

**January
2026**

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Contents

Contacts	2
View From The Vicarage	3
Church Services/Rota	5
St Leonard's Church	7
Butterton Correspondent	8
St Lukes Onecote	9
Ipstones Methodist Church	10
Elkstones & Warslow News	11
Lectionary Readings/Life Events	12
Ipstones Memorial Hall	15
Ipstones Folk News	17
Ipstones Historical Society	18
Ipstones Writers' Group	19
Armchair Travellers	20
Eat Out Review	22
Little Ipstones Kitchen	23
Quiz	26
Warm Welcome	27
Community Supper Club	28
Events/Ads	29

Communities Newsletter

Ipstones, Onecote, Butterton, and
Warslow with Elkstones



Welcome to the January 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

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Who Is Missing?

Get your community listed here for **FREE**



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Search for: **@themoorlandschurches.staffs**

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View From The Vicarage This Month (January 2026)

Happy New Year everyone, and I hope you had a good Christmas. It is cold and windy outside but, I must admit cosy inside and, since I have had a couple of post-Christmas days off very relaxed. Boxing Day was spent by me largely snoozing! The Christmas Season was wonderful this year, from the busy Lights Night at Ipstones to the full Christmas Morning at Butterton via atmospheric Carol Services, fun sing along band and choral concerts, joyously chaotic crib services and fun crafts events not to mention the Butterton Live Nativity (*see the separate article*).

I am not quite sure exactly why, but every single service was really well attended this year, and whilst bittersweet as it's the next of the "last" seasonal events in this wonderful family group of churches for me as my leaving date canters nearer, it was also totally joyous too.

The view also feels a teeny bit bittersweet because I know I am on countdown time and like all good things, I don't want it to end. However, we have a lot of good times ahead to share, with a relatively early Easter to plan for. January is usually a quiet time, with little going on, but my diary looks pretty full to me. I am overjoyed that this month all my services are here in our family group, so I am not belting all over the place and I am with friends of the last 4 years. There is nothing significant in terms of key or special services, and in a way, I am ready, after a rich diet of joyous and exciting services, for some quieter, more thoughtful and reflective services. It's a time to settle, to remain still, and to quietly nurture our faith in the fallow January soil.

Jesus often used the metaphor of the vine in his teaching, and I know that from 28th December when we get our Christmas break over in our little old house in SW France, that we will be surrounded by bare brown fields with bare brown vines like sticks. No way can you imagine that from those sticks will come a blossoming of leaves, flowers and fruit that by the Summer tell us whether the vintage will be a good one or not. Under that bare, very stony soil, the vine is building its strength, nurturing its potential, and preparing to burst forth in the spring. It is much the same for us. We can use January to prepare, to build up our strength and be ready to flourish. And flourish you all will. I came here to see if the church was going to survive or thrive in our communities. And thrive they are doing. As Tony Gaddum often reminds me, "the spirit is moving in this place" even when we cannot see, feel or tell that it is. The seekers, the questioners, the lost and the unsure will be found and as spring comes, we will burst forth and rejoice in the wonderful flourishing church and village communities we are part of.

Have a nourishing, restful and quiet January, with every blessing for a good start to 2026



—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
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	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
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	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

Church Liturgical colours G =green R=red P=purple W=White	1st Sunday 4 th January 2 nd Sunday of Christmas W	2nd Sunday 11 th January 1 st Sunday of Epiphany Baptism of Christ W	3rd Sunday 18 th January 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany Week of prayer for Christian Unity W	4th Sunday 25th January 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany Conversion of St Paul W	1st Sunday 1 st February 4 th Sunday of Epiphany Candlemas W
Lectionary	Jeremiah 31: 7- 14 Psalm 147: 13- end Wisdom 10: 15- end Ephesians 1: 3- 14 John 1:10-18	Isaiah 42: 1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3: 13-end	Isaiah 49: 1-7 Psalm 40: 1-12 1 Corinthians 1: 1- 9 John 1: 29-42	Isaiah 9: 1-4 Psalm 27: 1, 4-12 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 Matthew 4: 12-23	Malachi 3: 1-5 Psalm 24 Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40
Warslow	11.00 Morning Worship: Toby Gaddum	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	11.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held
Elkstones	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	3.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>
Butterton	<i>To other services</i>	3.00 Evening Prayer Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	10.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>
Onecote	9.30 Morning Worship Debra Tickell	9.30 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	9.30 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	9.30 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held
Ipstones	<i>To other services</i>	11.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held 7.30 Compline Revd Jane Held	11.00 Morning Worship Revd Jane Held	11.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	3.30 BCP Evensong Revd Jane Held

SPECIAL SERVICES:

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES: All at St Leonard's Ipstones (open daily 8.30am- 5.00pm)	8.30am Monday- Friday Morning Prayer 9.00am Saturday – Morning Prayer
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Key: **JH** Jane Held; **RC** Roger Cutts; **TG** Toby Gaddum; **AH** Arthur Hack; **JMcM** Janet McNicol; **CJ** Carole Jackson; **JF** John Flint; **DJ** David Jack;

Church ROTA Ipstones

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

December 2025

Welcomers/Sides People

Sunday	Name	Name
4 th January	n/a	n/a
11 th January	Zoe Johnson	Pat Nash
18 th January	Ann Jackson	Volunteer
25 th January	John Flint	Volunteer
1 st February	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers		

Church Services

4 th January	n/a	Ann Jackson
11 th January	Linda Malyon	David Jack
18 th January	David Jack	Zoe Johnson
25 th January	Ann Jackson	Jacquey Millward
1 st February	Jacquey Millward	David Jones
Eucharistic Assistant		
4 th January	n/a	n/a
11 th January	Ann Jackson	Volunteer
18 th January	Jacquey Millward	Volunteer
25 th January	n/a	n/a
1 st February	n/a	
Refreshments		
4 th January	Volunteers	David Jack
11 th January	Volunteers	Zoe Johnson
18 th January	Volunteers	Jacquey Millward
25 th January	Volunteers	Rachel Hopper
1 st February	n/a	

Prayer Corner

We Pray today for those for whom today is like The windswept mountain: Give them comfort!

