THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water and Sheldon

https://ashfordparishchurch.com

November 2026



Ashford Services

Sunday 1st Nov: All Saints' Day: 9.30am Morning Worship

8th Nov: Remembrance Sunday: 10.00am Sung Eucharist

10.40am Act of Remembrance

15th Nov: 2nd Sunday before Advent: 9.30am Sung Eucharist

22nd Nov: Christ the King 9.30am Sung Eucharist

29th Nov: Advent Sunday 9.30am Sung Eucharist

Funeral 20th October: Jean Mather

IN REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.



For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers,
neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from
the love of God that is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans Chapter 8



Dear friends,



As many of you know, a few months ago I decided that it was time for me to retire and to move to be nearer my family. Whilst I'm looking forward to finding out what retirement really means, there's sadness in leaving the Peak District and the lovely people who live here. It has been a privilege to serve here as Associate Priest. Thank you for your kindness and generous support. I'm sure I will be popping back from time to time to come and enjoy the flower festival and well dressings in Ashford and to have a cuppa and cake on Sheldon day!

Throughout the vacancy the churchwardens have worked hard to ensure that the church continues to thrive. The next Priest-in-Charge will be kept very busy with 7 benefice churches under their care but I know they will be offered your usual warm welcome and ongoing support.

May you be richly blessed,

With love and prayers,

Rev'd Brenda

A reflection from David Hardman of Holy Trinity Church, Ashford

Shadows, Light, and the Promise of Peace

Dear Friends,

November brings a distinct and thoughtful mood to our countryside. Across our Benefice, the last bright leaves drift from the trees, morning frosts silver the pastures, and dusk falls earlier each afternoon. The quiet beauty of late autumn invites us to slow our pace and reflect. It is a season when the landscape itself seems to hold its breath, creating space for memory, gratitude, and quiet contemplation.

In our churches and around our local war memorials, November calls us together for Remembrance. We honour those who served and sacrificed, recalling the devastating toll of conflict on past generations and on our own small Derbyshire villages. Yet, as we listen to the solemn silence and the familiar words of memory, our thoughts naturally turn toward the wider world today.

It can feel deeply heart-wrenching to watch contemporary news. We witness anew man's inhumanity to man—raging conflicts, broken lives, and the tragic suffering of innocent people across the globe. In moments like these, the weight of human hostility can leave us feeling weary

and helpless, questioning how the world can repeat the errors of the past and wondering where hope is to be found amid such darkness.

Yet Christian faith does not ask us to turn a blind eye to the world's pain. Instead, it offers a steady beacon when shadows lengthen. The Gospel of John reminds us of a fundamental truth: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:5). Light does not deny that darkness exists; rather, it assures us that darkness never gets the final word.

The Scriptures consistently point us toward a vision where hostility gives way to divine reconciliation. The prophet Isaiah looked forward to a day when nations *"shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore"* (Isaiah 2:4). This is not a naive dream, but God's ultimate promise for creation—a reminder that peace is God's deepest desire for our world.

While we may feel powerless to resolve far-off wars, our Christian calling is to embody that peace right where we are. Peace begins in small, deliberate daily choices: choosing gentleness over harshness, forgiveness over bitterness, and community over division. Paul encourages us in his letter to the Romans, *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"* (Romans 12:21).

Every time we offer comfort to a grieving neighbour, welcome a stranger, or hold a suffering world in heartfelt prayer, we become active instruments of Christ's light. As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"* (Matthew 5:9).

As the days shorten and winter draws near, let us hold fast to both memory and hope. We honour those who went before us not simply by looking back, but by committing ourselves to the active work of peace, mercy, and compassion today. In remembering their struggle and sacrifice, we give thanks to God for the quiet encouragement their legacy offers—especially when we feel anxious about the state of our world and tempted to lose heart. Their example reminds us that the torch of justice and freedom is now ours to carry and pass on faithfully to each generation.

As the old proverb reminds us: *"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."* May we be people who light candles of hope in our homes, our villages, and our world this November.

