

April
2026

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Communities Newsletter

Ipstones, Onecote, Butterton, and
Warslow with Elkstones



Welcome to the April 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:

moorlandsmag@outlook.com

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Ipstones Community Choir

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Who Is Missing?

Get your community listed here for **FREE**



WE ARE ON FACEBOOK

Search for: [@themoorlandschurches.staffs](https://www.facebook.com/themoorlandschurches.staffs)

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View From The Vicarage This Month *(April 2026)*

So, my last “View from” has arrived! I remember my first as if it was yesterday, and yet so very much has happened in the four and a quarter years since then. I must admit I have been putting off putting words to paper this month, although to be fair missing the deadline (*sorry Tony*) is not just down to prevarication, honest!! Words are not enough to describe the joy and honour it has been to be part of the Ipstones, Onecote, and Butterton Communities, and more latterly part of the whole Deanery community.

I have found so much to love here, and it’s the people that make it. Yes, the countryside is fabulous, the church buildings beautiful havens of spirituality, ageless peace and a witness to generations of love, life and death.

But it’s the people I have met that has been so special. When I was writing stuff for the advert and recruitment pack (*yes the advert is out for the job*) I described the people of the area as “*strong, resilient, independent, capable and all the villagers/villagers are resilient, community minded and hard-working, with the majority of villagers being straight-talking and practical, pragmatic people, proud of their area and heritage*” and indeed you are, as well as welcoming, inclusive, generous, caring and loving, and indeed whether active Christians or not, “*faith-full*”.

When I look back, so much has happened, so much has changed and yet so much has stayed the same, in that timeless way in this part of the world. When I arrived covid was still a worry and life had changed for everybody. We have welcomed new villagers and new families, baptised many, many babies, children and some adults, and seen families grow and thrive. We have celebrated weddings with laughter and joy, and in at least one wedding quite a lot of tractors.

And we have said goodbye to what at times feels like too many special people, key people in our villages and families. I have been privileged to walk

alongside you all in that rhythm of life, celebrating, enjoying and weeping with you.

And I have settled into the rhythm of the year, comfortably enjoying the turning of the seasons and all the key ways in which you all mark those changes, from Lights Night to Flower Festival, from Christmas to Easter, from All Souls to Remembrance.

I have learnt about chocolate AND poultry bingo, about Senior Citizens Group to Wakes Festivals, and of course each of those huge national moments in our national as well as local life. I have known and grown very fond of 3 schools and all their children, enjoyed developing projects, children’s activities and holiday clubs, warm welcome, the community choir and many more. I have enjoyed the delights of Dollybirds, celebrated my big birthday, visited many a pub and restaurant, and put on over a stone whilst here!!! My days have been full and rewarding and truly blessed in so many ways.

Yes, it’s not always been easy, and yes, my health has done its usual thing of up and down, drama and hospital trips too but the love and care shown to me, and to Emma after she joined me (*eventually!!*) has been second to none. AND you have gone with the flow, helping develop both carefully respectful formal services and services a bit out on a limb. Reflections Services, Beer and Blessings, crazy crib-christingles, children’s worship, processions with donkeys and the never to be forgotten Butterton live nativity. You have prayed with me and for me, have maintained your churches beautifully, funded them properly with A LOT of effort and modelled in a million ways what living a Christian life is like.

I am grateful to the Family Group of Churches Leadership Team, the Deanery Forum and Deanery Treasurers for all they are doing to keep everything going in the vacancy period and I am praying that a great priest finds themselves called to serve you all here. After 5th April, any church queries please take to your local churchwardens or contact the Leadership Team Chair, Toby Gaddum.

View From The Vicarage This Month *(continued...)*

I finish on Easter Sunday so after that although we are still organising the move until the day we leave (21st April) I have no *"licence to practice"* so am no longer able to be available to you as your vicar. As Jane and Emma, we are of course, always happy to help.

Our address in Scotland is:

Sithean Mor
Achnaha
Kilchoan
Acharacle
Argyll PE 36 4LW *(same email & phone number)*

So the view is tinged with a great deal of sadness.as I watch the notorious Peak weather patterns play across the garden, and think back over a God given, God filled and wonderful time with you all.

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for the love, hospitality and laughter and for all you have done, for and with me in God's name.

And as we say at the end of every service:
May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and all who you love, cherish and remember.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord



