

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water
and Sheldon
July/August 2025

ASHFORD SERVICES:

Sunday 6th July: 3rd after Trinity: 9.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 13th July: 4th after Trinity: 9.30am Sung Eucharist joined by Great Longstone
Sunday 20th July: 5th after Trinity: 9.30am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 27th July: 6th after Trinity: 9.30am Sung Eucharist joined by Sheldon

Sunday 3rd August: 7th after Trinity: Morning Worship
Sunday 10th August: 8th after Trinity: 10.30am Parish Eucharist at Great Longstone
Sunday 17th August: 9th after Trinity: 9.30am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 24th August: Bartholomew the Apostle: 9.30am Sung Eucharist joined by Sheldon
Sunday 31st August: 11th Sunday after Trinity: 10.30am Benefice Eucharist in Ashford

Funeral: Sheila Bettney July 14th 11am

Weddings

July 5th: 2pm Peter Marsden & Joanna Hoare

July 25th: 12pm Edward Teeboon & Elizabeth Hollingworth

A song of peace and comfort:

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
For you are with me; your rod and your staff – they
comfort me.
You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*



Psalms 23

Benefice Eucharist at St Michael and All Angels, Sheldon, Sunday 29th June.

The beautiful little Church at Sheldon was packed, as worshippers and combined choir came together from all the Benefice Churches for a lovely service. The choir sang a moving anthem 'I am a Small Part of the World' and the service was followed by refreshments provided by Sheldon Church.



Dear friends,

"The times they are a-changing" sang Bob Dylan, back in 1964. The song spoke of social changes and of hopes for the future despite the ongoing Cold War and fear about escalation into nuclear war.



Since then, we have seen many changes. After decades of peace and stability many of us are worried about climate change, the growing tensions in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine and the undermining of long-established

patterns of trade and diplomacy. Demographic changes, new technology, and the growing influence of social media has brought about other changes too. Back in the sixties Ashford had a school in the village which closed in 1992 and the church had its own vicar and vicarage too. In 2007 Canon Tony became vicar of Bakewell and Ashford. After many years of faithful service to the church and to the community he and Rachel have retired to Ripon leaving the Vicarage in Bakewell empty. We don't know how long it will be before there will be a new

vicar to shepherd us, nor what changes lie ahead. In the meantime, during the vacancy, John and Ian our churchwardens, have extra responsibilities. To ensure stability, churches are not allowed to make changes during an interregnum so some were made before Canon Tony left. As there is a shortage of priests locally and nationally, the new service pattern enables all the churches in our benefice to be treated equally and have a fair share of the resources that are available. Each of the churches within the benefice has given up one service a month with the expectation that the congregation will join with another congregation elsewhere and we will be regularly welcoming members of the Longstone and Sheldon churches to join us at Ashford. The new service pattern for the benefice began last month and the first combined services in the benefice have worked well.

Change, whether it's in church, in society, in patterns of trade, in global politics or in our personal circumstances may be disturbing but it can also lead to us developing a deepening dependence on God and a more profound understanding of God's love and of his grace.

The Bible recognises the reality of change and uncertainty in life and gives us a way forward, teaching us about God's unchanging nature and the faithfulness of his love. The biblical book of Proverbs encourages us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." And in his letter to the Philippians St Paul wrote "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Before he left Canon Tony gave us wise advice as he encouraged us not to look back but to look forward with hope. Not with the fingers crossed wishful thinking sort of hope but hope that springs from God's faithfulness and Christ's love. Let's do our best to be ever thankful, looking to God, not being afraid.

Rev'd Brenda

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ASHFORD WELL DRESSINGS 2025

A message from Sarah Brocklehurst:

As Chair of the Well Dressing committee I would like to thank everyone involved in making this year's Well Dressing a truly marvellous week. The Wells seem to get better every year and this year we managed to do all six – a huge task for such a small village! We couldn't have done it without all the community pulling together. It was a lovely atmosphere in the Institute during petalling week and it was so good to see new and young faces joining in, which will ensure the future of this wonderful event. I felt both proud and humble to be part of such a clever and artistic group of people. Thank you all so much.

A BIG THANK YOU

to Sarah from the whole village for her leadership and hard work throughout this year's Well Dressings. Unfailingly cheerful, she managed to be everywhere. To mention just some of her contributions – Well Dressing planning, in the Institute encouraging the well dressers, and serving teas in Well Dressing Week, organising the parking, collection of donations, and the heavy gang for shifting the boards, on hand for the Sheep washing demonstration and the Well Dressing service and procession, and not forgetting her usual farm duties! A superhuman effort, many thanks!

