

**February  
2026**

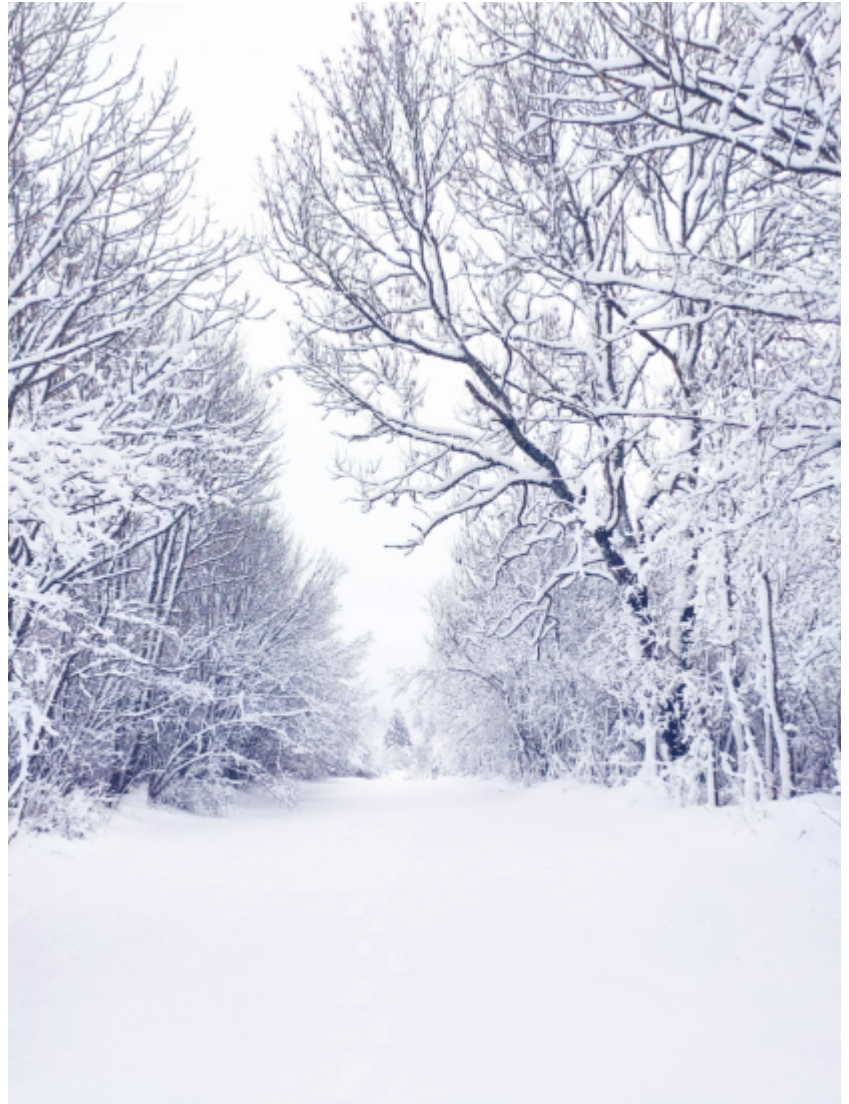
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## Contents

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	16
Ipstones Folk News	18
Ipstones Brownies	20
Ipstones Writers' Group	21
Armchair Travellers	23
Little Country Kitchen	24
Gardening	25
Quiz	28
Events & Advertisements	29

# Communities Newsletter

Ipstones, Onecote, Butterton, and  
Warslow with Elkstones



## Welcome to the February 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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**Tuesday 24th February**

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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 *(February 2026)*

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**Y**ou know how, in dreams you sometimes dream time is moving differently! It certainly feels to me as it is going both incredibly fast and incredibly slowly at the moment. Incredibly slowly because I can't imagine we will ever be retired and settled into Sithean Mor, our new(ish) home on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula (West Coast of Scotland) and incredibly fast because I really cannot imagine how I am going to get everything done by the 5<sup>th</sup> April. I wonder if Jesus felt time was doing the same thing as he approached his crucifixion? Or Mary as she waited for Jesus' birth. Or those Magi as they trekked for what we believe to be two years following the star to find Jesus.

January has gone in a flash. We kept going in the snow, with services on the Sunday and churches open for shelter as well as reflection and prayer. Epiphany arrived and the trees were taken down. Meetings began again and funerals too. Schools went back and assemblies began again. Luckily my neck problems are now manageable and treatment has begun so I can drive again, thank goodness, but a huge thank you to the wonderful folk who drove me all over the place for 5 weeks. Appointments were made (taking our chance to get hair, eyes and teeth sorted before we move to the wilds) and planning began for what Toby has called LAJ (Life after Jane) across our churches and the wider Deanery. And at the vicarage we have started to look at what goes with us and what needs to go to people who want/need the items.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> January a wide screen cinema opened up in Ipstones (and closed again) with St Leonards transformed into a cinema, complete with refreshment kiosk (yup, popcorn, ice-cream, sweeties, chocolate, coke, fizzy drinks and mulled wine, coffee and tea) and a showing of Frozen in the afternoon, and Mamma Mia at night. And yes, folk were singing along and dancing in the aisle at Mamma Mia. (no names no pack drill)

Butterton hosted Beer and Blessings again, at the Black Lion in Butterton and Onecote hosted one of the biggest funerals in my 4 years here, with about 300 folk attending the funeral of the late Norman Ainsworth. He is very much missed.

February is a very busy month faith wise this year because Easter is so early. We seem to rocket from Epiphany and Candlemas almost directly into Lent. A compression of time from celebrating Jesus' birth to preparing for his death. Jesus did not begin his ministry until he was in his early 30's and he was only travelling the land preaching, teaching healing and miracle making for just 3 years or so. And yet we have the whole of the New Testament which can take up to a year to read properly. So, time shifts about whoever we are, and what we are doing. But we know that God is timeless, eternity is forever and our lives on earth time limited but in eternity not.

However, back to earthly time, February 2026. And Lent. After a surprisingly busy January, despite the weather, Lent begins on the 18<sup>th</sup> February on Ash Wednesday. I sincerely hope you are all, as is traditional, using up your store cupboard items before the season of abstinence, Well, no, we don't do that now of course. But we do have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, my favourite version being just with butter, sugar and lemon juice! And then as is traditional we give things up. But years ago, I balked at that because the only person it affected was me. So now I fill up a box daily with foodbank items, one or two a day instead. I give what I choose to do without to others who are doing without all the time. So, I urge you to think about daily giving, rather than daily avoiding.

During Lent you could also join our Lent Study Group, reading a book by Teresa White called *'Hope and the Nearness of God'*, at Ipstones Vicarage on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 -8.30pm. Our study groups are relaxed, filled with laughter and fun but also with great discussion, explorations of our faith, and analysing the topic in hand coupled with coffee, tea and chocolate biscuits.