With blessings

David Hardman

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Harvest Supper 17th October Ashford War Memorial Institute

This year the Harvest Supper was attended by 64 people and was greatly enjoyed by all.

It was Pat Hollingworth's 93rd birthday on the day and daughter Sara had arranged a group of twelve family and friends to come to the supper and managed to keep it a secret from Pat till the evening! We sang 'Happy Birthday' to her and gave her a card and a little cake with a candle for her to blow out.

There was tight competition in the quiz with two tables getting the same score 61 out of 70. A tie breaker guessing the distance between Ashford Institute and Buckingham Palace produced the winning table - well done to everyone!



A note from Pat Hollingworth:

I would like to thank those concerned for the lovely surprise I had on Saturday 17th October (my 93rd birthday) and quite a busy day with visitors and family popping in. I ended the day at the Harvest Supper, (another surprise!). It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and to receive a greetings card (filled with signatures), a cake and candle, plus a hearty rendition of Happy Birthday! I know the hard work which is put into these events by the " faithful few" and it was just so kind to be remembered.



The Harvest Supper has always been such a happy occasion and I am so pleased that I was able to be there.
With love and many thanks,
Pat Hollingworth

Ashford Harvest 1965

The drought conditions for the 2026 harvest are in stark contrast to the situation in Ashford in 1965. Sara Hollingworth has sent this item from a small collection of parish magazines she has from that year. It was then called the Wandering Wye. She says: 'In the News and Notes section of the August edition, someone (probably the Vicar) has written "Our sympathy goes out to all the farmers, many of whom have suffered so badly. It must be most depressing for them to see sodden bales of hay in the fields and to have the frustrations of trying to get in the harvest. At the present rate we had better have harvest festival at Christmas!"'

Harvest Festival Service 18th October



We enjoyed a lovely service taken by Canon Nigel with a congregation of 51 in a beautifully decorated church!

Thank you to all of the arrangers and to everyone who donated food for the Buxton food bank, which filled the supermarket trolley.















CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
In aid of
ASHFORD WAR MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER
10am to 4pm
Approximately 16 stalls with handmade crafts and food
Delicious refreshments and mulled wine
Shop locally for all your Christmas gifts!
Free admission
Stall enquiries please phone Pat on 07542 540244/01629 812521



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

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ASHFORD FLOWER FESTIVAL 2026 CHARITY PRESENTATION



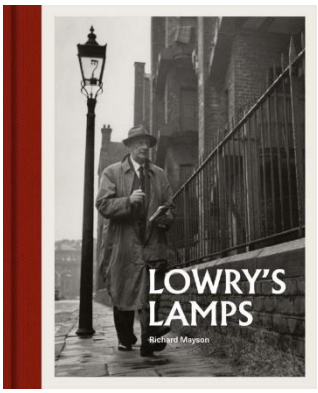
Ashgate Hospice was the 2026 Festival's Charity, chosen by the flower arrangers. The Flower Festival Committee, consisting of Jan Gibson, Vivien Lee, Sarah Winkworth-Smith and Linda Foster presented a cheque for £2,500 to Ruby from Ashgate Hospice.

Thanks were received from Annie Baldwin, Community Relationship Fundraiser. She said 'What an incredible achievement! Thank you so much for supporting Ashgate and raising such a lot for our services. It really does mean the world.'

Lowry's Lamps



On October 7th at Ashford Church, Richard Mayson gave a very entertaining and informative talk on a different aspect of J S Lowry's work which was greatly appreciated by the 50 plus people who attended. The talk was followed by drinks and delicious canapes and £1,125 was raised for the Thornhill House Project. Thank you, Richard, and to everyone who attended and donated to this very worthy cause.



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Ashford WI

At October's WI meeting, 16 ladies took on the challenge of mastering the rudimentary skills of willow weaving. It turned out to be harder than it looked and required a fair amount of concentration, but, with the encouragement and enthusiasm of our teacher, Sally Wheal, it was also a lot of fun.



