

**September  
2025**

**£1**

## **Ipstones, Onecote, Butterson, and Warslow with Elkstones Communities Newsletter**

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## **Welcome to the September Communities Newsletter**

This is our community newsletter, with information about the Benefice, and what is happening in and around the local community.

If you have an event/group that you wish to advertise, simply email us at:

**[moorlandsa9@gmail.com](mailto:moorlandsa9@gmail.com)**

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## Ipstones Agricultural Society

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# Who Is Missing?

Get your community listed here for **FREE**



## WE ARE ON FACEBOOK

Search for: @themoorlandschurches.staffs

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

You can subscribe to a colour version of this magazine, emailed directly to you, **Interested?** Contact Rev Jane

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## View From The Vicarage This Month *(September 2025)*

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**G**osh how the year is rattling past. Where has the summer holiday month gone! We are already turning into the Autumn season as I write this in late August. I always see the end of August as a big change, moving into not just Autumn but into a series of events and Festivals leading us out of a long period of “ordinary time” (*green time in church colour terms*) into the run up to Advent, and Christmas. School holidays are over and its “back to school time”. Holiday clothes are packed away and jumpers being dug out. And the September calendar is already packed full of meetings and events.

**This year** Autumn does seem to be arriving somewhat early. My garden is sporting a bumper crop of conkers, and enough blackberries to fill the freezer (*yes, it is a little neglected in places*), and the leaves are already turning. Climate change is biting hard now. We know we will have wetter winters (*a bit of wet would be very welcome just now*) and hotter drier summers, and that will change the timing of seasonal changes in our world!

**August has been** a month in two halves for Emma and I, with a busy week, then holidays (*in France and Scotland respectively*) and then a very, very, busy last two weeks! A wonderfully reflective and thoughtful VJ service at St Leonard’s, and equally wonderful Wakes service at St Bartholomew’s, with the new Wakes Queen, Lily being crowned. The Wakes Festival (*warm and not too windy*) a joyful baptism and sadly several funerals, all capped off with the Ipstones Show, which, at the time of writing has not yet happened.

**The Summer Holiday Club** went really well, with a lot of fun had by all, volunteers and parents (*oh, and of course the children too*). Many thanks to the Team running it, Julie for all the crafts, Roger for songs, and Beryl, Sue, Rachel, Jackie, Lily, and many parents for catering, herding, clearing, tidying and generally keeping everything on track. Several photos show just what fun was had. Although we advertised for 5–11-year-olds, we went from about

2 to 14 plus 2 charming, well behaved and under parental control dogs!

**September is full** of Harvest celebrations. Festivals galore and pie suppers with auctions to follow. This year I do not, thank goodness, have to do a Vicar of Dibley and eat two suppers in one evening! I will do my best to come to as many as possible though, and hold out hope for damsons on auction, or even plums!

Warslow is not having its own Harvest, but it’s sister church at Elkstones is hosting a pie supper after the service on the 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.00pm. Onecote’s Festival is at 7.30pm on 26<sup>th</sup> September with a pie supper at 7.00 in the Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Whilst many other services across the Deanery Mission Area Team take place in September, Ipstones and Butterton hold back until October!

**Faith-wise**, the season is one of change too. We gradually start to move towards a new period of waiting, of reflection and prayer. I am attending a conference in Suffolk this September, called “Faith Rural” and I hope that I will not only have my spiritual “bottle” topped up (and catch up with lots of Suffolk friends) but that I will come back with new insights into how we together grow faith in our rural context. How we can value the traditions we have but make God’s promise real, and the word of Jesus Christ meaningful to our communities in other ways too, how we can “grow church” in a world where secular interests rule. A turning time indeed for us all, September. The words of the Baptism Service come to mind: “Do you turn to Christ? I turn to Christ”. Our challenge and task ahead. God bless September Harvest Festivals and all of you as the year turns.

—Revd Jane





# Family Group Of Churches

## Who is who in our family group of Churches in 2025/26

Church	Name and Job	Contact Details
All Churches	Revd Jane	jane@janeheld.co.uk 07771 556391 and 01538 262116
	Roger Cutts (reader)	roger.cutts@btinternet.com 01538 266862
	Toby Gaddum (licensed lay minister)	toby@gaddumandgaddum.co.uk
St Leonards and Berkhamstych	Rob White (churchwarden)	robwwhite@icloud.com / 01538 266891
	Jacquey Millward (churchwarden)	jacquey.millward@gmail.com / 07799 780561
	Ann Jackson (deputy churchwarden & lay chair)	annjackson840@hotmail.com
	Pam Ramsay (treasurer)	pamela.ramsay@btinternet.com
	Jackie Worrall (secretary)	ipccmrsjworrall@gmail.com
Onecote	Jean Tickell (churchwarden)	jeantickell55@gmail.com / 07368 135758
	Janet Stone (churchwarden)	janet@onecotegrange.co.uk / 07398 232793
	Debra Tickell (secretary)	tickell.d@kevi.org.uk
	Vicky Buttress (treasurer)	victoriabuttress58@hotmail.com
	Carole Jackson (lay chair)	carole.jackson@gmx.com
Butterton	Maggie Risby (churchwarden & secretary)	maggie.risby@btopenworld.com / 01538 304115
	Rachel Hopper (churchwarden)	the.hopper.family@gmail.com / 07709 039147
	Lily Hambleton-Plumb (deputy churchwarden)	heathyroodsfarm@aol.com
	Patrick Bailey (treasurer)	patrick.bailey@hotmail.co.uk
Warslow	Judy Prince (deputy churchwarden)	judyprince29@yahoo.co.uk
	Emma Gould (treasurer)	gouldemma80@gmail.com
	Janet McNicol (secretary)	janetmcnicol@yahoo.co.uk
Elkstones	Myrtle Alcock (church leader)	01538 304225



# Church Services

SEPTEMBER 25	1st Sunday 7th September	2nd Sunday 14th September	3rd Sunday 21st September	4th Sunday 28th September
<i>Liturgical colours</i> (G=green; P=purple; W=white; R=red)	12th after Trinity/Proper 18 (G)	13th after Trinity/Proper 19 (G)	14th after Trinity/Proper 20 (G)	15th after Trinity/Proper 21 (G)
<b>LECTIONARY</b>	Deuteronomy 30: 15–end Psalm 1 Philemon 1–21 Luke 14: 25–33	Exodus 32: 7–14 Psalm 51: 1–11 1 Timothy 1: 12–17 Luke 15: 1–10	Amos 8: 4–7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2: 1–7 Luke 16: 1–13	Amos 6: 1a, 4–7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6: 6–19 Luke 16: 19–end
<b>Warslow</b>	11am Morning Worship (Janet McNicol)	To other services	11.00am Holy Communion (Revd Jane)	To other services
<b>Elkstones</b>	To other services	To other services	7pm Harvest Festival (Revd Jane)	To other services
<b>Butterton</b>	To other services	3pm Evening Prayer (Toby Gaddum)	To other services	10am Holy Communion (Revd John Austerberry)
<b>Onecote</b>	9.30am Holy Communion (Revd Jane)	9.30am Morning Worship (Roger Cutts)	To other services	7.30pm Harvest Festival with Holy Communion (Revd Jane)
<b>Berkhamsytc</b>	11.00am Morning Prayer (Janet McNicol)	To other services	11.00am Holy Communion (David Watkin)	To other services
<b>Ipstones</b>	11am Children & Parents (Carole Jackson) 6.30pm Evensong (Revd Jane)	11am Holy Communion (Revd Jane) 7.30pm Compline (Revd Jane)	11am Morning Worship (Roger Cutts)	11am Holy Communion (Revd Carl Edwards)