THE STORY

PUDDLING

After the frames had been soaked in the river, villagers of all ages helped throw clay onto them before they were smoothed out ready for petalling.





PETALLING

The well dressers got to work on the boards in the village institute. Six wells were dressed this year. The designs were marked out on the clay, and stones, seeds, leaves and other

natural materials used to create the picture, with petals only added at the end of the week to keep them fresh.



THE WELL DRESSINGS GO UP



On Friday evening and again early on Saturday morning the 'heavy gang' collected the dressed boards and transported them to the wells, and manhandled them into place.



SHEEPWASHING DEMONSTRATION

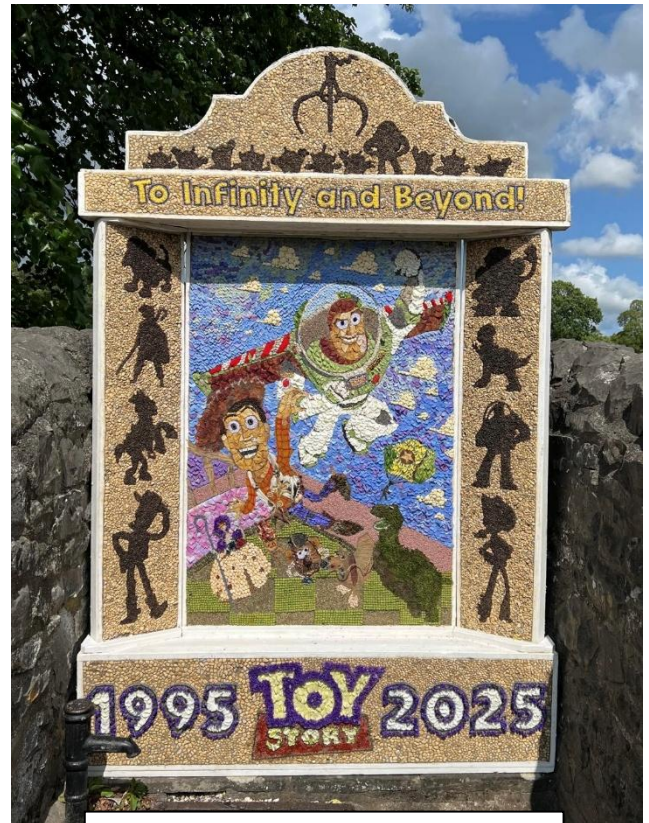
This popular annual event drew large crowds on Saturday afternoon at the Sheepwash Bridge.



THE WELLS



LITTLE WELL Greaves Lane – Celebrating 'Snoopy, Peanuts and the gang.'



GREAVES LANE WELL – Toy Story



CHURCH STREET WELL – Bees and beehives



TOP PUMP WELL – Jungle Book



CHILDREN'S WELL – Rainbows and handprints



SHEEPWASH WELL – Jane Austen

TRINITY SUNDAY - BLESSING OF THE WELLS

On Sunday afternoon a Patronal Well Blessing Service was held in Church. As the weather was fine this year, the sermon was preached from the ancient preaching cross in the churchyard, by the Rt Revd Malcolm MacNaughton, Bishop of Repton. This was followed by a procession round the wells led by the Youlgrave Silver Band, followed by the choir, the Bishop and the congregation, and visitors





to the village. The Bishop blessed each well, and everyone joined in singing a hymn.



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International Contributor to 2025 Well Dressing

Back in February 2025 we heard from Lydia Breunig of Flagstaff, Arizona, who is involved in a number of local organisations concerned with the protection of springs, streams and groundwater, and had been researching English traditions that honour these critical natural resources. She is also a founding board member of the Southwest Folklife Alliance that is dedicated to cultural activities centered on traditional knowledge and heritage.



Flagstaff sits at an elevation of 7,000 feet in a mountainous area and – like Ashford – has a lot of tourists, not least because it is just 75 miles away from the Grand Canyon National Park. Its natural springs have for centuries been sources of water, and the current city was established in 1882 as a water stop for the new east–west transcontinental railway.

Lydia asked if she could “watch, take notes, and photo document the process”, and perhaps even learn a little by working on one or more of the boards herself.