Walk of Witness

Maundy Thursday
2nd April 2026
Ipstones

10.30 – 10.45 Gather on High St opposite Jim's

10.45 Walk along Church Lane to
Noon Sun Common then up the hill

11.30 Prayers around the cross

11.45 Hot Soup and bacon rolls at St Leonards



Family Group Of Churches

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

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

Church Services

Church Liturgical colours G =green R=red P=purple W=White	1st Sunday 5 th April 2026 Easter Day	2nd Sunday 12 th April 2026 2 nd Sunday of Easter	3rd Sunday 19 th April 2026 3 rd Sunday of Easter	4th Sunday 26 th April 2026 4 th Sunday of Easter	1st Sunday 3 rd May 2026 5 th Sunday of Easter
Lectionary	Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20:1-18	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-end	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1: 17-23 Luke 24: 13-35	Acts 2: 42-end 1 Peter 2: 19-end John 10: 1-10	Acts 7: 55-end 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14
Warslow	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	11.00am Holy Communion Rev'd David	<i>To other services</i>
Elkstones	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	3.00pm Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>
Butterton	<i>To other services</i>	3.00 Evening Prayer Roger Cutts	11.00 Holy Communion Rev'd Arthur	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>
Onecote	<i>To other services</i>	9.30 Morning Worship Debra Tickell	<i>To other services</i>	9.30 Morning Worship Toby Gaddum	9.30 Holy Communion Rev'd David
Ipstones	3.00 Easter Sunday Benefice Holy Communion and farewell service Rev'd Jane	11am Holy Communion Rev'd Arthur	11.00 am Morning worship Roger Cutts	7.30pm Compline volunteer	6.30pm BCP Evensong Roger Cutts

Maundy Thursday

AGAPE SUPPER

2nd April 2026 — 7.00pm at St Leonards

All welcome

A service over a meal (*three courses*)

To book, contact:

Rev'd Jane; jane@janeheld.co.uk 07771 556391

Church Rota

Ipstones Rota:

SPECIAL SERVICES:		
Church ROTA Ipstones		
If you cannot do the date allocated please arrange a swop		
MARCH 2026		
Welcomers/Sides People		
Sunday	Name	Name
5 th April	Ruth Flint and John Flint	Ann Jackson
12 th April	Zoe Johnson	Pat Nash
19 th April	John Flint	volunteer
26 th April	Volunteer	volunteer
3 rd May	volunteer	volunteer
Readers		
5 th April	Jane arranging	Jane arranging
12 th April	Zoe Johnson	Ruth Flint
19 th April	Linda Malyon	David Jack
26 th April	Ruth Flint	Barry Lovatt
3 rd May	Ann Jackson	Jacquey Millward
Eucharistic Assistant		
5 th April	Jane arranging	Jane arranging
12 th April	Jacquey Millward	n/a
19 th April	Ann Jackson	n/a
26 th April	David Jack	n/a
3 rd May	Jacquey Millward	n/a
Refreshments		
5 th April	All hands to the pump	All hands to the pump
12 th April	volunteers	n/a
19 th April	Volunteers	n/a
26 th April	Volunteers	n/a
3 rd May	Volunteers	n/a

Newsletter News

THE NEWSLETTER:

IMPORTANT

A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

Moorlandsmag@outlook.com

This Communities Newsletter plays an important role in the life of our villages and churches.

Founded as a church magazine it was then given a grant to become a church and community magazine. Over the years it has moved to 50% church and 50% community news. The church leads it and underwrites it. It just breaks even!

A lot of volunteer labour goes into it, and the volunteers are an essential part of production.

The magazine has been edited for the last 4 years by Revd Jane, with help from Lindsey Porter until last year. It is designed and set up each month by Tony Brookes, who took over from Debbie Waterhouse. It is proof-read by Geradine Shuttleworth and printed by a volunteer rota of individuals who spend up to 6 hours a month, running the printing. It is batched and distributed by an army of volunteers, the finances are managed by the Church Treasurer, and Roger Cutts supports the distribution arrangements and the electronic subscriptions.

We have costed up design and print, and we would not be able to afford it unless we put the magazine price up considerably. We totally rely on those wonderful volunteers.

We are absolutely delighted that Les Jackson, known to many in Ipstones, has volunteered to take over from Revd Jane as the Editor, beginning in May 2026. There is a new email to send everything too – Moorlandsmag@outlook.com from May. So May and June editions are “safe”.

BUT... and it is a VERY BIG BUT, Tony is standing down in July. We desperately need a new Designer who can put all the contributions together and present them as well as Tony does.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE if you are computer literate, and can create well designed pages from a wide range of contributions, consider volunteering as the magazine designer. IF no one volunteers we are looking at the magazine having to stop production which would be a tragedy.

If you are interested in volunteering about a day a month to ensure we can stay in production, please contact Jane Held jane@janeheld.co.uk 07771 556391.

Easter Holiday Club

Easter Saturday at St Leonards, Ipstones

4th April 2026 (10.30am – 12.30pm)

craft activities, games, stories, songs, snacks, easter egg hunt

All Welcome



St. Leonard's Ipstones

St Leonard's, Ipstones

Another month has gone by, and a very busy Holy Week lies ahead.



The Church has seen the usual round of Sunday Services and welcomed some new faces over the month. The Community Choir have been holding their great practice sessions as always (*plug – why not go along and check it out – its great fun, no need to be able to sign just the ability to join in regardless, lovely and companionable and full of joy*), and the usual traffic of folk seeking quiet and a prayerful place just to “be”.

We said farewell to Kirk Boulton on the 16th March. A full church and a lovely service led by Carl Edwards, with a very moving slide show of Kirk's life. Our sympathies go to Sarah.

St Leonard's School came to church for the usual Easter Service on the 26th April. They can do a brilliant Easter Shout and as usual they read, sang and contributed brilliantly.

We begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday with a procession of palms from the Memorial Hall at 10.45am on the **29th March** (*don't forget the clocks go forward!*) and a Palm Sunday Holy Communion. Then we have a service on **Wednesday 1st April** at 7.00pm as the third in our Holy Week series of reflection services on the theme of hope, led by Roger Cutts, who will be reflecting on Hope for the Future.