## SPECIAL SERVICES

### REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES (All at St Leonard's Ipstones)

**MON–THURS:** 8.30am Morning Prayer

**FRIDAY:** 10.00am Prayer Café. 15 minute service, then coffee and chat

**SATURDAY:** 9.00am Morning Prayer

Church open daily 8.30am until 5.00pm

**KEY:** JH Jane Held; RC Roger Cutts; TG Toby Gaddum; AH Arthur Hack;  
JMcN Janet McNicol; CJ Carole Jackson; JF John Flint; DJ David Jack

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# Ipstones Rota

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## Church ROTA Ipstones September 2025

If you cannot do the date allocated please arrange a swap and make a note of the changes on the clipboard in church

Date	Welcomer	Sides People	Reader	Reader
7th September	<i>No morning service</i>	<i>No morning service</i>	<i>No morning service</i>	<i>No morning service</i>
14th September	David Jack	—	Jacquey Millward	Volunteer on day
21st September	Ann Jackson	—	David Jack	John Flint
28th September	John Flint	—	Ann Jackson	Volunteer on day
	To Onecote	To Onecote	To Onecote	To Onecote

Date	Eucharistic Assistant	Refreshments
7th September	<i>No morning service</i>	<i>No morning service</i>
14th September	Jacquey Millward	Volunteers
21st September	Ann Jackson	Volunteers
28th September	David Jack	John and Ruth Flint

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# St. Leonard's Ipstones

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## St Leonard's, Ipstones



August has been busy and then not busy in patches this month. Unlike last year we had no major fundraising activity in either July or August, and many folk were of course on holiday for part of the month, so congregations were a little smaller than usual too. That's to be expected of course in August, and it did not diminish my pleasure at being back in harness and taking services again.

The **Children and Parents Service** had a month off this month meaning there was no service in the morning at all on the first Sunday of the month, which always feels a bit odd. A welcome break though for our hardworking Churchwardens, who are in church for every service, one or both. They, and the PCC members plus the Friends all work hard as volunteers to support St Leonards.

**We are in dire need** of a few more volunteers however. There is no need to be on the PCC, to be regular congregation or even people of faith. We could really, really use a bit more help on two fronts – fund raising (either as part of the Friends or part of the overall team and also with fabric/maintenance. And on the topic of fabric – we urgently need a stone mason or two to come and give us quotes to do some major repair work on the vestry windows. We cannot commission the work without quotes as we are a charity, and are also bound by the Church of England rules on historical buildings!

**Reading the visitors book**, it is clear the church has lots of visitors. Several have said what a lovely warm welcoming church it is, which is nice.

Many thanks to all who donated tea lights after I mentioned how many we used a month! Pauline and Kathryn do a great job keeping it clean for us, and it is tidy and well looked after which again is very nice when one bobs in to visit, to look or just to pray.

**We had a good celebration** and commemoration of VJ day on the 17<sup>th</sup> August. The Royal British Legion, the Chapel and the church communities came together to remember the very end of World War 2. Although there were fewer there than perhaps expected, it went very well and was a moving service in many ways.

**Many of you** will know that Ruth Flint had a bad fall in church on her way into Prayer Café in early August. She was recovering from an operation but luckily did not fall on that side. She is still in hospital and our thoughts and prayers are with her, John and the family as they support her recovery.

**On 24<sup>th</sup> August** we said good bye to Jeanne Cookson. Jeanne, and her late husband Tony have been amazing and stalwart members of the Church for the 25 plus years they have lived here in Ipstones. They contributed to every role and job going in their time. Jeanne is moving to Cheshire to be nearer to one of her daughters. I for one will miss her very much, as will a great many others in Ipstones.

**And so, to September.** Although Harvest Festival is not until 5<sup>th</sup> October, and the Harvest Festival Supper is on 6<sup>th</sup> August, tickets go on sale from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. This year, to avoid the challenges that arose last year with more folk attending than had booked, so that the food ran out, *(small portions and no seconds...we do not want to go there again....and it was ALL Revd Jane's fault!)* tickets must be bought and paid for in advance, although they can be collected at the door. Bring your own drinks. We will have a Bottle Raffle, and of course the auction of harvest goods after the meal. Donations for the raffle or harvest auction would be very gratefully received.

The tickets are available from Revd Jane 07771 556391 or [jane@janeheld.co.uk](mailto:jane@janeheld.co.uk) and also from the Shop *(co-ordinated by Julie Riley)*. Tickets are the same as last year at £10.00 each and half price for under 16's.

**Other events in September**, although not in the Church but all part of our community life, and support are:

On the **23<sup>rd</sup> September** at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall the Ipstones Community Supper Club takes place. Tickets can be obtained from Sally on 07768 173850 or Margaret on 07973 480184.

**The Froth Blowers** are raising funds again on the 21<sup>st</sup> September at the Sea Lion, the Fox and Goose on the 27<sup>th</sup> September and at the Olde Red Lion on the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

And looking further ahead, the **Comedy Night** is on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

Tickets from Denise on 07739 179722.



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# St Bartholomew's Butterton Correspondent

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## Butterton News for September 2025

### St Bartholomew's Church

As I write...St Bartholomew's Church will soon be the focus of the age-old tradition of the Wakes.

Wakes this year is on Sunday 24th August, and will commence with the crowning of the new Wakes

Queen – Lily Chadwick, at a service at 1pm. The Church will be decorated for the event with jam jars of flowers.

This has become an annual event and is a lovely way to decorate the church for the occasion, also an opportunity to remember a loved one. The 24<sup>th</sup> August is the actual day of the **Feast of St Bartholomew**. Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus and is the patron saint of tanners, bookbinders and those who work with cutting tools such as butchers and shoemakers. Unfortunately, he is reported to have been flayed alive after spreading Christianity in Armenia!

Following the church service is the procession to the Village Hall grounds where all the fun is to be had. I will report the outcome in the next issue.

\*\*\*Sadly, we have said our farewells to **Vernon Shenton**, a dear friend of Reuben and Phyllis Salt, whose funeral was on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August. The service and burial were at St Bartholomew's.

Also **Andrew Wint**, a much-loved member of our community whose funeral service was at St Mary's. Leek followed by his cremation on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>. Everyone then met together to celebrate Andrew's life at the Village Hall following the two ceremonies. Our sincere condolences to Maxine, Ryan and Laura, Dianne, Colin and families.

**Harvest** this year is Sunday 12th October at 3pm with the Pie and Pea Supper on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>.



**Lottery Ball winners** for August were...1st prize of £40- Trisha Tomlinson: 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £20- Roz Griffin: 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £10- Hilary Bassett.

**Warm Welcome** sessions:

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### Butterton Village Hall

The **Summer Fayre** raised £382.10 for Village Hall funds. Thanks to those who attended on what was

an inclement weather day. Thanks to raffle prize and tombola item donors and special thanks to those who helped out and who are not committee members. We couldn't have done it without you.

The **Macmillan Coffee Morning** will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 11am until 2pm. Please support this event.

Hall hires thankfully continue to keep us busy. In the last month we have had a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party, a Christening, a Birthday party and we have booked an overnight Walking Group who will be using the Hall as a refuelling stop and Roz Lees and Damien Barlow's wedding in early October. That's as well as Dog training classes and Pilates sessions.

### Butterton History Group

Tickets are available for the event planned for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September to commemorate the actual end of WW11. In the words of our dear friend Eddie Mollatt—sadly no longer with us, but he was our 'Last Man Standing...' VE Day and VJ Day were all well and good but some of us didn't get home until Christmas'

The Rockabilly Dolls (*a trio of girls who sing 40's/50's songs*) will entertain us. There are Refreshments and a Bar. Also, a Raffle and Quiz. Please contact Maggie for your ticket- £10 per person please.

Anyone wishing to book the Hall, please contact:

Maggie **01538 304115**

Access the website via: [butterton.org.uk](http://butterton.org.uk)

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# St Luke's Onecote

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From Jean Tickell on behalf of St Lukes

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*"I sought the lord, and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34:4*

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Goodness me, I can't believe we are nearly in September already.  
August seems to have gone very quickly.  
Summer at church has been remarkably busy.

