

**THE PARISH MAGAZINE**  
**Ashford in the Water**  
**and Sheldon**

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

**April 2026**

**ASHFORD SERVICES**

|  |               |  |
|--|---------------|--|
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April: Good Friday      | 2.00pm        | 'An Hour by the Cross'                     |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: EASTER DAY</b> | <b>9.30am</b> | <b>Sung Eucharist</b>                      |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April: Low Sunday      | 10.30am       | Benefice Service<br>at Gt Longstone        |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April: Easter 3        | 9.30am        | Sung Eucharist<br>Service followed by APCM |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April: Easter 4        | 9.30am        | Sung Eucharist<br>joined by Sheldon        |



*A prayer for Easter*

**Risen Christ,  
We give you thanks  
That in you  
We are saved,  
We are understood,  
We are loved and  
We are forgiven.  
Our home is in you  
now and forever.  
Amen**



### **New Incumbent**

The advert for Canon Tony's replacement should have been 'live' on March 20<sup>th</sup> but there has been some hold up by the Diocese and apparently it will now go out sometime after Easter. The original interview date – 12<sup>th</sup> May has now been moved back to late May or early June.

*A Prayer for the Selection Process:*

Heavenly Father,  
At this important time in the life of our church and the wider Benefice, we pray for the ongoing selection process for a new incumbent.  
We pray for all those who will apply, for the selection process and those involved in it; that the person of your choice will be selected - a person who will lead us, come alongside us and our communities, and help us become more Christ-like, that we may be salt and light to all those we meet.  
Amen.

## ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER

### 2026 Flower Festival and Well Dressing Details

Contact for more information:

Ian Pykett • 07985 042 392 • i.pykett@btinternet.com

Ashford-in-the-Water's **Well Dressings** and **Flower Festival** run concurrently from **Saturday May 30 - Sunday June 7 2026**.

- **Six** wells to be dressed.
- **Flower Festival** at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, 10.30 am - 7.00 pm daily. The theme is "For All The Saints..."
- **Puddling** of Clay into Well Dressing Boards: Sheepwash Bridge, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QF, Friday May 22, approx. 5.30 pm.
- **Petalling** of Well Dressing Boards at the War Memorial Institute, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QB, Saturday May 23 - Friday May 29.  
*Visitors welcome!*
- **Well Dressings in place for viewing around the village:** Saturday May 30 - Sunday June 7. **Runs concurrently with Flower Festival in Holy Trinity Church.**
- **Sheepwash Demonstration** at Sheepwash Bridge, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QF, Saturday May 30, approx. 3.00 pm.
- **Duck Race** at Sheepwash Bridge, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QF, Saturday May 30, approx. 3.30 pm.
- **Well Blessing Service and Sermon at the Old Preaching Cross** by Very Revd Dr Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby Cathedral: Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Sunday May 31, 3.00 pm
- **Village Parade and Blessing of the Wells** with **Youlgreave Silver Band**. Starts at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Sunday May 31, 3.30 pm.
- **Village Day** with **Matlock Band** on Hall Orchard, Court Lane, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Saturday June 6, 2.00 pm.
- **Closing Service of Thanksgiving** at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Sunday June 7, 5.30 pm.

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**Dear Friends**  
**A Word from St Anne's,**  
**Over Haddon**



The month of April sees the renewal of life all around us, both plant and animal, as the days get warmer and the sun shines for longer. It seems entirely appropriate that Easter coincides with all this, and helps to make Springtime such a glad season.

The Easter story is so familiar to us, in the Church, that I wonder if we sometimes forget just how mind-blowingly extraordinary an event that first Easter was .

The followers of Jesus – not just His disciples but the band of women who attended Him, and all those who had been converted during His Mission of the previous three years - were all cast down in despair, cowed and in hiding, after seeing the Man they thought was the Messiah killed on the cross and buried in a tomb. Then *He came back to them*, as a real person, who talked with them and

ate with them. He had defeated death itself, and demonstrated beyond all doubt – even to Thomas! - that hope was eternal. He came back as a person as real as they were, but at the same time “other” and had to return soon to another place, but would send a Holy Spirit to them as confirmation of the new reality He had demonstrated.

Suddenly, a group of despairing, despondent, defeated people became a band of joyful, fervent evangelists who set about preaching the Good News and set about converting people by the thousand to become followers of Jesus. The movement grew, and spread with amazing speed, throughout the Roman world, and beyond. There can be no other explanation for this, other than what they had witnessed was real. The world was turned upside down. Jesus had shown that death was not the end; not just for Him but for them, and for all of His followers, including us.

*Roger Truscott*



Springtime in Ashford

## **FLOWER FESTIVAL PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?**

**30<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Open daily 10.30am – 7.00pm**

This year's theme for the Flower Festival is: 'For all the Saints...' There is a Patron Saint for just about everything, and we will have a small selection portraying what they were associated with; St Francis for example, Patron Saint of animals.