On Thursday we are holding our usual AGAPE Supper in church at 7.00pm – still spaces available, so to book contact Jane. On **Good Friday** we are sharing in the Walk of Witness with our Methodist Colleagues (*10.45 from the High Street*) and there will be hot tomato soup and bacon baps in St Leonards afterwards. We are also holding a night vigil service on Good Friday at 9.00pm.

On **Easter Saturday** morning its Children's Crafts and an Easter Egg Hunt in Church 10.30-12.30, and then its **Easter Sunday**, and Jane's last service at 3.00pm (*that is, apart from the secret one she does not know about*).

On the **18th April** we celebrate the marriage of Emily Simpson and David Boardman at St Leonards and wish them every happiness in their future life together.

Looking ahead, the Flower Festival on the theme of Pilgrimage is on the **5th, 6th, and 7th June**, and a Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast on the **20th June** (*what a busy month*).

Happy Easter everyone, and have a great April.

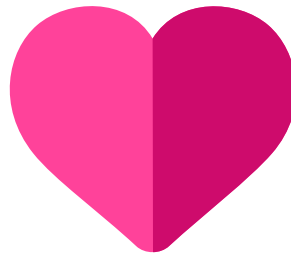
Advanced Notice:

A date for your diary...

The magnificent
Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast
is back this year. **20th June.**

More details to follow...

**THANK
YOU**



As most readers will know,
Revd. Jane Held is retiring at Easter.

During her four years' time in Ipstones she has undertaken many projects that benefit the community. Two of these being joining with Revd Julie Hassell in establishing '*Warm Welcome*', an opportunity for people to meet socially once a week to enjoy tea, coffee, cake and a chat, and helping the Community Newsletter blossom into the magazine it is today.

All the volunteers that help in making both these projects a success are grateful to Revd. Jane for the time and support she has given them.

Her advice and guidance will be missed.

Going forward the intention is to continue to offer the community these services. Volunteers are always needed but the reward of friendship from joining these groups makes the efforts worthwhile.

St Bartholomew's Butterton Correspondent

St Bartholomew's Church

Well, it has happened.... Yesterday was our last PCC Meeting with Rev Jane in the Chair. Our meetings will never be the same. No one to keep us on track! Thank you Jane.



Today we said our goodbyes to Barry Rowley aka Baz. Baz has been laid to rest with his wife Marg. RIP Baz. On 1st April we have the funeral of one of our residents- Edna Thompson and a bit later in April is the funeral of another of our lovely ladies- Margaret Dutton. These deaths in quick succession have left us in shock. We pray for family and friends of all three.

March Lottery Ball winners- 1st Prize of £40- Sandra Mollatt; 2nd Prize of £20- Gillian Newall; 3rd Prize of £10- S&G Creer. The next draw will take place at Warm Welcome on Tuesday 14th April.

The APCM is on Monday 27th April at 7pm in Church. Toby will be in the Chair.

I am compiling the Electoral Roll for 2026 so any new members will be very welcome.

Churchyard Tidy is taking place on Saturday 28th March. Looking forward to soup for lunch!

Butterton Village Hall

A busy month....We now have Connect Fibre providing our WiFi- free for two years !!! Dog training, Floor Pilates, a 21st Birthday party, a Wake, a Christening party, Duke of Edinburgh training day and Chocolate Bingo.

Butterton History Group

We are preparing our exhibit for the upcoming Flower Festival in June. The theme is Pilgrimages. We are thinking our exhibit might be on the lines of the pilgrimages our miners made when the mines closed hereabouts and the men and their families had to travel to all corners of the earth (*even South Africa*) to find work.

Butterton Parish Council

The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th April, 7pm at the Village Hall.

To finish off this month's missive...

Everyone from St Bartholomew's Church wishes Jane and Emma a very Happy 'Retirement'.

You will be sadly missed.

Can't think that I don't need to ensure we have gluten free biscuits for our meetings!

St Luke's Onecote



I will praise thee, O Lord with my whole heart.
—*Psalm 9:1*

I think the above verse echoes how we must be feeling at present. When we look outside and see the Daffodils out, it gives us a joyful feeling to think that Spring is with us.

As well as this, I feel we should praise the Lord for sending the Rev'd Jane to us, The work she has done in all our Parishes, the guidance she has given us and also the patience she has had to have with us all. Thank-you so much for all these things and more.

We hope you along with Emma have a very long and happy retirement, you deserve it.

We send you off with our thanks and love, you will leave us with so many happy memories.

We will miss you so much. I'm sure everyone knows by now that Jane's last service with us will be at Ipstones on Easter Sunday at 3pm.

We are really lucky that Toby has agreed to take on the Lions share of the work. He has been having meetings with Jane for some time concerning the handover. As well as this we have Roger and Rev, Arthur Hack are also there to assist. Things however must still carry on.

Janet Stone would like to start up a walking group.

The following is from Janet

Walk and Talk Group: I am trying to start up a Walking group to meet once a month in the evening and do a short local relaxing walk and obviously talking a lot ! We could meet at the church and probably finish at the Jervis Arms. This is something I've not done before, so if anyone would like to help me organise this I would be most grateful. Please let me know if you are interested in joining please ring or message me on 07398232793

or 01338304218. Janet Stone.

