

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water
and Sheldon

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

October 2026

Ashford Services

Sunday 4th October: Trinity 18 9.30am - Morning Worship

11th October: Trinity 19 10.30am - Sung Eucharist at Gt Longstone

18th October: Harvest Festival 9.30am - Sung Eucharist

25th October: Last Sunday after Trinity 9.30am - Sung Eucharist

This will be followed by Fizz & Cake to say goodbye to Revd Brenda

A prayer for Autumn



**God of Creation,
We thank you for the changing
seasons,
the bounty of the earth
and the turning of the year.**



**As leaves turn and fall,
Remind us of your constant presence
in every season of our lives.**

**Bless the harvest, feed the hungry
and give strength to all those who work the land.**

**Fill us with gratitude
for your unending goodness to us.**

Amen



Harvest Weekend 17th- 18th October

ASHFORD HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 17th October 7pm in the W M Institute

Tickets £10 only available from Church or the village shop

Quiz & Raffle

Please bring your own drinks and glasses.



Harvest Service

Sunday 18th October 9.30am

Donations of Foods suitable for the Buxton Food Bank will be gratefully received for the service on October 18th

Please bring these to church and leave by the vestry door

Thursday 15th – Saturday 17th



Dear friends

The year has drifted gently into autumn and as L.M.

Montgomery wrote in Anne of Green Gables "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." As the leaves on the trees turn from summery green to red, yellow and orange, autumn



shows us that change can be beautiful and that every season of our lives is to be enjoyed. Each of the seasons serves their purpose. Autumn is a time for endings and beginnings, for tidying up the garden and planting bulbs that will flower in the spring. It's the time for many trees to let go of their leaves because they are no longer needed

and is a good time for us to release the stresses, habits, or expectations that no longer serve us.

Autumn is mentioned only once in the Bible, in Jude 1:12 where false teachers are compared to “autumn trees without fruit.” The implication is that autumn should be fruitful, an abundant season of the year. And the same can be true of our lives if choose to notice and delight in the things that bless us.

The days are now becoming noticeably shorter and with fewer hours of daylight nature is slowing down, offering us a gentle reminder that we too need times of rest. In the Creation stories in Genesis God takes a day of rest and later a day of rest on the sabbath was written into Jewish law. The wisdom of having time to slow down and recharge ourselves physically, mentally, spiritually and is supported by modern science too.

As I write, the news is dominated by calls by fears about Artificial Intelligence spinning out of our control and the possibility of imminent human extinction. A few years ago, Stephen Hawking commented “The real risk with AI isn’t malice, but competence. A superintelligent AI will be extremely good at accomplishing its goals, and, if those goals aren’t aligned with ours, we’re in trouble.” Faith leaders have echoed the warnings from the

executives from Anthropic and other pioneers of AI technology, and have joined those asking for a meaningful pause or slowdown in its development. consensus that moral judgment, human control, and the common good must take precedence over technological speed. Youngsters are growing up in a very different world to the one many of us knew as children and AI’s many unknowns add to our feelings of insecurity. Every generation has had new challenges to face but have always found constancy and security in God’s unfailing mercy and love.

Seasons come and seasons go, the beautiful autumnal colours surrounding us never last long. The prophet Isaiah wrote “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever” and Jesus’ promise is that he will be with us “even unto the end of time” (Matt 28:20). We don’t know when that time will be and the Bible warns us against speculation. May we, like the trees, slow down and let go of the things that aren’t needed. And as we delight in the richness, colour and blessings that October brings, may we give thanks for the beauty of creation, for the kindness of those around us, for all that brings us laughter and joy and above all by the hope we have through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Rev’d Brenda

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Lowry's Lamps

Richard Mayson explains the background to his talk in Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water on 7th October 2026 at 6.00 pm

When the artist LS Lowry (1887-1976) came to public attention in the 1950s and 1960s, he was frequently photographed with a street lamp in the background. It was a mark of the urban setting; a symbol of the streets that he had traipsed around for over half a century and the predominantly urban art that he produced. He is known for his so-called 'matchstick men' but he observed everyday items of street furniture just as closely. They are incorporated into his paintings with the same judicious sense of artistic licence.

I have taken a particular interest in street furniture since early childhood and came to judge an urban work of art by the artist's ability to portray a street lamp. It is a plain fact to me that, in art, there are good street lights and there are bad ones. Forever looking at street lights both *in situ* and in art, I recall looking at a Lowry and thinking that he really couldn't do a good one. The enigmatic walking-stick lights and the elongated

telegraph poles that he used in many of his large industrials seemed to have little or no relationship to anything that I had seen in our part of the world.



The gaunt gritstone village of Mottram in Longdendale on the edge of the Pennines was home for me until my late teens. It was also Lowry's home for the last 28 years of his life. He was not greatly admired in Mottram, as word had spread that he disliked the place (I rather disliked it too). He rarely depicted the village in his pictures, though he did include some residents of Mottram, often without them knowing. He once said of us: "They're nice folk. I've nothing against them. It's the place... it does nothing for me."

