

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

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

**May 2026**

**Ashford Services**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Easter 5: 9.30am Sung Eucharist led by Revd Clive Thrower

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May: Easter 6: 9.30am Sung Eucharist joined by Gt Longstone

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Easter 7: 9.30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Pentecost: 9.30am Sung Eucharist joined by Sheldon

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Trinity Sunday: 9.30am Benefice Eucharist

3.00pm Well Blessing Service led by The Very Revd Dr.  
Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby

**Baptism** Sunday 24 May: Lucia Ella Raimo – parents married here in 2018

**Wedding**

Wednesday 27 May 12.30pm: Christopher Caulton and Danielle Olivant -  
members of the congregation are welcome to attend.



*A hymn for Pentecost*

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour  
glowing;

O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

**Dear Friends,**

From David Hardman  
of Ashford Church



**May, New Life, and  
Signs of Hope**

The landscape of our United Benefice has undergone a remarkable transformation. The hush of winter has given way to the vibrant, unruly symphony of a Derbyshire spring. Trees have softened into green, blossom brightens old walls and garden paths, and fields and lanes begin to look full of promise again. Even the air feels different. After the searching season of Lent and Holy Week, May brings with it a sense of release. The world seems to breathe again, that makes it a lovely month in the Church's year.

We can easily think of Easter as one great Sunday and then move on too quickly. But the Church does not do that. Easter is not over in a day. We continue to live in the Easter season, and May falls right in the middle of it. This is a month not of "business as usual" but of learning to live in the light of new life.

That matters because Easter is not simply about something that happened long ago. It tells us something about the character of God and the shape of Christian hope. It tells us that death and

despair do not have the last word. It tells us that God is always able to bring life out of what looks tired, worn or beyond hope.

Most of us know the need for that hope. Life is not always straightforward. We carry worries, disappointments, grief, questions and weariness. Faith is not always bright and strong. Sometimes it is simply the quiet decision to keep going, to keep praying, and to trust that God has not finished with us yet.

That is why the resurrection stories are so encouraging. The risen Jesus does not appear only in moments of triumph. He comes in a garden. He walks alongside puzzled travellers. He stands among frightened disciples behind closed doors. He meets people where they are. And he still does.

As St John records Jesus saying, "*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly*" (John 10:10). Not a shallow or easy life, but a fuller one: deeper, steadier, richer in hope.

Across the Bakewell Benefice, we are blessed at this time of year with many signs of that kind of life. In villages, fields and gardens, in ancient church buildings and gathered congregations, in quiet faithfulness and neighbourly

kindness, there are reminders that God is still at work among us. Soon, in our villages, well dressings will speak of beauty, gratitude, tradition and shared effort. Whatever their long history, they remain signs of people offering something lovely together.

For Christianity is never only about ideas in our heads. It is about thanksgiving, shared life and learning to notice grace in ordinary places. A church open for prayer, blossom against old stone, a kind word from a neighbour, the steady dedication of volunteers — all these can remind us that God is still quietly present.

Later in May, from Rogation Sunday, the Church turns toward Ascension and Pentecost: Christ reigning in glory, and the Holy Spirit given to ordinary people. These festivals remind us that we are not left to manage life and faith by ourselves. We are accompanied, strengthened and called forward.

St Paul writes, *“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation”* (2 *Corinthians 5:17*). In May, with the world bursting with new life around us, that can feel less like an abstract doctrine and more like something we can glimpse for ourselves.

As the old proverb says: *“While there’s life, there’s hope.”*, May we

give thanks for signs of new life. And share that hope with others.

With blessings, David Hardman

## 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 would like 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!



## 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.

# YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU! 🙌

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

### HELPERS NEEDED:

**Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup>**

Petalling in the WM Institute (beginners very welcome!)

**Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**

Serving teas in the WM Institute 11am - 4pm

Bakers also needed to make cakes please!

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

**Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**

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


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

Thank you



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## EASTER AT ASHFORD CHURCH

The Church was full for a lovely Eucharist service on Easter Day.

Many thanks to all those who arranged the flowers so beautifully.



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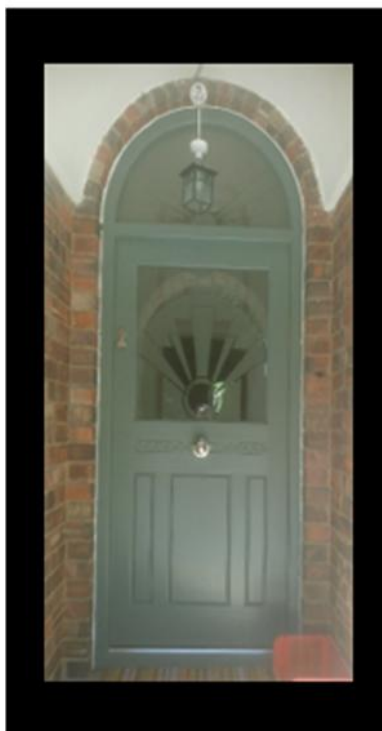
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3<sup>rd</sup> Dan Black Belt

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## Farming News



We started calving about a month ago and still have only calved about 55. They are so slow, makes me think we shall be calving in August! Obviously as usual we have good days and bad. Last week we had twins, both of which were born dead and the same morning a cow squashed her calf in the pen. Like all cows the price of calves has sky rocketed and a two week old Aberdeen Angus bull calf was £460. Dovecote park, where we sell our fat beef cattle have reduced the price every week for the last five weeks. Unfortunately all costs are rising every week, not just a small amount but considerably. Fertiliser, fuel, feed, vet costs and everything else has shot up in price. It's not very often now that I pay a bill for under £5000.