We pray today for those for whom today is like The stormy sea: Give them calm!

We Pray for those for whom today is like The darkest night: Give them hope! Amen

St. Leonard's Ipstones

St Leonard's, Ipstones

Well, what a month we had. St Leonards was busy from the Lights Night onwards. A mixed busyness, mostly very joyful, but also sad as we said goodbye at the funeral for Rosemary Shemilt, just weeks after we had the funeral for her much loved husband John. Both stalwarts of St Leonards in their time, their loss is a great grief for their family, and a sadness for the village. We are very grateful to Jane their daughter and their grandchildren for asking for donations towards the work of church, which will be very gratefully received. Rosemary was coming to prayer café until very recently and we will miss her. We also held our last parents and Children service, again a sad moment after many years. Many thanks to Ruth Flint and then Carole Jackson for their hard work in running it so successfully for so long. However, the move to holiday club style worship with the children appears to be popular with busy parents as a new way of approaching things.

The church has hosted many events in December, and it looked beautiful all the way through with the wonderful trees and arches decorating every possible surface. We hosted a fabulous well attended Early Music Concert on 7th December, with the first outing of mulled wine and mince pies after Lights Night. This took place after a very very successful Christmas Market that afternoon, which raised nearly £600 (amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!).

Then we hosted the Community Choir's Christmas Sing-Along, which was incredibly good fun in a packed church, with us belting out carols and songs galore (with more mulled wine and mince pies).

Then on to the Children's Christmas Cracker Holiday Club. 14 children and many adults all enjoyed making nativity scenes, Christmas crowns and snow globes. (I rather suspect the adults had more fun than the children). This was followed by a packed and atmospheric traditional Carols by Candlelight, (and yet more mulled wine and mince pies) and then a chaotic but truly joyful Crib Christingle, and a pretty full church for Midnight Mass too (with late night mulled wine and mince pies to end the season).

We also had a lovely series of talks on each Advent Sunday, about serving our community from Denise Rowe



(County Air Ambulance Trust), Linda Malyon, (Parish and District Council) and Pete Jones (Fire Service).

These things do not happen by accident. A huge debt of thanks to the Churchwardens, Rob and Jacquie, the Deputy Churchwarden and Lay Chair, Ann Jackson, PCC members, especially Zoe and Jackie W, Roger Cutts and his wife Dora, Ruth Flint, Carole Jackson, Denise Rowe, Alex Lewis and the Choir, the bell ringers many and various, Barry for the crib, our Advent Speakers, Pat Nash, Delia, and many more. Looking back over the last year we have lost some stalwart members of the church, especially Lesley Savage and Tony Cookson, with Jeanne moving away to me nearer her daughters, so we felt a bit down, but this Christmas has brought light for the future and put heart back into the congregation. Couple that with a burst of baptisms and there is great hope for the future! As the New Year begins, we look forward to the exciting things that God has in store for us in 2026.

Donations to St Leonards:

Thank you to the anonymous donors of a significant sum of money for families in need at Christmas.

It was put to very good use. Thank you too to the Chantry Family for their donation in memory of David Chantry, as well as the Grinsey family in memory of Rosemary and John Schemilt. We also raised £18 for the sale of poppies, part of the total of £2370.48 raised by the Royal British Legion's Ipstones Branch.

The suspension of the living of the parishes of Ipstones with Berkhamstech, Onecote with Bradnup and Butterton

Keen notice board readers will see on each Church notice Board a letter from the Diocesan Bishop of Lichfield, announcing the suspension of the living of our three parishes. In plain English that just means that the post will, when I leave on the 5th April, be "suspended" to allow it to be changed from a part time to a full-time post, employed by the Diocese, rather than by the parishioners and patron of the parishes.

This is very good news and will allow the Diocese to advertise the post soon, hopefully before I go.

The Benefice needs and deserves a full-time post and I am delighted to see it progressing.

St Bartholomew's Butterton Correspondent

The Butterton Live Nativity

We could not go to print in January without recognising the fantastic work done by a range of volunteers to plan, produce, put on and clear up after the AMAZING LIVE NATIVITY EXTRAVAGANZA at Butterton on the 20th December.

It was a great event, which brought fun, excitement and laughter to the telling of the familiar Christmas Story, alongside thoughtful and moving moments about the reality of Christ's birth.

Attached are some photos of the event, which began with Angel Gabriel appearing at the top of Butterton St Bartholomew's steeple, and ended with the gifts for the foodbank given to the baby in the stable surrounded by animals, Mary, Joseph, the Angels, Shepherds, Kings and miscellaneous children. About 200 adults and 40 children attended it, moving around the various settings from churchyard to inn, to stable to churchyard to road and back to the stable singing lustily and joining in the action.

A dream of your vicar, a live nativity, was fulfilled magnificently, with brilliant (adlibbing) actors, and the efforts of a whole community to make it happen.

Huge thanks are due to everyone involved including and in particular:

Rosie O'Hara: Script Writer and Narrator

Lesley Atkins: Director

Gwen: costumes

Lily and Rachel: stage managers

Jim and Darren: sound and light

The stewards and traffic mangers

Bruce and Patrick: Angels Gabriel and Michael

Adam and Helen: Mary and Joseph (plus doll)

Tinkerbell the donkey and her owners

Jenny Land and her sheep

The pony and the horse

Hannah and Matt: innkeeper and kings trumpeter

Shepherds: various including **Rachel, Lesley, Sheila and Ralph**

Kings: magnificent plus pages including **Trish, Jacquie, Jackie and Maggi and Frank**

Toby: Mc Herod

And absolutely everyone else who helped make it happen.



St Luke's Onecote



From Jean Tickell on behalf of St Lukes

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
—Psalm 23:1

These words are very comforting and also very important. When we think about them, they are telling us that what we need in our lives the Lord will provide. It may not be what we are expecting, but we will be provided for very well.

Going back to December, our Christmas tree festival went off very well with a visit from Santa – who else? Mulled wine and mince pies were served and juice for the children. Everyone remarked how beautiful the church looked, dressed ready for Christmas.

