

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water
and Sheldon
<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

ASHFORD SERVICES

8th January: 1st Sunday of Epiphany 9.45am Sung Eucharist

15th January : 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 9.45am Sung Eucharist

22nd January: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 9.45am Sung Eucharist

29th January: Candlemas – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Funerals:

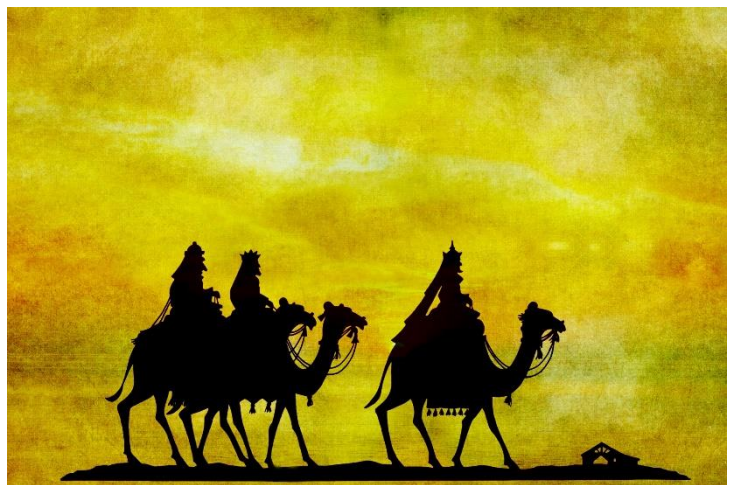
10th November Dorothy Greenhalgh

21st December Dorothy Daybell

There are no services in Sheldon in January or February.

A prayer for Epiphany:

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our
journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Village Carol Singing



Gathering by
the Christmas
Tree at the
Sheepwash

Bridge to sing carols has become an annual village event. On December 21st a good crowd sang heartily, led by the Church choir, and enjoyed mince pies, Katrina Mayson's special recipe mulled wine



and the most delicious roast potatoes supplied by Rafters at the Riverside. Many thanks to everyone involved. All of the proceeds will be divided between the War Memorial Institute and the Appeal for Ukraine.



Photos by Chris Harrison.

The Village Album



Our beautiful villages of Ashford and Sheldon have been captured in memorable photos over the years. If you have pictures that you have taken recently or long ago that you could share, please send them to stone.mary@sky.com so they can be featured in future magazine editions.

Dear Friends

A very Happy New Year to you and I pray that it will be a good one for you and those you love.



Tempted as we are to make a few resolutions (usually around eating and drinking less and taking more exercise – all good of course), they can become a source for feeling early in the New Year guilty that yet again I failed!

Could I suggest though three resolutions for 2023 that are not linked to pounding streets or treadmills. The first is to be kind to yourself. There is so much more emphasis and spotlight on mental health and well-being than ever before, in response to the recognition of what stress, anxiety and self-doubt can do to us. Looking after our selves should not be a lower priority in the great scheme of things, but part of developing resilience, a sense of worth, and to know that we are loved, valued and matter. It might be doing something you enjoy more- going for a walk, a bath, time to read your favourite book, catching up with a friend.

Secondly, to resist desolation. We know there are things going on in the world that worry us and fears and make us sometimes want to

crawl under a duvet and not come out. Even in the worst of times we need to look for the shafts of light and specks of hope. Even when it is hard to put into words our thoughts and feelings, there is somebody near who is ready to reach out with a word of encouragement - it may even be you.

In the midst of desolation, God reaches out in love to console, comfort and show us a path that leads us out of the darkness.

Thirdly, to believe in freedom - the freedom to trust, to question, to make decisions that are not about keeping a status quo, to know the freedom to love, be compassionate, generous and recognise where truth and justice renew, heal and bring freedom. Whatever the year holds, may it be one of growth, confidence, positivity, love and self-belief, blessed by God's love for us all and working for the very best within our lives, our community and the world in which we live and interact.

God bless your 2023.

Canon Tony

If you are struggling in any way during these difficult times of rising prices, please don't suffer in silence. I invite you to contact me in complete confidence.



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NEW YEAR



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Farming News

Farmers Weekly this week gave us a comparison of food consumption and cost of common food items in 1973 and 2022. I have picked out the most interesting facts for you to digest. It doesn't make good reading for our industry.