Let me know if you want to join us.

Have a good February all, every blessing...Jane

—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
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Elkstones	Myrtle Alcock (church leader)	01538 304225



# Church Services

Church Liturgical colours G =green R=red P=purple W=White	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany Candlemas W	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent G	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February Sunday next before Lent G	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February First Sunday of Lent P	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March Second Sunday of Lent P
Lectionary Readings Sunday Holy Communion	Malachi 3: 1-5 Psalm 24 Hebrews 2:14-end Luke 2: 22-40	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Psalm 136 Romans 8: 18-25 Matthew 6: 23- end	Exodus 24: 12- end Psalm 2 2 Peter 1: 16-end Matthew 17:1-9	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11	Genesis 12: 1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-7
Warslow	11.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	11.00 Morning Worship 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 Roger Cutts	<i>To other services</i>	10.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>
Onecote	9.30 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	9.30 Morning Worship Debra Tickell tbc	9.30 Morning Worship Roger Cutts	<i>To other services</i>	9.30 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held
Ipstones	3.30 BCP Evensong Revd Jane Held	11.00 Holy Communion Revd Arthur Hack 7.30 Compline John Flint	<i>To other services</i>  1.30 Baptism Revd Jane Held	11.00 Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	3.30 BCP Evening Prayer Roger Cutts

## SPECIAL SERVICES: 18<sup>th</sup> February: Ash Wednesday

- 9.30 am and 7.00pm Ipstones: Jane
- 11.00 am Longnor: Jane

**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

## 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
1 <sup>st</sup> February	n/a	n/a
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Zoe Johnson	Pat Nash
15 <sup>th</sup> February	n/a	n/a
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	John Flint	Ann Jackson

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# Church Services

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Readers		
1 <sup>st</sup> February	n/a	n/a
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Linda Malyon	David Jack
15 <sup>th</sup> February	n/a	n/a
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Ann Jackson	Jacquey Millward
Eucharistic Assistant		
1 <sup>st</sup> February	n/a	n/a
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Ann Jackson	n/a
15 <sup>th</sup> February	n/a	n/a
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Jacquey Millward	n/a
Refreshments		
1 <sup>st</sup> February	n/a	n/a
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Volunteers	Zoe Johnson
15 <sup>th</sup> February	n/a	n/a
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Volunteers	Jacquey Millward

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## Prayer Corner

Creator of the world, help us Love one another,  
Help us care for each other as sister or brother,  
That friendship may grow from nation to nation.  
Bring peace to our world, O Lord of Creation.  
Amen

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# St. Leonard's Ipstones

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## St Leonard's, Ipstones

January was a relatively quiet month. Snow and ice did not deter a few brave souls from Sunday worship during the cold spell, not during the fog, wind and rain since.



A relatively quiet month for St Leonards, although not without a lot of everyday stuff. Visting Ringers plus the quarter peal brought in the ringers. Clearing away the Christmas decorations lots of others. Cleaning, tidying, sorting and making sure it stays a welcoming place for visitors. And then it suddenly became a lively Cinema.

Cinema day was a brilliant success, largely due to Jacquey, Robert, Barry, Liz, Neil and some grandchildren! Frozen was great fun, popcorn everywhere, children in a wide variety of Frozen character costumes, ice creams, sweets and pop. Mamma Mia was equally good fun, and included a range of "should know better" slightly older folk dancing in the aisle and singing along with abandon.

February of course is also quiet, and goodness knows what the weather will do but it does mark the beginning of Lent.

We will celebrate Holy Communion with Ashing (*or to use its proper title; the imposition of ashes*) at 9.30am and 7.00pm at St Leonards. Solemn services, these two Holy Communions, where Christians gather to share in repentance for the sins of their lives, seek forgiveness and seek to begin a time of fasting, learning and self-sacrifice, modelled on Jesus Christ's 40 days in the wilderness. For your fun loving, slightly irreverent, and informal vicar, it also marks a period of greater formality and deep reflection which is hard work for her each year!

This year will be tinged with sadness as it also marks the beginning of my last seven weeks with you all.

However, every day and every week of that time will be precious time, making my lasting memories of the wonderful villages I have spent the last 4.5 years.

There will be more in next month's magazine about the "leaving" process but my very last service will be at 3.00pm at St Leonards on Easter Sunday afternoon. A date for your diaries.



## LENT STUDY GROUP



**17<sup>TH</sup> February,  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

St Leonards Vicarage  
7.00-8.30pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Studying  
*"Hope and the Nearness of God"*  
by Teresa White  
Published: 2022 Bloomsbury Press

**You do not need** to know a lot about christianity, theology or the bible. You just need to be curious – to want to learn more about christian faith.

*It's best to buy your copy second-hand (far cheaper) - try e-bay*

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**Please let Revd Jane know if you  
are coming: 07771 556391 or  
jane@janeheld.co.uk**

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# St Bartholomew's Butterton Correspondent

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## Butterton News...albeit late...apologies!

St Bartholomew's Churchwardens and PCC members wish all readers a Happy New Year. What a year it promises to be. Vicar Jane leaves us to start a new chapter of her life with Emma in the north of the country. We have much to thank her for....She will be an extremely hard act to follow but finding someone to follow her we must. Let's pray who comes to minister to us next is as much fun and has as much of a guiding light as she has had.

So, before I relegate my 2025 calendar to the archives...

## St Bartholomew's Church

What a busy busy December. Never known a December like it!

**The Lottery Ball Draw** on 13<sup>th</sup> December....Winners were...1st prize of £40 - Nick and Yvonne Pope; 2nd prize of £20 - Me/Maggie Risby; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £10 - Lesley Atkins and Christmas bonus prize of £10 to Edna Thompson.

It is coming up to Lottery Ball renewal time. We start afresh in February. Please let us know if you would like to come aboard or (hopefully not) come off the list. It is £1 per calendar month/ £12 per annum for each ball number and you can have as many numbers as you like.

Thanks to the ladies who decorated the church for Christmas.

**The Live Nativity on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December.** What can I say....It was Vicar Jane's dream come true.

Everyone who attended (*and it was really well attended*) will have their lasting memories.

Mine will be Angels Patrick and Bruce atop and abseiling down the church tower and Matt doing his best to bugle the Wise Men from A to B.

Approximately £250 was collected for the Salvation Army and Baby Jesus gifts at the crib in the Bus Shelter (*sorry....stable*) went to the Leek foodbank.

Following the event as many as possible visited the Inn for mulled wine and mince pies.

The atmosphere was buzzing. Thanks to Rosie O'Hara for writing the script, James Hodgson for lighting and sound, the marshals and for all the actors, actresses and animals who took part. Not sure we can make this an annual tradition though!