As many of you will know, in the past we have had thousands of visitors coming to see the spectacular arrangements in the church and we have always had two stewards on duty throughout the day to welcome them, hand them a leaflet describing the arrangements and to look after the card stall and candles. The day is divided into 1½ hours slots starting at 10.30am and it is very satisfying to welcome people and hear the lovely comments that people make about the arrangements and the village. We would be most grateful if you could help us by covering one or maybe two slots during the week? You don't need to be a member of the church to do this, and I will be on hand to show you the ropes. We are very grateful for the help received in past years. Our visitors have



appreciated your friendly welcome, and you have certainly helped to make the Festival financially successful; we hope that you enjoyed the experience.

Please let me know if you can help by phoning me on 01298 871647, emailing: [lindafoster07@btinternet.com](mailto:lindafoster07@btinternet.com) or by adding your name to a slot on the rota which will be on the table just inside the inner church doors from the middle of April.

**Thank you!  
Linda**



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## Farming News



We usually lamb our few ewes at the end of April when the weather is getting better and the calvings are slowing down. This year William is getting married at the beginning of May so we had to plan our lambing earlier so they start this week. Just our luck as this week has given storms, high winds and snow! We can only hope the ewes don't lamb early and the bad weather doesn't arrive as forecast.

The cows should have started calving but only two have calved - they too are waiting until it's cold and windy! Normally we have calved about thirty by the end of March so I'm not sure what they are waiting for.

The dry, sunny weather we had last week was a good tonic for everyone, cattle, sheep and farmers alike. Lots of jobs to catch up on and not enough hours in the days. The spring wheat was sown into a surprisingly dry seed bed. We need some warmth now to warm up the cold soil. The grass fields are looking very green because we have had only one spell of frosty weather just after Christmas. Today we are spreading all the grass fields with (very expensive) fertiliser. This has shot up in price by 35%. Red diesel a month ago was 72p per litre; this week's delivery was £1.20 per

litre. Modern tractors can hold 400 litres of diesel so it makes a very expensive fill up. We use 5000 litres every month - again another cost we cannot pass on to the consumer. In fact beef prices are dropping and the poor dairy farmers have been hit – only receiving 29p per litre for their milk, yes I repeat 29p. How can this continue? The politicians will only wake up when there are no family farms left and milk and beef is coming in from China.

## EASTER POT LUCK



### Mini Egg Brownies

Makes 16

#### Ingredients:

200g/7 oz dark chocolate (roughly chopped)

200g/7 oz unsalted butter (cubed)

3 eggs

250g/9oz caster sugar

100g/3 ½ oz plain flour

50g/1 ¾ oz cocoa powder

240g/8 ½ oz mini eggs (roughly chopped)

Pinch salt

## Method:

1. Heat the oven to 180°C/ 160°C Fan and line a 20cm/8" baking tin with parchment paper.



2. Put the butter and chocolate in a heatproof bowl, and melt over a pan of simmering water, making sure the water does not touch the bowl. Leave to cool slightly.

3. Put the eggs and caster sugar into a large bowl, and whisk until light, pale and fluffy. While whisking gradually pour in the chocolate mixture until combined.

4. Fold in the flour, cocoa powder, about half the chopped mini eggs and a pinch of salt.

5. Pour the brownie batter into the tin and spread out to make an even layer. Dot over the remaining chopped mini eggs.

6. Bake for roughly 25 minutes, or until cracked slightly on top, and there is a little wobble in the middle. Leave to cool completely in the tin before slicing and serving.



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## Ashford WI

At our March meeting, the WI ladies enjoyed a very interesting talk by Ian Pykett about Ashford in the Water in the Victorian period and some of the notable people who lived here.

In Victorian times Ashford was a self-contained buzzing village, playing host to a butcher, a corn mill, a cordwainer, three wheelwrights, a blacksmith, a stocking mill, a village shop and much more. There were masons and gardeners and of course workers for the Ashford Black Marble mills. Alongside all that were hostelrys, at least four inns and four beer houses in the village.

In the mid 19th century around 940 residents lived here, double the number we have today. In those days households were generally larger with occupants often related by marriage. A lack of money or suitable housing meant families often shared the same accommodation. As Ian said, 'ordinary' people faced many difficult challenges in those times.

He showed us a wonderful selection of photographs of old Ashford and told us about the old customs. Social life thrived and people took every opportunity to dress up in their Sunday best clothes to join in Well Dressing and Sunday

School parades. A gymkhana was held for the 1851 Festival of Britain.

We also learnt about a visit from the future Queen Victoria who, enroute to Chatsworth one time, wanted to see a marble mill. 'Popping in' to The Rookery for refreshments afterwards, she declared the house 'a delightful small cottage.'