Number of farming holdings 1973 - 375,000 2021- 220,000



Number of full time farmers 1973 - 219,000 2021 - 147,000

Number of full time employees
1973 – 300,000 2021 - 167,000

Food Consumption grams per
person per week:

Beef 1973 - 179 2021 - 97

Lamb 1973 - 126 2021 - 32

Pork 1973 - 85 2021 - 41

Sugar 1973 - 388 2021 - 56

Eggs number 1973 - 4.23 2021 - 2.22

Fresh veg 1973 - 2456 2021 - 1147

Ready meals 1973 - 35 2021 186

Poultry 1973 - 173 2021 - 271

Rice 1973 - 17 2021 - 111

Pasta 1973 - 31 2021 - 186

No real surprises as we all know chicken, rice and pasta have leapt in popularity.

Other interesting stats they gave us:

Cost of common items in 1973 -

Litre of petrol 9p

Loaf of bread 11p

Pint of milk 5p

Dozen eggs 32p

Pint of beer 18p

Golden wonder crisps 2.5p

And finally the average house price in 1973 was £8.700 and 2022 £295.000

The average food spend in 1973 was 31% of income and 2022 it had fallen to 17%

Makes you think - no wonder the farming industry is on the decline.

An Introduction to your local milk delivery service

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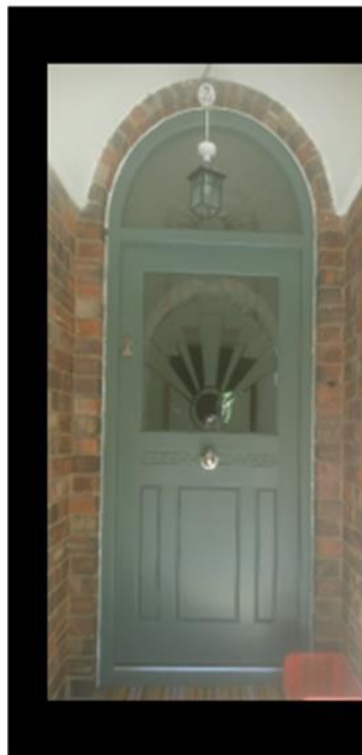


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SHELDON JOTTINGS

Another year begins!

We just hope 2023

will be a better year for us all than the year past, with the death of the longest serving Monarch – our much respected and loved Queen, a war in Ukraine, turmoil in Westminster, the UK's hottest day, rising prices and soaring inflation and then at the end of the year, a two week cold snap with the coldest recorded temperature for England of -7C and then disruptive strikes. All these events directly or indirectly affected us here in Sheldon.

The heatwave presented real difficulties for our farmers as the grass dried up and provided little nutrition for the animals. We had the sight of them being given the feed which had been gathered for the winter, feed prices rose and a second crop of grass and hay could not be collected until the early autumn. A new landscape emerged, dry and brown revealing an old forgotten garden layout at Chatsworth and University of Sheffield students were surveying a new enclosure that had been discovered on a Sheldon/Ashford boundary.

Our village birds seemed to do well, the flock of sparrows visiting the table increased visibly. In late autumn and early winter they were



joined by chaffinches, robins, blackbirds, blue and great tits, along with thrushes and the occasional woodpecker. Then the resident sparrow hawk found them and by the end of the year numbers had noticeably decreased and plucked feathers were a sorry sight in the garden. So we stopped feeding and sadly we see fewer birds. Just after dawn, however, on most days we see a flock of starlings fly over the village as they journey from their roost to the feeding grounds on Sheldon Moor.

The year ended with two notable village events. Firstly the village Christmas Fair and Light up on the 10th December which raised a magnificent £2000 plus sum for the Church. There were many market stalls in the village hall.

Refreshments, hot food, mince pies and mulled wine up and down the street, a Christmas Tree Festival in the Church and, of course, Santa came to visit the village and speak with all the many children who brought their Mums and Dads. The bedecked tractors with their many lights, came down the village street to a field near the Church and they looked so good as they gave us some festive cheer. True to form, houses in the village were brightly lit with baubles of light and some trees and bushes were also lavished with decorations of lights. A true light up....

The other notable event was, of course, the Carol Service led by Canon Tony. All our thanks go to those who organised, helped and participated on these occasions which lent a sparkle to the dark winter days before Christmas and helped remind us of the true purpose of this special time.

Perhaps we can now look forward to 2023 with some optimism, perhaps all the political difficulties will resolve themselves, a new King will be crowned, and perhaps, just maybe, we can all have a more enjoyable, happy, successful and relaxing year.

