

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water
and Sheldon

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

October 2024

ASHFORD

Sunday 6th October: Trinity 19: 9.45am Morning Worship

Sunday 13th October: Harvest Festival: 9.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 20th October: Trinity 21: 9.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 27th October: Last after Trinity: 9.45am Sung Eucharist

SHELDON

Tuesday 8th October: Harvest Festival Service and Supper 7pm at The Cock & Pullet. For the supper please book with Kath Melland at the pub 814292.

Sunday 10th November 3pm Remembrance Sunday Service at church.

ASHFORD WEDDINGS:

12th October: Elizabeth Perry & Mark Pettit

19th October: Emily Hulme & Thomas Whitehead

A hymn for Harvest:

Come, ye thankful people, come,

Raise the song of harvest-home:

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;

God, our Maker, doth provide

For our wants to be supplied;

Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home!



Harvest Supper

**October 12th 7pm
in the W M Institute**

**Tickets £10pp payable by cash or card on the
night.**

**Please bring your own drinks and glasses.
There will be a raffle and any prizes will be
gratefully received.**

Please bring along on the night.

**Let Linda know by 3rd October if you would like to
join us at lindafoster07@btinternet.com .**



Harvest Festival Service of Thanksgiving October 13th 9.45am in Ashford Church

**Once again we are asking for donations of
dry foods suitable for the Matlock food
bank.**

**As there is a wedding on Saturday 12th,
these foods will not be displayed in church
but will be collected and blessed in the vestry.**

**Please bring along any offerings during the previous
week, or on the Sunday morning.**

Many thanks.



Dear Friends

“Where did our summer go - somehow I seem to have missed it?” has been a common question amongst many people in this part of the world at least. One blink and you missed it and to depress you further the leaves are beginning to change colour and fall, and the nights are drawing in! But find cheer that shelves of Halloween and Christmas items are appearing in the shops enticing you to buy early!

The celebration of the gathering in of the Harvest has existed for hundreds and thousands of years across different cultures, climates and areas of the world, linked to specific crops and fruits to that area and when they are gathered in. Here in the UK Harvest Festivals have been traditionally linked to the harvest moon, a full moon that appears closest to the autumn equinox, with celebrating and giving thanks being anytime from mid-September to the end of October.

The Harvest for many communities and individuals over the centuries has always been linked with survival and flourishing where an abundance of fruit and grain will sustain a family and community over the winter months. Spending time in rural Romania during our recent holiday I saw firsthand the importance for a community of



wasting nothing of the harvest, and how a home industry of pickling and bottling harvested vegetables etc was part of the thanksgiving for God's bounty to sustain life over the coming winter.

It is important for us here in the UK to give thanks because it is very easy today to be disconnected from the land and fail to appreciate the hard work, anxiety and stress that can be linked to the growing and harvesting of crops, and the keeping of livestock with the many demands on farmers and the market forces that affect their livelihood.

Another way of giving thanks for the harvest is to support Harvest Appeals and for 2024 Derby Diocese is supporting Derbyshire Foodbanks and initiatives supporting the provision of food for people in need. In January 2024, 15% of UK households were living in food insecurity, equivalent to approximately eight million adults and three million children. There are numerous food projects currently hard at work in Derby and Derbyshire, all trying to help combat the effects of food poverty. But there's a problem. With more households having to tighten their purse strings, giving to food banks has fallen - less money, less food, less to share - and food project centres are increasingly having to buy food to keep up with increasing

demand. By donating to the Bishop of Derby's Harvest Appeal, 'Our Daily Bread', you can help local food projects provide a vital lifeline for those households who soon may be wondering where the next meal is coming from. Thank you.

Canon Tony

Ashford WI

Retired forensic expert witness and well-known local speaker, Paul Newsham, made a welcome return to the Ashford in the Water WI last month when he spoke to the group about the science of Biometrics and Forensics.

In an interesting, informative and often humorous talk that managed to incorporate a range of subjects, from Theology and Philosophy to Biology and Ethics, Paul explained how every one of us is unique and how many of our features, including our DNA, eyes, teeth, fingerprints and even our feet can be used to identify us. To put this into context he gave examples as to how this is being used around the world in today's modern environment.