Ian talked about Ashford Black Marble and the more unusual Deep Red Ashford Marble. He showed us many of the places where this unique stone from our village has been used, including the Houses of Parliament and the tomb of Richard III in Leicester where Deep Red Marble forms part of the shield. Of course, there are many other local places where the marble is displayed, including Chatsworth and Hardwick.

Ian was a mine of interesting information, he also talked of the importance of preserving the memories of residents and their collections of photographs, and how important it is to hold on to this vital information for future generations to enjoy as much as we did.

It was a wonderful, informative and entertaining afternoon, and we look forward to him visiting us again. Thanks also go to Jenny for bringing her old photos for us to look through.

For last month's quiz, members were tasked with coming up with as many words as possible from the letters in 'Ashford in the Water'. Most of us managed a good number but kudos goes to Aileen who won by a ridiculous margin. The phrase 'too many to count' comes to mind!

Also last month, six of us attended a Longstone WI talk about Scottish Herring girls, while four members attended a group event hosted by Chatsworth, where they enjoyed a historical, humorous talk about female drivers, by Paula Bell.

Next month's meeting will take place at the Institute on April 2nd at 7.15pm when the group will hear a talk about the history and benefits of Aloe Vera.

If you would like to join the Ashford in the Water WI, please email us

on: [AshfordWI28@gmail.com](mailto:AshfordWI28@gmail.com)

New members are always very welcome!

### **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>

## **PUZZLE CORNER**



### **General**

### **Knowledge Quiz**

1. Which planet is closest to the sun?
2. Which is the largest organ in the human body?
3. Which is the most populated city in Australia?
4. When was the movie *Titanic* released?
5. What is the capital of Qatar?
6. What element is denoted by the symbol Sn in the periodic table?
7. Which tennis grand slam is played on a clay surface?
8. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990?
9. Which is the smallest planet in our solar system?
10. Name the coffee shop in US sitcom *Friends*.

*Answers on last page.*

## WINE OF THE MONTH

### There Has Never Been a Better Time to Buy Bordeaux



‘Claret’ is the term adopted by the British for red wine produced in the Bordeaux region of France. It stems from the word ‘clairet’, originally a lighter style of wine favoured by drinkers over heavier reds. (Another wine known as ‘clarete’ is made from a field blend of red and white grapes and is currently undergoing something of a revival in Portugal). Claret is accepted as the generic name for Bordeaux reds, mostly dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot often with a little Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot added for good measure. Inexpensive wines for early drinking tend to be made mostly from Merlot. Either way, there’s something uniquely satisfying about a good claret and there has never been a better time to buy it.

There is a surfeit of red wine in the world at the moment and Bordeaux, one of the largest red wine producing regions in the world, has too much to go round. They are pulling up vines in the less fashionable parts of the region to compensate. Aldi has some bargain Bordeaux at the moment, Merlot-dominated and easy going, perfect to drink with lamb this Easter. Often available in quite small

quantities, these wines change frequently but there is often a bargain on the shelves between £5 and £10.

If you shop a bit further afield, M&S have a rather good organic Claret called no 34 (£10.00). Made by Bordeaux merchants Sichel, this soft, supple red is about 60% Merlot supported by Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, unoaked so that the flavour of the fruit is unadulterated.

Going a bit further upmarket, the Co-op have Chateau Beaumont (£20.25) from the Haut Medoc. With the Cabernet Sauvignon dominant (and Merlot to back it up), this has a firmer flavour yet has the classic elegance that makes this wine a staple in any Claret-lover’s collection. Drink now or over the next ten years.

If you want to push boat out a bit, buy a bottle of Chateau Cantemerle Haut-Medoc 2021 from Hattersley’s (£39.99). This is a ripe yet refined and Haut-Médoc red, a classic blend of four of the Bordeaux grapes with Cabernet Sauvignon (65%), Merlot (21%), Cabernet Franc (9%), Petit Verdot (5%). Perfect this Easter with rack of lamb, served pink.



**Richard Mayson**

## Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow

[www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk](http://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*)

**Ordering Repeat Medication** - You can order repeat medications in the following ways:

- 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**

## **BAKEWELL MEDICAL CENTRE**

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01629 816636

### **Normal Surgery Opening Times:**

Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm (unless it's a bank holiday)

We do not close for lunch.

### **Closed**

**The surgery will be closed for training at 1.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**.

**The deadline for the May magazine is 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.**

**Please send any poems, photos, articles, recipes, puzzles, thoughts or reminiscences to the editor at [stone.mary@sky.com](mailto:stone.mary@sky.com). Thank you!**

Illustrations: front page and recipe – AI generated.

### **General Knowledge Quiz Answers**

1. Mercury
2. The skin
3. Melbourne (It has recently overtaken Sydney)
4. 1997
5. Doha
6. Tin
7. The French Open (Roland Garros)
8. Marathon
9. Mercury
10. Central Perk