Our best wishes for the New Year to you all.

Ashford WI



Ashford WI welcomed The Matlock Flame Belly Dancers to the December Meeting. The Belly Dancers gave a most entertaining account of the history of Belly Dancing and brought a selection of striking costumes and props for us to inspect. They then gave a

demonstration of different belly dances before inviting WI members to “have a go”. A quiz, Christmas food and mulled wine completed a most enjoyable evening.

On December 9th some of our members attended the annual carol concert for our local WI group, held this year at Great Longstone. This was a lovely evening with uplifting carols and readings followed by mulled wine.



On Wednesday 14th of December we enjoyed more Christmas celebrations in the form of a pie and pea supper and a brass band concert at the Maynard Arms. We look forward to our January meeting on Thursday 5th January at 2:15 when Aileen will tell us about her visit to Easter Island.

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>

Maidens' Garlands at Holy Trinity, Ashford-in-the-Water Part 2

Last month, we recounted the story of Elizabeth Blackwell, who died on November 9th 1801 when she was just 16 years old, and was accorded the privilege of having a "maiden's garland" made for her.

At the time of the church's 1868-1870 restoration, five such ancient garlands had survived, and these were scrupulously preserved by Revd John Reddaway Luxmoore. His son, John Stonhouse Luxmoore, recorded that, in 1891, the frame



Five maidens' garlands on display at Ashford Church, in a photograph published by Revd John Reddaway Luxmoore in 1908.

of one garland "was worm-eaten to such an extent that it was practically of wafer-thin thickness only, filled with dust". In this particular case, it was necessary to construct a new framework. In 1899, various further small repairs were undertaken to the garlands. Despite all this care, one fell to the ground in 1936, and could not be restored.

The four ancient garlands that currently remain were expertly cleaned and conserved in 1987, and then resuspended inside protective transparent covers, under the aegis of Ven Gerald Phizackerley.

2. Ann Howard, d. 1797

The oldest is probably that of Ann Howard (or Hayward). Most accounts state that Ann was buried on April 12th 1747, although there is no record in the parish registers of the death of anyone with that name around that time. This date was first assigned by the historian Llewellynn Frederick William Jewitt in 1860, and has been assumed correct ever since. However, Jewitt acknowledged that deciphering the date written on that garland necessitated "very careful examination"; and also that "six lines of poetry" on the same garland were by then "perfectly illegible". Further inspection of the parish records reveals that an

"Ann, daughter of John and Mary Hayward" was baptised on December 31st 1775; and that an "Ann, daughter of John and Mary Howard" was buried on April 13th 1797. If these entries each refer to the same individual (as seems likely), Ann would have been 21 years old when she died – the age that Jewitt stated was written on her garland. It seems probable, therefore, that Jewitt could have misinterpreted 1797 as 1747; and April 13 as April 12. Given the obviously indistinct writing, this would be forgivable. Indeed, by the time that this garland was inspected again in 1899, it was said that "no traces of the inscription are now left".

3. Ann Swindel, d. 1798

We have confirmation in the parish registers that an Ann Swindel, the daughter of Ralph and Mary Swindel, was buried the following year, on Dec 12 1798, and that she was baptised 22 years earlier on June 2 1776. Jewitt "succeeded with considerable difficulty in deciphering the following lines" of poetry on Ann's garland:

*Be always ready no time delay,
I in my youth was called away,
Great grief to those that's left behind,
But I hope I'm great joy to find.
Ann Swindel.
Aged 22 years.
Dec 9 1798.*

On a re-inspection 40 years later, it is recorded that most of these lines had disappeared.

4. Rebecca Sheldon, d. 1825

In his notes on the history of Ashford church, John Stonhouse Luxmoore writes that another garland commemorated the memory of a Rebecca Sheldon, who is confirmed in the registers to have been buried on October 16th 1825 at the age of 19 years. He mentions that the garland was carried before the coffin by Rebecca's sister. However, given the fact that there were many Sheldons in Ashford around this time, he queries in a pencilled note whether this identification is correct. For example, we find that another Rebecca Sheldon was buried at Ashford on November 7th 1847, aged 21 years.



*One of the four surviving ancient maidens' garlands at Ashford Church.
(Photo: Martin Crampin).*

5. ? Baxter ?

JS Luxmoore also states that another garland was made in memory of a girl whose surname was Baxter, and he questions whether this person may have been related to Robert Baxter (1748-1822) who lived in the Old Parsonage on Court Lane, and who was clerk of the church for 37 years.

