

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water
and Sheldon

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

January 2025

ASHFORD SERVICES

Sunday 5th January – The Feast of the Epiphany 9.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12th January – Plough Sunday 9.45am An All-age Service taken by Rev Alan Griggs and Alison Fletcher DVC Agricultural Chaplains

Sunday 19th January – Epiphany 2 9.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26th January – Epiphany 3 9.45am Sung Eucharist

Funerals

Dec 16th Sarah Raynor

Dec 18th Flora Ascroft

A prayer for the New Year:

**Lord of new beginnings:
this new year,
renew us and transform us,
that leaving behind our old selves,
we may be remade as you created us to be,
confident of your love,
guided by your light,
and surrounded by your peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen**



Village Carol Singing



The Village Carol Singing was a great success! Carollers of all ages congregated at the War Memorial Institute, when rain moved us from the Sheepwash Bridge. The Institute looked very festive, and thanks to the Committee who served delicious mince pies and mulled wine. The Church choir led the singing, and the occasion



was greatly enjoyed by all. A special attraction were the mummy and baby donkeys happily grazing on hay in their pen outside.

Any profit from the event will be split between the WM Institute and the Church. The church portion will be sent to a charity yet to be decided by the PCC.



(With thanks to Chris Harrison and Matt Rawson for their photos of the donkeys!)



NEW YEAR QUIZ NIGHT

ASHFORD WAR MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

SATURDAY 11th JANUARY 7pm for 7.30pm

Teams of 4 people

Refreshments of Soup, bread and cheese

Admission £6

Enquiries to Pat 07542 540244/01629 812521



Dear Friends



May I start by wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed New Year for yourself and those you love. As we greet one another after the strokes of midnight on the 31st and continue to do so for a couple of weeks with those we are in contact with, we do so with hopeful hearts and expectations, that we and others will enjoy and share a healthy, peaceful, fulfilling and good year ahead without dramas or crises along the way.

I personally look forward to the period of days following Christmas and Boxing Day before the New Year to hopefully find moments of quiet and reflection on what has gone before, to take stock, recharge and be ready to face whatever comes as January unfolds. A good friend and colleague of mine who is no longer with us used to lament the passing of the time when humans would have spent part of the winter hibernating, resting, refreshing themselves and finding time for physical, spiritual and emotional reconnecting away from the demands and busyness of life.

The reality of today is that there are few moments for this sadly, and even when we find space for

ourselves, we feel guilty that we are not doing something else. The downside of not building up strength, resilience, working out priorities and making changes to our lifestyle can be tiredness, low mood, lack of motivation, and feeling generally out of sorts.

The Christian Feast of The Epiphany (when the travellers from distant lands arrived in Bethlehem to offer their gifts and worship to the Christchild) is deliberately placed away from the main Christmas worship. This is partly to remind us that the celebration of Christmas continues in the Christian Church until Candlemas on 2nd February. It is also partly to allow us to reflect on the patience and time needed by those travelling a large distance to prepare themselves for the out-of-this-world experience they would find at the end of their journey that had, and continues to have implications for individuals and the world we inhabit.

You may have made a resolution or two for 2025 and alongside perhaps going to a gym, or keeping in touch more with friends, or cutting back on things that have an impact upon our health and well-being, we might resolve to create some time and space to think, reflect, read, pray and spend time with those we love. As well as personal resolutions,

what could you do to shine God's light that came to us at Christmas into the life of others: a light that speaks of hope, peace, love and joy, where joy is deeper than happiness or celebration, but a force that knocks down all the walls around our hearts and levels us with the goodness, the grace, the unearned and unending love and healing that is ours to know through the newly arrived Jesus.

Joy remakes us and gives birth to a self that is trusting, patient, believing, knowing that all will be well and all manner of things will be well. Joy is a quiet and lasting foundation that endures while the currents of happiness and grief wash back and forth over the surface of our hearts. May the joy we share during 2025 be the breath behind the healing words Jesus speaks to us in the depths of despair and become our breath as we reach out in compassion to those who are hurting and despairing within this world.