After having sorted the practicalities of getting here and finding somewhere to stay, and sourcing a bicycle (thank you, Jan!) Lydia set to work!



By all accounts she had a wonderful and rewarding time, and found the well dressers and the village to be really welcoming. On Well Dressing Sunday she was presented with a gift by Sarah Brocklehurst to mark her very welcome contribution, and presence among us. As Sarah said, "Lydia fitted in seamlessly and we all loved having her with us. When I dropped her off at Chesterfield Station there were a few tears shed. We have all made a lovely new friend. Thank you Lydia for your lovely smile and quiet enthusiasm for everything we did."

Many thanks to everyone for making her stay here so productive and memorable!

Ian Pykett

Flower Festival 2025

A wonderful week of glorious sunshine meant that visitor numbers were high; over 3000 leaflets were handed out, with often only one given between groups of two or three. The church looked magnificent with amazing, creative, colourful displays which showcased just a few of the many talented Derbyshire people. Our visitors were certainly wowed by it all, making extremely complimentary comments, so well done to everyone involved.

Financially it has been a great success too, meaning that we can once again support our two charities: The Dreamland Mission Eye Clinic in Kenya which was set up by Jane and Simon Daniell from Churchdale, Ashford, to provide eye surgery for those in need; and the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy which provides support practically, financially and spiritually for our local farmers. The remainder will go towards the maintenance of the church building which requires work on the roof and porch. Many thanks too to all who gave up their time to act as stewards, welcoming our visitors and keeping the church safe. It really is a vital job and much appreciated by our visitors. I hope that you enjoyed the experience - at least you were warm this year!

Thank you!

Linda Foster.

THE DISPLAYS ...

This year's theme was 'Derbyshire Folk' and showcased the many and varied talents of people who were born in or associated with Derbyshire.

Constance Spry, florist





Dame Ellen MacArthur,
sailor



Samuel Fox, inventor of
the modern umbrella



Sir Joseph & Sarah Paxton,
horticulturalists and landscape
designers



Little John, Hathersage's famous son



Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer



Alison Jane Uttley, writer



The Derbyshire Flag



John Smedley, luxury knitwear manufacturer



Three Famous Historical Ladies of Hardwick, Haddon and Chatsworth



Alison Hargreaves, mountaineer



Florence Nightingale



Thomas Cook



Sir Richard Arkwright, father of the modern industrial factory system



Peter and Joanna Marsden after their wedding on 5th July.

Peter is the son of Barry and Sylvia Marsden and grew up in Ashford.



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Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy

- the role of an agricultural chaplain

We are often asked what we do as agricultural chaplains ?

There is the formal response as per our strapline"offering spiritual and pastoral support to the agricultural and rural community " and whilst that's definitely true it doesn't go into any of the detail. Then there's the informal response" we spend time with farmers wherever they are supporting them however we can. That's also true but even that doesn't quite give the full picture.

It's fair to say that it is an amazing joy and privilege to be an agricultural chaplain and I know my two colleagues Rev'd Alan Griggs and Rev'd Pete Evens would say the same.



To be welcomed onto so many farms and taken into confidence by so many is an honour and one we don't take for granted. In all our interactions with farmers be it at Bakewell livestock market each week, on the farm, at agricultural

shows or at church services, we laugh a lot, occasionally cry together, we see lots of livestock and drink lots of cups of tea. We also help out practically on farms being it relief milking (Alan) , lambing (me) or with maintenance work (Pete). Sometimes we are asked to pray with our farming families and we are very pleased to do so.



We take church services for farming families which usually mark life events (baptisms, weddings and funerals) . They are most often led by Rev'd Alan as an ordained Anglican vicar, but increasingly all three chaplains are taking more services linked to the farming year such as Plough Sunday, Rogation and Harvest. These services are a wonderful opportunity for us to invite farmers to take part in the service or simply come along, and crucially it gives us as chaplains the chance to keep farming issues " front and centre " within the context of the rural church . All the services we are involved in are at the invitation of the local clergy or the church wardens where there is

no vicar, and sometimes we are invited to share the service with the local vicar which we very much enjoy.

Farming is facing new challenges all the time to add to the many existing ones. They cause farmers to feel unsettled at best, through to being very anxious about the future. The concerns affect all farmers albeit in slightly different ways whether they own their farm, are tenant farmers, have a milking herd, keep beef cattle, sheep, grow crops or a combination of the above. We as chaplains are there to support the farming community in any way we can and most often it's simply by being available and listening.