In September though, we have our **Harvest Festival** on Sunday September 28th at 7.30pm.  
We have Holy Communion taken by Rev Jane.

We will be decorating the church on Friday and also Saturday evening. It is a little different this year as we have our **Away Day** at Dovedale House from 10 am till 4pm.

If anyone would like to bring flowers into church there will be water available at the back of the church. Please feel free to arrange your offerings anywhere in church.

Our **Pie Supper and sale of fruit** will be on Monday 29th September in the Village Hall as usual from 7.30pm. The pies will be provided again by Pete Lymer. As well as the pies, there will also be home-made trifle or apple pie for dessert, tea and coffee will be provided but if you are welcome to bring your own drinks if you'd prefer something stronger.

I also have to report that the altar wall and the wall by the font have been re-plastered and are drying out quite nicely.

I am also still collecting in the **Fabric Fund 100 Club** subscriptions, quite a lot of you have done this by bank transfer thank you but I have to wait to see who has done what when the bank sends the statement. If you have not as yet, please could you do it asap. If you need the details, please contact me on 304334.

Best wishes to everyone,

—Jean.

**Onecote Tractor Run**  
(Or any other vehicle welcome)

**Sunday 28th September 2025**  
11:00am Registration  
11:30am Leave

Starting from  
Fold Farm  
Onecote  
ST13 7RG

**£15 Driver**  
**£5 Passenger**

**Hot Lunch Provided** 😊

To book a place please message Lewis Poyser before 24/09/2025  
07940044653

Raising money for St Lukes Church Onecote and Onecote Methodist Chapel

# Ipstones Methodist Church

## SEPTEMBER

It is interesting to note that in the past there were three Methodist Churches in Ipstones: the building sometimes referred to as The Old Chip Shop in the High Street, the Methodist School Room and the currently used Methodist Church.



The '**Old Chip Shop**' is dated 1837 and was in the Primitive Methodist Tradition and the School Room is dated 1838 and was the original Wesleyan Methodist Church. *(The differences between Primitive and Wesleyan will need to be the subject of a separate article.)*

**Population growth** in the 1850s, largely due to mining, resulted in the currently used Methodist Church being completed in 1861 and the Wesleyan Church becoming the School Room.

**In one week** in August this year the School Room was used for the following events: Tuesday Coffee and Chat, Wednesday as part of Folk Club, Thursday Kid's Club in the morning and Taste and See Craft Group in the evening and Friday Warm Welcome, plus several other meetings during the week. In fact, it was so busy that week we had to ask the Parish Council to find an alternative meeting room.



*It is great to see these facilities so widely used by the village.*

**All these events** are open to all and Friday afternoons in particular have provided a great opportunity for people to meet together and enjoy refreshments and sometimes a quiz or a jig-saw. We have not missed a Friday since October 2022. Please come along— you will be assured of a Warm Welcome. —Roger Cutts

## Services in September

- **September 7th**  
Mrs Beryl Stew at 10.30am  
*(Service to include Holy Communion)*
- **September 14th**  
Rev Julie Hassall at 10.30am
- **September 21st**  
Rev Anthony Clowes at 10.30am
- **September 28th**  
Mrs Heather Hayward at 10.30am  
*(Harvest Festival)*

## Ipstones Folk News

We held our usual Sing-around on the third Wednesday of August at the Methodist Church. About 15 singers *(plus a few who came just to listen)* turned up and we enjoyed a wide variety of music with a break for refreshments. Each singer had about 2 turns. If you have a song you would like to share why not come along next time? Or come along just to listen to the music – you would be most welcome. Our next Sing-around evening will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 p.m at Ipstones Methodist Church. Doors open from 7:00 p.m. No charge but a small voluntary donation requested towards running costs. —Roger Cutts

Coffee, toast, cake and chat  
In the Methodist schoolroom

**September**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Tuesdays 10am – 12noon*

**Everyone Welcome!**





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# Elkstones & Warslow News

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## St John's Church, Elkstones

Another month has rolled by in Warslow and Elkstones, as the summer holidays meant our villages and valleys (*and roads*) were slightly busier than usual. No PCC meetings in August meant a calm month for everyone, but we do have a PCC meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. Illness and age have taken their toll over the last couple of years and we are seeing our PCC get smaller and smaller. This means fewer people to manage everything that needs done to keep our lovely two churches going. Many folk do not realise that there is a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure our buildings are safe, welcoming and warm, that we are available for big life events and that there is an open door into a lovely place just to sit, be, think, or pray. We would really welcome some more volunteers to join the PCC either as trustee members or as co-opted members. To be co-opted you do not need to be baptised, confirmed or even a member of the Christian faith so if you feel like helping us keep going have a word with Judy Prince, Myrtle Alcock or Revd Jane.

**I am also** very pleased to commemorate and celebrate in this magazine the sterling service over 25 years that Janet McNicol has given to the Benefice of Longnor, and the Deanery. As a locally commissioned Lay Minister she has served as a worship leader in the Benefice, she has been the Deanery Synod Secretary for a considerable time too (an onerous task) and she is also the Benefice Safeguarding Co-Ordinator. In addition, she is Secretary to Warslow PCC. Congratulations Janet, on a quarter of a century of service, with thanks and prayers from us all. —Submitted by Revd Jane

## St John's Church, Elkstones

This month's service will be the **Harvest Festival at 7 p.m. on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

The service will be followed by the usual very tasty Pea and Pie Supper, and dessert. There will also be a Raffle for church funds, to be drawn on Monday evening at the Harvest Sale.

**On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September** we will be meeting at 2 p.m. in the church to arrange the display of Harvest offerings and to decorate the church. Any offerings of colourful fruit and vegetables for the frontal display, and also cakes, produce and any other saleable food items for the table display will be very gratefully received. These can either be left in the front porch at Townhead Farm, Lower Elkstone prior to Saturday, or else brought to church on Saturday before 2 p.m. Anyone who would like to come along at 2 p.m. to help arrange the display will be most welcome – it's always good to have more helpers and more ideas so please come if you can. Raffle prizes are also needed and gratefully welcomed, and can be left in the front porch at Townhead or given to Myrtle during the week before the Festival.

## **On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, the Sale of Harvest Produce will take place at 8pm.**

This is one of our main fund raisers which help to keep our historic little church in good condition and open to all, so please come and take part and support the sale.

## **September Cleaning and Flowers – Margaret Grant** —Submitted by Margaret Grant

## Warslow

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in the community who are unwell at the moment, and with their families and people who are caring for them.

We send our very best wishes to children returning to school, moving schools, or starting school for the first time. Also, to the older ones as they prepare for university or jobs.

## **Services at St. Lawrence, Warslow:**

7th September - Morning Prayer 11am

21st September - Holy Communion 11am

—Submitted by Janet McNicol

# Lectionary Readings/Life Events

## Weekly Lectionary Readings

*set Bible readings for September 2025*

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Deuteronomy 30: 15-end, Psalm 1,  
Philemon 1-21, Luke 14: 25-33

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Exodus 32: 7-14, Psalm 51: 1-11,  
1 Timothy 1: 12-17, Luke 15: 1-10

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Amos 8: 4-7, Psalm 113,  
1 Timothy 2: 1-7, Luke 16: 1-13

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Amos 6: 1a, 4-7, Psalm 146,  
1 Timothy 6: 6-19, Luke 16: 19-end

## Life Events

*(August 2025)*

### Baptisms

*Welcome to Your Church Family*

10<sup>th</sup> August

**Lily May Hudson**  
*at Butterson*

### Funerals

*Rest in Peace and Rise*

19<sup>th</sup> August

**Vernon Shenton**  
*at Butterson*

20<sup>th</sup> August

**Rick Ford**  
*at Macclesfield Crematorium*

29<sup>th</sup> August  
*burial of ashes*

**Herbert Hall**  
*at Warslow*



### Ipstones Village Shop

*Traditional Shop & Post Office*

**Mon to Sat 6.30am–7pm**  
**Sunday 8am–4pm**

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## Ipstones *online*

The community Facebook page for Ipstones and the surrounding area

## Organising an event?

Advertise it **FREE** on the Ipstonesonline Facebook page

Visit Facebook and search for **Ipstonesonline**

Or write the details down and post to: 26 Froghall Road, Ipstones. ST10 2NA



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# Ipstones Memorial Hall & Grounds

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## NOTES FROM IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Ipstones Memorial Hall which is open to all residents of the Parish, held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July. No members of the public attended.