**The Carol Service** the following day was attended by a 60+ congregation. Readings and Carols were followed by mulled wine and mince pies. A raffle was held. Thanks to everyone who donated their time and gifts to make it so successful. Thanks to Hannah and Matt for the star prize of the voucher.

**Christmas Day Holy Communion** was followed by a tot of ginger wine and (*leftover*) mince pies.

We all then left the comfort of St Bartholomew's to enjoy the rest of Christmas.

## Butterton Village Hall

Christmas festivities at the Hall included the Christmas Fayre on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Christmas Bingo on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to either/both events which raised much needed funds for the Village Hall. A Christmas bonus was the arrival in the cold and rain of new gates on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. They replace the old wooden ones and are much stronger and more secure in the event we should encounter another 'invasion' like the one we experienced in 2024!

Thanks to our generous sponsor Barry (Baz) Rowley. Barry has now seen the replacement of new gates for both the Church and Village Hall. We cannot thank him enough.

Thanks also to IronAge Designs Ltd of Leek for yet another amazing feat of engineering.

## Butterton Parish Council

The Council meets again on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 at 7pm at the Village Hall.



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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 would have lost heart, unless I believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord, in the land of the living"* —Psalm 27: 13

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I think we can forgive the weather being wet, cold and windy when you look around and see the snowdrops starting to peek out. The season is moving on and making preparations for spring.

So must we, moving on to Rev Jane's retirement. We had a very good leadership meeting this week at The Vicarage. Jane has informed us that she was already planning the services for us up to May/June. I don't think we could expect anything different from Jane!

Getting back to the services, it seems we will be having one Holy Communion a month with Morning Prayer services on the other Sundays, however, if we can find Vicars who would take an extra service per month then we will have two Holy Communions per month, there will be more information about services in the coming months and on the Church noticeboard.

Im very pleased to announce that Toby has agreed to take on the role of Lay Chair for the Leadership Team after Easter. This was decided at our last meeting, I understand that the handover from Jane is going well.

As well as this, Jane has agreed to give us a talk about her life entitled "The Wonderings of an Old Vicar" this will be on February 21st at 7pm in the Village Hall with light refreshments included in the small entry fee with all proceeds going to church. Knowing Jane it will be very humorous, interesting and entertaining.

Just a few words concerning the late Mr Norman Ainsworth's funeral on January 19th. The Church and Village Hall were both full with the service being relayed into the hall. I'm sure everyone will agree that this shows how well respected he was. Our thoughts and prayers go to Irene and their family.

Our Mothering Sunday service on March 15th at 9.30am and will be taken by Roger. As usual there will be posies for all the mums and home made Simnel Cake.

Jane's last service before she retires will be at St Leonards in Ipstones at 3pm. However her last service at Onecote will be Palm Sunday March 29th at the usual time of 9.30am.

I think that is all for now, best wishes to everyone,  
—Jean

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# Ipstones Methodist Church

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## February 2026

It was interesting to note that for many people Christmas ended on Boxing Day and the lights came down and the tree got chucked into the garden. The tradition of the twelve days of Christmas ending on the 5<sup>th</sup> January is becoming lost. I suspect this is largely because the world in general is not much influenced by the church calendar so the time between Christmas Day and Epiphany (*the coming of the Wise Men*) is no longer meaningful.

During February we will celebrate, commemorate or observe Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday which will mark the beginning of Lent.

The origin of the English word Lent is a shortening of Old English lencten, meaning springtime or the lengthening of daylight.

Lent began as an early Christian period of fasting and penitential preparation for Easter, gradually developing into a 40-day period, recalling the 40 days of Christ in the wilderness, as well as the 40-day fasts of Moses and Elijah.

In fact, the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day is 46 days because the Sundays are not counted.

Historically Lenten observance was dominated by fasting, often with only one meal a day, typically taken in the late afternoon or after 3 p.m.

The permitted meal was simple: bread, vegetables, salt and water, with abstinence from meat, alcohol and often from dairy and eggs.

Shrove Tuesday was taken as an opportunity to use up any ingredients that would not be needed during Lent, hence the emphasis on pancakes.

Most Christians who observe Lent today do so through a mix of modest fasting or “giving



something up,” along with extra prayer, worship, and charitable giving, rather than the very strict fasts of the early church.

What changes would you be thinking of making from February 17? Give up chocolate for a few weeks? Or abstain from alcohol? Try to do a good deed for somebody every day during Lent? Collect small change in a jar every day and make a donation to a worthy cause at Easter? Or you may have other ideas of your own...—Roger Cutts

## SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY

- **February 1st** at 10.30am  
Deacon Peter Ogle
- **February 8th** at 10.30am  
Rev Julie Hassall
- **February 15th** at 10.30am  
Dr Lynne Bradbury
- **February 22nd** at 10.30am  
Circuit Service at Trinity Church, Leek

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(a women led, global, ecumenical movement)

*'I will give you rest, come'*

Prepared by Christian Women from Nigeria.

**Friday March 6th, 2026 at 2pm**

IPSTONES METHODIST CHURCH

Everyone Welcome.

Coffee, toast, cake and chat  
In the Methodist schoolroom

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Tuesdays 10am – 12noon*

**Everyone Welcome!**



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# Elkstones & Warslow News

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## Warslow Church News

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We are very pleased to report that the Carol Service was very well attended. It was great to see so many people from our local community join us to celebrate the hope that the birth of Jesus brings.

We thank our local vocalist Tim Robinson for his beautiful rendition of the Holly and the Ivy. We are also indebted to Ged for his wonderful playing of the organ. Thank you to our readers for their efforts and to Jane for an uplifting service of light and hope.

Judy, once more did her infamous Hamper Raffle and raised £130.00 for the Church. Thank you to her for her sterling efforts to achieve this!

### The winners were:

Susan Critchlow, Lynn Bingo, Mary Riley, S Reynolds, Liz Cope and Margaret Massey.

The service concluded with mulled wine and mince pies provided and served by the 'Church Team' – thanks as always girls!

The School Christmas service was also a joyous occasion – it was heart warming to see the church full of young children and their families.

### UPDATE

At a recent PCC meeting it was decided that we would like to give something back to our community and encourage the young people of the school. We are proposing an Easter Egg hunt after our Easter Service. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPDATES...

### Fundraising

We are hoping to hold a Flower Festival this year – if you would like to take part – please let Judy or Emma know. No pressure or prior knowledge required just a willing heart!  
More details to follow...

### Spring Clean

We are looking for ladies and gents to give the church a spring clean – refreshments will be provided for the workers. Please contact Judy if you are willing to help for an hour or so.