Adding a fun, interactive element to the evening, the group was tasked with guessing the identity of six blue-eyed celebrities from pictures of their eyes only. We were all

amazed by the array of blues – and by the different answers!

Next month's meeting is on October 3rd at 7.15pm, when a mystery craft evening is planned!

If you would like to join the Ashford in the Water WI, please email us on: AshfordWI28@gmail.com New members are always very welcome.



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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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Becky(Nee Short) and Andrew Jameson in the beautiful sunshine after their wedding on 31st August. We wish them both a long and happy life together.



Beginning of Autumn at Chatsworth



DID YOU KNOW....?

The tradition of harvest thanksgiving in church began in 1843. Reverend Robert Hawker, Vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall, invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service for harvest. He put up a notice in the church for his new service: 'Let us gather together in the chancel of our church, and there receive, in the bread of the new corn, that blessed sacrament which was ordained to strengthen and refresh our souls.'

The custom soon spread to all parts of the UK.

Celebration of Bellringing at Holy Trinity Ashford-in-the-Water

OCTOBER 20TH 2024 will mark the 70th anniversary of the dedication of three recast bells, one new bell, and a new bell frame in Ashford's church tower.

These four bells were first rung in May 1954 to herald the safe return of Queen Elizabeth II from her first Commonwealth tour.

Two more bells were added in 1966, and the first peal was rung on June 23rd 1967.*

Our bellringers will be celebrating these events at an Open Day in the church tower on the afternoon of **Sunday October 20**, and by ringing quarter peals every day of the week leading up to that. (By happy coincidence, the annual Peak District Quarter Peal week runs from October 12 – 19, so you may hear bells ringing in many other local villages as well!) We'll also be marking the anniversary at our 9.45 am service on the following **Sunday October 27**, after which there'll be an opportunity to partake in a celebratory drink!

The most ancient bell in Ashford's tower – which is more than 500 years old – is still rung during the consecration of the Holy Communion. But, unlike the other bells, this can not be used for change-ringing. The two oldest bells that *are* hung for change-ringing were cast by the bellfounder Godfrey Heathcote of Chesterfield in 1612, and a third was cast by Thomas Hedderly of Nottingham in 1750.

The first intimation that these three bells needed remedial work was in 1936, when Revd Henry Sherlock was vicar. It had been discovered that the oak beams supporting them were being attacked by beetle, and further expert inspection resulted in a decision in 1938 that the bells "should not be tolled from this date until the necessary repairs had been carried out". However, "it was resolved to launch an appeal immediately for funds to carry out the work, the work to commence as soon as a substantial amount of money had been raised."

Thus began a 16-year period during which the bells were silent, including those years when the massive societal and economic changes unleashed by the Second World War necessarily focussed priorities elsewhere.

* A "peal" is the gold-standard in change ringing, where the bells are rung continuously in different sequences. For six bells, the number of possible permutations (the "extent") is $6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 720$ different changes, and a peal comprises several extents, to give a total of 5,040 changes over a period of approximately 3 hours. A "quarter peal" – rung more commonly – meets most of the rules for a peal, but is just a quarter the length.

Many were no doubt disappointed that Ashford's bells could not be rung on May 8th 1945 to celebrate the occasion of Victory in Europe. However, fund-raising was re-started immediately after the War, encouraged most notably by Mr George Thorpe and his wife, Ida – the same Ida Thorpe who re-established Ashford's well-dressing custom.

A village-wide meeting in 1951 came "to the definite decision that there should be 'ringing' bells (as opposed to chiming bells or an electronically recorded system)", but it was not until Revd Thomas George arrived in 1953 that the project gained real momentum. He felt that "if we waited for our money to catch up with costs, we should wait a long time."

Ultimately, the cost for recasting the old bells (necessary because "the melody of the three bells was not in tune"), and installing a new steel frame, was to be £827: £195 more than had already been raised. But Revd George was undeterred. Indeed, he was sufficiently emboldened to further propose that, "we should add to the ring of three by a new bell as a memorial to the late Revd Sherlock". This required an extra £176 (provided in part by a £100 legacy from Revd Sherlock himself) bringing the total project cost to £1,003 – a value of around £85,000 today. There was even sufficient optimism and vision to make the new frame large enough to accommodate two further new bells at some point in the future.