If anyone wishes to place flowers in church in memory of a loved one, over the Easter period, even though we have no service on Easter Sunday, they are welcome to do so.

I think this is all for now, please remember Jane in your prayers.

With my best wishes, Jean.

Ipstones Methodist Church

April 2026

As we look towards Easter Day, John Wesley would not let us forget the importance of the Resurrection of Jesus



Christ as a real historical event. In the first of his published Forty-Four Sermons, he says that living faith “acknowledges the necessity and merit of Christ’s death, and the power of his resurrection.” He also says that true faith “acknowledges his death as the only sufficient means of redeeming man from death eternal, and his resurrection as the restoration of us all to life and immortality.” (This was the style of language in 1738!)

We could follow Wesley into complex theological arguments about such terms as atonement and justification, but the simple message is that Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection open the door for us to cling to the hope of life after death – eternal life with God.

Because of this, Easter is not only about what happened to Jesus; it is also about what happens to us. Faith, says Wesley, is “a sure trust and confidence” that Christ is “our atonement and our life, as given for us, and living in us.”

We are talking here about life of the spirit – or, in Christian terms, life in the Spirit. Many people deny that they have a faith, yet there is undeniably a spiritual dimension to their lives.

So as Easter approaches, Wesley would have us ask not only, “Do I believe that Christ rose?” but also, “Am I seeking to live as one raised with him?” Are we allowing the risen Christ to renew our hearts, reorder our lives, and send us out in practical holiness and mercy? If, as Wesley claims, God has given us “a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” then Easter Day is both a festival of joy and a summons to live as Easter people every day.

—Roger Cutts

SERVICES DURING APRIL

- **April 5th** at 10.30am
Easter Day
Mrs Beryl Stew
(Service to include Holy Communion)
- **April 12th** at 10.30am
Rev Julie Hassall
- **April 19th** at 10.30am
Mrs Gill Meredith
- **April 26th** at 10.00am
No Service at Ipstones – Circuit Service at Endon

Coffee, toast, cake and chat
In the Methodist schoolroom

April 14th, & 28th

Tuesdays 10am – 12noon

Everyone Welcome!



Ipstones Methodist Church *(continued...)*

Avril Prima uncovers a SECRET PLAN hidden in the depths of Lichfield Diocese

As the Revd Jane moves on to a well-deserved retirement the people of Ipstones await with bated breath for news of her replacement.

With the shortage of priests becoming ever more acute research has been undertaken to be able to make use of technology and somewhere in the labyrinthine offices of Lichfield Diocese a team of undercover experts has been developing a solution.

AI-Jayne is soon to be unveiled and presented to Church Councils throughout the Diocese.



Our Benefice, because of its special place in the Staffordshire Moorlands, will be among the first to be offered this new technology.

AI-Jayne will have the following capabilities...

Take Services

AI Jayne will have access to an unlimited memory bank of all kinds of church services. She will be able to call up any service by request – just like the way Alexa works – say “AI-Jayne find a service for Pentecost” and she will find it immediately.

All the readings for the day, the collects and the hymns will be supplied.

Preach Sermons

Sermons will never be a problem for AI-Jayne. She will have access to all the theology in the world and using her Artificial Intelligence will be able to apply her knowledge to the everyday problems of the world.

Listen to people

A quiet corner of the church would be set aside for AI-Jayne to listen to people. She will be a very good listener but will not be too prescriptive in giving advice.

Take Funerals

AI-Jayne will travel on wheels, be able to greet people at the door, process with the funeral cortege, take an appropriate service and process out again at the end.

Further developments

Consideration is being given to how AI-Jayne would give Holy Communion. Future models could contain a tray which could be opened at the press of a button, and a communion wafer and measure of wine could be dispensed. But this could still be problematic as the question of Apostolic Succession has still not been resolved with respect to non-humanoid beings.

Hearing Confessions

Although hearing confession is not such as part of the Anglican Communion as say the Catholic Tradition, AI-Jayne will be fully capable of hearing confessions, but the question of Absolution also depends on the theology of Apostolic Succession for Robots. The disadvantage would be that if this were permitted then the robots would then be able to ordain other robots and the church would eventually be completely taken over by robots.

The Diocese continues to grapple with these problems, but it is to be hoped that given the opportunity the people of Ipstones would be willing to embrace this new technology.

—Avril Prima

Footnote: The first AI-Generated Church Service is believed to have taken place on June 9th 2023 in St Paul’s Church, Fürth, Germany.

Elkstones & Warslow News

St John's Church, Elkstones

Our next service will be Holy Communion on Sunday **19th April** at 3pm. The celebrant will be Rev. Patrick.

Our lovely Mothering Sunday service, taken by Rev. Jane Held, was enjoyed by all who attended. It was also a farewell and a thank you to Rev. Jane for her ministry to our little church and all connected with it over the past months, since our former vicar, Rev. Prebendary John Baines, died so suddenly. It was Jane's last service for St. John's, so it was a sad but happy occasion, if you can have such a thing, as she retires on April 5th and moves on to a new life in Scotland, but she assures us that she has loved getting to know everyone here, and that she will remember us with fondness.