### January Service

We thank Toby Gaddum for taking our service in January his sermon was well received and was food for thought and action!

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Ruth Wildblood the daughter of Sylvia and the late Jim Fradley, she grew up in Warslow with her family. A service in celebration of her life will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

### Forthcoming Services

Our next Service is Holy Communion at 1am on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026.

### And Finally...

We wish Margaret Gregory and Miriam Kirkham a very Happy 95th Birthday for 26th February!

What a mementos occasion for twin sisters to achieve. They were both stalwarts of Warslow Church, who worked hard with their late Brother, John for many years. We hope you enjoy your well deserved celebrations!



## St John's Church, Elkstones

Our next service will be Holy Communion on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

The celebrant will be Rev. Jane Held.

### February Cleaning and Flowers

Sally Faulkner. *(No flowers in Lent)*

# Lectionary Readings/Life Events

## Weekly Lectionary Readings

*set Bible readings for February 2026*

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Malachi 3: 1-5; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2:14-end;  
Luke 2: 22-40

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Genesis 1:1-2:3 Psalm 136; Romans 8: 18-25;  
Matthew 6: 23-end

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Exodus 24: 12-end; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1: 16-end;  
Matthew 17:1-9

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32;  
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Genesis 12: 1-4a; Psalm 121;  
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-7

## Life Events

*(January 2026)*

### Funerals

*Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory*

19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Norman Ainsworth**

*at Onecote*



**Ipstones Village Shop**  
*Traditional Shop & Post Office*

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

*Serving the people of Ipstones  
for over 100 years*



Proud to support the Church Magazine

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# Thought For The Month

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This month LENT begins. LENT is a Christian observance lasting 40 days.

It begins on ASH WEDNESDAY and leads through to EASTER, focussing on prayer, self reflection, and sometimes fasting.

Maybe you have heard comments about '*giving up*' luxuries like chocolate during LENT. That can work, especially if the money that would have been spent is put into a charity box.

However, instead of '*giving up*' how about giving more.

If a kindness is done to you, how about generating more kindness by passing a kindness on to someone else.

'No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted' (Aesop).

In our church porch are boxes where food collections are made for Food banks. Could you donate food items during LENT and beyond?

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

I am making a way in the wilderness & streams in the wasteland"

—*Isaiah chapter 43, verse 18 & 19*

The more you give, the more you get.

The more you laugh, the less you fret.

The more you live unselfishly

The more you live abundantly

The more of everything you share

That life is good,& friends are kind.

For only what we give away

Enriches us from day to day

—(*anon*)

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Loving Heavenly Father,  
Help us all to see life as a blessing from you,  
to share with all we meet.

AMEN

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# Notes From The Tower / Warm Welcome

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I wrote in Decembers Magazine that we had had rather a frustrating year in 2025. December livened up rather with Christmas ringing and we also rang the Old Year out and the New Year in. I also wrote about

the visit of two ringers from Haughton, near Stafford, 12 months ago, to ring a Quarter Peal with three of us from St Leonard's, and that we hoped to build on the experience.

At our practice on the evening of New Years Day there were just six of us so we decided to attempt a Quarter Peal on our own and were successful at our first attempt. It was a first QP for three of our ringers and a first on a working bell for two more. I was extremely pleased with all of them. Let's hope that we continue to make further progress, I have plenty of ideas for the future.

There has been a further Quarter peal in January by a visiting band of North Staffordshire ringers.  
—David Jack, Tower Captain.

## Ipstones—Staffordshire—St Leonard

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

### 1272 PLAIN BOB MINIMUS

Was rung in this Tower in 42 Mins.

Treble: Phil J Lowe

2. Liz A FitzGibbon

3. David W Jack

4. Judith H Ward

5. Robert W White

Tenor: Jacqui A Millward

Conducted by David W Jack

First Local Band Q P

First Q P 1, 5, & 6

First inside 2 & 4

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## Warm Welcome

Warm Welcome. Three years of non-stop, never missed a day, warm welcome sessions on a Friday afternoon is thriving. 2.00–5.00pm every Friday afternoon at the Methodist School Room, Brookfield Rd, Ipstones. It is very informal, and very friendly.

There are no compulsory activities, and no expectations of anyone. We ensure there are newspapers to read, jigsaws to do, and some people like to do a crossword or a quiz, but lots of folk don't do anything but relax, chat, eat the food provided, and make friends.

Others sit quietly reading, or chatting to one or two others, and most give a hand in the kitchen.

There are always things to eat and drink, savoury and sweet, and lots of folk drop by just for a quick

cuppa and catch up on their way to and from the butcher, post office and shop. Sometimes children are there too, and occasionally a dog.

Some people think it's all organised and a bit jolly hockey sticks, or that lots of patronising do-gooders are there, but no, it is none of those things. Nor is it charity. It's completely laid back and always full of laughter.

After three years though we are running short of volunteers. We really need more to ensure we have need two volunteers each week, plus someone to shop, someone to bake/make, and someone to open up each week.

If you are interested come along and have a chat with the volunteers on shift or talk to Revd Jane or Revd Julie. You can commit to as little or as much as you want to do.

# 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

## TREVOR BOWYER — ELECTRICS —

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18th edition IEE wiring regulations



## Ipstones Tiny Tots Nursery

Church Lane, Ipstones. ST10 2LD



Telephone **01538 266000**

Email: [office@ipstonestinytots.co.uk](mailto:office@ipstonestinytots.co.uk)

Website: [www.ipstonestinytots.co.uk](http://www.ipstonestinytots.co.uk)

Caring for Children 6 mos to 9 yrs 7.30am – 6.00pm

**Open 51 weeks a year** | Flexible Care / Hourly Rates

FREE funded spaces for all 3 and 4 year old children  
(and some 2 year olds)

OFSTED rated '**OUTSTANDING**'



Registered Ofsted No. 218443  
Registered Charity No. 1035202



## 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	Computer Classes — 1.30–2.30pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Sally Wilson 07768 173850
	Pilates — 6pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	<a href="mailto:Louise@podumpilates.com">Louise@podumpilates.com</a>
TUESDAY	Seated Pilates — 11am ( <i>weekly</i> )	Louise 07956 675683 or <a href="mailto:Louise@podumpilates.com">Louise@podumpilates.com</a>
	Ipstones Writers — 1.45pm ( <i>last Tuesday of month</i> )	Geraldine 01538 266633
	Yoga — 5:45pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Natalie 07970 940718
	Ipstones Youth Club	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>2<sup>nd</sup> 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
FRIDAY	Seated Pilates — 12noon	Louise 07956 675683
SATURDAY	Dolly Birds Café — 9am–1pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Ann Mace 07518 472770
	Little Kickers Football — 9:30am ( <i>weekly</i> )	Steve North
SUNDAY	Dolly Birds Café — 9am – 1pm ( <i>weekly</i> )	Ann Mace 07518 472770
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:
Sat. 7th Feb. 11am (Gallery)	Ipstones Memorial Hall <b>Centenary Event Group</b> <i>Everyone welcome to share memories of the Hall.</i>	Geraldine Shuttleworth 01538 266633 <a href="mailto:mhallcentenary@gmail.com">mhallcentenary@gmail.com</a>
Mon. 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 7pm	Storytelling Evening	Geraldine Shuttleworth 01538 266633
Sat. 28 <sup>th</sup> March 11am	Fused Glass Workshop with Paula Andrews	Paula Andrews 07879 368811
Sat. 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Ipstones 74 <sup>th</sup> Agricultural Show	Jeff Chadwick 07765 236824