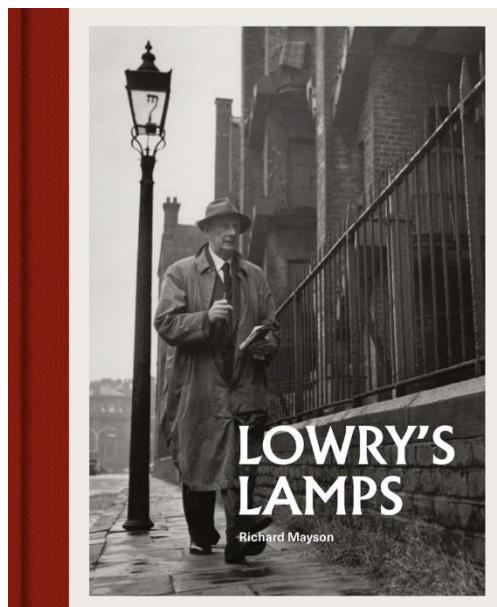
Lowry didn't do much for me either at the time. In the 1970s Lowry had become something of a cliché. Living where we did, you saw so many reproductions of Lowry's industrial landscapes that it led you to wonder what the fuss was about. But as I learned later, you really have to see a Lowry original 'in the flesh' to appreciate its true sculptural character.

At around the time of Lowry's death in 1976 there was a creeping nostalgia for a past that was being eradicated. This was a time when the landmarks of the Industrial Revolution were rapidly disappearing. In the late 1960s the two-storey back-to-back houses on the way into central Manchester were being steadily torn down. The giant mills that consumed and disgorged hundreds of workers every morning and evening were closing all around us and their rows of windows went permanently dark. Some of these mills had been built by my grandfather and great-grandfather. In the late 1960s I recall counting ten mill chimneys from the platform of Stalybridge station. Today there are none. The people were changing along with the landscape. The lame, oddball and down-and-out characters that so fascinated Lowry

in later life (his so-called grotesques) were dying out. Gas lamps, like these people, were becoming a thing of the past; nearly all replaced by brutalist concrete lamp standards with the intense orange sodium lights that illuminated the cold gloom.

As I became more familiar with the breadth of his work I came to re-evaluate Lowry. There is so much more to him than those "matchstalk men and matchstalk cats and dogs" in the rather saccharine song that helped to popularise Lowry in the 1970s. In my book Lowry's Lamps and in this talk I delve into some of the most under-appreciated aspects of his works. Lowry was a master of observation and composition, and street furniture forms an important part of his busy, populated scenes. Some of these are akin to a theatrical set and lamp posts often have more than a walk-on part. As his work developed, lamps, telegraph poles and monuments became a subject in their own right. Lowry always stayed true to his northern roots. Talking to an art student at the Crane Kalman Gallery, in Manchester, the artist said: "I can't think what you want to go to London for. You won't find

any better lampposts there... No sir, you can only paint where you belong – and that is where you were born.”



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Farming news



I am getting increasingly worried about the future of British farming or to be more precise where our food is going to come from. We have just had three days with Louise and her family in the beautiful Surrey hills. I don't think we saw any livestock out in the fields south of Birmingham. Each time we travel down the M1 , M40 and M25 we see more and more agricultural land being taken over by solar panels, wind turbines and worse still acres of huge buildings for Amazon and the like. On Saturday we took our granddaughter for a riding lesson in a beautiful valley which was until 5 years ago a dairy farm. Now it is all down to set aside, which means the farmer gets paid for leaving the land to nature so it was full of thistles, nettles and long dead grass. They had twelve Shetland ponies and gave lessons every Saturday and Sunday and presumably did nothing for the rest of the week. This is prime agricultural land and should be producing food for the nation. When I asked the owner why they had stopped milking the

answer was simple - 'we couldn't make it pay. Thank goodness our parents aren't here, goodness only knows what they would think.

On a lighter note, what a difference a month makes. The fields are lush and green again, how wonderful nature is.

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

The Ashford WI kicked off the Autumn with a fascinating talk by Haddon Hall archivist Margie Burnet, who spoke evocatively about the restoration of the Hall by John Manners, the 9th Duke of Rutland.

The restoration, which took place in painstaking detail between 1920 and 1930, followed a period of 200 years, during which time the Hall had lain empty and untouched,

managed only by a group of caretakers, while its owners had decamped to the more comfortable Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire.

This period of neglect, during which time locals, along with visiting artists and writers could come and wander freely around the Hall and its grounds, held an unexpected upside. When the Duke and his wife, aided by a team of local craftsmen began the restoration, they realised they were sitting on a fine example of Tudor and Elizabethan architecture which had been unintentionally preserved and saved from modernisation. And today Haddon Hall remains one of the finest examples from that period. Margie's presentation took us through the main rooms of the Hall, as she explained how the duke approached his task like an archaeological dig, documenting and photographing works and finds along the way. These included a spoon from the reign of Charles 1st which fell out of the ceiling and now resides in the V&A. Frescos that had been whitewashed over in the reformation were also uncovered and restored.