With love and prayers

Tony



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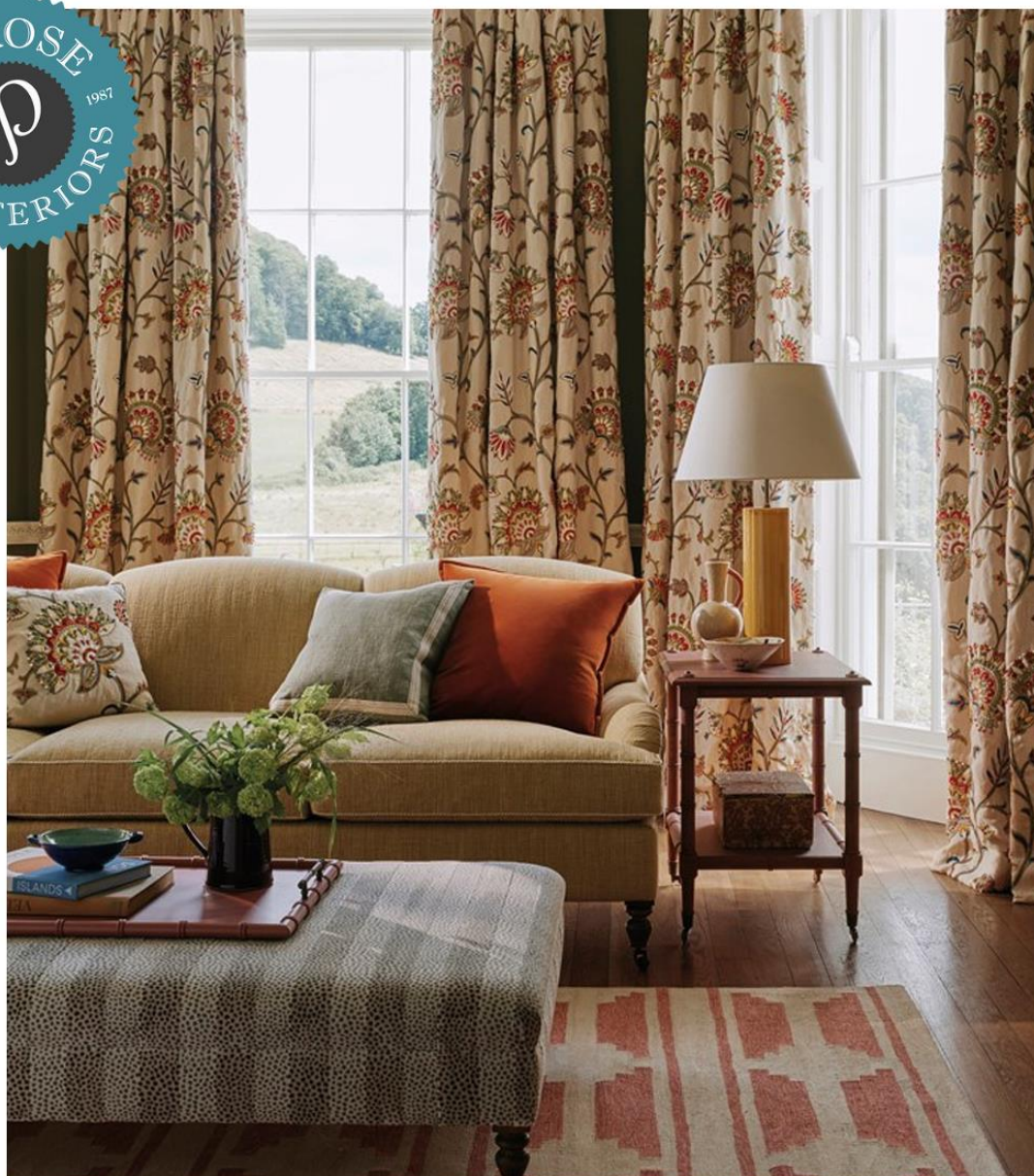
Ashford in the Water Parish Council

**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](http://www.ashford-in-the-water-pc.gov.uk)

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Farming News



Not much to report this month. For the first time I can remember all the cattle are inside this winter. We have always kept the bulls outside for two main reasons - first and most important they always prefer to be out in the fields and it is much better for their feet! If inside on hard concrete and straw they quickly go lame and being so heavy and big, it is ten times worse than a cow going lame. This year all six bulls are in separate pens in the new shed. Unfortunately, they are not friendly with each other and so cannot be put together in one pen. There is quite a hierarchy with them and beware if a younger bull tries to compete with the dominant one for food or mates.