The treasurer presented a balance sheet which showed that the Hall is in a financially sound position. It is good to see the Hall is being well used for a variety of meeting, events and private functions.

Representatives of the village organisations eligible to serve on the committee were re-elected.

I was re-appointed as President, Sue Evans Chairperson, Heather Morris Vice-Chair, Margaret Burnett, Secretary, Sally Wilson Minutes Secretary, and Anne Marie Nicholson James, Treasurer.

### 250 CLUB

All tickets for the 250 Club have been sold. Many thanks to all those who supported this popular fundraiser for the Hall.

The first draw will take place at the September committee meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. Results will be published on the Memorial Hall Facebook Page, and on notices in the Hall and Village Shop.

### IPSTONES PROMS NIGHT

Ipstones Proms with Burbage Brass Band will take place at 6.30p.m. on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. For tickets and further information please contact Margaret Burnett on 07973480184 .

All profits will benefit Ipstones Royal British Legion and the Memorial Hall.

## MEMORIAL HALL MEMORIES

The next get together to plan events to celebrate the centenary of the Memorial Hall and Grounds in 2028, will be held in The Gallery on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 11am. Everyone is welcome to come along and share ideas, and discover what is in the pipeline so far.

### DISAPPOINTINGLY IPSTONES WON'T BE ENTERTAINING!

With only two acts registering an interest for the variety show planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> December, it's disappointing that IPSTONES ENTERTAINS won't be staged this year.

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

*CHRISTMAS CUPPA, CAKE AND CATCH UP*  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER**

There will be a raffle with a Christmas theme at the Cuppa Cake and Catch Up at the Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, between 2p.m. and 4p.m.  
*More details to follow later.*

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For any aspects of the Hall and Grounds please give me a call on 01538 266633.

—Barry Shuttleworth (*President IMH*)

# Ipstones Memorial Hall & Grounds

## What's On: Regular activities to join

	ACTIVITY	FOR MORE INFO:
MONDAY	<b>Ipstones Writers</b> — 11am ( <i>last Monday of month</i> )	Geraldine 01538 266633
	<b>Baby Ballet</b> — 1.30–2.30pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Miss Becks 07831 966476
	<b>Pilates</b> — 6pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	<a href="mailto:Louise@podumpilates.com">Louise@podumpilates.com</a>
TUESDAY	<b>Seated Pilates</b> — 11am ( <i>weekly</i> )	Louise 07956 675683 or <a href="mailto:Louise@podumpilates.com">Louise@podumpilates.com</a>
	<b>Yoga</b> — 5:30pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Natalie 07970 940718
	<b>Ipstones Youth Club</b> — 7pm–9pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Heather 07432 873605 and Nikki 07734 421972
WEDNESDAY	<b>Dolly Birds Café</b> — 9am – 2pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Ann Mace 07518 472770
	<b>Ipstones WI</b> — 7.30pm ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month</i> )	Jane Fleet 01538 260074
	<b>Rainbows</b> — 5pm <b>Brownies</b> — 6pm <b>Guides</b> — 6.30pm         } ( <i>weekly—term-time only</i> )	Call 0800 169 5901
THURSDAY	<b>Yoga</b> — 9:30am ( <i>weekly</i> )	Louise 07736 351257
	<b>Well Street Medical Practice Clinic</b> — 10am ( <i>weekly</i> )	Well Street Practice Reception 01538 753114
	<b>Indoor Bowls</b> — 7pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	George Ratcliffe 07837 451829
	<b>Ipstones Historical Society</b> — 7.30pm ( <i>last Thursday of every month</i> )	Alison Cartledge 01538 266048
SATURDAY	<b>Dolly Birds Café</b> — 9am–1pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Ann Mace 07518 472770
SUNDAY	<b>Dolly Birds Café</b> — 9am – 1pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Ann Mace 07518 472770
	<b>Little Kickers Football</b> — 9:30am ( <i>weekly</i> )	Steve North
ALSO	<b>Ipstones &amp; Foxt Senior Citizens</b> several times a year	Jean Goodwin 01538 266831
	<b>Ipstones British Legion</b> — several times a year	Margaret Burnett 07973 480184

# Ipstones Memorial Hall & Grounds

## What's On: Special Events Open To All

*We'll be adding community events throughout the year, so check back each month to see the list grow.*

	ACTIVITY	FOR MORE INFO:
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 7pm	<b>Ipstones &amp; Foxt Senior Citizens Quiz Night.</b> With Pie & Pea Supper. All welcome	Jean: 01538 266831 Linda: 07824 449178
Tues. 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 6.30pm	<b>Ipstones Supper Club</b> With wellbeing talk from Kate Haigh, Be Calmed, Leek <b>Booking Essential</b>	Sally Wilson: 07768 173850 Margaret Burnett: 07973 480184
Sat. 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 6.30pm	<b>Ipstones British Legion</b> Last Night of the Proms	Margaret Burnett 07973 480184
Mon. 6 <sup>th</sup> October 7pm	<b>Harvest Supper</b> with Pie & Pea Supper	<b>Tickets available from:</b> Jane 07771 556391, <a href="mailto:jane@janeheld.co.uk">jane@janeheld.co.uk</a> , or Ipstones Village Shop ( <i>Julie Riley</i> )
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm	<b>Funhouse Comedy Night</b>	Denise Rowe 07739 179722 <a href="mailto:denise_rowe1@yahoo.co.uk">denise_rowe1@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Sat. 11 <sup>th</sup> October 11am	Ipstones Memorial Hall <b>Centenary Event Group</b>	Geraldine Shuttleworth 01538 266633 <a href="mailto:mhallcentenary@gmail.com">mhallcentenary@gmail.com</a>

To book the hall for a regular or one-off event,  
please contact **Jane Fleet** on **01538 260074**

## IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

### 250 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW

250 CLUB

August 2025		
£20	No. 97	<b>Andrew Ackerman</b>
£15	No. 39	<b>Louise Nadin</b>
£10	No. 7	<b>Julie Riley</b>

250 CLUB



## RESIDENTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THEIR VILLAGES

A SURVEY conducted by Ipstones Parish Council has clearly shown residents wishes for the future, regarding the villages of Ipstones and Foxt.

The parish council conducted the survey during late June and July.

Three major questions were put forward to residents, including congestion on Ipstones High Street, future housing development, and should local farmland be turned over to be occupied by solar panels.

Many complaints have been raised over the congestion being caused on Ipstones High Street which could delay emergency vehicles. Recently, a fire engine was impeded by congestion while on a 999 call.

When a long line of cars are parked on the right-hand side going up and then on the left-side there is only a small gap for lorries and cars to get through leaving congestion and causing irate drivers.

The parish council propose that the yellow lines are increased by approximately two to three metres on the north side which would allow vehicles to get through more easily and would not interfere significantly with parking availability.

The survey shows that 53 per cent of residents support the idea, while 32 per cent agree with the additional yellow lines being implemented with conditions. Just three people did not support the idea.

Secondly the parish council sought views on housing in both villages, as the council is preparing a neighbourhood plan for Ipstones and Foxt which would last for around 15 years.

Currently the parish council has followed Staffordshire Moorlands District Council plan of 'infill' strategy in both villages.

Overwhelmingly, the survey shows that residents would only like to see infill sites used for any future housing.

Forty-three per cent said only infill, while 12 per cent said they wanted no more housing, just four people were in favour of more houses being built.