The restoration came at a cost though: the duke had to sell off huge swathes of land and property to finance the work, and by the end of the process he was exhausted!

After his death at the age of 54, Haddon Hall remained in the Manners family and is now occupied by Lord and Lady Edward Manners who, some 100 years after the original restoration ended, are faced with the task of trying to maintain a unique and historic property that dates back some 900 years.

Clearly passionate about the Hall and her work there, Margie managed to cast a new light and perspective on a very familiar local landmark. I think many of us felt we had learnt something new about Haddon Hall and are keen for another visit!



This year's WI charity event, also held in September, was in support of Alzheimer's Research. Our members came up

trumps again, providing an array of delicious cakes which were much enjoyed by



visitors, villagers and friends. A huge thank you to everyone who helped and who came along to support us. Our efforts and your contributions raised just shy of £300 for a very worthwhile cause.

Then, later in the month, a group of members enjoyed a scenic, 'bus-pass' trip from the village to Belper. With no fixed agenda, the ladies were free to have a relaxed wander around the old market town and enjoy a spot of retail therapy in the independent shops, before meeting up for a chat and a delicious lunch.

Next month's meeting will take place at the Institute on Thursday 1st October at 7.15pm, when Sally Wheal will host a Willow Weaving Workshop.

If you would like to join the Ashford in the Water WI, please email us at AshfordWI28@gmail.com. New members are always very welcome!

PUZZLE CORNER



Nature and Countryside Quiz

1. Which is the fastest UK land mammal?

2. What is the collective name for a group of owls?

3. Which tree traditionally associated with churchyards has the scientific name *Taxus baccata*?

4. What is the smallest UK mammal?

5. Which is the most dangerous animal in the UK in terms of fatalities?

6. How many species of spider are there in the UK?

7. What is a baby alpaca called?

8. What is the most common wild animal in the UK?

9. Which species of bird has a tongue so long that it wraps around the back of their skull when not in use, to protect their brain?

10. What are linden trees commonly called in the UK?

Answers on last page.

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A Collection of Recipes and Remedies

Many thanks to Bobby Hull-Bailey, who on going through her family's treasured 'Poverty Box' of old documents, found a book, dating back to Victorian times, of old recipes and remedies. She has kindly shared this fascinating archive, so here is a first instalment.

Sciatica

Southernwood 2 ounces

Wormwood 2 ounces

Mugwort 1 ounce

Ragwort 1 ounce

Boil in 6 pints of water for 10 minutes and foment hips an hour every day with flannels steeped.

Bronchitis

Candied sugar 4 ounces

Cudweed 2 ounces

Skunk Cabbage 1 ounce

Lobelia herb ½ ounce

Blood root ¼ ounce

Boil gently in 5 pints of water covered close for 1 hour. When cool pour it off through a cloth, clear and give a wineglassful 4 times a day.

Take ½ ounce slippery elm, mix a little milk or cream with a tablespoonful of sugar, then pour a pint of boiling water, and take a wineglassful 3 times a day.

Inflammation of lungs

Slippery Elm bark, sliced small 1 ounce

Thyme, garden or wild 1 ounce

Hyssop 1 ounce

Marshmallow root 1 ounce

Put in 5 pints of water. Boil down to 3 pints. Strain and add ¼ teaspoonful of cayenne.

Take wineglassful every half hour.

Coughs

Lemon juice 1 ounce

Salad oil 1 ounce

Best fine sugar 1 ounce

Put in cup, mix together, cover, put in oven few minutes. Take 1 teaspoonful often.





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INFORMATION FROM DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Help for farmers

If you're a farming family in Derbyshire facing hardship because of drought or the impact of bluetongue disease, you may find this information useful.



The Addington Fund, which was set up to help farmers in need, may be able to offer short-term assistance through a one-off grant towards essential feed costs:

[2026 Drought and Bluetongue Emergency Grants — Addington Fund](#)

RABI (the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) is also launching a drought emergency grant from today (Monday 7 September) to cover living expenses. [RABI Emergency Drought Grant 2026 - RABI](#)

[Bluetongue](#) is a virus spread between sheep and cattle by biting midges.

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If you have any questions, email driving.assessment@derbyshire.gov.uk.

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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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.

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Please remember if you need to seek medical advice and the surgery is closed contact **111**.

Nature and Countryside Quiz answers

1. Brown hare 2. A parliament 3. Yew 4. Pygmy shrew 5. Cow
6. over 600 7. Cria 8. Field vole (about 75 million)
9. Woodpecker 10. Lime

The deadline for the November magazine is 23rd October 2026.

Please send any poems, photos, articles, recipes, puzzles, thoughts or reminiscences to the editor at stone.mary@sky.com

All contributions gratefully received!