The three old bells were duly removed from the belfry on January 4th 1954. On one very cold morning with snowflakes in the wind, when the bells were awaiting transportation to the bell foundry in Loughborough, local resident John McCrindle wrote, "I took a photograph of my three-year-old son, Alistair, sheltering in one of the bells. It was certainly the chance of a lifetime for him, for it was the first time one of the bells had been down for more than three hundred years." John's photograph was published in *The Church Times*; the reproduction was very poor, but our Tower Captain, Linda Pelc, has skilfully re-created it here.



Fund-raising continued apace, but Revd George must have been wondering if they'd ever achieve their target when he wrote to *The Church Times* in March 1954,

"800 villagers have been chasing rising prices, and now need £1,100. They have raised £800. Tired now. If you can help, please write to Revd TDW George".

The goal was indeed finally reached, and on October 20th 1954 Bishop George Sinker led the service of dedication.



L-R: William Twelves, Kathleen Hurst, Herbert Bennett, Rev Thomas George Vicar of Holy Trinity, Rt Rev George Sinker Assistant Bishop of Derby, Audrey Greenhalch, Clifford Roberts, Ida Thorpe, Dora Eyre (nee Hurst), George Thorpe. Wednesday October 20 1954. Photo courtesy David Windle.

The belfry floor had had to be removed to lower the bells, and this enabled a large royal arms from the reign of King George I to be retrieved. It had been placed there on the previous occasion that the floor had been removed, when the third of the old bells had been installed in 1750. This hatchment was restored and re-hung over the tower arch in 1985.



A section from the old oak bell-frame that had not succumbed to beetle was salvaged, and now stands in the nave of the church. It bears the name of one of the churchwardens of the time – William Smith – and is dated 1612.



The foresight to construct the new frame to accommodate a peal of six bells was rewarded twelve years later when a village resident, Mr Denis Whittaker, pledged to underwrite the manufacture and installation of two new bells in memory of his wife of 35 years, Jeanie Rose (née Brock).

George and Ida Thorpe were once more at the forefront of organising the project, which had a total cost of £677 (around £30,000 today).



*L-R: Ida Thorpe, Maureen Walker, Revd John Legg Vicar of Holy Trinity, Rt Rev Warren Hunt Suffragan Bishop of Repton, June Brocklehurst, Ian Birchenough, Geoff Calladine, Lillie Edwards, Christopher Hawley, Cliff Roberts, George Thorpe.
Photo courtesy Lillias Bendell.*

The bells were dedicated on October 4, 1966, the event being recorded nationally in *The Ringing World*. Equally exciting was the occasion when the first peal on six bells was rung the following year.

ANOTHER RING OF SIX FOR DERBYSHIRE

Ashford-in-the-Water is a pretty village standing on the River Wye, a tributary of the Derwent and a few miles from Bakewell. For many years the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity possessed three old bells. In 1954 these were recast and a treble added, the four bells being hung in a new frame for six and now, 12 years later, thanks to Mr. D. Whittaker, the ring of six is complete.

The two new bells were dedicated at a special service on October 4th by the Rt. Rev. W. Warren Hunt, Bishop of Repton. The church had held its harvest festival the previous Sunday and the appropriate decorations had been retained, which added to the impressiveness of the service. There was a good congregation, amongst whom were Messrs. F. J. Smallwood and B. Morris as well as Mr. and Mrs. A. Richardson, of Fairfield, along with the young members of Fairfield band. Mr. John P. Fidler represented the founders, Messrs. John Taylor and Co. After the service Mr. Whittaker invited the visitors to a buffet supper at his residence.

J. P. F.

"An event of outstanding local importance and a landmark in the world of campanology took place at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford, on Friday June 23rd when a group of Derbyshire campanologists rang a peal of 5,040 changes on the church bells.

"The peal, the first ever in Ashford Church, was made possible by the gift of two bells in memory of Jean Whittaker and was timed to coincide with the anniversary of her birthday."

ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER, Derbyshire.—At the Church of the Holy Trinity.