A director of Wirksworth-based community interest company Wild Roots Creative, Sally began by giving us a brief introduction to the willow tree: there are more than 600 different varieties, in a wide range of colours, before explaining when it is safe to harvest the young stems, known as rods, without damaging the tree. Not all varieties of willow are suitable for weaving, but, as a rule of thumb, if you can wrap a rod around your hand, you can weave with it.

Sally has been a willow weaver since her university days and creates incredibly realistic willow sculptures of animals, objects and even people. So it wasn't surprising that, as a demonstration, she effortlessly rustled up a willow wreath in what seemed like no time at all.

Then it was our turn. With some trepidation, we all got stuck in, wrestling with several large and, at times, unruly rods as we attempted to shape them into our own creations. We started with the seemingly simple wreaths, followed by a heart, with varying degrees of success. Willow may be bendy and pliable, but it certainly has a mind of its own!



Once we had got the hang of the technique, the time simply flew by. It turns out that willow weaving is a surprisingly compelling craft. Indeed, at the end of the evening, several members were reluctant to call it a night, each determined to improve their creation by adding just one more rod…!



Finally, later in the month 16 ladies enjoyed a relaxing Brunch at Rafters Riverside. In the privacy of the

private dining room there was much chatting, laughing and indulgence as a range of delicious food was served up by Rafters. Always a popular outing, Brunch was once again a big success enjoyed by all.

Next month's meeting will take place at the Institute on Thursday November 5th at 2.15pm, when Derbyshire Fire & Rescue will give a talk about safety in the home.

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!

A letter from the Environment Agency

East Midlands Flood & Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Directorate

Dear Resident,

Be flood aware this winter

Flooding can happen at any time of year. While we cannot predict exactly what this winter will bring, taking a few simple actions now can help you stay informed and prepared. The Environment Agency is here to help. We monitor rainfall, river and sea levels 24 hours a day, issue flood warnings, maintain flood defences and work closely with local partners to support communities before, during and after flooding.

Get flood warnings

Sign up to the Environment Agency's free Flood Warning Service, the simplest way to stay informed if flooding is expected in your area. You can receive flood warnings by phone, text message or email, giving you valuable time to take action.

Already registered? *Please check your contact details are up to date.*

Sign up for free flood warnings *- www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings*

Flood information and advice

Flood warnings are an important first step. There are also other ways to help reduce the impacts of flooding.

- Create a personal flood plan
- Explore property flood resilience measures that can help protect your home
- Check river and rainfall levels in your area
- Check your home or business insurance covers flood risk
- Find out about local Flood Warden schemes and community support

More information is available at www.gov.uk/flood

Being flood aware does not mean flooding will occur. It simply means knowing where to find information if conditions change. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. By staying informed, you can help make your community more resilient to flooding.

Yours faithfully, Environment Agency

Email emdenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Customer enquiries 08708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Floodline (24 hours) For the latest flood information and warnings 0345 988 1188 Incident hotline (24 hours)

To report flooding or environmental incidents 0800 80 70 60

Report a river blockage www.gov.uk/report-river-blockage

PUZZLE CORNER



Remembrance Day Quiz

1. Why is Remembrance Day held on 11th November?

2. Which monarch oversaw the first Remembrance Day memorial?

3. World War I officially ended with the signing of which treaty?

4. Who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields'?

5. What colour poppies are worn to honour animals who served and died in war?

6. In which year were artificial poppies first sold in Britain?

7. In 2014 a commemorative art installation involved 888,246 ceramic poppies being placed outside which UK landmark?

8. What does 'cenotaph' mean?

9. The National Memorial Arboretum can be found in which UK county?

10. Who was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom when World War 1 was declared?

Answers on last page.

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A Collection of Recipes and Remedies Part II

With thanks to Bobby Hull-Bailey for access to her Victorian archive.