I think the big event was our concert with the Ashbourne's town band. Their music was again a joy to behold! There was also some audience participation, which was joyfully given, in fact we were fit to burst! A finger buffet was served at the interval, warm sausage rolls with cheese bites, thanks to our hostess trolleys!

We then had the joint carol service with our Methodist friends held this year in church. This was led by Roger Cutts. We had the crib Christingle service on Christmas Eve. I will give a mention of these special events next month.

Our own Rev'd Jane lead the service. I'm sure most of you know by now that Jane is suffering with neck and back pain, only controlled with strong painkillers. But Jane goes on true to form.

Sadly this will be Janes last Christmas with us before she retires in April. What an example she has been to us all, in all the Church's she covers. We will miss her so very much, but we will carry on doing everything the way she has shown us.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with our fundraising events throughout the year. Baking in particular, thank you! Not forgetting our organist Elizabeth as well who is brilliant. Our thanks also go to our resident handy men who we turn to with our problems; Graham and Garry; we could not cope without you both!

Thanks also go to Toby Gaddum and Roger Cutts who have taken some of the services during the year.

On a very sad and upsetting note, I am sure everyone was shocked to hear of the passing of Norman Ainsworth. We all offer our sympathy and thoughts to Irene and her family. Norman was always a very jovial man; you heard his laugh before you saw him. God bless you Norman and rest in Peace. You will be very much missed.

Now we look towards another new year. We must remember all those in our world, who still suffer and not of their own making. We must put these worries in God's hands and ask for his help.

I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

With Best Wishes, Jean.

Ipstones Methodist Church

Comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable

Several times in the last few weeks I have come across the expression: "Comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable"

For example, someone might say: "*the aim of folk music is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable*".

Or someone else might say "*the aim of religion is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable*"

But the original form of this expression appears to have originated from a poem entitled "*Comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable*" by the Mexican-born poet and activist César A. Cruz, who used it in the context of art and education (*often quoted as "Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable"*)

Whether it is art, music or religion these are all forms of interpretation that may influence our thinking so what is the meaning of the expression?

It could be taken to mean that good art, preaching, or music should both soothe those who are hurting and unsettle those who are complacent or complicit in injustice

- It calls for offering reassurance to people who are anxious, grieving, or oppressed, so they feel seen, understood, and less alone.
- It also calls for disrupting those who are too secure in privilege, apathy, or unexamined assumptions, confronting them with uncomfortable truths about their opinions and the world.
- Here the phrase implies a prophetic edge: to provoke reflection, repentance, and change in people who benefit from the status quo and would rather not be challenged.



- Taken together, the saying describes a dual vocation: to use words, art, or action both as a balm for the wounded and as a stimulus for the complacent.

Our Methodist Church and Schoolroom are used for a variety of purposes, both artistic and religious, which we hope bring comfort to many and is also able to challenge our thinking and inspire us to seek peace and justice.

—Roger Cutts

SERVICES DURING JANUARY

- **January 4th at 10.30am**
Local Arrangement
- **January 11th at 10.30am**
Mrs Beryl Stew
- **January 18th at 10.30am**
Mrs Gill Meredith
- **January 25th at 10.30am**
Rev Julie Hassall
Covenant Service including Holy Communion

Coffee, toast, cake and chat
In the Methodist schoolroom

January 6th & 20th
Tuesdays 10am – 12noon

Everyone Welcome!



Elkstones & Warslow News

Warslow and Elkstones

The Carol Service at Warslow was a joyful event with a good full Church, lusty singing, quiet reflective moments, good readings and was followed by a sociable time over mulled wine and mince pies and the best raffle I have seen in a long time.

Thank you to the team who organised it, the dynamic duo, Emma and Judy, to all the readers, all who donated raffle prizes and bought tickets and to everyone who came.

There is just one service for Warslow in January: 4th January, at 11am, Morning Worship, led by Toby Gaddum. Over the next few months there will only be one service a month by request, as there are not enough folk available to support two.

Warslow is a beautiful Church but, very sadly, the PCC (the legal body running the Church) is very depleted, leaving everything to just a few folk. We know the Church is important to the village, but we need help!! Without it we are at risk of serious decline which if not stopped could ultimately lead to closure.

We need help in four ways:

- Regular donations to help maintain the Church and contribute towards the costs of ministry there (a monthly gift aided donation works wonders!) – and just to be clear, the money you donate does not disappear to fund the Diocese costs – it funds our costs at Warslow and contributes to the salary of your vicar, and the direct support (financial, personnel and legal) we get from the Diocese.
- People willing to help with the practical tasks of running a church, maintenance, cleaning, maintaining linen and supplies, flowers, brass, musicians to play the organ and so on.
- People willing to help with fundraising events (and even to form a fundraising committee of friends of the Church group)
- People willing to sit on the PCC (we have 2 vacancies) as trustees of the Church as a Charity – you can be coopted if you are not an active or baptised Christian.

Please can you consider helping us “stop the drop” and start to rebuild the future. Talk to Judy Prince, Emma Gould or Revd Jane if you think you can (like the Magi, or wise men) bring hope for the future.

Janet McNicol writes:

6th January is when we celebrate Epiphany. It is when we celebrate how a star led the Magi (3 kings, wise men) to visit the baby Jesus after He had been born. The word 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', 'Hope and joyful revelation', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world. The Magi had Hope in the star that God placed before them. They followed that light of Hope until they found Jesus, realizing that this infant King would save the world. We too, can follow the light of Hope that God has given us through Jesus, as we begin our journey through 2026.

Happy New Year

St John's Church, Elkstones

Our next service will be Holy Communion on Sunday 18th January at 3pm. The celebrant will be Rev. Jane Held.

Many thanks to Rev. Jane for giving us such a lovely carol service on the 21st December.

It was good to gather together with friends and neighbours to celebrate Christmas, and to enjoy talking together afterwards with a welcome glass of mulled wine and home-made mince pies.

Thank you to those who supplied these goodies, and who served them out, and also to those who supplied raffle prizes - not forgetting those who bought the tickets and who also gave generously to the Christmas collection, helping to add another £265 towards keeping our beautiful little church open.

