

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

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

**June 2026**

**Ashford Services**

Sunday 07 June Trinity 1: 9.30am Morning Worship led by Jan Gibson

Sunday 14 June Trinity 2: 10.30am Eucharist Great Longstone (No Service in Ashford)

Sunday 21 June Trinity 3: 9.30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28 June Trinity 4: 9.30am Sung Eucharist joined by Sheldon



*A blessing for Trinity Sunday, our patronal festival:*

**God the Holy Trinity make us strong in faith and love,  
defend us on every side and guide us in truth and peace.**

**And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and all those we love and pray for today and every day.**

Amen

## Dear Friends

From Alison Waltho  
of Great Longstone



## Pilgrimage and Prayer

We may often think of pilgrimage as an epic, exhausting trek to an ancient, faraway shrine. Maybe a challenging, solo prayerful journey of reflection. Recent TV programmes including those by Simon Reeve, much like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales of 1400, have offered a broader perspective. I recently listened to the experiences of a Franciscan monk who had walked some of the long pilgrimage routes. He described many motivators recounted by fellow pilgrims including; intentionally finding time to reflect, to listen to God, exploration and adventure, meeting new friends, pondering life worries, seeking fun and excitement, to escape! For most, maybe many of these elements ring true.

Yet, pilgrimage might simply be described as prayer in motion and a spiritual practice that can be embedded in everyday life. Whether we are walking across breathtaking scenery or just meandering round our own local allotment or churchyard, stepping out of our daily routines invites us to encounter ourselves and something outside

ourselves and beyond our control in a fresh and transformative way.

Ending a recent pilgrimage at Canterbury Cathedral, Torrin, the recently appointed Pilgrimage Officer, surprised us with a hugely warm welcome, guided us to tea and cake and then invited us to join his weekly mini, primarily silent, pilgrimage around the outside of the cathedral. At certain points he shared a prayer of thanks or reflection prompted by the ancient architecture, artefacts and gardens that we passed along route.

Many of us find prayer difficult in the busyness of everyday life. We sit in the quiet, our distracted minds attracted by social media, 'to do' lists, and nagging worries. An attraction for me of pilgrimage is the simple steady repetition of our feet treading the ground beneath, anchoring us in the now, prompting us to notice the many blessings and wonders of our natural world, making space. The act of walking simplifies focus. The rhythm of steps becomes a quiet, steady heartbeat of prayer, resourcing our journey in life.

*'Prayer is the turning of our whole mind, our whole being towards God'*

(Father Gilbert Shaw in Celtic Prayer Book One : The Journey begins William Collins 1989 p423)

When we undertake an intentional, prayerful walk —whether a multi-day hike or an afternoon stroll across our local fields and trails —we are willingly embracing the unpredictability of the road. We can't control the steep hills, the sudden rain, or aching limbs. In moments of discomfort even vulnerability, or perhaps great beauty, and in the company of others, such as on our recent sunrise walk up Longstone Edge, or the hospitality and creativity of our flower festival at church we are maybe reminded of our own smallness, our reliance on others and a greater love connecting us. The unpredictability of the journey and process strip away our self-reliance. We are forced to surrender our need for control and, instead, learn to listen, make room for those we travel with and ultimately for God.

So you do not need hiking boots, nor adventurous movement to be prayerful. Throughout Christian history, the Desert Fathers and Mothers taught that the deepest inner spiritual journeys can be achieved by staying completely still. Thomas Keating, in his book *Intimacy with God* (1994) describes an inner movement towards a sense of union with love. We can make a pilgrimage out of our morning commute, our daily dog walk, baking a cake,

watering our garden or just by slowing down our everyday activities and treating each moment as a sacred step. By intentionally paying attention to the world around us—the birds, the changing seasons, the beauty of creation—we are invited to offer prayers of awe and gratitude.

Over the coming month, perhaps take a moment to pause, step out, and pray. Whether you are wandering through the beautiful, rolling countryside around us or sitting quietly in the pub, whether a person of faith or none, let every step, every moment be an intentional offering. Open yourself to the possibility of a deeper way, resting in a loving God alongside you.