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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

#### January 2026

£20	No. 169	Gary Ball
£15	No. 181	Steve Jones
£10	No. 35	Barbara Goodwin

250 CLUB

250 CLUB

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# Ipstones Folk News

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## February 2026

The Folk Club in Ipstones continues to thrive. About 14 of us met together on the third Wednesday of January and enjoyed a time of singing, playing and refreshments.

Ipstones is becoming a focus for folk in the Staffordshire Moorlands and we have a number of exciting events planned for the coming year.  
—See separate article from Malcom Hawksworth.

Our next meeting will be a sing-around on the third Wednesday of February – that's February 18th at 7:30pm in the Methodist School Room.  
Doors open at 7pm (*Listeners also welcome*).

We are now selling tickets for our next guest night—Keith and Sylvia Needham on Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> March. Close harmony traditional English music with concertina accompaniment.  
Tickets £10 each (*under 18's half price*) please call or text me on 07979 755210 to book. —Roger Cutts

## PEACE THROUGH FOLK NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Click here to hear and join in with two songs of hope for 2026

[> Live recordings of - 'Season of Peace' and 'Reconciliation'](#)

## What happened in 2025?

**The Ipstones Folk Club** has now become well established in its new home and enjoys the wonderful acoustics in the Methodist Church on the third Wednesday of each month throughout the year, with regular sing (& play) around sessions, mixed with occasional Guest Nights.  
Our thanks to our hosts - Roger and Dora Cutts.

**16<sup>th</sup> April: 'The Ghost of a Sailor's Talking blues'.**  
This was the charity premiere of 'Sailor Swift' - aka Pete Morton. Supported by Ann & Tim Mundy and Dave Joynson before a capacity audience, the event raised £500 which was added to the Peace through Folk charity appeal\*.



**13<sup>th</sup> July: Rick Ford**, a founding director of Peace through Folk passed away. He was a hugely significant member of the team and a dear

friend. Rick lives on through his songs, writings and our memories.

**19<sup>th</sup> November:** Another full house - this time to hear Kath Ord perform a set dedicated to 'The Joni Mitchell Song Book'.  
Supported by Ann and Tim Mundy.

At the end of the concert, Kath was joined by Ann & Tim to perform a moving rendition of 'Across the Border', which was written by Rick Ford.  
Ctrl Click to see > [Rick Ford and Kath Ord live at Mixon in April 2022](#)

## December

\*Donations totalling £4,500 were divided between our chosen charities: **Unicef, Save the Children, Medecins Sans Frontieres and War Child.**  
Each were selected because they provide aid to children who are victims of war.

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## Peace Through Events Planned For 2026 (*including Guest Nights*)

Join us at our regular Ipstones Folk Club sessions on the third Wednesday of each month to enjoy the great acoustics at our venue The Methodist Church, Ipstones, ST19 2LY, Staffordshire.

**February 18<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around session



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# Ipstones Folk News *(continued...)*

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**March 18<sup>th</sup>:** GUEST NIGHT  
with Keith Kendrick & Sylvia  
Needham.

Keith and Sylvia sing mainly  
English traditional and

traditionally influenced contemporary songs with a  
clear focus on sea shanties, sea songs and maritime  
material from all over the globe.

They have a wide-ranging repertoire, frequently  
accompanying themselves and playing lively dance  
tunes on three different systems of the English  
concertina. With strong voices and compatible  
styles, they produce striking and sympathetic  
acapella harmonies with a formidable history of  
performing experience. Their recorded work is  
matched only by their live gigs which are always a  
vocal and musical revelation as well as a hoot and,  
when they're not doing that, you'll probably find  
them playing for Winster Morris.

Call Sylvia (0788 761 3227), Malc or Roger Cutts  
for tickets for this event £10 or buy online via:  
<https://wegottickets.com/event/690490>  
(£10 + WGT booking fee)

**April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around session

**May 20<sup>th</sup>:**

GUEST NIGHT with Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer  
call Malc or Roger Cutts for tickets for this event -  
£10 or buy online via:  
<https://wegottickets.com/event/690495>  
(£10 + WGT booking fee)

**June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around session

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around session

**August 19<sup>th</sup>:**

GUEST NIGHT with Tom Perry & Clive Brooks  
call Malc or Roger Cutts for tickets for this event £10  
or buy online via:  
<https://wegottickets.com/event/690497>  
(£10 + WGT booking fee)

**September 16<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around session

**October 21<sup>st</sup>:** Sing (& play) around session

**Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>:**

PEACE DAY & CONCERT

Line up provisionally includes Reg Meuross, Leek  
Peace Choir (\*\*), The Unhappy Mundys,  
The Weasels unplugged (\*\*) and others.  
(\*\*details to be confirmed)!

**For more information** and general ticket details  
contact by email: [peacethroughfolk@gmail.com](mailto:peacethroughfolk@gmail.com)  
or by phone or text to:  
Malc **07494 738939** or Roger Cutts **07979 755210**

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## STOP PRESS

Our friends NANCY KERR & JAMES FAGAN will be  
appearing at The Foxlowe, Leek on **February 27<sup>th</sup>**.  
Presented by 'Live To Your Living Room'  
(*This is not a Peace through Folk event*).

For details and tickets for this concert contact  
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/catmcgill/2000880>



### **In 2026 why not start an exciting new adventure!**

Do you love working with young people?  
Want to make a real difference while having lots of fun?

**We're looking for enthusiastic new Brownie leaders to join our team in Ipstones**

Wednesday evenings 6–7.30pm

As a Brownie leader, you'll help girls aged 7-10 build confidence, learn new skills, and earn exciting badges through games, adventures, crafts and teamwork.

No two meetings are ever the same.

Every week is full of laughter, creativity and unforgettable moments.

**No experience needed**

just enthusiasm, kindness and a willingness to get involved.

**Full training and support are provided.**

If you are ready to start an exciting new journey and help girls shine,  
we would love to hear from you.