Thanks also go to those who cleaned the church and supplied Christmas flowers, those who supplied the Christmas tree and decorated the church, which looked really lovely, and to the organist.

Everyone's time and effort is really appreciated.

January Cleaning and Flowers: Liz Meakin

Lectionary Readings/Life Events

Weekly Lectionary Readings

set Bible readings for December 2025

January 4th

2nd Sunday in Christmas

Jeremiah 31: 7-14; Psalm 147: 13-end;
Wisdom 10: 15-end; Ephesians 1: 3-14;
John 1:10-18

January 11th

Epiphany, Birth of Christ

Isaiah 42: 1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-43;
Matthew 3: 13-end

January 18th

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40: 1-12;
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

January 25th

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9: 1-4; Psalm 27: 1, 4-12;
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23

Life Events

(December 2025)

Baptisms

Welcome to your Church Family

4th December

Christopher Watkinson
Ipstones

4th December

Rachel Standeven
Ipstones

14th December

Rosalie Susan Jacqueline Millward
Ipstones

Funerals

Rest in Peace and Rise

20th December

Rosemary Schemilt
Ipstones



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Thought For The Month

That little red box was magical! I could play for hours.

Turning the knob one way created a horizontal line on the screen. Turning it the other way it made a vertical line. Turning both knobs created diagonal lines, circles & different patterns. The real fun was turning it upside down, shaking it & turning back I then had a clean slate to start all over again!

It can feel similar starting out in a New Year.

We don't know what the days & months will bring to challenge us.

We all need encouragement.

(support that inspires confidence & gives a boost to our lives)

The words we speak can either build up, or crush, the people we communicate with.

As we start this New Year let us find people to encourage with kind and thoughtful words and actions.

The amazing thing is (and it is by God's grace) when we do just that, it is each one of us who ends up encouraged & blessed.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good—
as we have opportunity let us do good to all people"*
—Galatians chapter 6 verses 9 & 10

*Loving Heavenly Father,
encourage me to open my hands and heart to others,
sharing the love you have for me. AMEN*

Family Warm Welcome

family
**warm
welcome**
a warm space for all

2pm–5pm every Friday

At The Methodist School Room,
Brookfields Road, Ipstones

drop in for:

- **Food & Drinks**
- **Jigsaws, Games**
- **Company and Conversation**

For more information about 'Warm Welcome' please contact:

Rev'd Jane Held on 01538 262116 or Rev'd Julie Hassall on 01538 751907

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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**

Ipstones Memorial Hall & Grounds

What's On: Regular activities to join

	ACTIVITY	FOR MORE INFO:
MONDAY	Ipstones Writers — 1.45pm (<i>last Tuesday of month</i>)	Geraldine 01538 266633
	Baby Ballet — 1.30–2.30pm (<i>weekly</i>)	Miss Becks 07831 966476
	Pilates — 6pm (<i>weekly</i>)	Louise@podiumpilates.com
TUESDAY	Seated Pilates — 11am (<i>weekly</i>)	Louise 07956 675683 or Louise@podiumpilates.com
	Yoga — 5:45pm (<i>weekly</i>)	Natalie 07970 940718
	Ipstones Youth Club — 6.30pm–8pm (<i>first Tuesday of month</i>)	Heather 07432 873605 and Nikki 07734 421972
WEDNESDAY	Dolly Birds Café — 9am – 2pm (<i>weekly</i>)	Ann Mace 07518 472770
	Ipstones WI — 7.30pm (<i>2nd Wednesday of month</i>)	Jane Fleet 01538 260074
	Rainbows — 5pm Brownies — 6pm Guides — 6.30pm } (<i>weekly—term-time only</i>)	Call 0800 169 5901
THURSDAY	Yoga — 9:30am (<i>weekly</i>)	Louise 07736 351257
	Well Street Medical Practice Clinic — 10am (<i>weekly</i>)	Well Street Practice Reception 01538 753114
	Indoor Bowls — 7pm (<i>weekly</i>)	George Ratcliffe 07837 451829
	Ipstones Historical Society — 7.30pm (<i>last Thursday of every month</i>)	Alison Cartledge 01538 266048
SATURDAY	Dolly Birds Café — 9am–1pm (<i>weekly</i>)	Ann Mace 07518 472770
SUNDAY	Dolly Birds Café — 9am – 1pm (<i>weekly</i>)	Ann Mace 07518 472770
	Little Kickers Football — 9:30am (<i>weekly</i>)	Steve North
ALSO	Ipstones & Foxt Senior Citizens several times a year	Jean Goodwin 01538 266831
	Ipstones British Legion — 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:
Mon. 26 th Jan. Time 6.30pm	Ipstones Supper Club Curry Night and Spice Talk	Sally Wilson 07768 173850 or Margaret Burnett 07973 480184
Sat. 7 th Feb. 11am (<i>Gallery</i>)	Ipstones Memorial Hall Centenary Event Group <i>Everyone welcome to share memories of the Hall.</i>	Geraldine Shuttleworth 01538 266633 mhallcentenary@gmail.com
Mon. 2 nd March 7pm	Storytelling Evening	Geraldine Shuttleworth 01538 266633
Sat. 28 th March 11am	Fused Glass Workshop with Paula Andrews	Paula Andrews 07879 368811

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

MEMORIAL HALL MEMORIES

Just a reminder that in two years' time, our vital community asset, Ipstones Memorial Hall, will be 100 years old, and ideas are being put on the table now, as how this important milestone can be celebrated. If you have photographs or information, please let us know what you have by email on mhallcentenary@gmail.com

The next get-together, where everyone is welcome to share their memories of the Hall and Recreation Ground, will be on Saturday 7th February upstairs in The Gallery at 11a.m.

Grab a coffee from Dolly Birds and join us in The Gallery – hope to see you.

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

250 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW

December 2025

£20 No. 166 Mary Cope

£15 No. 150 Ruth Flint

£10 No. 69 Noah Crombie

Annual Christmas prize of £100 was won by Laura Middling on ticket No.234



Ipstones Folk News / Bring & Share Supper

Folk News January 2026

Just a brief Folk News this month.

