgery. However Boots, the chemist, in Hereford now has a box where these packs can be recycled but unfortunately not available in the Ludlow branch.

Kingsland surgery has asked if anyone is interested in helping to form a 'garden team' to help with the upkeep of the grounds around the surgery. If anyone one is interested they can contact Fiona (practice manager via the surgery) or myself -contact details as per Aymestrey Parish People

Surgery closures:-

Thursday 10/07/25

Tuesday 14/10/25

From midday for training; both surgery and pharmacy, but reception will be taking calls (urgent only please) and there will be a GP available for urgent matters.



Dates for the coming season

:-

17th October

21st November

19th December

16th January

20th February

20th March

Notes From The Marsh

March - mid-June 2025

Hedgepigs and Hauntings?

It was twilight, mid-June, and the Moth Trap needed checking. It often decides not to let there be light, so has to be jiggled (loose connection?; plenty of those around, specially when it comes to moths and identification!) Dashing down the grass track, my foot went down quite hard on a nice soft molehill... or did it? Oh dear, my sincere apologies, Big Tig, I'd trodden on an urchin. Happily, no sign of a squashed hedgehog next morning; Big Tig had already been seen pottering on the patio – with the cat gawping at it – a few days earlier., quite a good size, so probably a boar – though never a bore – urchins ambling round my garden are a treat, and will snack on slugs too.



Right; having made hedgehogs rather than mountains out of molehills, on to the next traditional saying. Busy as a bee – you must be joking – that's the third time I've found a Honey-bee carelessly lounging on my sofa! Some bees seem to feel that my working chimney is a secret tunnel to a better world. There has been a lot of activity, with bees dancing round the back chimney and humming in the lane hedge Strawberry rose with its glorious perfume. However, while some flying visitors are working women, there have been a few large drones – possibly due to a hatch of new queens or a clear-out of non-working males. Honey-bee hives, of course, are run by an-all female workforce.

Down in the paddock, the old apple stump in a rough patch is literally

humming; a lively colony of Tree Bumblebees has taken up residence.

Widespread across North-West Europe and into Northern Greece, they only arrived in the UK in 2021; so far, they don't seem to pose much of a threat to native bumbles, and they don't seem too aggressive. Easily recognised, with a rich brown thorax, black band on abdomen, and a white tail, they also have slightly different habits from most of our established bumbles. Buff-tails and others prefer to nest on the ground, often in old mouse-holes; Tree Bumbles like tree-holes and also bird-boxes. The queens are about quite early in the year; as with most bee colonies, the queen rules the roost! She lays the eggs which swell the numbers in the colony and she may eat females who get out of line and attempt to do the same. Unlike most British bees, though, the Tree Bumble queen has been observed to mate with more than one male; so all bees have the same mother, but not necessarily the same father. Perhaps this helps with a bit more genetic variation?

Back to the Moth Trap, and a goodly haul on 21st June, including a common but attractive Ghost Moth – a tufty golden head and silky white wings; earlier on, my first Lilac Beauty – widespread but local. I've always enjoyed Spectacles (indeed, I used to wear them) so was glad to find a strange little Spectacle moth. A Scarlet Tiger Moth has flitted gaily away from my camera and into the apple-tree top on several occasions. Butterflies, sadly, are very occasional, just the odd Peacock, a Comma, and the usual Speckled Woods. Orange-Tips were frequent through April and May, and had at least 22 clumps of Ladysmocks (aka Cuckoo Flowers) to enjoy; Green-veined Whites and Brimstones flitted. One Blue high-flyer (so probably a Holly) and one lowlife (a Common Blue) came past. Other insects have also been in rather short supply. It



was a pleasure to meet a Black-spotted Longhorn on 20th May; one or two Black-and-Yellow Longhorns have been bright on the Hogweed in June.

Birds of a feather? - Mrs Blackcap didn't think so, her brown tuft of a crest was well up as she was chased round the willows by four frantic males. My first Yatton Swallow sighting was on the wires down the lane; the Cuckoo called on 24th April and continued through May, fading and strengthening towards Croft Ambrey.



On 18th June a delightful view - a very busy Willow Warbler foraging in the roses as I relaxed after hedge-trimming, silent and darting (the warbler, not me!)

Frosts in early May, tropical June days – will July bring cooling showers? See next month's exciting episode – scream with the Swifts, chaff with the Chiffchaffs – enjoy!

Susanna Checketts



Big Butterfly Count 2025

First launched in 2010 the Big Butterfly Count will take place from **18th July to 10th August** this year.

