

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water and Sheldon
www.ashfordparishchurch.co.uk
MAY 2021

Ashford Church Services (Please contact lindafoster07@btinternet.com to reserve a seat.)

02 May: 10.30am Easter 5 Benefice Eucharist

16 May: 10.30am Easter 7 Benefice Eucharist

30 May: 10.30am Trinity Sunday Benefice Eucharist

A prayer for Trinity Sunday:

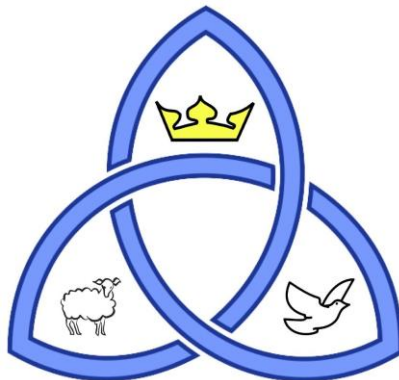
Almighty and eternal God,

You have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

And live and reign in the perfect unity of love:

Hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all
your ways, and ever more rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three persons yet one God, now and for ever.

Amen



YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!!!

A dramatic headline but hopefully it's got your attention.

The War Memorial Institute has been an important part of the village since it opened in 1929 and has played a part in the lives of many people; school dinners, dances, WI etc. It has always "been there" now it **NEEDS YOU**.



We urgently need new committee members, especially a chairperson, secretary and booking secretary. We also need new members as our membership numbers have dropped significantly in recent years.

The Institute is the only community space in Ashford; it has been efficiently run by Trustees and a management committee for nearly 100 years, some of those years have not been without problems but now we are in danger of losing it because of a lack of people willing to help to take it forward.

The hall was built as a memorial to the local men who fought in the First World War; we would be dishonouring their memory if we didn't fight to save it.

This building is part of our heritage **PLEASE** come forward and save it from closure.

kathleenwilliams601@gmail.com

01629815258

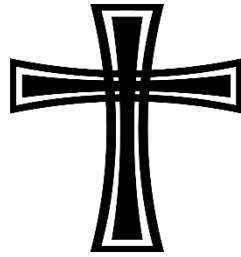
A message from Derbyshire Dales councillor Mark Wakeman:

If you are aware of a litter problem in Ashford or the local area, please contact me. I am arranging litter picks locally, including in Ashford. Anyone who would like to volunteer an hour or two's time to help would be very welcome.

Mark.Wakeman@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Dear Friends

We have become very conscious over the past year or so of pay-off, where to achieve one thing, we might have to compromise on, or forgo something else, for something to be able to happen. As I write we are enjoying some warm Spring days, but as the temperatures rise, we are conscious of farmers and growers desperate for some rain.



This all tells us that we can never have everything we want or hope for and that there are always other sides to things. How many times do we have to weigh up the bigger picture before making decisions that might have consequences beyond the immediate? Maybe that is why many people find decision-making hard sometimes! Of course, we can be too careful which can make us hesitant and over-cautious, denying the spirit encouraging us to be bold and “to go for it.”

Ever mindful of Covid 19 still affecting many people’s lives in other parts of the world, we are beginning to see the pay-off for months of lockdown and closure within our own nation, as we wait for the May and June roadmap dates to further open up our lives and economy and a real hope that we can leave behind the rules we have been living by since March 2020. We will still need to be respectful and mindful of each other, but there is ever increasing light which will hopefully give us confidence.

We do need to be mindful though of the consequence of our experiences

and the effect upon us, that we may not be fully aware of yet. This will be around the losses we have experienced as well as what we have learned about ourselves as a person, our relationships and our community. With a lot of awareness now about mental health and acknowledgement that we can all be prone to low mood and anxiety, it is so important to talk to somebody we trust, when we need to, and to create space to think through the last thirteen months, highlighting the highs and lows, the joys and sorrows.

The Christian Church during May reflects on the presence of God and the promise that this would continue after Jesus’s physical presence is no longer experienced by his followers. The Festival of Pentecost recalls the pouring out of God’s Spirit upon his people. It is a Spirit that frees people to be bold, energised, passionate, compassionate, kind, caring, thoughtful, generous, loving and courageous. It isn’t a Spirit of timidity and fear, but the power and peace of God that enables people to know that whatever happens to us in life, we have the strength of God to endure and to overcome. It isn’t a Spirit that encourages us to be selfish, material, shut away from the trials of life or the tribulations, or to feel alone, abandoned and uncared for.