On Fri., June 23, 1967, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Timothy Wylie Treble	Susan E. Davis 4	Tenor 6 cwt.
Barrie Bateman 2	*Clyde I. Bateman 5	
Gladys Richardson 3	Alex Richardson Tenor	

Conducted by Alex Richardson.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

Rung in memoriam Jean Whittaker, 1907-1965.

Reproduced by permission of The Ringing World.

We are grateful to all those who donated their money, time and talents to acquire and install our bells; and to today's bellringers who provide such excellent service Sunday by Sunday and for many special occasions, and volunteer countless hours training new ringers from across the Peak District.

Ian Pykett. October 2024.

Ringling open day

Sunday 20 October 2pm to 4 pm
Ashford-in-the-Water Church
Entrance Free



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of bells at Ashford

Come in and watch some
ringing and talk to the ringers.

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SHELDON JOTTINGS

The Autumn Equinox fell on September 22nd, a month during which we not only experience eerie, early damp morning mists swirling round the cottages, but as compensation for those of us who live 'up the hill' we enjoy a wonderful view of the often photographed temperature inversion with the sun brightening the whiteness of the early morning mist lying down in the Wye valley. This early autumn season has been wonderful for foragers, with mushrooms in the fields and a most marvellous season for juicy and well-formed blackberries along the hedgerows. Our apple tree gave a poor crop this year but, thankfully a neighbour whose crop was much better, handed a basket of wonderful cooking apples over the garden fence in exchange for a box of blackberries, with the result that two families were able to enjoy that greatest of puddings – the apple and blackberry crumble with custard!

On the first day of September, the village echoed to the roar of well over thirty tractors setting off on the annual Sheldon Tractor Run. This year it was in memory of Mick Lester who passed away so tragically a few months ago. It was not only heartening to see so many people turn up to take part, but a goodly number of residents and visitors



turning out to wave them off. With the Lester family in the front but just behind the lead tractor, they led the convoy of all colours, shapes and sizes, young, old, restored and some in need of some TLC, (the tractors, not the drivers!) on a tortuous but fascinating course around the Peak District villages and countryside. They arrived back in Sheldon to enjoy well deserved refreshments at the 'Cock and Pullet'. The event raised the magnificent sum of over £1000 towards Church funds so well done to all who took part and organised such a wonderful event.

The swallows have now left us and it is so quiet without their constant joyful chatter and their acrobatic insect-catching flight. 'Our' swallows nesting in the open barn had three broods and it was such a delight to hear their young nestlings chattering excitedly when a parent went flying in with food. They left us on 16th September presumably to join others going south to make that epic journey back to warmer climes in Africa. We have now noticed skeins of geese flying overhead and it's probably time to clean out the nest boxes ready for winter roosting and future nesting of other birds. The children have now returned to school and preparations are under way in the village as the season changes and autumn advances towards the rigours of winter.

During September the weather was most unpredictable and opportunities in the gardens and in the fields had to be snatched when the chance came. In the few sunny dry spells the farmers were out in force cutting, tedding and baling a last crop of silage.

The gardeners too were out and the last crops of runner beans, beetroot and brassicas were being harvested (soon it will be the turn of the pumpkins!), plots are being tidied, hedges and bushes trimmed and lawns given their last cut when the weather allows. Now is the time that many are also preparing for spring with the planting of bulbs for those beautiful displays of snowdrops, crocus, daffodils and tulips which so brighten our spring path to summer. October is a month of change and wonders of its own as the trees put on their spectacular autumn displays of brown and gold. The clocks are due to be put back one hour at 2:00am on Sunday 27th October as the days continue to shorten and the heating is turned up or another log is tossed on the fire to combat the inevitably colder weather to come and all but the hardiest tourist will have left us. But there is excitement to come on the last day of the month as Thursday 31st October is Halloween!! We have had wonderful visits in recent years with the children dressed in the most incredible costumes so – more this year kids!!



On mouse watch.

Thanks to Bron for the photo.

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Farming News

Instead of telling you all about life on the farm this month I am reproducing a



letter which was written to The Farmers Weekly re the huge increase in tree planting on prime productive land, which of course is very relevant to us having lost 40 acres to tree planting.