Flower Festival Planning Meeting

Thursday **April 23rd** 6.30p.m. at Townhead Farm, Lower Elkstone

Please come along to the Flower Festival meeting at Myrtle's and help plan our next Festival. The more people who come to support the planning and the input with ideas and offers of help, the easier and more enjoyable the Festival is for everybody. I am sure that the meeting will be helped along with tea and cake ! so please put this date in your diary. The actual Festival weekend starts on Friday 19th June, and the Festival Service will be held on Sunday 21st June at 7pm.

Hazel Bailey is already collecting things for the Tombola, and as she is currently very short of items, please start looking out your unwanted Christmas presents or have a Spring Cleaning Declutter, and let Hazel know (01538 304303) if you can supply anything to get this year's collection started and growing.

March Cleaning and Flowers

Elizabeth Buxton

WARSLOW CHURCH NEWS

The weather is warming up, the daffodils are blooming and the imminent clock change helps us all to feel the hope and re birth of the season.

Easter Service

As you know Jane is retiring in April. Her last service will be at Ipstones on Easter Sunday, we decided that we would not have our own service, at Warslow. Instead, we would all worship together at Ipstones at Jane's final service. Please do join us.

There will also be the usual Sunrise Service at Newtown that has always been so popular with our congregation or Holy Communion at Longnor at 11am.

THANK YOU JANE!

Although Jane has been with us for a short period for time, she has helped us a great deal. We thank her for support and ministrations. We will miss you, but you deserve a well earned rest!

Good Luck to you and Emma on you next chapter in Scotland. God Bless you!

The months ahead

We will be in interregnum again after Easter. Please do not be concerned we have plans to work together with our Family Group of Ipstones, Onecote and Butterton to shoulder the burden. We are very grateful to Toby Gaddum for stepping into the breach and guiding the Family Group Team over the next phase of our journey.

We have worked together as a Family Group to produce our advert for the new Vicar and we are hopeful that it will garner some applicants.

We are also working with our Deanery colleagues in a forum which is hoped will see a closer and more efficient way of working. Collaboration whilst being Christian it is also the key to survival.

If you have any needs such as a Baptism, Marriage or Funeral Service or any other ministrations your first port of call is either Judy Prince 07768340253 or Emma Gould 07989294809.

Donations

We gratefully accept the sum of £180.00, for the Church Yard Maintenance Fund, from Miriam Kir-kham and Margaret Gregory on the occasion of their 95th Birthdays. Thank you both for your support and generosity. It is much appreciated! The lovely ladies also donated to £180.00 to the First Responders and £125.00 to the Air Ambulance, what an amazing gesture!

BELATED THANKS to Gill Worth and family for their kind donation in remembrance of her Grandfather Walter John Salt, who is remembered with a Commonwealth War Grave notice.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Thoughts and prayers

We hold Dorothy Mellor and Margaret Massey in our prayers as they both recover from their recent illnesses. It is also pleasing to see Hilda Grindon out in her garden again!

Fundraising

Our Flower Festival this year will have the theme of Pilgrimage, this will be staged on 5th, 6th and 7th June. The displays do not have to be biblical just a personal interpretation of the theme. We already have several participants – thank you. If you would like to take part – please let Judy or Emma know. No pressure or prior knowledge required just a willing heart!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held in May – date to follow in the next magazine. Please come forward if you are interested in joining the P.C.C. or going onto the Electoral Roll.

Baptism

It was lovely to see the family and friends of Micky Stephen Goodfellow in church to celebrate the joyous occasion of his baptism. Welcome to the Christian family Micky!

Thank You

Our sincere thanks go to Tony Pope, Andy Philips, Frank Kinsey, Steve Bentley, Mick Riley and Stuart and Elliott Gould for their help with a number of small important jobs around church.

As the grass starts to grow.... we thank Steven Bentley and his team for their hard work in keeping the Church Yard so tidy.

Forthcoming Services

While we are in interregnum we will be doing our best to maintain the services that we usually have. However, there may be times where this can't be done, but there will be other services available locally to attend. This will be an opportunity for us to join with our friends and colleagues.

Our next Service is Holy Communion
26th April 2026 at 11am.

Everyone is warmly encouraged and invited to support our services and events, as we continue to celebrate and strengthen our church community together.

Lectionary Readings/Life Events

Weekly Lectionary Readings

set Bible readings for April 2026

Sunday 5th April

Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20:1-18;

Sunday 12th April

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-end

Sunday 19th April

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35

Sunday 26th April

Acts 2: 42-end; 1 Peter 2: 19-end; John 10: 1-10

Sunday 3rd May

Acts 7: 55-end 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14

Life Events

(March 2026)

Funerals

Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

12th March 2026

Ruth Wildgoose

Warslow

16th March 2026

Kirk Boulton

Ipstones

24th March 2026

Baz Rowley

Butterton

1st April 2026

Edna Thompson

Butterton

Baptisms

Welcome to your Church family

8th March 2026

Mickey Goodfellow

Warslow

22nd March 2026

Thomas Davies

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*



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Thought For The Month

Do you find it hard to acknowledge that God loves you,
and forgives you?

Even as he was being crucified, Jesus was forgiving his enemies.