The Spirit of God blows like a mighty wind in tongues of fire to renew the face of the earth and to give hope to the despairing, the vulnerable and the exploited. But God cannot do this alone- we are called within our community, places of work and through our relationships to be agents of love, reconciliation, change and

hope. The pay-off for this is our willingness not to accept the status quo, but to put the last first and to take the lowest place at the table in humility and love.

Every blessing

Tony

SHELDON JOTTINGS

Throughout April it seems that Sheldon has turned into a house building site.



'Rose Farm' renovations are still under way and work is going on elsewhere in the village. Our birds have been building apace.

Throughout the latter part of the month, we have hardly seen a bird without building material in its mouth and it is lovely to see them taking the dog's soft hair after grooming to line their nests. One wit commented, 'I hope they have all got planning permission!'. We think the village looks at its best at this time of year, with daffodils on the newly mown greens, the trees coming into leaf and blossom and the gardens springing into life.

We must congratulate Andrew L who, after almost a four-year slog, has finally been able to convert the cow barn at Top Farm into a beautiful cosy cottage. This has been a labour of love and the transformation is miraculous. He can be justly proud of his achievement. Well done Andrew! He and Carla have now moved in

and we wish them well.

Other new residents who have moved to Lower Farm are two orphan Jacob lambs. They have moved from Manor Farm to join Angie and Andy's small flock of Ryland sheep. At present they are inside keeping warm in Reggie's old jackets but we hope to see them enjoying the great outside in the near future. It's wonderful to see lambs in many of the fields around Sheldon at this time of year bringing the countryside to life.

We have also had two visitors to our village. Margaret Herbert visited in the middle of last month - it was almost as if she had never left us. She is enjoying her new home near family and near Oxford, but does admit missing the Spring here in Sheldon. On a cold Sunday afternoon early in the month, musical notes heralded the arrival of the other visitor. To the delight of the younger members of our community and some not so young, an Ice Cream van arrived in the village! A rare sight and a very welcome one judging by the queue which formed to buy its wares. Since its first visit it has been heard and sighted again. We are ready to join the queue....

At 'The Smithy' two very proud grandparents watched as their grandson appeared on BBC's 'Blue

Peter', receiving a Blue Peter badge for his efforts. He appeared as a backing dancer for a trailer for the theme tune for a new series of 'Tracy Beaker'. No, we didn't know, but all the children will!

The weather has been so dry this last month that one farmer said that 'The grass is going backwards!' Certainly the cold and dry weather has curtailed the growth of plants in the garden and the daffodils and tulips are late this year. So it seems are the swallows, only the odd one has been seen but hopefully they are on their way. Skylarks are soaring skywards singing their wonderful song in the fields around Magpie Mine and towards Deep Dale. The weather forecast is telling us that the weather is still due to be capricious – still frosts overnight but some beautiful clear and warm days. Perhaps they herald what is to come as Covid restrictions are lifted and we can all begin to enjoy to the full the wonderful area in which we are lucky enough to live.

Easter Sunday and the decorating of our windows, doors and front gardens was a wonderful show of interest and originality – and we have the video to prove it! The sun was shining and the trumpet-playing from Alec and John added to the special atmosphere. So a very good effort by everyone.

We had our second Parish Meeting on Zoom on Tuesday 13th April – this was our AGM and at least 17 people took part – not bad! All officers have kindly said they will remain in post, perhaps for another year as circumstances re Covid and our 'normal' village life remain in a state of flux.

There will be no Cream Tea Days and no Sheldon Day for the second year. All very sad as these are village events that bring in the money to help run the Village Hall, Playing Field and Church. But this is the widespread reality for public events, so let us hope next year life will be back to near normal. However, it is hoped the village may all meet for a social event, perhaps a picnic on the playing field and therefore out in the fresh Sheldon air, possibly at the beginning of September.

Has anyone got some storage space for the old wooden stalls used for Sheldon Day? These had previously been stored in a barn at Ken's but as this has now been sold we are looking for a new home for some items. The area must be at least 3 metres wide by 7 metres long.

The date of the next Parish Meeting will be Monday 21st June.