Views were also sought on proposals that local farmland should be turned over long term to solar panel electricity generation instead of the present food production.

A resounding 64 per cent of residents said "no", while 17 per cent said "yes" and 11 per cent said they were "not sure".

Chairman of the parish Council, Linda Malyon, said: "The survey clearly shows what residents of the two villages want and do not want in their communities."

Councillors are now reviewing all responses in detail as there was a high level of return with some excellent considerations put forward.

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# Notes From The Tower

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The Ipstones Historical Society met on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025, in Uttoxeter for a guided tour of the town by a member of the Redfern Cottages museum staff.



A good number of historical society members congregating in the town for what turned out to be a fascinating ramble around the town centre.

**Our guide began** outside the Redfern Museum looking at the buildings along Carter Street and discussing the medieval origin of the half-timbered buildings. Although the town is much older than its remaining buildings early medieval date, we can still see on this road.

Many of the properties have had more modern facings constructed on the fronts but if you could see inside, their timber interiors are apparent.

**The walk then** took the society into Saddler's yard which we were told was still an older part of the town as the shops are located closely together on opposite sides of a narrow passage off the Main Street. Leather making was a staple of this section of the town centre and the yard is still cobbled with stone drainage channels running down it.

**Following the** main street, we walked into the market square where the market cross had disappeared after a renovation of the area years previously. Many of the timbered buildings are on show

here again and the removal of some facings, reveal their history. There is particularly beautiful example above the current butcher's shop. Over the street was also a fancy pepper pot topped building next to the butcher's shop which is lovely but it also is a later addition to a timber frame. This building was the site where Bamford's began their business empire. They sold iron mongery in the shop and outside on the market place. As we now know this business grew and grew into today's international digger manufacturer.

**The last leg** of our walk continued around the corner into Balance Street where Pugin designed St. Mary's church early on in his career. There were also horse sales along the road where the animals were trotted along the wide straight street to check their soundness before buying. We ended our tour back at the museum.

**The next meeting** of the Historical Society will be on 28<sup>th</sup> August in the Memorial Hall extension at 7.30pm.

This is on the subject of, *'keeping off the rocks'*. September's meeting is a talk on historical eyesight correction. **The fee** for Society members is £1.00, non-members £4.00 on the door.

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# Ipstones Historical Society

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# Ipstones Community Choir/Girlguiding

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## Ipstones and Surrounding Area Community Choir

Our choir has amazingly been going for almost two years, and the emphasis has always been on community getting together fortnightly for those who enjoy singing regardless of ability. Which leads me to how we came about .... I love to sing, although badly (*Editors note – not badly at all*) and would never have had the confidence to join a choir. So I thought to myself why not create our own community choir for all levels of ability – positively encouraging those who believe they can't sing.

From this point I set about looking at the logistics for forming a potential choir asking a few individuals in the village as to their thoughts. This was overwhelmingly positive! Subsequently with a massive 'shove' of encouragement from Nic White and Jude Douch alongside a promise of support the process was officially began. This was alongside Linda Malyon's support and encouragement with Emma Titterton's input from Foxt and our communities choir was onboard. I then spoke to Jane Held our vicar for her thoughts. Jane in turn made the whole process much easier by offering the church as a place of rehearsal to support our community, therefore making us a community choir who rehearse in our church.

ches. This act of kindness has made the choir much more affordable.

The task was then to find a musical director, so by the wonders of putting a poster up in Jim's shop looking for a said musical director; along came the amazing Alex! Alex was immediately appointed and on occasion we are joined by her equally amazing mum Val.

There are so many things so many people do to ensure our choir runs well, from ensuring the church is unlocked and the kettle is on, (mostly Robert White and Judith Littlehales) to the people who come along, hopefully having a good time and keep coming back, without every member of our choir support we would not exist.

The thanks are endless to each and every person involved. New members are **always welcome**, the first three sessions are free to see if you like it. We rehearse fortnightly and the cost is £54 for the year – including a free cuppa and biscuit!

Please get in touch or just come along if you fancy. Many thanks to all. —Denise Rowe

Tel: **07739 179722**

or email: [denise\\_rowe1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:denise_rowe1@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Girlguiding

**Rainbows welcomes all girls from 4 to 7 years old** for play, learning and tons of fun in a colourful, safe space. She'll have plenty of magic moments: she might become a time traveller, an animal tracker, a pop singer, a stargazer. It's a wonderful world of adventure, week after week, just for her.

**Brownies welcomes all girls from 7 to 10 years old** for nonstop fun, learning and adventure.

It's full of firsts: she might grow her first plant, cook her first cake, put up (and take down) her first tent, light her first fire, go on her first fun-packed weekend away with guiding friends. She'll explore her creative side, get out into the great outdoors, and start learning to look after herself, others, and the world we live in. There's something for every girl at Brownies, and plenty of moments she'll never forget.

**Guides is a relaxed, welcoming space from 10 to 14 years old** where you can have fun, learn and be yourself and make good friends. A place where you can explore the things you love and do stuff you've never done

before. Where else can you think up a new sport, make a new perfume, cook over a campfire, design an advertising campaign, have a mocktail party, raise money for a charity you believe in? At Guides, you can do all of this and loads more.

If you are interested in joining our Rainbow, Brownie, and Guide units as a young member or if you would like to be involved and volunteer as a unit helper, leader and join our amazing team in Churnet Valley District please go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) to register and click **Churnet Valley District Area**.

**We are looking for new volunteers** to help at 1<sup>st</sup> Kingsley Holt Rainbows (*meet in Kingsley*), 1<sup>st</sup> Waterhouses Brownies (*meet in Ipstones*) and 1<sup>st</sup> Churnet Valley Guides (*meet in Ipstones*). If you're interested, please contact Joanne on 07790 976211.

 **Girlguiding**  
Churnet Valley District  
Ipstones/Kingsley/Waterhouses

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# Ipstones Gardening

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## Jobs for September

This is the best month to plant spring-flowering bulbs for masses of colour from January to May. Plant them densely, including in containers, for the best displays.

Bring indoors any houseplants that have been in the garden during the summer. Remove any damaged leaves, check for pests and spray if necessary, and look out for slugs and snails.

Lift the last main crop potatoes before the slugs get them. Dig them up on a sunny morning, leave them on the soil to dry during the day, then store in paper bags in a cool shed or garage.

Privet and Ionicera hedges need a final trim of the year to get them tidy for winter. It's also the last opportunity to cut evergreen hedges like leylandii, yew, and laurel.

As the summer bedding plants fade, dig them out, compost annuals or pot up perennials, and fill the gaps with pansies and polyanthus. The sooner these are planted, the better the display next spring.

Help those green tomatoes turn red before the weather turns cold by hanging ripe bananas or banana skins by the plants. They will give off a gas that will encourage the tomatoes to ripen faster.

Cut off yellowing, dying and dead leaves from waterlilies and other pond plants. Cover the pond with netting to stop tree and shrub leaves falling in and clogging up the water during autumn and winter.

Give your lawn a big late season boost by feeding it with Lawn Magic. This will turn it a glorious green, strengthen it against cold weather and moss invasion and help it look better next year.

If your roses have been affected by blackspot disease, rake up and either bin or burn the leaves as they fall. Make a note in your diary to spray with a

rose fungicide as they come into leaf next spring.

Don't neglect summer hanging baskets and containers. Regular watering, feeding and deadheading will keep them going until the first severe autumn frosts. When past their best, replant with spring plants.

## Byrkley Park Garden Centre

Behind the high walls of one of the country's most beautiful home and garden centres lies a true Aladdin's cave of great ideas for the garden, home and leisurely living. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or if you're just looking for some inspiration, a few hours at Byrkley Park will provide you with a thousand and one ideas for your garden and home.