We met in the Methodist School Room on the third Wednesday of December where many of us donned Christmas jumpers and sang seasonal songs. Perhaps the most memorable was Tim's irreverent rendition of "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" (further details available on request). We also sang a lot of traditional favourites such as While Shepherds Watched to the tune of "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at."

Our next meeting will be on the third Wednesday of January – that's January 21st at 7:30 p.m. in the Methodist School Room – doors open at 7 p.m.

—Roger Cutts

AN EVENING OF STORY TELLING WITH A BRING & SHARE SUPPER

Way back, an idea was mooted, to hold an evening of Story Telling with a bring-and-share supper, as a social event during the dark days of winter.

So, Ipstones Writers and the Memorial Hall Committee shared thoughts, and a date was put in the diary for Monday 2nd March at 7p.m. in the Blore Room at the Hall.

The event will be free of charge, as participants will be asked to bring a food item to share on the supper table, but a small amount for Hall funds will be achieved with a raffle...this is Ipstones!! Where raffles are a must at social events.

Details have yet to be finalised, but if you have a story or poem to share, one you have written, or one you have read somewhere, or if you just want to come along to listen, relax and socialise, it will be good to see you.

So please do put the date in your diary. There will be more details about the evening of Story Telling, in the February Communities Newsletter, but get in touch if you want more information.

Hope to see you, Geraldine and The Ipstones Writers. 01538 266633

Ipstones Historical Society



The Ipstones Historical Society met on 27th November 2025, in the Memorial Hall extension for a talk by Ben Wells on the subject of the history of glass framework.

Mr Wells told the society that he has lived in Ipstones for a number of years and began producing glassware as a hobby in his back garden workshop.

Our speaker stated that the first traces of glass are found in Obsidian arrowhead's which is a naturally occurring volcanic glass. These pieces have been worked like flint to produce razor sharp weapons. There are other forms of natural glass in the guises of Fulgurite, Moldavite and Trinitite and manmade glass was made in pre history. It's not known who first created it or if it was accidentally made, as all that is needed are silica, potash and heat.

The Egyptian's made complicated glass which included the use of coloured oxides.

These were often beautiful scent bottles or animals but it was very expensive to produce and only the rich could afford it.

Some of the first processes used clay form's which the glass was pushed into attached to a metal rod. Then the clay was removed. Sometimes coloured glass rods were place on top and feathered to create a pattern. Beads are the most commonly found glassware and they were often traded as commodities.

The use of glass developed and became widespread by the fifteenth century BC all over the Mediterranean where Roman blown glass was prolific. Further developments created in the ninth century BC allowed colourless glass to be made. These could be blown into a mould giving intricate historical scenes. By the Middle Ages Murano became the centre of glass making with fantastic Millefiori cane work in ornaments and glasses. Other centres of excellence appeared in the Czech Republic, Bohemia and the Black Forrest. Medieval stained glass adorned many cathedral windows.

The 19th Century saw the use of glass to make light bulbs and more recently guerrilla glass is used in I-Phone faces.

Additives such as Boron allowed Pyrex to be created and this became a staple of laboratories.

The society will take a break for Christmas but we will meet again in January for our annual members evening. The fee for Society members is £1.00, non-members £4.00 on the door.

Ipstones Writers' Group

WRITING FOR FUN WITH THE IPSTONES WRITERS

Another great year at writing group comes to a close.

We met a week early in December to enable us to have a bring and share Christmas celebration together. Sadly, Geraldine who does so much for the group was unable to join us but still sent a glorious apple pie. Rosie's home-made samosas I think were the star hit of the savoury dishes and as always, there was far more than we could eat between us. All enjoyed a cup of warm mulled wine to wash everything down, a great end to another brilliant year.

As always, we began with sharing the pieces we had written, this month, chosen by me, 'The Seasons of life'. This was an idea that came to me back in the summer as I enjoyed nature walking along the canal. I saw a large piece of dead tree trunk floating in the water with lots of new life growing from it. I've been contemplating ever since and my piece was rather long, you're welcome to read it on my blog, entitled, Living in the Autumn of My Life. Living in the Autumn of my life. (2025) – Life is a Pilgrimage. For those interested but reading the paper version of the magazine, drop me an email on sarah.burges-sparker@gmail.com and I'll send you the link.

At least one participant commented that this was a challenging subject especially keeping to our usual limit of 750-1000 words! Many talked of nature in particular trees but unfortunately, I'm not as organised as Geraldine and didn't take notes to say more of what folk wrote about. I liked one comment though that some people never grow up whereas others are born old. I think the former refers to me, what about you. Please see below a piece written by Pat Bentley.

It just remains for me to wish a Happy, Healthy New Year to all my fellow scribblers and all who enjoy reading our updates. Sarah BP

Writing for fun December 22nd 2025: SEASONS OF LIFE

What exactly do we mean by the seasons of life?

A huge topic, much written about and studied over time by philosophers, theologians, writers, psychologists, scientists and the rest - all far more learned and intelligent than me. Potentially a very profound and deep subject involving the individuals' personal life journey and beliefs.

Given the busy time of year, plus the word limit, and a natural reticence to share thoughts not properly thought through, the aim here will be short and sweet.

The first thing that came into my head thinking about the seasons of life was the song 'Turn, Turn, Turn' recorded by the Byrds and based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 which tells us "to everything there is a season".

The words of both bible and song are a metaphorical reflection of the four seasons of the year Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. These seasons are regarded as demonstrating the cyclical nature of life and the importance of recognising that for each of us as individuals, there is a "right time" for actions and emotions which reflect human transitions and the unique challenges we face. For some this journey is about growing in faith and belief.

From my past literary efforts, you probably realise that I have a thing about trees. I believe the natural life cycle of trees can be viewed as a parallel of the seasons of life for each of us. Although there is "a set pattern" trees like people must adapt to the unexpected such as extremes of weather.