DIARY DATE Sunday 9th May. Help needed on the playing field for an hour or two in the morning. Please ring Amanda for more details.



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Pint Bottled Skimmed Milk (Peak District Dairy) 60p

Cream ½ pint Single cream (Longley Farm) £1.10

Pint Fresh Orange Juice 75p

1ltr carton Cranberry £1.10

Please contact Colin on Phone / Text 07711 900030

Email csjcolin@btinternet.com

Farming News



There aren't enough hours in the day at the moment - good job it doesn't get dark until 8.30! We are still calving although it has slowed down a little with 2 - 3 cows calving each day now. I counted up this morning and 120 have calved up to now. We have only put 22 out as it is still very cold at night with ground frosts most nights and that combined with the sun in the day means two extremes of temperature, and the young calves are very prone to pneumonia. If not caught straight away the calf can die within 48 hours. They breathe very heavily and quickly and lie down with their heads down so are quite easy to spot.



The grass is not growing at all because of the frost and also lack of rain so we are very full in the sheds and winter silage is running out so

we have had to buy extra silage in, which is unusual for us as we try to be as self-sufficient as possible. We are into the second week of lambing now and have just 35 left to lamb. As usual they take up more time than the cows calving! We have had a batch of first-time mothers lamb, and have had several which have had twins and will only take to one lamb which is so annoying. They have to be restrained in a "lamb adopter" which is a pen which restrains the ewes head so it cannot smell or butt its lambs. This system is normally quite successful but sheep being sheep they then can lie on the lambs and squash them. That I find even more annoying as they don't move when they hear the lamb bleating and so suffocate the lamb. Nothing easy and straightforward about farming!

Ashford in the Water Parish Council

For information about the village and surrounding area, and the activities of the Parish Council, please visit:

<http://www.ashford-in-the-water-pc.gov.uk>



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ASHFORD IN THE WATER PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For the financial 2020/21 the Council levied a relatively high Council Tax Charge which has been used to carry out a number of improvements around the village as described below. For the coming financial year (2021/22), we have used reserves to avoid any increase in our levy. Although the Council Tax bill shows an increase of 3.4% over 2020/21 the actual cash amount remains the same in real terms. This is probably explained by

the burden falling on a few less shoulders.

During the year now ending we were able to completely resurface and mark out the car park which we have now taken over from the District Council. Alongside that, the toilet facilities have been redecorated inside and out and improvements to the facilities, including new sinks and self-regulating taps as well as electrical fittings, will result in lower costs for energy and water. Although the toilets have been closed for periods during the current pandemic crisis, the honesty box continues to make a significant contribution to the costs of the facility. Thanks to Jayne for maintaining the high standards of cleanliness.

The Council also embarked on a programme of improvements around the village, mainly involving repair and maintenance. Some of this has been done by a hands-on approach by members of the Parish Council. As an example, one large bench has been completely re-timbered by Terry, and all the seats and benches have been cleaned and repainted, thanks to Ben and Chris. Around the village gates, railings, bollards etc. have been repainted and work is shortly to start on repainting the phone box, which we now own, and the historic milepost

near the bus shelter. Work should also start soon to rebuild the wall between the car park and the Hall Orchard. Now that we have had the first mow of the grass cutting season the village is looking really smart and tidy.

Following a critical report from our playground inspector, work has been put in place to address all the concerns raised. This work, now almost complete, has been contracted out and has involved pressure washing all the timberwork, including picnic tables, followed by painting. Any equipment repairs required have been carried out and all the safety matting has been lifted and relaid on fresh base material. With new signage throughout the Hall Orchard, the whole area now looks fresh and inviting and is already being enjoyed.

During the coming year work should be starting soon on repairs and conservation of the two major pump shelters, near the Sheepwash Bridge and near the Old School. At Highfield the long-running issues about flooding and the flood relief channel appear to have been resolved, leaving the channel now redundant, but very unsightly, and work is planned to improve this area. We are also continuing to lobby the County Council regarding

the ongoing work to convert street lighting to LED's. There seems to be some conflict between us about what we want and what they want us to have.

We will also be looking to update our regulations in the cemetery where a number of issues are arising, particularly where graves are being used as gardens, and need to be addressed.

QUICK QUIZ



(Thanks as always to David Baldry.)

Who/What is missing?