**Join us and create memories that last a lifetime.**

**Call Jo Hopkinson 07790 976211 or Angela Buckley 07572 491255**

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# Ipstones Writers' Group

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## NOTES FROM THE IPSTONES WRITERS

On a blustery and nippy afternoon, we drew the tables up to the radiator and 8 of us had an enjoyable time, sharing stories, drinking coffee and eating cake, during our first get together of 2026.

The writing prompt had been 'A Memorable...?' which some thought had been too wide, however, some interesting and very varied contributions were achieved.

One wrote about growing up with two siblings in the 1950's, when money was tight and spaghetti came out of a tin, corned beef was often served as it was cheap back then, and after midweek only dad had meat. A memorable meal had been when she went for tea with a school friend, who's mum put some sticks into a saucepan of water and she was introduced to pasta!

Clearing out mum and dad's place after they had gone, produced lots of childhood memories for another member.

Someone admitted they had missed the topic, and produced an amusing ditty from the heart around her thoughts and struggles.

One contribution 'A memorable cup of tea with a memorable character' - Geoff was a prankster with the young lads he worked with down the pit. Enjoying a mug of tea from Geoff's flask he had taken to work along with home-made pies, the apprentice told us how he noticed some false teeth at the bottom of the mug. Geoff said 'Oh I wondered where they had gone', reaching for them and shaking before returning to his mouth with a grin.

We were taken to the remote mountainous forest region of Sardinia, very much bandit country, where one member enjoyed lunch served by the shepherds, who sang after serving the meal. She

had never seen her husband drink wine from such a small container, before or since.

Running the London Marathon with 40,000 others on a day of blistering heat, to mark a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, was a memorable occasion for one of the group, who raised £1,000 for Alzhiemers in the process. She spoke of the crowds spurring the runners on to complete the 26-mile run, Tower Bridge looking resplendent in the sun, the Cutty Sark and other familiar landmarks.

Memories of History and quotations had fascinated one member with so much to think about, reflecting on horrific things from history...9-11 disaster, Lockerbie, and the Dunblane Massacre. She shared watching Winston Churchill's funeral on tv with her parents 61 years ago, both of whom had served in World War 11, this occasion being the first time she had seen them cry.

Finally, he told us he was made redundant in his 20's from his IT job, and the reasonable pay out of the day, which should have spent on items for their new home. Instead, it was a skiing holiday in Scotland, but on the way home their car was hit at speed from behind which causing them to crash into the car in front and so on...a pile up was caused. Getting out of the car, his wife didn't ask how he was, her first words being 'Check the skis'!!

So as always, the time just flew by sharing stories around just two words 'A memorable...?'

We agreed it did seem strange meeting on Tuesday afternoon instead of Monday morning for so many years, but it was another good time with fellow 'penners'.

—Geraldine on behalf of Ipstones Writers.

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# **Ipstones Writers' Group** *(continued...)*

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## **Memories**

Standing by the window, Jessie gazes around the now empty little room, the faded carpet reflecting the sun from the uncurtained window. It used to be her room. The place where she once played her music, dreamed her dreams, entertained her friends and - occasionally - did her homework. A mixture of feelings come over her – sad to be saying goodbye to it, although she hasn't used it for years, but also a warm feeling of the good times spent here.

It's only to be expected to be assailed by memories at a time like this, when she is clearing out what she has for many years thought of as Mum and Dad's place. Now they are both gone, and she lives far away. They moved here, the three of them, when she was only 7 years old. Of the time before then, though she has only a few vague pictures in her mind.

The other house was small, in a little street, no garden to speak of. She can remember sitting at a wooden table in the kitchen eating her breakfast. Trying to keep warm, damp clothes airing near the cooker. Her mother would be opposite, adding up numbers in a cheap exercise book, her purse emptied on the table, just a few coins, the odd note. Which she would eventually put back, with a sigh, snapping it shut.

Another memory was the view from the top of the stairs down to the darkness of the little tiled hallway, with just a strip of light coming from under the door to the 'front room' as her Mum always called it.

She associates that view with a bad feeling, her parents either talking in low worried voices or, worse than that, shouting at each other. Then the door would be flung open, and an angry voice would cry "what are you doing there, get back to bed."

Her granny's house wasn't far away, and although just as small, it was at least warm and welcoming.

Even now the smell of fresh bread from a baker's will take her right back to that cosy little kitchen. It was her bolthole after school. An hour or so of peace before her Mum came to fetch her.

She also remembers one afternoon in summer, lying on the little sofa there while her Mum and granny were talking. She was dozing and their voices sounded somehow far away. Then she heard her name.

"It isn't fair on Jessie to stay here. If he's been offered it, you should take it," the older woman was saying.

Suddenly she wasn't sleepy any more.

But she didn't open her eyes.

Even at that young age she knew they would stop talking if she showed any signs of being awake. "It is better money." Her mum murmured. "But so far away. We wouldn't be able to see you so often." "I'll manage. I'm not incapable of getting on a bus you know!" After a short silence she continued. "And it might be good to put some distance between him and...well, you know."

Frustratingly they said no more on the subject but went on to talk about a shop in town that had some pretty curtain material.

Standing here today in the empty room, looking out of the window, a flash of another memory came to her. That day she was standing in the old house looking down from the bare window of her parents' bedroom. She could see out to the street where a huge van was parked, and her Dad was helping the men put their few possessions inside.

Her mum must have been in the kitchen or may have gone out to get them a takeaway or something.

A woman was standing on the other side of road. Someone Jessie had never seen before, dressed in a short denim skirt and bright lipstick. Funny the details that Jessie remembered. The woman crossed the road to say something to her Dad, but he turned away from her. She tried to grab his arm, but he shook her off, and bent his head to say something.

The woman then looked very angry, but glancing around at the windows of the other houses in the street, she eventually turned on her heel, and strode away.

And later that day they had arrived here, with all the excitement of her new room, and a lovely garden with grass to run on and a swing. That was when things seemed to get better and better.

But for some reason, she had never talked to her Mum or Dad about what she had seen that day.

—Dora Cutts Jan 2026

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# Armchair Travellers

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## Borth-Y-Gest, North Wales

We have travelled near and far with Armchair Travel and shared adventures with the Ippy Trippers, but ninety miles up the road is the picturesque village of Borth y Gest, in North Wales, which we discovered only a few years ago.

We soon realised was just our sort of place for a short break, so much so, we returned later and hired one of the three-story houses right on the beach, which was an enjoyable experience.

Borth y Gest is a pretty place to wander with its pastel-coloured terraced cottages cascading down to the pretty waterfront. There is no shop in the small village so best to take basic supplies with you, just a café to sit and people watch and enjoy delicious ice cream, or a restaurant just a few steps away. The town of Porthmadog with supermarkets, fish and chips, independent businesses to browse, and train trips is just around the headland, a mile or so away.