If we start with winter, as that is where we are now - trees are bare and appear to be dead. This is far from being the case. It is the season of rest, reflection, recuperation and preparation vital for both survival and renewal. Described as strength built in silence it is the forerunner of Spring- the season of new beginnings, renewal and hope. Trees come into leaf - a time of small steps towards growth and fulfilment in each of us.

Summer can be seen as a time of abundance but still requires effort to maintain, adapt and nurture goals. Autumn can be seen as a time of fulfilment but is also one of preparation and transition.

Leaves turn to gold and fall and the 4 seasons of life for the tree begins again.

This is where the analogy to trees differs from that of people. Trees must start to prepare for the cycle to repeat. For humans there is only one cycle. It has been suggested Spring is from 0 to 20 bringing growth, learning and self-discovery, Summer is aged 20 to 40 represented by personal and professional growth, Autumn is aged 40 to 60 - a period of reflection and preparation for the future while winter is 60+ when we may experience a slower pace of life focussing on health and the legacy we leave behind. Pat Bentley December 21st, 2025

Armchair Travellers

A three-centre trip to Argentina

We had the delights of merging a business trip with a family wedding in Buenos Aires or as the locals call it BA. Due to no direct flights from the UK, we had a quick flight to Frankfurt with a connecting night flight to BA, just over 13hrs but we were lucky to both manage to get some sleep.

We arrived mid-morning in BA and it was straight into a taxi to our hotel in the Palermo area of the city. We were recommended Palermo (our sister in law is from BA) due to a great location with a wide range of restaurants and close enough to the sights of the main city. Palermo and the wider city have a lovely feature of lots of parks in squares with great children's playgrounds.

Now some numbers to explain the scale of Argentina and BA.

- Argentina is 11.5 times bigger than the UK
- Buenos Aires Province, which is huge (over 300,000 km²), bigger than Italy
- Over 3 million people commute into the city each day for work!

We had a few days in the city to do a few meetings and see some of the sights. As usual we made use of the open top hop on hop off bus as it is a great way to get round the main sites. We took a taxi to the La Recoleta Cemetery to visit the grave of Eva Perón (Evita) and other notable Argentinians. We then joined the tour bus and enjoyed the sites of the city, lots of impressive buildings, beautiful monuments and public parks. We had a wander at the La Boca juniors football stadium and learnt more about the history of football in the city. The city is full of great museums and art galleries, with some impressive collections from around the world.

One of the other highlights of the city is all the street art and murals on the buildings – more than a few celebrating Messi – they are very proud of their local boy.

We then went to visit El Calafate is a town near the edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field in the Argentine province of Santa Cruz. We had a day trip to the National Park massive Perito Moreno Glacier. The town of El Calafate was very interesting, and we found a lovely restaurant to try some traditional Argentinian food – they cook the lamb hanging above a fire pit. The glacier was amazing; we went on a boat trip and bus trip to walkways to see the glacier close up. The 250 km² (97 sq. mi) ice formation, 30 km (19 mi) in length, is one of 48 glaciers fed by the Southern Patagonian Ice Field located in the Andes system shared with Chile which has a small part of the origins of the glacier. This ice field is the world's third largest reserve of fresh water.



Next on the adventure was the town of Bariloche famous for its Swiss-alpine atmosphere and delicious artisan chocolate. We enjoyed some days doing the famous drive around the lakes and enjoying the breathtaking views. Part of the journey is on the Ruta 40 Argentina's legendary, longest national highway, stretching over 5,000 km along the Andes from La Quiaca (north, near Bolivia) down through Patagonia to Cabo Vírgenes on the Atlantic coast.

Then back to BA to get ready for our nephew Josh's wedding, he has been living in BA for a few years now and is marrying the most beautiful local girl, Vale. The day started with pictures beforehand with the groom and then the church service at 7pm. After the church we went to a wedding venue close by for the civil service and then the wedding party, the party finished around 5am! I can say that the whole event was beautiful and the most joyous

Armchair Travellers (continued...)

wedding we have ever attended, the majority of the guest only speak Spanish, but we were made to feel so welcome and included in all of the fun and games. The food was amazing and in between each course we had dancing, pictures and so much love and laughter. If you ever get the chance to attend an Argentinian wedding – go for it!

With Argentina being such a big country, we will have to go back to explore more but for now it is back home to enjoy Christmas in Ipstones.



Eat Out Review

Somewhere to visit in the New Year:

Pipistrelle Cafe, Grindon

A little-known gem on the edge of the Staffordshire Moorlands, Pipistrelle Cafe, Grindon, is well worth a little trek “off the beaten track”.

An old barn has been transformed onto a cosy cafe, serving home-made, or locally sourced drinks, cakes and light meals.

Grindon itself is a sleepy village perched on the hills above the Manifold Valley and Thor’s Cave. It’s quiet and tranquil but boasts a beautiful little church dubbed “the cathedral of the moorlands” because of its elegant spire that can be seen from all around. There is also a fenced playing field that is perfect for letting your dog off the lead or for letting your children let off steam.



But back to the cafe, which is on the edge of the village on the road that leads down to Weag’s bridge and the Manifold way. With parking for a couple of vehicles, plenty of space to tie up your bike or your pony, and seating inside for about 12 people, it isn’t big, but the welcome you’ll receive certainly is. While we were there, we enjoyed delicious butternut squash soup and a hearty stew made from local Grindon beef. Both were served with home-made bread that was literally just out of the oven. We could not resist trying the cakes made by the cafe’s owner: the carrot cake in particular deserves a special mention.

There were vegan and gluten free options available too, and quite a large selection of beverages (which we didn’t risk as we had a reasonably long walk home!) Our host chatted amenably to us and the other clientele, and he was full of local knowledge. A keen runner and cyclist himself, he was happy to advise on routes for some walkers who wandered in while we were there.

Our dog and our muddy boots were accommodated with ease and one cosy corner of the cafe had a display of original artwork by a local artist. These paintings and some tea towels featuring maps of the local area were available to purchase.

In summary; you have possibly never considered a trip out to Grindon, but we thoroughly recommend that you do!