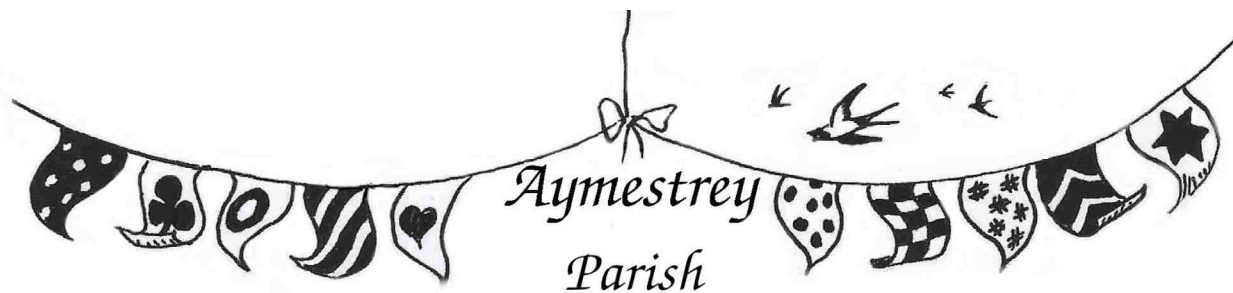


Butterflies and moths are an important part of our ecosystem helping to pollinate flowers and plants, helping to control pests as well as providing food for other animals like birds and bats. There are 59 species of butterflies in the UK but over the last 150 years FIVE species have become extinct and today butterfly numbers are decreasing at a drastic rate.

To take part in the Butterfly Count this year you can find out all the details online at <http://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org> including signing up for a newsletter, downloading an identification chart and recording your butterfly sightings.



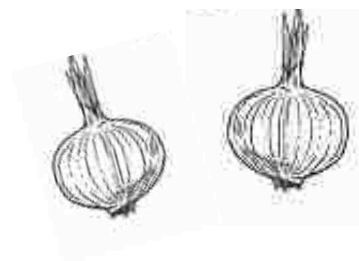
Take 15 mins out of your day to sit in a garden, park or other green space and record how many butterflies you see during that time.



Produce and Flower Show

Saturday 2nd August 2025

Held at the Parish Hall, open for viewing from 2pm



Rules

1. All Exhibits – MUST be the property of the exhibitor and grown on their land.
2. Entrance fee by donation please.
3. All exhibits to be staged on the day of the show, between 11.30am and 1.00pm. Refreshments available.
4. Judging will start at 1.00pm and opened for viewing at 2pm.
5. The judges' decision is final.
6. No exhibit may be removed before 3.00pm. Items not collected by 3.30pm will be disposed of.



Could the Winners of the Cups for 'Best in Show', 'Rose Cup' and 'Steven Price Cup' from last year please return to the Hall on the day or before if possible

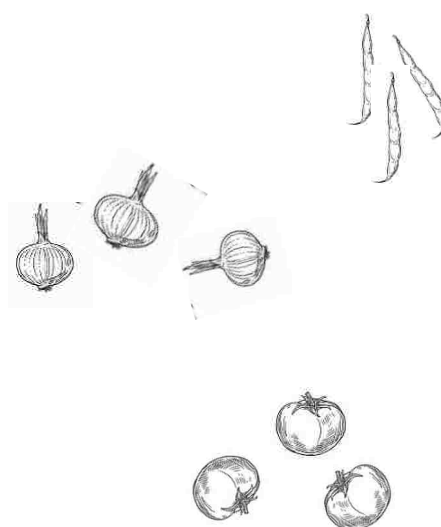


Produce and Flower Show Schedule

Saturday 2nd August, 2025

Vegetables and Fruit

- Class 1 - 3 white or red potatoes (washed) on a plate
- Class 2 - 2 courgettes on a plate
- Class 3 - 3 runner beans on a plate
- Class 4 - 5 dwarf or French beans on a plate
- Class 5 - 3 onions on a plate
- Class 6 - 3 beetroots with 3-inch tops on a plate
- Class 7 - 3 carrots with 3-inch tops on a plate
- Class 8 - 1 cucumber on a plate
- Class 9 - 3 tomatoes on a plate
- Class 10 - a selection of salad items (max 3 types) on a plate
- Class 11 - 3 stems of rhubarb
- Class 12 - a selection of soft fruit (max 3 types) on a plate
- Class 13 - an unusual or exotic vegetable of your choice