Throughout his ministry on Earth, he had power to forgive, and
taught us to do the same.

Every challenge in life is an opportunity, and every opportunity
is a challenge!

But of course, it's the attitude with which challenges are approa-
ched that is the key to determining a good outcome.

In Ipstones, we have a big challenge to face—that of the retirement
of our wonderful vicar Jane Held.

Jane has been an inspiration to us all, not just in worship, but in our
community, and we all feel huge sadness in seeing her leave us,
wishing her every blessing in the new phase of her life.

Let us all move forward with a good attitude garnering all she has
taught us, taking all those blessings and moving forward so that we
continue to *'Love one another'* in the name of Jesus Christ.

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength"

—Philippians chapter 4, verse 13

Heavenly Father,
Your Son forgave those who were killing Him on the cross.
Please help me to forgive those who have hurt me & those who I
love. AMEN

Ipstones Historical Society / Warm Welcome

The Ipstones Historical Society met on 26th February 2026, in the Memorial Hall extension for a talk given by Mr Brough



entitled, the biggest Aspidistra in the world. Our original speaker was unfortunately unable to make the meeting therefore Mr Brough kindly stepped in at the last minute.

The talk centred on the use of propaganda and deceit during the Second World War. This was an integral part of warfare however there were also a different clandestine forms of infiltration created by people in Britain without the knowledge of the government. This took the form of radio broadcasts and espionage to confuse the Nazi's and fool them.

The most successful was known as Der Chef, he transmitted to German troops on the shortwave radio band using military music and coded messages. This gave the impression that he was a Prussian army officer loyal to the Third Reich but in fact he used a captured German transmitter to insert true Nazi events into the broadcasts along with massive lies to disrupt and confuse the enemy.

Sefton Delmar AKA Der Chef bought a very powerful radio transmitter from the Americans and named it Aspidistra as it was the biggest one in the world! He proceeded to interrupt German Luftwaffe ground control instructions to its fighter planes and this led to bombing raids going off course.

There were many and varied ways this daily flow of misinformation could demoralise and disrupt the Nazi machine. It was invaluable as most German citizens and military personnel listened to the radio programs and believed the lies. A new radio station was created seemingly coming from Calais and this assisted when the eventual allied invasion was ramping up.

These propaganda and information disrupters were tolerated by Churchill and seen as an asset in fighting the Nazi's even though they had no control over their operations. They proved invaluable in the Third Reich's eventual downfall.

The next meeting of the society will be on 26th March, for a talk about war pigeons. The fee for Society members is £1.00, non-members £4.00 on the door. Please come along and join in, everyone is welcome. April's meeting will be our AGM.

Warm Welcome invites you to a Chocolate Afternoon

Warm Welcome meets every Friday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm in the Methodist Schoolroom, Brookfield Road, Ipstones.

This is very informal, and very friendly. Several new friendships have been made through meeting on Friday afternoon.

We even met at Christmas when Friday, our usual meeting day, coincided with Boxing Day. There was a real buzz within the room and a real party atmosphere.

With this fresh in our minds, we have decided to do something special for Easter.

On the Friday following Easter, being April 10th from 2pm to 5pm there will be a special '**Chocolate Session**', when, if you have any chocolate left from Easter, you can bring this along, or you can just come along to enjoy chocolate.

So put the date in your dairies and come and join us.

Family Warm Welcome

family warm welcome

a warm space for all

2pm–5pm every Friday

drop in for:

At The Methodist School Room,
Brookfields Road, Ipstones

- **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

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	Sally Wilson 07768 173850
TUESDAY	Seated Pilates – 11am (weekly)	Louise 07956 675683 or Louise@podumpilates.com
	Ipstones Writers – 1.45pm (last Tuesday of month)	Geraldine 01538 266633
	Yoga – 5:45pm (weekly)	Natalie 07970 940718
	Ipstones Youth Club	Heather 07432 873605 and Nikki 07734 421972
WEDNESDAY	Dolly Birds Café – 9am – 2pm (weekly)	Ann Mace 07518 472770
	Ipstones WI – 7.30pm (2 nd Wednesday of month)	Jane Fleet 01538 260074
	Rainbows – 5pm Brownies – 6pm Guides – 6.30pm } (weekly—term-time only)	Call 0800 169 5901
THURSDAY	Yoga – 9:30am (weekly)	Louise 07736 351257
	Well Street Medical Practice Clinic – 10am (weekly)	Well Street Practice Reception 01538 753114
	Indoor Bowls – 7pm (weekly)	George Ratcliffe 07837 451829
	Ipstones Historical Society – 7.30pm (last Thursday of every month)	Alison Cartledge 01538 266048
FRIDAY	Seated Pilates – 12noon	Louise 07956 675683 Louise@podumpilates.com
SATURDAY	Dolly Birds Café – 9am–1pm (weekly)	Ann Mace 07518 472770
	Little Kickers Football – 9:30am (weekly)	Steve North
SUNDAY	Dolly Birds Café – 9am – 1pm (weekly)	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:
Wed. 1 st April 7pm for 7.30pm	Ipstones Agricultural Society Easter Chocolate Bingo	Jeff Chadwick 07765 236824
Saturday 25 th April 2pm (Gallery room)	Ipstones Memorial Hall Centenary Event Group. <i>Everyone welcome to share memories of the Hall.</i>	Geraldine Shuttleworth 01538 266633 mhallcentenary@gmail.com
Saturday 25 th April 7pm	Cheese, Wine & Fudge Evening Ipstones & Foxt Senior Citizens <i>—members and non-members</i>	Linda Malyon 07824 449178
Friday 8 th May 7pm – 9pm	Fused Glass Workshop with Paula Andrews	Paula Andrews 07879 368811
Friday 15 th May 6pm for 6.30pm	St Leonard's First School PFA Bingo Fundraiser	Grace Eastwood 07970 053312
Sunday 19 th July	Ipstones 5ish Road Race	Linda Malyon 07824 449178
Saturday 29 th August	Ipstones 74th Agricultural Show	Jeff Chadwick 07765 236824