<https://pipistrellecafe.wordpress.com>

Open Saturday and Sunday 9am–5pm

Little Ipstones Kitchen

NEW YEAR GREETING FROM THE LITTLE IPSTONES KITCHEN

Getting into the swing of 2026, with sometimes excessive festive meals becoming a fond memory, thought I would share a couple of tasty comfort food recipes for the potentially nippy weeks ahead.

Tasty **Tarragon Chicken with Bacon and Fennel** is a comparative newcomer to this kitchen, though **Mince and Cheese Pie**, has regularly been a family favourite for a good many years. What is there not to like about pie and mash!

TARRAGON CHICKEN CASSEROLE

Ingredients to serve 4

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
150g/6oz. streaky bacon, sliced into 2 cm. pieces
1 small brown onion, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, crushed and 2 teaspoons of dried tarragon,
1 large fennel bulb, stem trimmed, cut into wedges
¾ cup of chicken stock (stock pot or cube)
¼ cup crème fraîche or sour cream
2 teaspoons grain mustard (I use Dijon as it was what I had)
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest, sea salt and ground pepper to taste
6-8 boneless, skin-off chicken thighs

Method

Preheat oven to 170fan bake/3 gas (I used slow cooker on low for 6/7 hours until chicken tender).

Heat the oil in a large ovenproof sauté pan or frying pan. Add bacon, onion, garlic and tarragon and cook for 8 minutes until lightly golden. Add prepared fennel and cook for 2 minutes. Whisk the stock, crème fraîche, mustard and lemon zest together then tip into the pan and season with salt and pepper.

Season the chicken thighs with salt and pepper and fold in half to make plump parcels. Nestle into the pan and spoon some sauce over each one.

Cook uncovered for 40-45 minutes or until the chicken is fully cooked, basting a couple of times during cooking.

If using the slow cooker method, you may need to thicken the sauce with cornflour to your liking.



I served with creamy mash, but rice or orzo pasta would also work well, and some green vegetables of your choice.

MINCE & CHEESE PIE

I am not a great fan of Cottage Pie, so use this method of cooking minced beef for most things, as I find it a tasty version.

Ingredients to serve 4 people or 2 and some to freeze for another time

Dash of olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
500g/1lb lean beef mince
1/3 cup plain flour
175ml/6floz beef stock (made from stock pot or cube)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Little Ipstones Kitchen

1 tablespoon tomato puree

2 teaspoons Vegemite or Marmite

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

1 cup grated tasty cheese

Shortcrust pastry - shop bought will be fine.

I use half butter, half lard and plain flour...so 425g/1lb plain flour 100g /4oz butter and lard, pinch of salt. Rub fats into flour until resembles bread crumbs, and add 6 tablespoons of very cold water to form soft dough.

Method

Heat oil in large pan, add onions and saute to soften. Add garlic and cook for 1-2 minutes, then add mince stirring constantly with wooden spoon, until browned Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute.

Add half the beef stock, stirring constantly. Once absorbed, slowly add remainder and season. Stir in tomato puree, Vegemite/Marmite and balsamic vinegar. Simmer for 15-20 minutes on a low heat. Stir constantly so the mince doesn't catch bottom of the pan.

Remove from heat and allow to cool before filling the pie to avoid soggy bottom.

Preheat oven to 180fan/gas 4.

On floured surface, roll out the pastry to 4mm thick and cut in half. Use one half to line a metal pie dish and allow to rest in the fridge for 20 minutes to help prevent shrinkage.

Sprinkle half of the grated cheese onto the pastry base, add the mince, and top with remaining cheese. Roll remaining pastry for lid. Paint the rim of the pie with egg-wash *(see below) and cover with pastry lid, pressing firmly down, then cutting slit in the centre of lid to allow steam to escape.

Glaze lid with egg wash* and bake for 35minutes or so, until it is golden brown.

**EGG WASH is 1 egg and 1 tablespoon cream whisked together.*

**HAPPY COOKING WITH
THE LITTLE IPSTONES KITCHEN**

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

Opening the front door on a very wet and gloomy morning a few days before Christmas, I found a pretty white Christmas Rose plant and card on the step, from those who organise the Ipstones Warm Welcome, every Friday afternoon in the Methodist Schoolroom.

Thank you so much for this thoughtful gesture which is really appreciated, as is a commitment to organising this great facility for us in our community, where there is always a warm and friendly welcome, together with delicious refreshments and lots of good conversation and banter.

Thanks to you all, my path has crossed with some lovely people, I probably would never have met had it not been for Warm Welcome.

—An 'Ippy' resident.

Appeals/Advertisements



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Love driving? Have time to spare?

Want to help others?

Moorlands Voluntary and Community Transport is looking for volunteer drivers who live in the **Ipstones** area, to take local people to medical appointments.

We will cover your out-of-pocket expenses.

All we ask is a little of your time.

*For further information
please contact:*

Sally Bentley
(Chief Officer) on

01538 386888

or email:

contact@mvct.co.uk



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Are you aware of someone who might truly benefit from the companionship and support our service offers? We would absolutely love to hear from you and discuss how we can make a positive impact together.

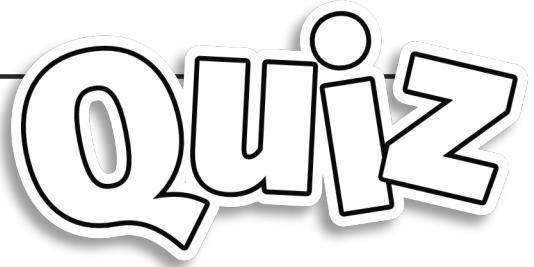
For more information:

Phone/Text: 07777 168857 or
Email: donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk
CHARITY NO. 1130259



Quiz

INTO JANUARY...