Flowers

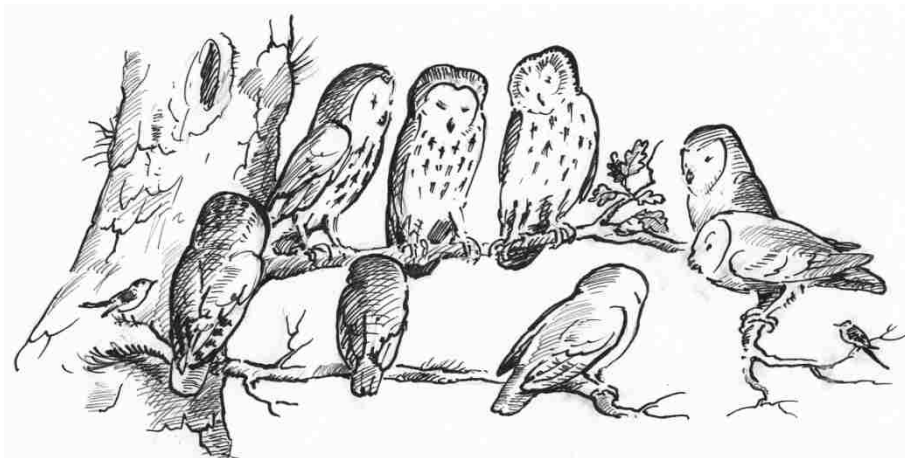
- Class 14 - a single rose in a vase
- Class 15 - a vase of my garden perennials, mixed
- Class 16 - a flowering house plant
- Class 17 - a jug of flowers from my garden
- Class 18 - a vase of 5 sweet peas (any colour)
- Class 19 - a vase of 3 dahlias (any variety)
- Class 20 - a hand tied bunch of fresh herbs
- Class 21 - the best cut flower in my garden (in a vase)
- Class 22 - the best scented flower in my garden (in a vase)
- Class 23 - a vase of foliage (up to 5 varieties)
- Class 24 - Aymestrey Matters Mystery Seeds



All Exhibits – MUST be the property of the exhibitor
and grown on their land.

PARISH PEOPLE

Here are some details for people in the parish you might need to contact



PARISH COUNCIL

Chair

Alison Archer
hello@alisonarcher.co.uk

Clerk

Maggie Brown
clerk@aymestrey.org
Tel: 07398 222 310

Members

Ian Goddard 770251 - Helen Hamilton 709155
John Probert 708484 - Domenica Dunne 07966103698
Nicola Luscott nicolaluscott@live.co.uk
Mike Snoswell (contact via Clerk) - Eleanor Waldron (contact via clerk)

Special Responsibilities

Lengthsman: Yatton Farm Services Footpaths: Dave Dunn 770224
Tree Warden: Richard Hammond rjhammond500@btinternet.com
MMP Patient Rep: Pauline Hammond pauline.hammond500@btinternet.com 708044.

Ward Councillor

Carole Gandy 01568 780583 carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk

PARISH HALL

Chair: Martyn Booth 07748604215
Bookings Secretary: Pauline Hammond 708044 or 07796590266

CHURCH

Reverend Julie Read 708255. & Reverend Rosie Roberts revd.rosie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk 07720 333383
Churchwardens: Meg Thorpe 07943046450. Stuart Hutchings 01547540511, 07961117050

AYMESTREY MATTERS

Editorial Team **editor@aymestrey.org**
Denise Booth 07434621260 Martyn Booth 07748604215

Aymestrey Website: www.aymestrey.org Ian Banks 770816 webadmin@aymestrey.org

Teme Valley YFC - 80th Anniversary

Teme Valley Young Farmers Club is a long-standing youth charity based in Aymestrey and the surrounding areas. For over 80 years they have provided a supportive and inclusive community for young people, from both farming and non-farming backgrounds and they are proud to offer opportunities that help members build a wide range of life skills, confidence, and lasting friendships.

The club is supported by a dedicated network of parents, ex-members, and a committee of senior members. Together, they organise events, skill-building activities, and social gatherings that connect young people to their community.

Throughout the year, they also work hard to raise funds for both their own club and other charities close to their hearts. Recently, they have proudly supported Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and We Are Farming Minds.

This year marks the very special milestone of their 80th Anniversary!

To celebrate, they are hosting an **Anniversary Ball on Friday the 30th of August** in Kingsland, and we would love to see as many past members and supporters as possible join us for this memorable occasion.

For more information, please contact Esme on 07895890885.



**CROFT AMBREY RUNNING CLUB PRESENTS**

**10am 20th July,
Aymestrey,
Herefordshire**
Conquer the fort
and return to tell the tale!



**10 and 5 mile trail races
through beautiful
Herefordshire countryside
with a challenging ascent
to the Iron Age
Croft Ambrey Hillfort**

- Chip timing
- Hillfort Hustle medal for all finishers
- Age group prizes

 **Entry Central** Enter at:
<https://www.entrycentral.com/hustle>

10 Mile Hustle
- £17 (£15 for affiliated runners). Min age 17

5 Mile Half Hustle
- £14 (£12 for affiliated runners). Min age 16

The Hillfort Hustle is run with the kind permission of Croft Castle and the Dunne and Hurcombe families.