### Contact

Byrkley Park Garden Centre, Rangemore,  
Burton on Trent DE13 9RN  
Phone: 01283 716467  
Email us

### Opening Times

GARDEN CENTRE

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5.30pm

Saturday: 9am to 5.30pm

Sunday: 10.30am to 4.30pm

### RESTAURANT

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to 5pm, Sunday: 10am to 4pm

The garden centre and restaurant are closed on 25th and 26th December, 1st January and Easter Sunday.

Closing at 4pm on the 24th and 31st of December.  
Closing at 3pm on 4th August for annual stocktake.

**Facilities:** Restaurant, Free wi-fi, Free parking, Disabled facilities, Defibrillator, Baby change, Food hall & Cook shop, \*Dog Friendly, Home Delivery, Carry to car, Plant experts.

*\*Only service/assistance dogs in the restaurant.*



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# County Air Ambulance Appeal

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## HELP Appeal, County Air Ambulance Trust

The Trust is a small team of 12 that is dedicated to providing and maintaining financial support to regional Air Ambulance Services, working nationwide. Alongside this we also provide funding for a multitude of organisations that require financial support in emergency lifesaving work.

As a charity one of our main focuses is the installation and upgrading of helipads at Major Trauma Centres and A&E Hospitals through an ongoing development and installation plan nationwide. We are the only charity in the country who are funding these helipads at Major Trauma and A&E Hospitals as well as supporting Air Ambulances nationwide, this is alongside funding other lifesaving services. We receive no government or National Lottery Funding.

Predominantly our work is to fund helipads at our hospitals having completed over 55, with another 40 in the pipeline. Our aim is to ensure that every hospital within the UK will have this lifesaving infrastructure. We receive no government or lottery funding.

Sadly, a day does not pass following helipad installations without these vital facilities being utilised, all of which is accomplished through the generosity and support of individuals, communities, organisations, and businesses. Assured that their support will HELP to ensure that each and every one of us could benefit from Helicopter Pads subsequently giving the best opportunity for survival.

Why are these helipads so important? Well, it has been shown that survival rates increases significantly, alongside improving patient outcomes and recovery time following the installation and role of helipads in an emergency. The HELP Appeal is responsible for funding our major trauma and A&E Hospital helipads.

An example of our work is regionally for ourselves. Last year 'one' the many lifesaving projects we funded was for Midlands Air Ambulance, who needed a new infrastructure at their base, we funded this with a total of 4.3 million.

We also support BASICS (The British Association for Immediate Care) plus many more lifesaving areas such as critical care cars, PPE / Airbase Hangers / Airbase Helipads / Medical Equipment and Lighting, We also offer grants for DIFF Systems, DIFFS stands for Deck Integrated Fire Fighting System; typically DIFFS extinguishes a fire within 15 seconds and uses a relatively small amount of water, delivered through multiple nozzles evenly embedded in

the helipad rooftop surface in a foam solution. It is a fast response, designed to activate rapidly, extinguishing a fire almost instantly upon detection.

DIFFs allow for Air Ambulances to land without any Fire Fighters onsite; by installing these rooftop systems we help to save the NHS £250K per year, per hospital. These systems not only save money, but lives should the worse happen.

Lighting pads sounds relatively simple and surprising that it is not always in place, unfortunately it's not. So, we fund State of the Art Lighting installation, ensuring that air ambulances can safely land 24/7 at night or in low-visibility conditions, improving a hospital's capacity to receive urgent medical cases around the clock. Funding is also provided for heated helipads and weather stations for exactly the same purpose.

There's much more for us to do, the only information I haven't yet spoken about on this list is the cost. Ground level Helipads cost 500K upwards, whilst rooftop can cost up to 6 million.

This article is about promoting and raising awareness of ourselves which is huge for us. There are numerous ways that you can support us, as we do not receive any government or lottery funding.

It is our 30th anniversary this year, and as part of this I (Denise Rowe) have organised a group of 53 of us to do a charity walk on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, doing the Thames Bridges, which is a total of 10 miles. There is a number of walkers coming from Ipstones and the surrounding area supporting this fundraising effort. If you would like to donate, please follow the link or get in touch.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/a-knight-to-remember-1733755791546>

There is so much more we support, please get in touch if you would like to know more.

Links below to our websites for further details:

<https://helpappeal.org.uk/> and

<https://countyairambulancetrust.org.uk/>

Many thanks for taking the time to read this article, this is all helping to raising the awareness of the HELP Appeal, County Air Ambulance Trust alongside the lifesaving work we fund.

—Denise Rowe (*County Air Ambulance Trust*)

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# Leek Foodbank

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Registered Charity No. 1153990 in England and Wales

## August 2025

### Harvest Festival 2025

Here we are again, a time to ask for your support as we approach the harvest season, but, more importantly, to thank you so much for all your ongoing support over the last year. We really appreciate everything you continue to do, so we can ensure we make the greatest possible difference to people experiencing hardship in Leek and the surrounding villages. Your continued support of our Foodbank, by collecting much needed food items, has ensured we can provide help and support to individuals in our community who are in crisis. We are so grateful for your partnership and overwhelming generosity.

The year 2024/25 saw another drop of 14.4% in the number of food parcels we distributed, but a further 6.5% reduction in the amount of food donations we received. More worryingly, since the beginning of April 2025, our donations have fallen by an

astonishing 21% compared to the same period last year. This has resulted in the need to buy goods to maintain stock levels, with 20% of the goods in so far this financial year having been purchased by the Foodbank.

We would like to ask, would you be willing to organise a collection to support us this harvest season, to help make a difference to those who come to us for help? We could provide transport if you are unable to deliver the food to us. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed a poster showing our current shopping list which you can use to advertise the collection if you wish.

Thank you for reading this, and a huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations of food and your support, we couldn't do what we do without you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

With love and best wishes to you all.

—Lindsey Stockton (*Project Manager*)

Leek & District Foodbank: **07916 005064**  
[projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

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## Harvest appeal



### Help support your local food bank this harvest

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Thank you for your support.

### Shopping List

Tinned :- veg/meat/fruit/  
potatoes/rice pudding/  
custard  
Milk (UHT semi-skim)  
Rice – 500g & sachets  
Fruit squash  
Pasta & pasta sauce  
Coffee & tea  
Instant mashed potato  
Choc bars & biscuits

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# Ipstones Writers' Group

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## WRITING FOR FUN WITH THE IPSTONES WRITERS

*'It happened in a garden'* had been the writing prompt for the July get together of Ipstones Writers, which as is usually the case, amazed us at the variety of stories and poems around these few words—see a couple of examples later.

After coffee and cake, Linda, a recent member of the group who spent her early years in Ipstones, asked us to write for 10 minutes about *'Our local village'* but not all the writings were about *'lppy'*.

One wrote about growing up in Greater Manchester, where the landscape was rows of terraced houses, and wrote of happy childhood memories visiting grandparents in a village in Wales, and someone wrote of living close to Ipstones, where there is just a few houses and a post box.

Having to use the car to go anywhere for anything, described another local village, which is really made up of several different areas—a ribbon village?

The characters of Ipstones, long since gone, were remembered, and someone else wrote about

moving here in 1984 with three children, wondering how they would fit in, but soon settled and Ipstones became *'home'*. Another writer moved to Ipstones five and a half years ago, joined various village groups to get to know people, and mentioned how much she enjoys local walks.

Someone wrote of moving to a nearby village in 1976, intending to stay for a couple of years, but still there in the same property. The village has grown with new houses, though fewer facilities, and although the old part of village is lovely, a main road cuts the community in half. She wrote of the beautiful surrounding countryside and canal being on her doorstep.

It was soon time to wash up and tidy up, books and pens in our bags, as we said our goodbyes until next time on the 25<sup>th</sup> August—yes a Bank Holiday, but we carry on as usual the only exceptions being Christmas.

—Geraldine.