Further along the Llyn Peninsular there are many places to visit, Aberdaron, Abersoch, Portmerion Village and more, all within a short drive to pass away a few hours. Further down the road through Porthmadog you can find Harlech with its castle, and Barmouth with the not to be missed quirky eatery, Davy Jones Locker on the harbour-side, an interesting coffee or lunch pit stop.

On another short break we visited Aberdovey in mid Wales, which was also very enjoyable, and discovered Camease at the top of Anglesey—now how did we miss this quaint little village all these years?

So, I hope you enjoy discovering, or rediscovering Wales, so near and almost on our doorstep. There is so much more to it than day trips to Llandudno.

Porthmadog is well served by trains in all directions, and is a railway enthusiasts mecca.

Network Rail will take you to Criccieth or Pwllheli to the West or to Harlech, Barmouth, Aberdyfi, Machynlleth (*change for Aberystwyth*) down the coast, a beautiful trip.

From Blaenau Ffestiniog the Conway Valley line will take you to Bettws y Coed, Conway and Llandudno.

At Harbour Station, there is an excellent gift shop, Spooners Bar and Restaurant, and lots of outside seating to watch the trains go by.

On the narrow gauge, the Ffestiniog Railway will take you behind Steam inland to Blaenau Ffestiniog, where it is possible to have a tour of a slate mine and catch a later train back to Porthmadog. Or a shorter ride to Tan y Bwlch, with its excellent tea room, children's play area or explore one of the many woodland walks.

Also, from Harbour Station, the Welsh Highland Railway will take you Coast To Coast to Caernarfon with its well preserved Castle, quirky little lanes with lots of places to eat. A shorter ride to Beddgelert (different days) is available; learn the history of Gelert, a faithful dog and enjoy some delectable ice cream while walking a circular walk round the river.

At the other end of the town, adjacent to the mainline station, the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway will entertain you with a short there and back steam train ride to Pen y Mount and a Museum visit.



*Armchair travel picture of trains from Porthmadog*



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# Little Country Kitchen

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## CAKES FROM THE LITTLE COUNTRY KITCHEN

On a very grey and foggy afternoon, a day to think about sharing cake recipes, after hearing on the 'Jungle Drums' a cake recipe in the Newsletter a couple of months back, was being enthusiastically share amongst friends, so seems cakes hit the spot.

A thought to change **LITTLE COUNTRY KITCHEN**, and hopefully encourage kitchens from round and about to share recipes, making this section more interactive.

So two cakes not using the traditional creaming method to incorporate ingredients...**SPICED APPLE CAKE** and **ONE POT SULTANA CAKE**, both delicious.

## SPICED APPLE CAKE

### INGREDIENTS

250g/8oz butter; 1 cup sugar; 2 eggs  
2 cups flour or gluten free flour, 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon, 1 teaspoon baking powder, and 1 teaspoon of bicarb.soda  
3-4 apples, cored and thinly sliced  
1 cup raisins or sultanas  
½ cup walnut pieces (optional)

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 170/gas 3 fanbake. Line a 9inch springform cake tin.

Melt butter in a large pot. Remove from heat and mix in sugar and then the eggs. Stir in flour, cinnamon, baking powder, bicarb.soda just enough to blend evenly. Add apples, raisins or sultanas, and walnuts—if using.

Transfer to prepared tin and bake until risen and golden and the top bounces back when pressed (*about 1 hour*). Allow to cool for 15 minutes before removing from the tin. If you wish, top with extra walnut pieces and dust with icing sugar before serving. Keeps well in the fridge for 3-4 days, and can also be heated and served with cream or custard—delicious.

## ONE POT SULTANA CAKE

### INGREDIENTS

5 cups (700g./1 1/2lbs) sultanas or golden raisins  
200g (6 ½ oz) butter, diced; 3 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract (not essence)  
2 ½ cups flour or gluten free flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, and pinch of salt  
½ cup of blanched almonds to garnish (optional)

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 150/gas2 fan bake. Line a 9inch springform cake tin with a double layer of baking paper or two bought liners.

Put sultanas or raisins in large pot, cover with water by 2cm/¾ inch, and boil for 10 minutes. Drain into a sieve, shaking out all excess water. Return drained fruit to the pot and while still hot, stir in the butter until melted. Cool for 1-2 minutes then mix in eggs, sugar and vanilla. Add flour, baking powder and salt, stirring until evenly combined.

Transfer to prepared tin, smooth the top and arrange almonds on top if using. Bake until the cake is risen, golden and firm to the touch, and a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Bake for about 1½ hours, but check after an hour or so. Cool in the tin. *It will keep in an airtight tin for about 2 weeks.*

**NOTE.** Use wholemeal/wholewheat flour in place of flour if you wish.

You can vary the fruit used, as long as the weight is the same as recipe. Mixed dried fruit, coarsely chopped dates, dried figs or apricots.

Hope you enjoy the cakes, and maybe ask a friend round for a cuppa, a chunk of cake and a catch up...something that seems not to happen like it did before 'Covid'.

**HAPPY BAKING WITH THE LITTLE COUNTRY KITCHEN**

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# Gardening

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## Jobs For February

This is a great time to plant bare-root trees, shrubs, fruit, hedging and roses—as long as the soil isn't waterlogged or frozen solid. Bare-root plants are much cheaper than container ones.

For the earliest potatoes, buy seed potatoes now and start them off 'eye' side up in egg boxes, in a light, cool, frost-free place. They'll be ready to plant out in late March/early April.

Bring bags of compost indoors so that the compost can warm up before you use it for sowing seeds or potting on seedlings and plug plants. Cold compost can damage plant roots.

This is the time to prune bush roses. The harder you prune, the stronger they will re-grow. Feed with a rose fertiliser, then mulch the soil with compost, bark or well-rotten manure.

Overgrown clumps of snowdrops should be dug up once they've finished flowering. Tease apart into small clusters and re-plant at 15cm/6in spacing, using some fresh compost. Water in well.

Slugs will soon be eating the leaves of young, and a huge range of other, plants. Stop them in their tracks with an organic slug and snail product.

Cut back all the stems of autumn-fruiting raspberries to ground level. For bigger crops, feed with a granular fertiliser and spread a layer of compost or well-rotted manure around them.

Start begonia tubers into growth in trays of moist compost in a warm room or heated greenhouse. Pot up individually when the shoots are 5cm/2in long, grow on indoors, and plant out after the last frost.

Lift and divide old, unproductive crowns of rhubarb and replant in well-prepared soil with lots of well-rotted manure. Force rhubarb sticks in the dark by covering with a light-proof bucket or similar.