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

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

250 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW

250 CLUB

March 2026		
£20	No. 2	Finlay Goodwin
£15	No. 37	Steven Mace
£10	No. 182	Ian Buckley

250 CLUB

Ipstones Memorial Hall / Newsletter Subscriptions

MEMORIAL HALL MEMORIES

There will be a get-together at 2.30pm on **Saturday 25th April**, upstairs in The Gallery at Ipstones Memorial Hall, to share ideas on how to celebrate the Centenary of the Memorial Hall in 2028.

It may seem a way off yet, but it's never too early to discuss and plan celebrations to mark the milestone of our valued community asset.

Please spread the word, and hope to see you on the 25th April.

Magazine Subscriptions

Thank you to all of you who have paid your subscriptions. We have had a good response so far and are about halfway there.

It would be great to get the rest of the subscriptions in by the end of April.

The subscription period for the magazine runs from April to March and the price of the magazine is £1 a copy. The sum of £12 is due for the year commencing April.

There are several ways to pay:

Cash or Cheque: Please make cheques payable to: PCC of Ipstones (St Leonards)

Please return to your distributor or directly to Roger Cutts at The Old Toll House, 72 High Street.

Direct Debit or Bank Transfer to the following account:

Bank Account Name: PCC of Ipstones (St Leonards)

Sort Code: 01-05-02

Account Number: 02071150

Reference: Please include your name in the Reference.

Please email roger.cutts@btinternet.com if you have paid by Direct Debit or Bank Transfer.

(You do not need to email me again if you emailed me last month).

We look forward to receiving your payment.

—Roger Cutts

Foxt Play Area

CHILDREN can now enjoy playing on new recreation equipment thanks to the perseverance of Ipstones Parish Council.

After applying for a grant from the National Lottery the parish council was awarded £20,000 for new facilities to be built at Foxt.

The site, which is accessed from opposite the village hall, only had a small older range of equipment.

Now youngsters from the village and the surrounding areas can enjoy the new equipment set in a country atmosphere.

Following a tendering process parish councillors chose ESP as their preferred choice to construct the equipment.

On behalf of Ipstones Parish Council, Chairman Linda Malyon said: "As a parish council and the clerk we applied for the grant funding, which has allowed us to buy £20k worth of play equipment for the children and grandchildren of the people of Foxt and adjoining villages.

"The equipment was purchased from ESP after looking at other quotes. We hope that you enjoy what we have chosen and we hope to put another bench and picnic table on site so families can enjoy watching the children play as well as enjoying the view.

"Please enjoy, if you take your dog with you, please pick up after it as children can catch infections from dog poo which can cause blindness.

Foxt Councillor Mike Birch said: "Foxt is fortunate to have young children in the village who would like to play, socialise and carry out activities within walking distance and without having to travel by car.

"Residents asked Ipstones Parish Council if they were able to upgrade the Foxt Community Area play equipment as part of their ownership of the area.

"A consideration was to upgrade equipment over several years as funds allowed, however, this initial idea was replaced by a much more ambitious plan to apply for National Lottery Funding and install the new equipment as part of one much larger project.

"The criteria for National Lottery Funding required evidence of village support for the project and this was obtained during the 2024 Foxt Village Hall Christmas event when more than 30 people signed a paper document to demonstrate their support. This was evidenced further by a social media campaign, and a count was taken of people who liked or shared the content of the proposal.

"A decision was then taken to apply for the largest available National Lottery grant for £20,000 and to satisfy all the qualifying criteria, funding was confirmed during April, May 2025.

"The responsible spending of such a large sum of money required that a full technical and safety standards specification was drawn up on a seven-page document during July 2025.

"Ipstones Parish Council would like to thank ESP of Burnley for the quality of their design, equipment, installation, value for money and overall professionalism. Thanks also go to the National Lottery for the provision of funding which made the project possible."



Brownies

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

Ipstones Folk News

April 2026

Ipstones Folk Club had a great Guest Night on the third Wednesday of March.

Keith Kendrick and Sylvia Needham gave a great performance singing close harmony traditional English music with excellent concertina accompaniment and storytelling.

They were ably supported by Dave Joynson with his guitar and Mary Joynson on violin. Dave and Mary sang largely their own songs evocative of the moorland countryside and local colour.

Our next meeting will be a sing-around in the Schoolroom on April 15th at 7:30pm.