### **ASHFORD FLOWER FESTIVAL** **30<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> June**

This is a wonderful opportunity to share our village church at its most beautiful, and to showcase the amazing skills of the flower arrangers.

Any help with stewarding in Church to welcome visitors would be greatly appreciated.

**If you are able to help, please add your name to the rota which is on the table by the door in church.** Two people are needed for each one and a half hour time slots. If you haven't done it before there will be someone there to help.

Thank you!

## **Congratulations to Alison Waltho on becoming a Reader in the Church of England.**

Alison, along with 8 other Lay Readers, was licensed by Bishop Malcolm in a special service at Derby Cathedral on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Readers in the Church of England play an important role in the public ministry of the Church. There are currently around 150 Readers who are licenced and with Permission to Officiate in the diocese of Derby.

Reader ministry is voluntary, but every Reader must first follow an intensive course of nationally accredited theological training. The training in Derby diocese is mainly delivered through on-line teaching and group discussion and in addition there are 3 days a year when trainees to meet together in person. But there is much more to becoming a Reader than passing exams! Most important of all is sensing a personal calling by God, a calling that is recognised by others and affirmed by the Bishop.

Readers were first used in the 19th Century, when there was a massive increase in the population of England. In response the Victorians built lots of churches and then had to work out how to respond to the spiritual and pastoral needs of the

people who flocked to them, as well as their expectations for well-led services. Part of the answer was to licence a group of lay



people to work with the clergy. They were called "Readers" because one of their more obvious jobs was to read out loud Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, so that congregations could join in.

Readers lead worship, teach, preach and encourage people in their everyday faith as well as share God's love and message of hope to those who may not yet know it. Some Readers are involved in chaplaincy in schools, prisons, workplaces and hospitals, others, like Alison, are involved in community development or pioneering new ways of reaching out to those on the fringes.

Whilst Alison is based mainly at St Giles her gifts will be available to, and valued by, all the churches that make up our benefice. We give thanks for all that she brings and wish her every blessing in her ministry.

## 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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**Ashford-in-the-Water  
Well Dressings 2026**

**HELPERS NEEDED:**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>  
May**

Serving teas in the WM Institute  
11am - 4pm (Bakers also  
needed to make cakes please!)

Car park duty in the Hall Orchard  
11am - 4pm

To sign up or for more details  
please contact Sarah  
Brocklehurst 07974914954

Thank you

**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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Congratulations to Will Brocklehurst of Ashford and Grace Downing of Longstone, who were married at Longstone Church on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Photo taken on Longstone Edge

## Farming News



As usual here as soon as the good weather arrives

it's manic at Highfield Farm.

The silage contractor could only come yesterday, Sunday, so Max mowed all the grass fields until well into the night. They were all reseeded last year so the crops were very, very heavy and at one point we wondered if it would all go in the clamp, but because it was so dry it fitted in nicely. Two tractors were rolling the grass on the clamp to squash and condense it down. The less air in the grass the better quality the silage will be. Today we are mowing some fields for round bale silage as we have so much grass. There is an old saying "a wet and windy May fills the barns with hay" and this year the grass has certainly grown. Today, bank holiday Monday, is very hot and this morning we were moving cattle and sheep around ready for sheep shearing tomorrow. They are very reluctant to move when it is so hot and find every bit of shelter they can. Glad I'm not a shearer as it's a hot, sweaty job anyway - so will be a killer job tomorrow.

Amongst all this activity Well Dressing has begun in the institute and all the ladies (and men) are busily bent over the clay ready for next week's dressing of the wells.

We are fortunate to be doing 6 again which is a big feat for a small village like ours and I would like to thank everyone who gives up their time and holiday in some cases, to make our beautiful village even more beautiful.

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## **Ashford WI**

At the end of last month, nine ladies from Ashford WI enjoyed a delightful visit to Lea Gardens. With the sun shining, it was the perfect day to admire the stunning displays of colourful rhododendrons and azaleas in full bloom. After coffee, we took a leisurely stroll around the gardens, appreciating the beautiful surroundings and vibrant flowers. By the time we had explored the grounds, we were ready for a well-earned rest, so we headed to the

café for a delicious lunch while already making plans for a return visit next year. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and a good time was had by all.