Hoe, dig out or spray chickweed and other fast-growing weeds that have survived the winter. Left alone, they'll romp away in spring, flower, set seed and pop up everywhere.

## Places To Visit

### Astbury Meadow Garden Centre



Astbury Meadow has everything you need to ensure your plants are perfect, your beds bloom, and your lawn is luscious.

Create beautiful gardens with our great range of plants; receive great gardening help from our team; browse our outdoor living; gifts and homewares or enjoy great tasting food in our new restaurant.

### 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

Last food orders 4pm (3pm Sunday)

*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.*

### Contact

Astbury Meadow Garden Centre

Newcastle Road

Congleton

CW12 4RL

Phone us: 01260 276466



Registered charity in England & Wales 1153990

## NEWSLETTER December 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters

So here we are in 2026, and may I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy New Year.

We had a very busy Christmas period but were very gratified to be able to offer such a broad spectrum of support to our clients, thanks to the generosity of all our donors.

Here are the figures for December 2025 usage, with December 2024 figures in brackets:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>= 118</b>	<b>(127)</b>
No. of Adults fed	= 166	(185)
No. of Children fed	= 95	(121)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>= 261</b>	<b>(306)</b>

So, as you can see, an improvement on the previous year.

Below, I give the figures for the calendar year of 2025 compared to the year 2024:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	<b>= 1029</b>	<b>(1118)</b>
No. of Adults fed	= 1450	(1558)
No. of Children fed	= 802	(878)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	<b>= 2252</b>	<b>(2436)</b>

This shows a decrease in usage of 7.5%, which is very pleasing for us to see, and indicative of both the input from external support services, but also the direct support we provide to our clients.

Despite receiving hugely generous donations in the run up to Christmas, we know that the early part of the year is often a difficult time financially for people when donations drop quite dramatically.

So, I list below those items which we remain grateful to receive if you feel able to give:

Longlife semi-skimmed milk; Fruit squash;  
Pasta sauce; Longlife sponge puddings;  
Tinned carrots/corn/peas; Tinned rice pudding;  
Coffee-100/200gm; Instant mash(single/family);  
Noodle snacks; Tinned custard; Tinned meat;  
Tinned fruit; Rice – 500gm/pouches; Pasta n  
sauce/ instant noodles; Tomato ketchup;  
Chocolate – single bars and multipacks; Tinned  
tomatoes; Tinned potatoes; Dry dog and cat food

**PLEASE NO BAKED BEANS, TINNED SOUP, TEA  
OR PASTA, THANK YOU**

### Household cleaning products:

Washing up liquid; Multi surface cleaner (no  
bleach); Cleaning cloths/sponges; Laundry liquid/  
capsules/powder

### Toiletries:

Shampoo and conditioner; Soap and shower gel;  
Toothpaste and toothbrushes; Deodorant; Razors  
and shaving foam; Toilet rolls

If you are a donor, please try to deliver your donations at the Foodbank on Tuesday and Friday between 10.00 am and 12 noon – as it gets very busy with clients after this time. Alternatively, you may use any of our Permanent Collection Points which are still available at various locations listed on our website <https://leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>. We are also able to collect any large donations - please contact the Foodbank to arrange this.

If any of you would like to discuss anything relating to the Foodbank or arrange a visit, please contact me at [projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk) or on 07916 005064.

I look forward to working with you during 2026 and send you my very best wishes and thanks for all that you do.

—Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager



Moorlands Voluntary & Community Transport

## 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](mailto:contact@mvct.co.uk)



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## Farming Life Centre Befriending



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### Could this be YOU?

Anyone can be a rural befriender—you just need to be reliable, caring, and have a few spare hours each month. If you're willing to offer companionship and a listening ear, we'd love to hear from you.

### Or?

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.

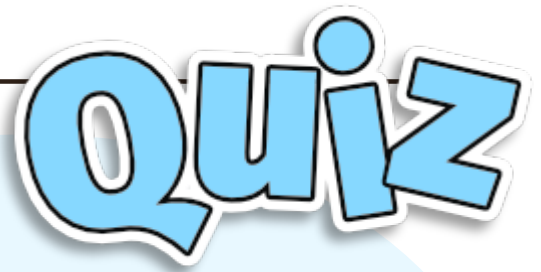
### For more information:

Phone/Text: 07777 168857 or

Email: [donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

CHARITY NO. 1130259





# Who Said It?

1. To what was Woody Allen referring when he said “it was the most fun I ever had without laughing”?
2. What was the famous sign on the U.S. President Harry S. Truemans desk”?
3. Who was “not amused”?
4. Which famous TV cop “loves ya baby?”
5. To whom did Churchill describe as a sheep in sheep’s clothing?
6. “May the force be with you” comes from which film?
7. Who is King in the country of the blind” according to H.G. Wells”?
8. Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun”. Who was the Englishman?
9. Which Music Hall Star said “A little of what you fancy does you good”?
10. Who resigned from the Hollywood Club, saying that “I would not want to belong to any club that would accept me as a member?
11. Marilyn Monroe, after posing for a revealing photograph, was asked “Did you have anything on”? What did she reply?
12. Who said “Television is an invention that permits you to be entertained in your living room by people you wouldn’t have in your home?”
13. Which blonde bomb shell said”Keep a diary and one day it will keep you”?
14. According to the fashion designer Mary Quant “a woman is as old as her What?”
15. In a 1936 broadcast who said “guns will make us power full – butter will make you fat”?
16. Which famous Hollywood actress said “I have never hated a man enough to give him back his diamonds”?
17. According to the fashion designer Mary Quant “A woman is as young as what”?
18. According to Geofry Chaucer love is what?
19. Who said “when wine is in wit is out?
20. Who stated that the “length of any film should be directly related to the endurance of which human organ”?

### Answers: INTO JANUARY QUIZ

- |                             |                             |                      |  |                        |                      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. London Charing Cross     | 2. JF Kennedy               | 3. Wolf              | 4. Carnation                           | 5. Roman God           | 6. Lord of the Rings |
| 7. Rio de Janero            | 8. The Euro                 | 9. Alcatraz          | 10. Don’t drink alcohol during January | 11. Scrabble           |                      |
| 12. Alaska                  | 13. 6 <sup>th</sup> January | 14. The Twilight Sad | 15. A good year                        | 16. Wearing seat belts |                      |
| 17. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | 18. 1927                    | 19. A wet Spring     | 20. Julius Caesar                      |                        |                      |



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furthermore, our lucky 7 game to win either a sainsburys or morrisons shopping voucher, adds further excitement. call full house and if the winning number has a 7 in it you win the money in the pot as well as a grocery prize.

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March, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 23<sup>rd</sup> June

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[sallycwilson1@outlook.com](mailto:sallycwilson1@outlook.com)  
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