Cheshire County Council sold a tenanted farm for tree planting last year. Not only is it appalling to sell a productive farm, but council farms are a good start up for youngsters wanting to get on the farming ladder. Very often they begin on council farms, get established and move to bigger tenanted farms. Anyway this is the letter which always makes me laugh:

'I wonder if the esteemed council leader Louise could perhaps publish a recipe on how to cook a tree, as if this nonsense continues there will not be much else left for an ever growing nation to eat.'

Next is a birthday card sent to Neil recently which I have pinned up on the office desk. All very apt.

'Farmer: a person who is outstanding in their field.'

How you see things depends on how you view the world - to most people, it's just dirt, but to the farmer, it's potential.

The farmer has to be an optimist otherwise they wouldn't still be a farmer.

Farming is the most useful and most noble employment. Farmers don't just work until the sun goes down, they work until the job is done.

Prosperous farmers make for a prosperous nation.

I have too many tractors. Said no farmer. Ever.

A farmer is someone who works in acres not hours.

Life on the farm is a school of patience; you can't hurry the crops or make a cow in two days.

Once in your life you might need a doctor, a lawyer and a police officer; but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer.

Farming is a profession of faith, hope, and hard work.

Farming isn't a job for everyone but, hay, it's in your jeans.

Farming is more than a job; it's a way of life.'

As I write this Chatsworth are painting the house windows, yes they've waited until it's rained. The

contractors are sat in their van reading the paper and haven't moved yet. They arrived at 7.30 and its now 9 am. Yesterday was a good dry day and they left at 2 pm. I am seriously having to bite my tongue especially as we have to pay half.

carers to others in similar situations, creating support networks, provide useful information and light hearted activities. There are three sessions each month, the first Wednesday of the month at Bakewell Methodist Church 2-4pm, third Wednesday of the month at Hathersage Memorial Hall and the last Wednesday of the month is a group walk from various locations.

For more information please contact us on 07934603926 or email derbyshirepeaksanddales@mha.org.uk.



**MHA
Communities
Derbyshire
Peaks and
Dales** is a

brand new communities scheme setting up services and social activities for people aged 55 and over, in the local area.

The scheme has recently set up two Love to Move sessions - every Tuesday in Bakewell Town hall from 10am -11.30am and in Hathersage Memorial Hall every Thursday 11am-12.30pm. Both sessions are followed by refreshments.

The Love to Move programme was developed by the British Gymnastics foundation to help support cognitive function and mobility in people living with dementia. The gentle chair exercises are all set to music and are great fun for everyone.

From October MHA Communities Derbyshire Peaks and Dales will be running the already popular dementia support group Forget Me Nots, previously run by Derbyshire Dales CVS.

The sessions aim to link people living with dementia and their

Join us for some gentle seated exercise



MHA Communities
Derbyshire Peaks & Dales

Love to Move

**Bakewell: Tuesdays, Bakewell Town
Hall, Council Chamber 10am - £5**

**Hathersage: Thursdays, Hathersage
Memorial Hall, Stange Room 11am - £5**

Come along and join our seated exercise sessions for anyone over 55 with a qualified instructor. A fun class for everyone and dementia friendly, plus tea and coffee.

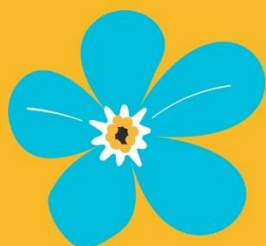
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Bakewell Methodist Church
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**Hathersage Memorial Hall - Third Wednesday of the month,
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Group walk - Last Wednesday of the month, 2-4pm

For more info or to become a member please contact Derbyshire Peaks & Dales on 07934603926 or email: derbyshirepeaksanddales@mha.org.uk

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

Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

Appointment Times: Clinicians are still available for consultations and medical advice. Please contact the surgery and a GP or Nurse will call you back to discuss your concerns and if necessary arrange to see you in person. Many problems can be dealt with over the telephone.

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Test Results – **Please ring for test results after 2.30pm** as we do not receive test results back from the hospital until lunchtime.

For Urgent Calls when we are closed, please call 111

The deadline for the November magazine is 24th October 2024.

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