Feeding on Christmas morning went without a hitch and we were back in the house for breakfast at 10. Same cannot be said for Boxing day morning! William was due to play the usual rugby match at 12 – under 30's against the over 30's and always a big rivalry game and we were going with the family to watch the Boxing day meet with the hounds in Bakewell. However as soon as we went up the drive, all we could see in every field were black cattle skipping around as if it was the first day of

Spring. Worse still they had got into every field up to Monsal Head too! They were in the haybarn, silage pits and straw barn but thankfully hadn't gone into the grain store so hadn't gorged on any wheat or barley. It took an hour and a half to round them all up before we even started the normal round of jobs. They just reminded me of naughty school children who had broken into a sweet shop - talk about herding cats, they certainly didn't want to go back inside the shed. It is my job to close all the doors and gates after they have been cleaned out and fed so I was feeling very guilty - however nobody so much as shouted - good job it was Christmas!

The roller shutter door to the grain store hasn't been mended since the terrible wind two weeks ago. In the afternoon on the Saturday I went up and the door was clanging about like it was a piece of material, not a roll of very heavy steel. Worse still the JCB loadall was inside the store. William managed to lodge the shutter door on the front of the loader and we left it until the Sunday morning. Neil had a night to think how to solve the problem of what to do. So next morning they managed to slide the steel off its frame with the silage grab. Obviously it hasn't been mended yet so the grain store is now open to birds, vermin and even escaping cows. Not ideal at all.

Ashford WI

It was party time at the Ashford in the Water WI December meeting. Despite the atrocious weather, 18 ladies enjoyed a festive evening with Christmas themed quizzes and puzzles and a game of “guess what’s in the bag” by touch alone. There were lots of laughs and cries of “it’s moving” and “I think I’ve broken it”. The evening was rounded off with festive snacks, yummy treats and a glass or two of mulled wine.

A few nights later it was time for our Christmas meal at the Ashford Arms. It was another very enjoyable evening, complete with party hats and corny cracker jokes; a lovely way to start the festive season, with good company and plenty of cheer.

The first WI meeting of 2025 will take place at the Institute on January 9th at 2.15pm. The theme for the meeting is ‘Show and Tell’. Members are invited to bring along old, unusual or mystery kitchen item and share its story.

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!

PUZZLE CORNER NEW YEAR QUIZ



1. In which modern-day country was St Nicholas born?
2. In which year was Nine Lessons and Carols first broadcast from King's College, Cambridge?
3. How many gifts did “my true love” give in “The Twelve Days of Christmas”?
(a) 12 (b) 144 (c) 364 (d) 422
4. Which carol, based on the Ukrainian folk chant *Shchedryk*, is typically sung to celebrate the new year?
5. Which famous book was first published anonymously by its 20 year old female author on 1st January 1818?
6. Which animal will represent the Chinese New Year 2025?
7. Which country has a tradition of throwing plates on New Year's Eve?
8. According to tradition, when should you take your Christmas Tree down?
9. Which famous Scottish poet wrote the words to Auld Lang Syne?
10. The month of January is named after which two-faced Roman god of doorways?

Answers on last page.

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SHELDON JOTTINGS

After a year of ups and downs, Sheldon has ended 2024 on a high. As December progressed, more and more houses and cottages decorated their frontages with lights and a lovely crib was set up near the centre of the village. It became a delight to travel through our village as we began the celebrations for Christmas making it a more special time. Well done everyone!