It is presumably just a coincidence that Robert Baxter's daughter, Hannah, is one of those named on the Blackwell memorial that we mentioned in Part I: Hannah and her husband, Joshua Blackwell, were the parents of the deceased infant John, who died 16 years after Elizabeth Blackwell had drowned in the river.

6. Joy Price, d. 1995

In 1995, Revd Clive Thrower together with a member of the church's congregation, Mrs Linda Foster, revived this ancient and affecting custom by making a garland for the funeral of Miss Joy Suzanne Price, who died at the age of 72. Joy, a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis, served Ashford Church and the community in numerous ways: as lay reader; Sunday School teacher; secretary and treasurer of the Parochial Church Council; a school governor; and "Akela" to the wolf cubs. She was also supportive of activities at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Sheldon, where she is buried. Professionally, she managed to find time to be a lecturer in English at Matlock Training College.

Her garland, together with her handkerchief suspended inside, now hangs on the west wall of the north aisle, over the pew where she used to sit.



Miss Joy Price of Ashford in her "Akela" uniform (photograph ca. 1955, courtesy of David Windle) and the modern funeral garland made in her honour in 1995.

By Ian Pykett, with great thanks to David Windle for his review and contributions.

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Bakewell and Ashford Society (BASH)

**TOP GUN: MAVERICK (2022
Cert. PG13)**

SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH 2023

7.30 pm at the Medway Centre,
Bakewell



Set 30 years after its predecessor, the film follows one of the US Navy's top aviators, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell's return to the United States Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program (also known as U.S. Navy-Fighter Weapons School - "TOPGUN"), where he must confront his past as he trains a group of younger pilots. Among them is the son of Maverick's deceased best friend Lieutenant Nick "Goose" Bradshaw, USN. He pushes the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodges the advancement in rank that would ground him. A reviewer wrote of the film, "I had mediocre expectations coming in. It's very hard to make a successful sequel to an older classic movie, but I was

immediately entertained from beginning to end."

BASH meets once a month, usually on the 2nd Sunday in the month, from September to June in the friendly atmosphere of The Medway Centre, Bakewell to show a variety of new, classic and foreign films. There will be an introduction to each film with refreshments served during the interval. Accessibility is important to BASH. We use a wheelchair friendly building with film subtitles and a hearing loop. You can join BASH Film Society via our website, sign up on the night or you can telephone the membership secretary Joy Thrower 01629 814863. As a member of the film society you will also be entitled to borrow for two weeks any DVD or BluRay from our ever growing library of films (see **www.bashfilms.org.uk**). We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday January 8th at 7.30pm.

Peak in the Past



The Peak in the Past community heritage group has produced a 10 minute historical film documentary

based on the rediscovered Victorian grave of a young boy in Ashford churchyard. This story was featured in previous editions of the Ashford magazine. Use the following link to watch the documentary:

<https://youtu.be/kJLTgXRFH00>

New Year Quiz



1. The name January is derived from the Roman god Janus. What is he the god of?
 - a. Months and years
 - b. Gates and doors
 - c. Rain and prosperity
2. The first ball to be dropped in New York's Times Square happened in what year?
 - a. 1908
 - b. 1945
 - c. 1902
3. What is Scotland's New Year tradition called?
 - a. Lachlan
 - b. Hogmanay
 - c. Teague
4. What is the number one UK New Year's resolution?
 - a. Improving relationships
 - b. Improving fitness
 - c. Doing charity work
5. The New Year's kiss has been around since what time?
 - a. Middle Ages
 - b. 19th century
 - c. Cold War
6. Under which calendar is New Year's Day January 1st?
 - a. Jewish calendar
 - b. Caesar calendar
 - c. Gregorian calendar
7. What calendar determines the date of the Chinese New Year?
 - a. Zen calendar
 - b. Solar calendar
 - c. Lunar calendar
8. In Spain people celebrate New Year by eating what?
 - a. 12 grapes
 - b. an egg
 - c. a walnut
9. What New Year's gift did ancient Persians give?
 - a. Pigeons
 - b. Eggs
 - c. Wine
10. Approximately how many people make a New Year's Resolution in the UK?
 - a. 21%
 - b. 64%
 - c. 48%

Answers on last page.

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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

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Derbyshire Dales

New Year Quiz answers

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. b 6. c 7. c 8. a 9. b 10. a

The deadline for the February magazine is 24th January 2023.

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