- Last 6 Dr Who actors:** Jodie Whittaker, Peter Capaldi, Matt Smith, ??, Christopher Eccleston, Paul McGann
- Cluedo victims:** Miss Scarlett, Revd Green, Col. Mustard, Mrs Peacock, Mrs White, ??
- Last 6 James Bond actors:** Daniel Craig, Pierce Brosnan, ??, Roger Moore, George Lazenby, Sean Connery
- Largest English counties by size:** N Yorkshire, ??, Cumbria, Devon, Norfolk, Northumberland
- Teams with the most FA Cup Final wins:** Arsenal (14), Manchester Utd (12), Chelsea (8), Tottenham Hotspur (8), ?? (7), Aston Villa (7)
- Last 6 Chancellors of the Exchequer:** R Sunak, S Javid, P

Hammond, G Osborne, ??, G Brown

7. **Last 6 Sports Personality of the Year:** Lewis Hamilton (twice), Ben Stokes, Geraint Thomas, Mo Farah, Andy Murray (3), ?? (in 2012)

8. **Last 6 presidents of France:** E Macron, F Hollande, ??, J Chirac, F Mitterand, V Giscard d'Estaing

9. **Red & Yellow Monopoly cards:** Strand, Coventry St, Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square, Fleet St, ??

10. **Last 6 Lib/Dem leaders:** E Davey, J Swinson, V Cable, ??, N Clegg, M Campbell

Answers on the last page.

The stained glass windows in Holy Trinity, Ashford-in-the-Water

Ian Pykett brings us the first in a series of beautifully researched studies of our stained glass windows.

THE 19TH CENTURY WINDOWS

'Ashford Church is a very pretty edifice, and can boast of three beautiful stained-glass windows ...'

Derby Daily Telegraph, 1881

1. The Cottingham Window

This four-light composite window with tracery in the west wall of the north aisle was created and installed

in 1880 by Morris & Co, an enterprise originally founded in 1861 as Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. This firm of 'fine art workmen in painting, carving, furniture and the metals' was the leading company of the Arts and Crafts movement, of which William Morris (1834-1896) was the *de facto* leader. The mission of this influential campaign was to use only high quality materials and skilled individual craftsmanship, and to eschew the increasingly impersonal and mechanised approach ushered in by the Industrial Revolution.

The **top two lights** of the window show the Annunciation to a design by William Morris himself. The Archangel Gabriel, on the left, is informing the Virgin Mary that she is about to conceive and become the mother of Jesus Christ. The scrolled texts recite the Archangel's proclamation, 'Ave Maria, gratia plena' ('Hail Mary, full of grace'); and Mary's humble and willing consent, 'Ecce ancilla Domini' ('Behold the handmaiden of the Lord').

Playing, as it does, a central part in the Christian narrative, it is not surprising that Morris's studio was commissioned to create more than a dozen graphic interpretations of the Annunciation story, several of those each giving rise to a series of reproductions tailored for particular churches. The design used at Ashford was first realised in 1868 at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Dalton, near Thirsk in

North Yorkshire, where it appears in two adjacent narrow windows, with tall pomegranate fruit trees augmenting the background foliage. Another variant was installed, in the same year as the Ashford window, within a five-foil tracery window at All Saints' Church, Middleton Cheyney, Northamptonshire.

The light on the **lower left panel** incorporates a chalice and a dragon – ancient metaphors for the Christian faith and Satan, respectively – in a 13th century story from Jacobus de Voragine's 'Golden Legend': The faith of St John the Evangelist is tested by a pagan priest who taunts him, 'if you want me to believe in your god, I will give you some poison to drink and, if it does not harm you, it means that your god is the true God.' This portrayal captures St John as he makes the sign of the cross over the poisoned chalice, whence the deadly toxins escape in the form of a two-headed dragon. The artists of Morris's company conceived 17 different portrayals of St John the Evangelist. The depiction we see here was created by Edward Coley Burne-Jones (1833-1898), another founding partner of the firm. Twenty-five variants of this particular design were installed between 1869 and 1910: the first, at the Savoy Chapel, Westminster, was lost when all the windows of that building were destroyed by World War Two bombing.

The **lower right light** is Burne-Jones's depiction of Pope Gregory I



(St Gregory the Great), the dove at the saint's shoulder symbolising the divine inspiration for his prolific writings. Morris & Co produced three other interpretations of this character, two of which were also by Burne-Jones. His design that we see at Ashford was initially drawn for an 1873 installation at Jesus College, Cambridge, and it was reproduced only twice more: at All Saints Church, Dedworth, Windsor, in 1881; and at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, London in 1894-1895.