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## It happened in a garden —by Rosie O'Hara

It happened in a garden, But it shouldn't have at all!  
It shouldn't happen in a garden.  
It's what I think, It's what I say.  
It shouldn't happen in a garden.  
But it will, just any day.  
It'll happen in a garden,  
Maybe one quite close to you.  
You'll see the fateful signs;  
Well in advance I think you'll find.  
There'll be a table, a makeshift bar,  
at least an ice bucket or two.  
There'll be the telltale smell of paraffin,  
The clink of crockery and glass.  
There'll be laughter, jollity,  
And tipsy frolicking on the grass!  
Yes you've guessed it - a lovely BBQ!

It's just the time of year.  
It's going to happen in a garden,  
One close by is what I fear.  
They've got a perfectly good kitchen  
Inside the house, just by the door.  
It's clean and safe and tidy.  
Why would you want for more?  
But no, everything will come outside  
To the greasy, charred arrangements,  
Where there's wasps and flies and bugs.  
Who knows what you will eat.  
And goodness knows it's not much fun  
to be outside in all this heat.  
But I don't think that it matters  
what I think or what I say.  
It'll happen in a garden,  
Unless of course it's rain stopped play!

### **IN THE GARDEN**

Having lived in the Staffordshire Moorlands all her life, Molly recently moved to the Scottish border town of Moffatt, to be close to her daughter and family.

Despite having lots of acquaintances, since her husband died, Molly had felt lonely at times and a little vulnerable. It took time to reach this big decision to leave all that was familiar, but she had arrived at a compromise in moving into a sheltered housing complex in the centre of the small Scottish town, not far from the family.

She had the independence of her own self-contained apartment, small though it was, she had her own front door. The spacious gardens were well tended, and with the resident's lounge and cafe, she could meet the neighbours.

As a young child, in the early 1940's, she contracted polio, which left her with a slight limp, making her unsteady at times, but knowing a member of staff would knock every morning and evening to check all was ok, she felt reassured and safe.

The other day Molly spotted a new lady in the lounge, and remembering what it felt like moving into Elizabeth Court, she decided she would introduce herself the next time she bumped into her.

There had been something vaguely familiar about the new resident, though Molly couldn't put her finger on what it was, and why she felt like this.

After lunch Molly spotted the lady sitting alone in the garden. The heady fragrance of the roses hung in the air in the early afternoon sun, the sound of the trickling fountain relaxing as she made her way slowly and hesitantly to where the new person was sitting reading a book.

'Excuse me and hello. I am Mrs. Brown, Molly Brown. You're new here aren't you?' Looking up from her book, she nodded and replied, 'Yes, I moved in a couple of weeks ago. I'm Jean Andrews'.

Molly looked intently into the woman's face. A small purple birthmark by the woman's hairline on the right temple – almost heart shaped, caught her attention.

Jean said, 'It seems ok here, so far so good, but it's not like being in your own place though'.

'No it isn't' Molly said, sitting down beside her on the bench. 'Are you from round here?'

Jean told her that she had come up from York in the mid 1960's when she got married, and that her husband had died a few months previously. Their house was rambling and old, and needed updating, and she said after lots of thought decided she couldn't live with the mess, and Elizabeth Court had seemed to be the answer for her.

'Oh – York eh' said Molly. York held some painful memories for her, she had lived there for a while in 1957 or was it 58?

'Well it's been nice to meet you. If you need anything I live at No.9, so just knock the door' Molly said, as she turned and walked to the gazebo at the other end of the garden. Jean smiled and nodded, picking up her book from her lap.

Molly sat in deep thought for a while, and sighed, before drifting off into a light doze...sleep didn't come easily. Her mind was racing, and she kept thinking about that birthmark.

She opened her eyes suddenly, aware that she felt someone near her. Jean stood in front of her, and said 'I think we have met before, it's the way you walk....y-your limp. Your built up shoe'. There was a pause before Molly replied, 'Yes, I feel we have. York you said.....'

A tear trickled onto Molly's cheek, as it slowly dawned on her where she had seen the birthmark before.

Pulling up a chair beside her, reaching for a hanky up her sleeve, Jean said 'I wonder whatever happened to our babies?'

Geraldine Shuttleworth

Ipstones Writers July 2025.

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# Ippy Bookclub

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Hi there.

We'd like to introduce Ippy Bookclub. A small but perfectly group of 9 (currently). We are now in our 15 year of existence and meet monthly at Ye Olde Red Lion to cogitate and discuss our allocated book amongst other things! Our current book choices are from Cheadle library, however we do also read recommendations from the group.

July's review and read is as follows:  
(thanks Ange Buckley)

**The Dead Woman of Deptford** by Ann Granger is the sixth Inspector Ben Ross mystery set in Victorian London.

On a cold November night in a Deptford yard, dock worker Harry Parker stumbles upon the body of a dead woman. Inspector Ben Ross is summoned from Scotland Yard to this insalubrious part of town, but no witness to the murder of this well-dressed, middle-aged woman can be found. Even Jeb Fisher, the local rag-and-bone man, swears he's seen nothing.

Meanwhile, Ben's wife Lizzie is trying to suppress a scandal: family friend Edgar Wellings has a gambling addiction and no means of repaying his debts. Reluctantly, Lizzie agrees to visit his debt collector's house in Deptford, but when she arrives she finds her husband is investigating the murder of the woman in question.

Edgar was the last man to see Mrs. Clifford alive and he has good reason to want her dead, but Ben and Lizzie both know that a case like this is rarely as simple as it appears...

We all quite liked the book giving between 3 and 4 out of 5. We said that we got a real feel for life in that era. There were frequent passages providing historical information which didn't have much relevance to the plot but added depth to the narrative.

"A good old fashioned murder story" "Nostalgic"  
"Atmospheric - would make a good TV show"

All in all a good story - a page turner. A book we wouldn't have chosen but was a riveting read.

Next official book is 'Take your breath away' by Linwood Barclay, with an optional book for the summer; People of Abandoned Character, both to be reviewed at our September meeting.

**Next meeting 2nd Sept - Red Lion - 7.30pm.**

Additional recommendations from last month: Light A Candle Society and Sweet Vidalia.

Hope you all have a great summer and happy reading.

Elizabeth Hardy  
[Lizhardy1973@gmail.com](mailto:Lizhardy1973@gmail.com)



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# The Day We Went To...

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## A night at the theatre!

We are fortunate to have numerous theatres nearby, offering a wide range of entertainment. I wanted to share two different experiences.

The Lowry theatre at Salford Quays – a 90-minute drive with lots of parking available and a few hotels close by if you want to make a night of it. The theatre was built and opened in 2000 as part of the Salford Quays regeneration. We were attending a Steven Wilson concert and meeting up with friends from Shrewsbury and Philadelphia, so we decided to stay the night. The Holiday Inn Express (*£70 for a double including breakfast*) is in Salford Quays and is a 5-minute walk to the theatre and has great parking – although I suggest you avoid Man Utd match days for a visit!

Around the Salford Quays, you have a choice of lots of different bars and restaurants, so lots of options for a pre-theatre/concert meal and drink to suit all budgets and tastes. We stopped at one of the many bars for a drink and then had dinner at the Alchemist just outside the doors of the theatre.

The theatre itself was great, a nice foyer and bar area to relax and mingle before the shows and great facilities – all very accessible if needed. The staff seemed very nice, and the facilities were clean and looked well looked after. We didn't have any food at the theatre, but they had a great selection of ice creams and snacks, and they have an onsite restaurant that does pre-show meals.

A little closer to home, The Regent in Stoke – a short 30-minute drive. For this one, no need for an overnight stay, but did visit The Quarter, a lovely restaurant find in the heart of the city. The Quarter is located on the site of the historic Spode Pottery Factory, a significant part of Stoke-on-Trent's industrial history. It opened in 2019, but we have only just found it. They have a café/restaurant and a live music venue, and they also host wedding receptions.

Onto the Regent, we had tickets to see The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, a West End show doing a UK tour. Parking around the theatre was plentiful, and they have a handy parking space very close by if you have a blue badge. We had great seats, very comfortable and with great leg room. When we looked around, all of the seats appeared to have great leg room. The staff at the theatre were very friendly, and it was nice to see them be very helpful to a few attendees with guide dogs, etc.

