

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER
2025 Retrospective

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

Our Vicar of 18 years – Revd Tony Kaunhoven – retired in May 2025, and has now moved with his wife, Rachel, to Ripon. So this has been a year of big changes for your village church.

You may know that Tony served not only our church, but also four other churches: Bakewell, Over Haddon, Rowsley and Sheldon. Our new Priest-in-Charge (when we get one!) will be serving even more, since St Giles', Great Longstone, and The Church of the Good Shepherd, Wardlow, have now been added to our group. But these 'new' churches are not strangers – they were our partners in an earlier arrangement of parishes during Revd Clive Thrower's ministry.

Tony worked long hours. He cared deeply for us all, and was well-loved: he will be a hard act to follow. And he gave us lots of notice about his retirement – we actually celebrated his time of ministry with us at the War Memorial Institute in August 2024, when we presented to him and Rachel a beautiful Ashford Marble cross.

Our wonderful Associate Vicar – Revd Brenda Jackson – continues to support us in so many ways on a voluntary basis, and several retired priests are also helping to lead our services. Unfortunately, the recruitment process can be rather long, and we face a lot of competition for new ministers!

In February, we welcomed music students from Lady Manners School and their families once more, providing these aspiring young musicians with an opportunity to perform the instrumental music that they are learning for their examinations.

Nearly 90 per cent of the Peak District National Park is farmland, and we have around 1,800 farms. So we were delighted to welcome local farmers to two special services – 'Plough Sunday' in January and 'Rogation Sunday' in May (outside, on the Hall Orchard) – to recognise their work and to thank them, and to keep farming and agricultural issues 'front and centre' in our thoughts. After both of the services, we enjoyed sampling wonderful spreads of wine and food, and the opportunity to meet and chat.



Tony's
Retirement



Rogation Sunday

And on another beautiful sunny Sunday morning in May we all joined together with Archdeacon Nicky Fenton at the War Memorial Institute, to pay tribute to the extraordinary bravery of our veterans, and to recognise the invaluable work of those on the Home Front who celebrated Victory in Europe 80 years ago.



At our Patronal Well Blessing service on Trinity Sunday, June 15th, Rt Revd Malcolm MacNaughton, Bishop of Repton, addressed the congregation, villagers and visitors from the ancient preaching cross in the churchyard, and then followed the procession around the village, led by the Youlgreave Silver Band, to bless each one of the six wells.



Running concurrently with the well dressings was the Church's annual flower festival. This year's theme – 'Derbyshire Folk' – showcased the many and varied talents of people who were born in or associated with Derbyshire. The thousands who visited the church were certainly 'wowed' by it all, so well done to everyone involved – and especially to Linda Foster, who 'stage-managed' the event magnificently. This is our most important fund-raiser, and donations this year meant that we could, once again, support our two charities: the Dreamland Mission Eye Clinic in Kenya, which was established by Jane and Simon Daniell of Ashford to provide eye surgery for those in need; and the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy. The remainder of the funds will support the maintenance of the church building which requires work on the roof this year.



Our 2025 annual Harvest Supper in the War Memorial Institute in October was enjoyed by 67 people – even more than last year – with the bell-ringers once again winning the quiz! We distributed bags (literally!) of food to the High Peak Food Bank – thank you to all who donated these food items.





Hot on the heels of the Harvest celebrations was a free concert at the Church given by 'Cantata Conviva' – a ladies' choir based in Twyford, near Reading. Their songs ranged from classical to pop to West End musical numbers, and the quality of choral singing was outstanding. What also impressed the audience was the obvious

joy they brought to their singing: as they said, their emphasis is on great singing and having fun – and it showed!

If you haven't been into the church recently, feel free to try out our 'virtual visitor centre' where you can browse on your smartphone the points of interest and the facilities in the village; the history of the village and the church; and details of 'what's on'. Also, do take a look at our bookstall, and perhaps pick up a copy of the latest publication – a 36-page full-colour book about Ashford Church's stained glass windows (100% of your £5.00 purchase price will go to the church).



We look forward to seeing everyone on **Wednesday 17th December at 6.00 pm** for Carols around the village Christmas tree. Christmas services at Church will include our **Carol Service on Saturday December 20th at 5.00 pm**; our very popular **Crib Service at 4.00 pm on Christmas Eve**; and our **Family Christmas Morning service at 10.00 am on Christmas Day**, which this year will be led by Rt Revd Libby Lane, the Bishop of Derby.

You'll find a very warm welcome at any of our regular Sunday morning services at 9.30 am (see the website to confirm the current service schedule). Or, if you're just curious and would like to know more, please do get in touch! 01298 871647 or email: lindafoster07@btinternet.com