Chickenpox

Sarracenia purpurea	1 ounce
Marigold flowers	1 ounce
Pennyroyal	1 ounce
Senna Alexandria	½ ounce

Treatment

Keep warm, but let a little air in room. Steep in 3 pints of boiling water. Drink freely of this, keep bowels open.

Common Cough

Horehound	1 ounce
Hyssop	1 ounce
Vervein	1 ounce
Coltsfoot leaves	1 ounce
Spanish juice	½ ounce

Pour 4 pints of water, boil down to 2, and add ½ a teaspoon of cayenne pepper. Take a wineglassful 3 times a day.

Lumbago

Rub the back with tincture of cayenne and prickly berries, and take the following

Pinus canadensis	1 ounce
Uva ursi	1 ounce
Tansy	1 ounce
Juniper berries	1 ounce

Add 4 pints of water, boil down to 2, add a teaspoonful of cayenne and take a wineglassful 4 times a day.

Worms

Tansy flowers	1 ounce
Wormwood	1 ounce
Bogbean	½ ounce
Poplar bark	½ ounce

Add 5 pints of water, boil down to 3 pints, pour this, boiling hot upon 1 ounce of worm powder, sweeten with treacle. Give 2 tablespoons 4 times a day and a dose of bilious powder every other morning.



Farming News



Phew what a busy week! We've had four days of TB testing - fortunately the weather was fine for us, better than the weekend! It's a stressful enough week without getting wet through in the process. The cows and calves are still outside enjoying the last bit of grass so we have had to do a lot of juggling about moving the five small herds of cattle into different fields ready for bringing into the buildings for testing. There are too many to run as one herd so we have about 25 to 30 plus a bull in each lot. The cows are easy to run up the race into the crush as they are used to it but the calves are more difficult as they haven't been in a race before and are frightened. Also if they are small they can turn round in the race and get stuck which makes it very challenging. Each animal has to have its ear tag read and then ticked off on the list of animals on our farm which the vet print off from the Ministry records.

This year about 25 had lost either one or both tags so when they are brought in for the reading or second test three days later we can renew the lost tags. The tag firms send them out within 24 hours of ordering but as usual it costs money each set being around £4.95.

Our race is good and under cover and we can get 5 cows in at a time so if everything goes to plan 80 to 100 animals can go through in an hour. Because we are in an area where there are still cases of TB we have to test by law every 6 months. Some areas are every 12 months where there is little or no TB about.

Since I wrote about feeding winter forage in August and September due to the drought, one or two people have asked about the cattle we had to bring inside for feeding. Well once the grass grew - and it grew very quickly once it started raining - we kept on feeding them silage in the yards at the farm but they could run in and out into the fields at the back of the farm. On the land away from home we carried on feeding hay to them and still are doing as there are fewer nutrients in the Autumn grass. We could have kept them in as we have enough fodder but it makes for a long winter inside until next May.

OCTOBER COLOURS













Mist clearing at Curbar Edge and sunset across the fields at Wardlow

A message from Sarah Brocklehurst – HELP NEEDED!

Well Dressing Committee Plea for a new Secretary

Suzanne our very efficient Secretary has unfortunately left the village to be nearer her family in Chesterfield so we are looking for a new Secretary.
This isn't a huge job, only 3 or 4 short meetings a year so is there anyone who is willing to jot a few minutes at each meeting?
The committee would like to thank Suzanne very much for her help over the years and wish her all the best in her new life in Chesterfield.
Anyone who can help please ring Sarah on 07974 914954.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER MAGAZINE IS 13TH NOVEMBER 2026

We are again planning a bumper Christmas issue as a round-up of 2026 showcasing our village, its businesses and organizations. It will be printed and delivered in the village, as well as being sent out digitally as usual.

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



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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Health Visitor: 01246515100

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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**

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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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Remembrance Day Quiz answers:

1. It is the anniversary of the end of the First World War.
2. King George V
3. Treaty of Versailles
4. John McCrae
5. Purple
6. 1921
7. Tower of London
8. Empty tomb
9. Staffordshire
10. H. H. Asquith