Lambing has nearly finished and that too has been a bit of a toil. We have plenty of lambs with lots of doubles and triplets. I still have two doubles inside because they won't take to their own lambs! I've tried every trick - even putting in Scruff our Jack Russell in the pen. This usually makes the ewe protect her lambs but hasn't worked this time. Goodness they try your patience!!

On a positive note the weather has been marvellous for Spring field

work and calving and lambing too. Unfortunately it has given wet weather all next week which is when Will and Grace get married here at the farm on the 9th.

## GREAT LONGSTONE FLOWER FESTIVAL IN ST GILES' CHURCH

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Times: 9th & 10th 1.30pm-5pm  
11th – 15th 10am – 5pm

Theme: Favourite Books

Light Refreshments available



## 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>

## Ashford WI

At last month's WI meeting, Buxton-based Linda Hawley from the Aloe Vera company Forever gave a very interesting talk about the Aloe Vera plant and its surprisingly large number of health and medicinal benefits

Although it looks like a type of cactus, Aloe Vera is a member of the lily family and a relative of garlic, onion and asparagus. An evergreen perennial that originated from the Arabian peninsula it grows wild in tropical climates and has been used for centuries for its soothing, cooling and moisturising properties: Soldiers reputedly used it to tend wounds during Alexander the Great's time; Christopher Columbus took it with him on his voyages, and legend has it Aloe Vera was used as a beauty treatment by Cleopatra and Nefertiti.

The secret of Aloe Vera's success is found in the clear, gel-like substance within its leaves that contain many different nutrients, including vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and enzymes. These work together to produce a range of soothing, calming and healing properties which, according to Linda, range from healing skin irritations and burns, acting as a digestive aid,

promoting healthy joints, and boosting the immune system.

The gel can be extracted by breaking open the plant's leaves, and today that extraction is big business and carried out on an industrial scale. Founded in Arizona in 1978, Forever harvests over 50 million organically grown Aloe Vera plants on fields in Texas and Arizona before sending them to processing facilities to be made into drinks, creams, topical products that are distributed to over 140 countries the world, including Japan, France, Germany and, of course the UK.

After her talk, Linda walked us through some of Forever's Aloe Vera offerings, which include a dizzying array of moisturising creams and gels, shampoos and conditioners, soaps and deodorants, lip balms and drinks... I think we were all surprised by just how many different products can be made from one plant!

After a fun evening perusing, sniffing and testing, many of us left laden with goodies – and somewhat poorer!

Next month's meeting will take place at the Institute on Thursday, May 7th at 7.15pm. The speaker is Richard Godley who will give a talk about the Women's Land Army.

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



### Animal quiz

1. Which is the largest mammal in the world?
2. Which is the fastest land animal?
3. Which is the only mammal capable of true flight?
4. How many hearts does an octopus have?
5. Which is the largest species of bear?
6. Which is the slowest animal on earth?
7. What type of animal is a caracal?
8. What is the main prey of an arctic fox?
9. Which is the fastest species of bird?
10. Which big cat cannot roar?

11. Which marine animal is sometimes called 'the cow of the sea'?

12. Which bird lays the largest egg?

*Answers on last page.*

## POT LUCK

### Tangy Fruit Brûlé



Ingredients:

- 1 regular grapefruit
- 1 pink grapefruit
- 2 oranges
- 3 clementines
- 150 ml (¼ pint) double cream
- 150 ml (¼ pint ) sour cream
- 50g (2 oz) caster sugar
- Large squeeze of lemon juice
- 75g (3 oz) soft dark brown sugar

1. Peel the grapefruit, oranges and clementines and remove the skin and membrane from each segment where necessary.
2. Slice the oranges into rounds about 5mm (½ inch) thick.

3. Halve the grapefruit segments and orange slices.
4. Place all the fruit in a flameproof shallow serving dish 1.25-1.5l (2-2½ pints).
5. Whip both creams with the caster sugar and lemon juice and spread over the fruit.
6. Crumble the dark brown sugar and sprinkle thickly over the top.
7. Pre-heat the grill to high and place the dish under the heat, at least 6 cms (2½ inches) away to avoid burning.
8. Keep turning the dish round with oven gloves under the grill for about a minute and a half until it bubbles. Keep a close eye on it.
9. Remove and cool. Chill in the refrigerator until needed.