On our website where it makes it clear we are a Christian organisation (<https://derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk/>) you will find a short 3 minute video where we outline more of our work and show some of the highlights.

Alison Fletcher

Agricultural Chaplain

(Alison and her husband have been living in the parish for 19 years and attend Holy Trinity church Ashford in



the Water. She has been an agricultural chaplain since early summer 2021 and was formally commissioned in the role in November 2021 at All Saints Church Ecclesall, Sheffield where she was church warden at the time. Prior to that she worked part time on a friend's sheep farm near Wirksworth for 7 years so knows a little more about sheep now than she did when she started !)

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Farming News

We have had a very busy three weeks on the farm.

First of all we had silaging which is a manic few days. Mowing first followed by rowing up which involves rowing two or three rows of grass into one large row for the forage harvester to pick up. We managed to get in 180 acres in four days from start to finish which isn't bad going! Even though it did involve two late nights when I had to make supper for 7 hungry men. Hay making followed and again the weather was good so we have some really good hay for the winter. Tucked in between was shearing, on a hot, humid Sunday morning.

Not ideal but just another job which has to be tackled without any whinging!



which deal with social and financial problems in Agriculture.

I think about 300 turned up, all curious to see 'Brocks farm'. Lots of tidying up and painting, cleaning machinery and other jobs which only get done once in a blue moon! Alison and I took about 200 farmers on a walk round the farm which lasted about 45 minutes, through various fields of cows and calves, and over the Monsal Trail which many had not seen before. I have some very unusual photos of crowds of people snaking behind me at the front. When we arrived back at the farm it was time for a huge pork cob, tea, coffee, beer, lager and lots of cakes! A thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone and a big thank you to all the team who helped make it a success.



Finally last Wednesday evening we had an Open Day at the farm for local farmers for two very worthwhile charities, Derbyshire Chaplaincy

and RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution), both of

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>

SHELDON DAY

2025

Saturday 19th July
at 1.00pm

DE45 1QS

ASHBOURNE BRASS BAND • Welly wanging
Tombola • VINTAGE TRACTORS • Steam engines
Ice creams • MAGIC SHOW • Cream Teas
Vintage cars • GRAND RAFFLE • Bottle darts
PLANTS, Books & bric-a-brac stalls
Cake stall • SPLAT THE RAT • Great ball race
EGG THROWING • Coconut Shy • FUN DOG SHOW
Church flowers • DELICIOUS BBQ

Free Entry!

Produce Competition & Show

Enter one of these categories & win a rosette:

Victoria Sponge
Flower Arrangement in a Jar
Marmalade, Jam, Chutney or Curd
Decorated Cupcakes (4)
Vegetable Animal
Celebration Cake

Sheldon Fell Race
Thursday 17th July

7.30pm start
(4 miles)

**Please
Bring
Cash!**

Produce show entries to tent and dog show registrations by 1.30pm please.

Organiser: Andrew Joly 07768 892865 Produce Tent: Amanda Joly 07971 192437

f Sheldon Village Events

ASHFORD WI

Last month's WI group had a very interesting and locally relevant talk about the history of British pottery from Maggie Slingsby, a former lecturer in art design, ceramics and print making.

Pottery has been made in this country since people stopped being nomadic and first set up settlements. But despite the first examples being discovered from as far back as 2500BC, it was a good few centuries before areas such as Stoke on Trent, just down the road, became renowned global centres of production

In fact the pottery produced in the UK was pretty rough until the arrival of the Romans who bought with them sophisticated pieces decorated with reliefs on highly polished clay. Trading with Spain, Italy and the Islamic countries led to an interest in more decorative and delicately glazed wares among the well to do households.

It wasn't until the introduction of porcelain and the advent of tea drinking in the UK - courtesy of trade with China - that an entirely new industry was created. Suddenly everyone wanted cups and saucers, and a teapot in their homes and British pottery firms sprung up to

develop distinctive British styles and meet the mass market demand.

Stoke on Trent was at the heart of the pottery revolution, helped by an abundance of local raw materials such as clay, plus access to water. The likes of Josiah Wedgwood, who called himself 'Potter to the Queen' after his self-titled company delivered a set of cream-coloured earthenware to Queen Charlotte, became major players in the industrial revolution alongside the likes of Royal Doulton, Spode and Burleigh Pottery.