1. The first underground railway opened on 10th January, 1863 – where?
2. Which US President was inaugurated on 20th January 1961?
3. The January moon is named after which animal?
4. The January birth flower is?
5. What was January named after?
6. JR Tolkein, born on 3rd January, 1892, which book is he famous for?
7. Which Brazilian city was named after January, and can be translated by 'The River of January'?
8. Which currency was officially issued on the 1st January, 1999?
9. Which island became a federal prison on the 1st January, 1934?
10. If you take part in 'Dry January' what is your activity?
11. Which popular board game was invented in January, 1955?
12. In January 1959, what became the 49th State of the US?
13. On what date is the Feast of Three Kings celebrated?
14. Which Scottish post punk/indie rock band released the song 'Last January' in 2004?
15. According to folklore, a favourable January brings what?
16. In January 1986 a law was passed requiring motorists to do what?
17. Which music composer was born in January 1756?
18. The BBC began broadcasting their first programmes in January of which year?
1931, 1927 or 1924?
19. According to folklore, Fog January brings what?
20. The 31st day of January was added to the month by which former Roman dictator?

Answers: A QUIZ FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

1. St.Stephen
2. Cupid
3. 1843
4. Indian Ocean
5. Isaac Newton
6. Britain.
7. Christmas Crackers
8. Mistletoe
9. Silent Night
10. Nine Ladies Dancing
11. Charles Dickens
12. Jingle Bells
13. Home Alone
14. Four
15. 1957
16. Kilted Soldiers
17. Cadburys Roses
18. Tom or Gobbler
19. Wham
20. Japan

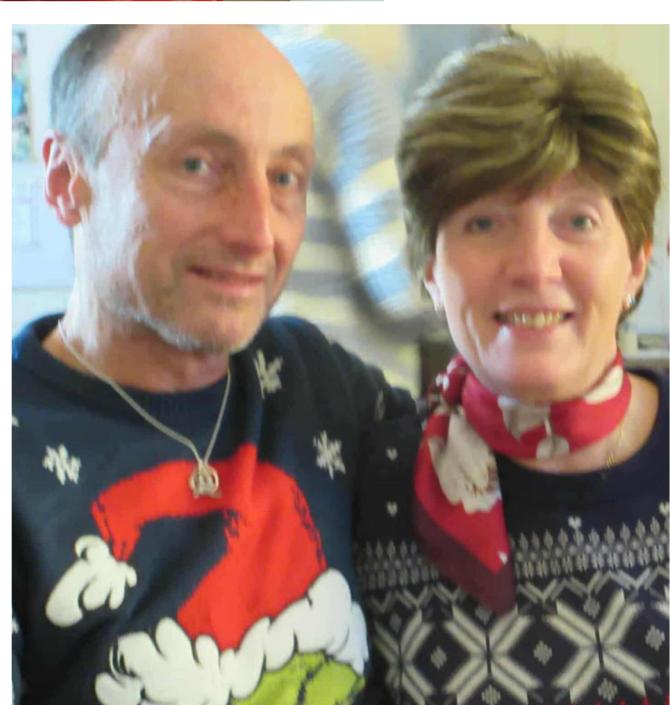
Warm Welcome

A FIRST FOR WARM WELCOME

Pot Luck events always work...with over 20 visitors, the first Warm Welcome Pot Luck afternoon was a great success with lots of friendly chat around the table, delicious food to share, and an array of Christmas jumpers.

Sincere thanks to the volunteers who gave up part of Boxing Day, to arrange this event for those of us who would have been home alone. The atmosphere was really uplifting. Great idea.

Sincerely, Geraldine and Barry Shuttleworth.



Community Supper Club

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

Community Supper Club

*A curry supper
followed by a talk from **Tribe**
about spicing up your cooking*

Monday 26th January 2026

6.30pm–9.00pm at Ipstones Memorial Hall

Includes a curry & rice supper (Bring your own drinks)

Free of charge, as the event is supported by:
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Community Social Action Fund

Booking essential (*to help with catering*)

Tickets available from:

Sally 07768 173850 or Margaret 07973 480184

Proceeds from raffle will go to maintaining Ipstones Memorial Hall as a community facility for all

Onecote Bingo

ONECOTE VILLAGE HALL WELCOMES YOU TO OUR FIRST BINGO OF 2026.

TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY – DOORS OPEN 6.45PM
**EYES DOWN 7.30PM. WE HAVE PLENTY OF QUALITY
GROCERIES ON OFFER.**



IN ADDITION, ON AVERAGE WE PAY OUT OVER £120 EACH MONTH IN CASH PRIZES. COME ALONG FOR A GOOD FUN SOCIAL NIGHT. NEW PLAYERS ALWAYS MADE WELCOME AND WILL BE GUIDED THROUGH THE NIGHT.

12 GAMES OF BINGO EACH PLAYING FOR LINES, CORNERS, 5 NUMBERS FOLLOWED BY FULL HOUSE ON EVERY GAME. PLENTY OF CHANCES TO WIN.

FURTHERMORE OUR LUCKY 7 GAME HAS ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND WILL BE AROUND £30 IN EITHER SAINSBURYS OR MORRISONS SHOPPING VOUCHERS.

FREE REFRESHMENTS AT THE INTERVAL.

Event Posters/Advertisements

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday January 24th

SHOWTIMES:
3:00pm- Disney's Frozen
6:00pm - Mamma Mia!

Come dressed up as your favourite character!



Suggested Donations:
Kids - £3
Adults - £5

Refreshments available or Bring your own.

Bookings taken by: Jacquey Millward on 07799 780561
Vicar Jane on 07771 556391 or on the door

Showing on a large cinema screen at St Leonard's Church, Ipstones, ST10 2LF
Registered Charity No. 620297

WARM WELCOME



AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BUTTERTON



EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 10.30 - 12.30

DATES IN SECOND HALF OF 2025

8TH JULY, 22ND JULY, 5TH AUGUST, 19TH AUGUST, 2ND SEPT, 16TH SEPT, 30TH SEPT, 14TH OCT, 28TH OCT, 11TH NOV, 25TH NOV, 9TH DEC, 23RD DEC

POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A COFFEE / TEA



NO CHARGE, BUT DONATIONS TO CHURCH FUNDS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED,
THANK YOU



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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www.pipistrellecafe.co.uk



IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

Beginners Computer Classes

Free of charge for local residents. Equipment provided.



Register your interest for our Spring 2026 classes

Contact Sally Wilson on 07768 173850 or sallycwilson1@outlook.com for more information.

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