In our monthly meeting, Richard Godley of East Peak Countryside Associates gave the group a fascinating and informative talk on the Women's Land Army — the British civilian organisation established by the Board of Agriculture during the First World War to recruit women into agricultural work, replacing the men who had been called up for military service.

By 1918, the Women's Land Army had developed into three distinct sections. The Agricultural Section employed almost 13,000 women as milkers and field workers; they ploughed fields, worked with horses, and became market gardeners. The Forage Corps, formed in 1915, involved around 8,000 women undertaking haymaking duties. The third branch was the Women's Forestry Corps,

better known as the 'Timber Jills.' By 1918, around 400 women were employed in forestry work to help increase timber production, all carried out by hand.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the Women's Land Army was reformed once again.

During the war, more than 200,000 women replaced male agricultural workers who had gone to fight. Working 48-hour weeks for 28 shillings, these women played a vital role in helping Britain increase food production during a time of great national need.

As well as giving us a deeper insight into the invaluable contribution women made during both world wars, Richard also brought along items from his collection of Women's Land Army artefacts, including clothing, shoes, and badges. Each section of the Land Army had its own distinctive emblem, which added greatly to the interest of the talk.



It was a brilliant and entertaining talk that was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.

Next month's meeting will take place at the Institute on Thursday, June 11th at 7.15pm. when Nia Williams will be hosting an Origami workshop.

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!

## BAKEWELL DAY OF DANCE

Saturday **27** June 2026 11am – 4.30pm



We are excited to be holding our **22nd** Bakewell International Day of Dance. Over 30 groups will be showcasing a variety of dance styles from around the world in **five** outdoor venues around Bakewell,

from 11am to 4.30pm. Free. Also dance workshops running at the Town Hall. Wet weather programme if necessary.



Visit

[www.bakewelldayofdance.co.uk](http://www.bakewelldayofdance.co.uk) for more information.

## PUZZLE CORNER

### June Quiz



1. What significant World War II event took place on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944?
2. Which US federal holiday on June 19<sup>th</sup> commemorates the end of slavery?
3. Which event occurred on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1914 and triggered the outbreak of World War I?
4. In which battle was the French army defeated on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1815?

5. Which bridge in London was opened on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1894?
6. The first ever Wimbledon Tennis Tournament took place in June of which year?
7. What is June's full moon traditionally known as?
8. What is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June in many countries around the world?
9. Is it Polar Night or Polar Day at the South Pole in June?
10. Which Harry Potter book did JK Rowling publish on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2003?

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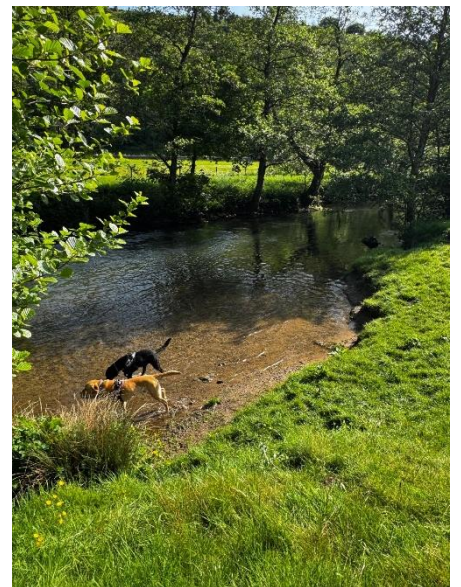
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# ASHFORD WELLDRESSINGS 2026 - A PREVIEW



Puddling by the Sheepwash Bridge



Welldressing in the Institute





## BAKEWELL MEDICAL CENTRE

[www.bakewellmedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.bakewellmedicalcentre.co.uk)

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**.



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## 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**

## Quiz answers

1. D Day 2. Juneteenth 3. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand 4. The Battle of Waterloo 5. Tower Bridge 6. 1877  
7. Strawberry Moon 8. Father's Day 9. Polar Night 10. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

**The deadline for the July/August magazine is 23rd June 2026.**

**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**