The **tracery quatrefoil** at the top of the Ashford window is one of several interpretations of ‘The Dove Descending’ by the architect Philip Webb, another member of William Morris’s firm, who himself had considerable influence on the Arts and Crafts movement. (William Morris commissioned Webb to build him a new home, Red House, in Bexley Heath.) The dove – a symbol frequently seen within or alongside interpretations of the Annunciation – is a metaphor for the Holy Spirit, via whose intervention the Virgin Mary was to conceive. The design of the dove is similar to that of a quatrefoil at All Saints, Coddington, Nottinghamshire, and a gable window at All Saints’ Church, Middleton Cheyney, Northamptonshire. The latter, as mentioned above, is also the location of an Annunciation window by William Morris.

The window was installed in memory of John Gregory Cottingham (1813-1878). John was born at Hardwick Hall, where his father was employed as the house steward by the 5th Duke of Devonshire. He qualified as a solicitor, succeeded his father as steward of Hardwick Hall, and became Mayor of Chesterfield. He was a cousin of Joseph Paxton’s wife, and after the 6th Duke’s death, he assumed Joseph’s role as the land agent at Chatsworth.

John and his wife, Mary Anne (née Hallewell), are both buried in the churchyard of St Peter’s Church,

Edensor, on the Chatsworth Estate. Stained glass windows memorialising John’s life are also installed in that church, as well as at St John the Baptist’s Church, Ault Hucknall, where John Cottingham’s younger brother, Revd Henry Cottingham, became the incumbent in 1859.

(To be continued).

Ian Pykett, 2021

POT LUCK

Many thanks to Barbara Hudson for her recipe.



Chicken and Mushroom Risotto (serves 4) (freezing recommended)

2 tablespoons of olive oil
 225g (8oz) arborio risotto rice
 225g (8oz) skinless, boneless chicken, chopped into chunks
 2 garlic cloves, crushed
 1 onion, chopped
 1 yellow or green pepper, de-seeded and sliced
 100g (3 1/2 oz) mushrooms, wiped and sliced
 2 teaspoons dried mixed Italian herbs
 1 litre (1 3/4 pints) chicken stock
 25g (1oz) sun-dried tomatoes in olive oil rinsed and sliced
 Salt and freshly ground black

pepper

to serve:

4 tablespoons finely grated

Parmesan cheese

A few sprigs of fresh basil

1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok. Add the rice and sauté gently for two minutes. Add the chunks of chicken and cook gently for 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly.



2. Add the garlic, onion and pepper. Cook over a low heat, stirring frequently for 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms and cook for another minute or so.
3. Stir in the dried herbs, half the stock and the sun-dried tomatoes. Bring to boil, then reduce the heat. Cover and simmer gently for about 20 minutes, adding further stock as needed, until the rice is tender and all the stock has been absorbed.
4. Season the risotto with salt and pepper, then ladle on to warmed plates and sprinkle each portion

with 1 tablespoon of Parmesan cheese. Garnish with sprigs of fresh basil.

Cook's note:

If all the stock has been absorbed before the rice is tender, add a little more stock or hot water.

Variation 1: For a special occasion, replace 150 ml (1/4 pint) of the stock with 150 ml (1/4 pint) dry white wine.

Variation 2: You could add 2 skinned and chopped fresh tomatoes in step 3, just 5 minutes before the end of cooking.

Chilly Spring day in Ashford ...



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Please remember if you need to seek medical advice and the surgery is closed contact **111**.



Need help or advice?

Sarah Dines
Member of Parliament for
Derbyshire Dales

You can write at any time to:

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Sarah Dines MP, working hard for
Derbyshire Dales

Quick quiz answers

1. David Tennant
2. Prof. Plum
3. Timothy Dalton
4. Lincolnshire
5. Liverpool
6. A Darling
7. Bradley Wiggins
8. N Sarkozy
9. Leicester Square
10. T Farron

The deadline for the June magazine is 21st May 2021.

Please send any poems, pictures, articles, recipes, puzzles, animal profiles, thoughts or reminiscences to stone.mary@sky.com. Thank you!