With lots of good shows coming to Stoke in the coming months, I would highly recommend the Regent rather than braving Manchester or Birmingham!

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# Little Ipstones Kitchen

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Now Autumn approaches, with changeable weather, here is a final savory tart recipe for those who are still enjoying salads, and for those who aren't, it could be served with a jacket potato on the side, and maybe just a few leaves for garnish, for a bit of colour?

Hearty comfort food will certainly be on the menu in the Little Ipstones Kitchen once the weather turns, but for the in-between times this **SMOKY SAUSAGE & BEAN** casserole is really delicious, and maybe worth a try.

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## NECTARINE, RICOTTA & PESTO TARTS

*Serve with a simple salad of your choice*

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### Ingredients

320g sheet all butter puff pastry cut into 8 squares  
1 medium egg, beaten  
250 tub ricotta cheese  
1 unwaxed lemon, zest  
4 golden blush nectarines cut into 8 wedges  
1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil  
½ 145 tub of basil pesto

### To assemble

Preheat oven to 200/gas 6 and line 2 large baking trays with baking parchment. Unroll pastry and cut into 8 equal rectangles about 8cmx12cm. Make a boarder and prick base of tarts as in previous recipe. Brush boarders with beaten egg. Bake for 10 minutes, until lightly golden and puffed up. Leave to cool for 10 mins. until at room temperature.

In a bowl use a spoon to beat the ricotta until smooth, season and stir in the lemon zest. Add a dollop of the ricotta mixture in the middle of each pastry rectangle and spread it out to the edges of the border. Top each tart with 4 overlapping wedges of nectarine. Drizzle with a little olive oil and bake for 10-12 minutes, swapping the trays halfway though, until golden brown. Top each tart with a spoonful of pesto.

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## SMOKY SAUSAGE & BEAN CHILLI

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Lots of folk have favourite tried and test Chilli recipes, but this Chilli makes a change from the traditional, and good served with rice and a few nachos on the side, but also works well on a baked potato with a sprinkling of grated cheese on top.

*Feeds 2-4 depending on appetites*

### Ingredients

Oil for frying  
450g (1lb) Cumberland sausage, skins removed  
1 onion, finely chopped  
1 red pepper, deseeded and finely chopped  
2 tsp. runny honey  
2 tsp. smoked paprika  
2 tsp. Cajun seasoning  
½ teaspoon hot chilli powder  
400g (14oz) tinned cherry tomatoes  
400g (14oz) tin of mixed beans, drained  
250ml (9fl.oz) chicken stock  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Method

Heat a drizzle of oil in a large deep, non-stick pan over a medium heat. Tear the sausages into 6 pieces and add to the pan, frying for 5 minutes, stirring regularly, until pieces start to colour and no longer pink. Add onion and pepper and fry for 5 minutes.

Drain off any excess fat and stir in the honey, paprika, Cajun seasoning and chilli powder and fry for further minute. Add tomatoes, beans and stock and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Stir in all the ingredients together, and bring to boil. Simmer over medium heat for 15 minutes until sauce has thickened and sausages cooked. Leave to rest for 5 minutes before serving with accompaniments of your choice. **Note.** If you fancy more veg. stir in 600g (2 ¼ oz) of fresh spinach and a handful of frozen sweetcorn before bringing the mixture to boil, and simmering.

**Happy Cooking!**

# Eat Out Locally

## CHEDDLETON TEA ROOMS

I visited Cheddleton Tea Rooms with my elderly mother on a very sunny lunchtime.

The access for a wheelchair user was great.

The former schoolroom was spotless and we easily found a table and were shown the specials of the day by a very pleasant server.

Mum had a full English breakfast and I had home made cheese and tomato quiche.

They were well portioned, good quality ingredients and the pastry on my quiche was beautifully thin and well cooked. No soggy bottom!

We were too full for pudding but the selection of home made cakes and deserts looked delightful.

I thanked the owner Jane for a positive experience and she seemed delighted with our feedback.

We would definitely recommend going here to eat and will be going back soon.

—Cathy Deaville and Sheila Garner



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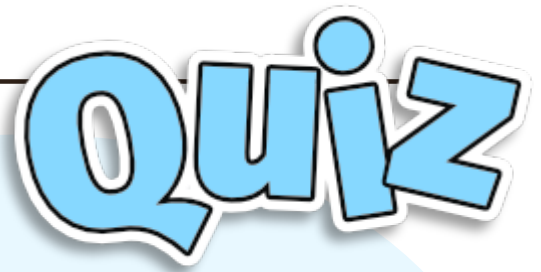
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## A QUIZ FOR AUTUMN: FALLING LEAVES

1. What is the name of the particularly bright full moon that appears early in September?
2. Fill in the missing word from, Green Day's song 'When ---- ends'?
3. In their iconic jazz song, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong sing about Autumn in which United States City?
4. The term 'Petrichor' refers to which Autumn time phenomenon?
5. The Hindu Festival of Diwali is a celebration of.....?
6. When is the last day of Autumn?
7. What is the autumn crop 'Vitis Vinifera' more commonly known as?
8. What classic Autumn dessert is known in Southern US States as 'Karo Pie'?
9. What sport is the Laver Cup contested for every September?
10. A Veteran Car Rally begins in London during November. Where does it end?
11. Which country would you travel to if you wanted to visit the International White Truffle Fair, held from October to November?
12. Who did Autumn Kelly marry in May 2008?
13. SAD, sometimes known as Autumn Depression is commonly known as?
14. The Oktoberfest is held in which German city?
15. Name the pigment which stops producing, causing leaves to lose their green colour?
16. Which English poet composed 'To Autumn' after a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening?
17. What term refers to the temporary warm weather in Autumn, that follows the first frost?
18. Name the zodiac signs of Autumn?
19. According to an old superstition, what should you do in the Autumn season, to attract good luck?
20. What global organisation was officially established on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1945?

### NEWSLETTER QUIZ ANSWERS FOR AUGUST – SUMMER

- |                             |                          |                     |               |                        |                |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Nat 'King' Cole          | 2. 20 <sup>th</sup> June | 3. Sunflowers       | 4. Vitamin D  | 5. Edinburgh           | 6. Aestas      | 7. Caribbean |
| 8. Alstroemia               | 9. 40 days               | 10. George Gershwin | 11. Hawaii    | 12. 1997               | 13. Birkenhead |              |
| 14. Whitney Houston         | 15. Yugoslavia           | 16. Sea Lions       | 17. Pineapple | 18. Cancer, Leo, Virgo |                |              |
| 19. 20 <sup>th</sup> August | 20. Wimbledon, London    |                     |               |                        |                |              |

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14<sup>TH</sup> OCT, 28<sup>TH</sup> OCT, 11<sup>TH</sup> NOV, 25<sup>TH</sup> NOV, 9<sup>TH</sup> DEC, 23<sup>RD</sup> DEC

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IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

# Community Supper Club

A simple supper  
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**Kate Haigh** (*Becalmed, Leek*)  
about well-being into Autumn

---

## Tuesday 23rd September 2025

*6.30pm–9.00pm at Ipstones Memorial Hall*

Includes jacket potato and fillings supper  
(*Bring your own drinks*)

---

**Free of charge**, as the event is supported by:  
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*Proceeds from raffle will go to maintaining Ipstones Memorial Hall as a community facility for all*

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## Last Night Of The Proms

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PRESENTS

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**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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**Tickets £10** available from Margaret Burnett 07973 480184

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# SAFARI SUPPER



**25<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

*Starting at 3pm*

**at The Red lion, Ipstones**

Please register your interest for the safari supper in Ipstones

Looking for participants who Live in the area of Ipstones who want to have fun, meet locals & enjoy hosting one of the 3 courses. Max of 6 people at one time

---

Contact Nicola Edwards – [yoggio1@aol.com](mailto:yoggio1@aol.com)

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