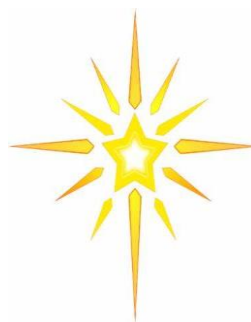
The centrepiece, of course, was the Church. For the whole month it was decorated with the most wonderful display of Christmas trees, presents, a crib and beautiful decorations on the end of each row of pews. With each tree being decorated with its own theme and lit up with white fairy lights, from the lovely display in the porch to the crib on the altar, the whole effect was quite magical. The detail and care from the little robins on the pew end displays to the stocking on the organ, the whole was a triumph and a true testimony to the skill and talent of those who participated. Thank you Carla for organising this event and to all those who helped to give us so much pleasure.

On the Sunday before Christmas Canon Tony led an extremely well-attended Carol Service in Church – eight well known carols and seven

readings interspersed the Service. In such a beautiful setting this was indeed a wonderful celebration of the birth of Christ and a marvellous culmination of another year in Sheldon village. The whole was a truly village occasion rounded off with mulled wine. This was Canon Tony's last Christmas with us and we shall be sad to see him leave. Thank you for all your work Tony as our vicar and go with our best wishes for the future in April. You will be a hard act to follow!

We now look forward to a New Year with a fervent desire, amid the tribulations of modern life, to do our little bit to help make the world a better place in which to live. May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a truly enjoyable and successful New Year.

If you are interested in birds then don't forget to spare an hour over the weekend of 24th-26th January doing the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. To send in your results or to find out more go to www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch. Have a happy and rewarding hour!



Say it with cake! Peak District National Park Authority celebrates historic anniversary

Peak district leaders and trainees joined together to mark the 75th anniversary of legislation which led to the creation of the UK's national parks.

A celebration event at the Peak District National Park Authority's Bakewell base remembered the people who have shaped the development of national parks – while recognising the next generation who will lead them into the future.

Phil Mulligan, chief executive of the Peak District National Park Authority, said: "It has taken campaigners and legislators to get to where we are now and, as we look to the future, we have created our training academy to bring through the next generation of custodians. These are the people who are going to look after these landscapes for years to come."

The Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 – hailed at the time as a 'people's charter' - created the framework for national parks and addressed issues including public rights of way and access to open land.

Following the Act, the Peak District was the first national park to be designated, in April 1951.

The creation of national parks were part of the reconstruction of the UK under Clement Atlee's Labour government following World War II. The historic legislation – which had all-party support – was introduced by the Minister of Town and Country Planning, Lewis Silkin, who described it as "the most exciting Act of the post-war Parliament."

He had earlier introduced it as a Bill, telling Parliament: "Now at last we shall be able to see that the Lakes, the moors and dales of the Peak and the tors of the west country belong to the people as a right and not as a concession. This is not just a Bill. It is a people's charter – a people's charter for the open air, for the hikers and the ramblers, for everyone who lives to get out into the open air and enjoy the countryside."

The Act received royal assent on 16th December 1949.



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.

Patient Online: Have you registered to use the online service? This allows you to book or cancel appointments online (during normal service) and order your repeat medications. You can also request access to your Summary Care Record, and Detailed Coded Data contained within your medical records. You can also look at your test results.

Telephone Numbers:

Reception: 01246 582216 District Nursing Team: 01332 564900

Health Visitor: 01246515100

Normal Surgery Opening Times Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 08:00am to 6.30pm, (Closed Bank Holidays) (*Phones 8.00am – 6.30pm Mon to Fri*)

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- In writing or with our on-line access service
- Return your repeat request form to surgery by Post

Please allow three working days before collection and collect between 8am and 5pm

Prescriptions can be collected from reception inside the surgery.

Samples – if you need to leave a sample with us, please ensure it is labelled with your name and date of birth and returned in a bag if provided either through the letterbox or at reception.

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

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The surgery will be closed for training at 1.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Whitworth Urgent Treatment Centre at Whitworth Hospital is open from 8am to 8pm 7 days a week.

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



New Year Quiz answers

1. Turkey 2. 1928 3. c)364 4. Carol of the Bells
5. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein 6. The snake
7. Denmark 8. Twelfth Night, 5th January
9. Robert Burns 10. Janus

The deadline for the February magazine is 23rd January 2025.

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