And the rest became history... for a couple of centuries anyway. Sadly, Maggie also explained how we have most likely seen the heyday of pottery production in the region as these successful businesses have fallen foul to global competition and cheaper materials although a few businesses such as Emma Bridgwater continue to do well.

Continuing the pottery theme, congratulations go to Clare whose Devon teapot won last month's competition for the best example of British pottery, and also to Ann and Val who won the raffle between them.

There was plenty of pottery on display and tea-drinking in evidence when the WI held a successful tea and cakes day in the Institute on

Monday, 16th June. Huge thanks to everyone who baked, washed up and cleared tables!



Next month our monthly meeting will be replaced with our annual WI summer lunch, which this year will take place at Rafter's on July 3rd. 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.

Wine of the Month

Warm summer days put me in mind of barbeques and red



wines that can be served cool so that they taste refreshing in the middle of the day. The Co-op in Bakewell has two good, well-priced reds which are perfect to drink chilled from the fridge as you flip your burger from the barbie.



Both come from the northwest of Iberia. The first (and to my mind the better of the two) is a red from steep, schistous slopes of Bierzo in northern Spain. Labelled Viento de Invierno (meaning 'Winter Wind') it is made entirely from the local Mencía grape which produces a lovely perfumed, floral wine with naturally soft, spicy fruit that is absolutely delicious served chilled (and just 12.5% abv). The back label says that it is made from vines that are over 80 years old which makes the price of £8.25 an absolute bargain. The second red comes from the even steeper schistous slopes of the Douro Valley in the north of Portugal, the region famed for a much more wintry wine: Port. Sedoso means 'silky' in Portuguese which describes the soft, easy-going tannins and summer fruit in this wine made from a blend of Port grapes. Ideal for drinking cool in summer it has the added advantage of having just 11% abv which means you can drink more of it ! It sells for £8.95.



Richard Mayson

ELECTORAL REGISTER

The annual canvass is about to start which is a check on the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

We will be sending around 36,000 canvass letters to Derbyshire Dales households. It is anticipated these will start to arrive after 18 July 2025.

If the canvass form the household receives states that a response is required or if the information contained in the letter is incorrect or requires updating they should respond as soon as possible. Full instructions on how to respond can be found within the form.

If there are new electors in a household their names should be added to any response.

Households should remember to add the names of any 16 or 17 year old's as they can and should register to vote (but they will not be able to vote until their 18th birthday).

If any households are unsure as to what to do or need any help completing their response they should contact the District Council by calling 01629 761335 or emailing electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

If we do not receive a response to our initial canvass communication

we have to send a reminder therefore a response to the initial communication would be appreciated.

Please get in touch if you need more information.

Chris Bond
Electoral Services
Derbyshire Dales District Council
01629 761335
electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Postal Vote Renewal

Changes brought in by the Elections Act 2022, mean postal votes now expire every 3 years and need to be renewed.

If an elector applied for a postal vote before 31 October 2023, they must renew it by 31 January 2026 to keep voting by post. If they don't renew it, they will need to vote in person at their polling station.

Due to the volume of postal voters who will need to make a new application by 31 January 2026 we are asking that they do so as soon as possible.

How to renew Visit the government website (www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) They will need:

- Their national insurance number
- To upload a photo of a handwritten signature in black ink on plain white paper

All electors who are required to make a new application before 31 January 2026 will be sent a paper form later in the year. Electors do not need to contact the elections team to request this.

A copy can be downloaded by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

Completed forms should be returned to Electoral Services, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Town Hall, Matlock, DE4 3NN or email to

electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Sheldon Fell Race

Thursday 17th July 2025

RACE DETAILS

Date & time: Thu 17 Jul 2025 at 19:30

Country: England

Region: Peak District

Category: BS

Distance: 6.4 km / 4 miles

Climb: 162 m / 531 ft

Venue: Outside Cock & Pullet, Main St,
Sheldon, nr Bakewell, DE45 1QS

Minimum age: 14

ENTRY INFORMATION

Entry on day: Yes

Entry on day fee: £7.00

Pre-entry: No

Permit / Insurance: Yes

**This race has a Permit and associated UK
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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**.

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.

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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

Photo acknowledgements

Thank you to Clare Tompkins and Ron Braddock for their photos of the Well Dressings and Flower Festival

The deadline for the September magazine is 25th August 2025.

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