This is a rare opportunity to run in parts of the Herefordshire countryside that are not normally accessible to the general public.

DATES FOR DIARIES

2025

When	What	Where
Mondays 7.00pm	Carpet Bowls	PH
Tuesdays 10.30am to 12.00 am	Tea/Coffee in the Hall	PH
Thursdays 8.00pm	Sequence Dancing	PH
Thursdays 9.30am to 10.30am and 10.45am to 11.45am	Pilates	PH

July

Sunday 6 th 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Saturday 10 th 10am	Benefice Consultation Morning.	Kingsland
Sunday 13 th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Kingsland
Sunday 13 th 7.00pm	Julie's 'Last Hurrah' Concert.	Kingsland
Saturday 19 th 12noon	Aymestrey Fete	Fete Field Aymestrey
Sunday 20 th 3.30pm	Evensong	Leinthall Earls
Wednesday 23 rd 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Sunday 27 th 10.30am	Julie's Last Service.	Kingsland

August

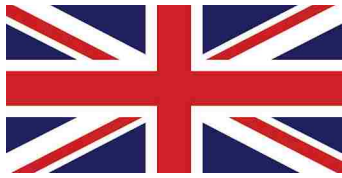
Saturday 2 nd Exhibits 11.30am-1pm	Produce & Flower Show ~Viewing @2pm	PH
Sunday 3 rd 10.30am.	Benefice Service	Aymestrey
Sunday 10 th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Aymestrey
Friday 15 th 2pm.	Peal of Bells to Commemorate VJ80.	Aymestrey
Saturday 16 th 2.30pm	Talk on History of Aymestrey Church. Followed by afternoon tea	Aymestrey
Sunday 17 th 10.30am	Benefice Service	Eardisland
Sunday 24 th 10.30 am	Benefice Service	Kingsland
Sunday 31 st 10.30 am	Benefice Service	Kingsland

September

Sunday 7 th 11.00 am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Sunday 7 th 1-5pm.	Gatley Open Gardens	Gatley Park
Thursday 11 th 2.00pm	Whist Drive	PH
Friday 12 th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH
Sunday 14 th 11.00am	Morning Prayer	Aymestrey
Wednesday 24 th 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Friday 26 th 7.00pm	Clairvoyant Evening with Angela Gillet	PH
Sunday 28 th 9.30am	Forest Church	Aymestrey

October

Friday 3 rd 10.00am	Decorating church for Harvest Festival	Aymestrey
Friday 3 rd 6.30pm	Harvest Festival	Aymestrey
Sunday 5 th	No Church Service	
Thursday 9 th 2.00pm	Whist Drive	PH
Friday 10 th 8.00pm	Fun Quiz Night	PH
Sunday 12 th 11.00 am	Holy Communion BCP	Aymestrey
Friday 17 th 7.00pm(Food) for 7.30pm	Film Night	PH
Wednesday 22 nd 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	PH
Sunday 26 th 9.30am	Forest Church	Aymestrey



VE80

A Celebratory Afternoon Tea



Following the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May a celebratory Afternoon Tea was held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 10th May. It was a lively occasion with upwards of 60 people from the Parish attending throughout the afternoon. The Hall looked well dressed with patriotic bunting and flags and the tables were decorated with red, white and blue flowers, bone china crockery and three tier cake stands. A commemorative tribute to the three heroes, of the Parish who gave their lives during the war, was also on display.

A glass of fizz was offered on arrival followed by sitting at the tables in good company to enjoy a delicious selection of savouries and cakes. There were historical reels on the big screen and background music with Reverend Rosie engaging us with a fitting speech.

People donated generously raising £172.71 which has been divided between Help for Heroes and the British Legion.



Thanks to all those volunteers who helped to make this event so memorable and to everyone who provided food and drink on the day.



The Last Hurrah!

St Michael's & All
Angels Church
Kingsland, HR6 9QW
13/7/25, 7:00pm

- Join 'Rev Julie Read & Friends' for one final concert & celebration of 12 years with Mortimer Cross Churches
- All proceeds in aid of **Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy**
- Donations on the door
- Bring your own Booze

rev.julie@mortimerscrosschurches.co.uk

07826 194400



Aymestrey Village
FETE
Saturday 19th July
12pm
Tug of war
Plant stall
Tombola
Duck race
Raffle
Food & drink
Flower & craft
Competition

Whist Drive
Thursday 11th September
2pm

Aymestrey Parish Hall

£3 per person

Cash Prize



Light Refreshments inc.

All Welcome

AYMESTREY
PARISH HALL
presents a
Clairvoyant Evening
with
Angela Gillet
Friday 26th September

7.00pm

£12 pp

Tickets; text or phone
07496 180332 or 07434 621260

Refreshments available.
(Wine, Tea & Coffee)