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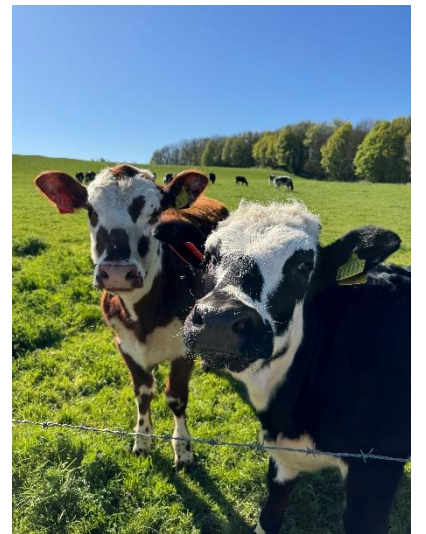
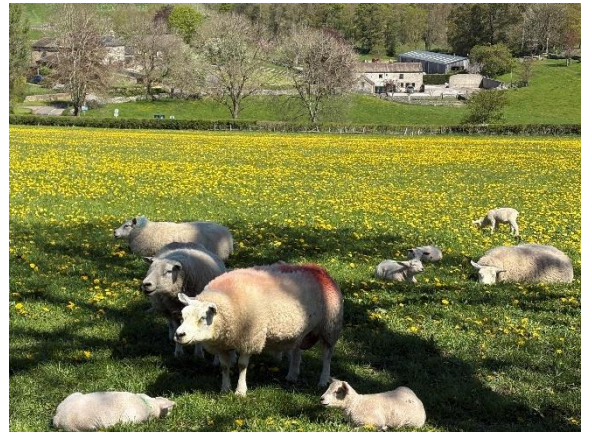


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**APRIL IN AND  
AROUND  
ASHFORD**



## 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

[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**.

## INFORMATION AND ADVICE FROM THE APRIL BAKEWELL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM NEWS

### Doorstep Crime Prevention

Further reports have been received in relation to door to door sellers.

Please share the following with elderly relatives;

- Ensure your back door is locked before going to the front door
- Use your door bar / chain / viewer before opening the door
- Arrange appointments for callers
- Always ask for ID and check it carefully.
- Most reputable dealers do NOT go door-to-door. Consider using traders recommended by a friend or relative or check if they are on the Derbyshire Trusted Trader Scheme [Trusted Trader - Derbyshire County Council](#)

**If in doubt, keep them out!!**

### **Message from Inspector 2373 Troup**

**As we move into spring, officers have been engaging with local communities to identify the issues most affecting your neighbourhoods. Your feedback has informed our priorities for the next three months. These priorities, along with updates on local policing activity, can be viewed by following your local teams on Facebook, signing up to the free Derbyshire Alert messaging service, or visiting the Derbyshire Constabulary website. You may also contribute to future priority-setting by completing the Derbyshire Community Voice survey.**

**With the expected increase in visitors to the Derbyshire Dales during the warmer months, we also anticipate a rise in reports relating to speeding vehicles, noise nuisance, and anti-social behaviour. Our officers will therefore be conducting targeted patrols to address these concerns, working in partnership with the district council, volunteer groups, and neighbourhood watch. These issues continue to be widely reported across the Derbyshire Dales and remain a key focus for our teams.**

**Over the coming weeks, officers will also be undertaking a dedicated operation to reduce shoplifting offences in collaboration with local retailers, the Derbyshire Business Crime Reduction Partnership and Derbyshire Dales District Council. Both uniformed and plain-clothes officers will be proactively identifying and arresting offenders. In the past three months, several prolific shoplifters targeting stores in Ashbourne, Matlock and Bakewell have been identified, prosecuted, and subsequently received custodial sentences.**

**I would also like to provide an update regarding reports of illegal raves held within the Derbyshire Dales. Early last year, officers from the Matlock Safer Neighbourhood Team carried out extensive enquiries to identify those responsible for organising these events, travelling across the country to make arrests. While this investigation remains ongoing, several vehicles and significant quantities of sound equipment have been seized so far, and we anticipate charges being brought in due course.**

**The Derbyshire Dales continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit. We remain committed to working with our communities and our partners to ensure that it stays that way.**

**John Troup  
Inspector 2373**

### **Reporting Incidents / Crimes to Police**

**Website** – website: <https://www.derbyshire.police.uk>, **Facebook** – send us a private message to the Derbyshire Constabulary Facebook page. **Phone** – 999 in an emergency or if a crime is in progress, 101 non-emergency, You can also anonymously contact the independent charity **CrimeStoppers**, on 0800 555 111, or by visiting the CrimeStoppers website: [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)

### Quiz answers

1. Blue whale
2. Cheetah
3. Bat
4. Three
5. Polar bear
6. The three-toed sloth
7. A wild cat
8. Lemmings
9. Peregrine falcon
10. Cheetah
11. Manatee
12. Ostrich

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Easter photos – Linda Foster and Howard Stone

April photos – Howard and Mary Stone

Recipe picture – AI generated

**The deadline for the June magazine is 22nd May 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!**