(Doors open at 7pm)

We have another Guest Night in May with renowned performers Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer supported by the Leek Peace Choir.

That will be on Wednesday 20th May at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets £10 each (under 18's half price) please call or text me on 07979 755210 to book.

—Roger Cutts



Dave and Mary Joynson



Keith Kendrick and Sylvia Needham

Ipstones Folk Club in 2026

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

- ◆ February 18th - Sing & playaround (free admission)



March 18th Guest Night with Keith Kendrick & Sylvia Needham

Keith and Sylvia sing mainly English traditional and traditional songs, sea shanties, sea songs and maritime material from all over the globe. They have a wide-ranging repertoire, accompanying themselves and playing lively tunes on three different systems of the English concertina. With strong voices and compatible styles, they produce striking and sympathetic harmonies. Their live gigs are always a vocal and a musical revelation as well being a hoot! - and when they're not doing that, you'll probably find them playing for Winster Morris!

Tickets
from Malc (07494 738 939) Sylvia, or Roger Cutts
£10 or buy online via
<https://wegottickets.com/event/690490> (£10 + WGT booking fee)

- ◆ April 15th - Sing & playaround (free admission)
- ◆ **May 20th - 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 17th - Sing & playaround (free admission)
- ◆ July 15th - Sing & playaround (free admission)
- ◆ **August 19th - 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 16th - Sing & playaround (free admission)
- ◆ October 21st - Sing & playaround (free admission)
- **November 14th Peace Concert - Reg Meuross + - details TBA**

Contact for more information: by Email: peacethroughfolk@gmail.com or Text: 07494 738 939
Promoted by the Peace through Folk Trust

Ipstones Writers' Group

WRITING FOR FUN WITH THE IPSTONES WRITERS

Well with five Tuesdays in March, Ipstones Writers don't meet until after the deadline for the April Newsletter, so there's no feedback this time about how we all got on with Dora's writing prompt '*Down the Road*'.

I often hear on the Ipstones Jungle Drums how some people enjoy a story from our group, so this time I would like to share one I wrote way back in September, 2018, around a friendship I had. Some of the story is fact, some fiction around conversations with our pal Pierre Demarquet over the years. Hope you enjoy...

NEXT DOOR TO A LITTLE WINE SHOP

Born during the autumn of 1921, above the family boulangerie, next door to a little wine shop near the centre of Troyes, a small town south east of Paris.

Pierre's earliest memories, when he was around 5 years old, were of his father and grandfather getting up during the night to bake their famous breads and pastries ready for the morning breakfast rush, baking again in the afternoon ready for when people popped into the bakery on their way home from work. He recalled those tempting smells wafting up to their apartment, making him feel very hungry at times.

If the young lad sat right in the corner of the window seat in the living room, he could just make out the people coming and going in and out of the wine shop below.

Sometimes, the men would come out of the shop carefully carrying small boxes decorated with bows, as the proprietor loved making chocolates as a hobby, and those in the know, would be offered these at a good price, whenever he had been experimenting with a new variety.

On the occasions the boy was invited down to the shop to eat broken chocolate, the rows of wine in their various shaped bottles, displaying their different labels, set out in an orderly fashion on the shelves, always fascinated Pierre.

Sometimes the proprietor would ask if he would like to dust the bottles, and when this happened there was always a couple of chocolates to taste, along with the broken bits.

When he was about 7 years old, his world was turned upside down, when his mother died in her sleep one night, and a few months later during a cold winter spell, his grandfather caught pneumonia and also passed away.

His father found things very difficult, trying to continue the baking business single handed, and looking after his small son, so it was decided the business would be sold, and father and son would move into Paris to be closer his Aunt.

Once a buyer was found, this happened. They packed their belongings and moved into a small apartment on the top floor of a large, tall building, near the Gard du Nord. The apartment was light and airy with high ceilings, with floor to ceiling windows in the living room, louvered shutters and a tiny wrought iron balcony.

The old ornate stove kept them warm.

The kitchen area was a cupboard at one end of the landing, next to the only bedroom. Pierre's bed was in an alcove on the landing behind a faded floral curtain, next to the tiny bathroom. All very compact, but it was their home now.

After living in Troyes for all of his short life, Pierre found this area of the city to be very busy and grubby, a distinct smell of smoke from the trains hanging in the air.

Things didn't work out with his Aunt the way his father had hoped, and they saw less and less of her and his cousins. There was no Uncle on the scene. He never understood why. He didn't ask, and was never told. Well, most families have secrets of some kind don't they?

What he did enjoy though, were the occasions when he and father would go down to the café round the corner from their home, where there was

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

a long scrubbed top table down the centre of the small space, with benches either side. Men and women gathered for a simple supper, sometimes an old man sitting in the corner playing traditional accordion music.

The woman who ran things, would put a bowl and spoon in front of them when they took their place, and a large tureen of hot and steamy onion soup in the middle of the table. It was always onion soup but no one seemed to mind. The tureen would be passed around, everyone filling their bowls, enjoying the tasty and nourishing liquid, mopping their bowls with the extra chunks of bread the woman brought to the table.

The air would become thick with smoke as most folk lit up a cigarette after supper, making his eyes itchy and red. He never complained because he liked to see father chatting with the other grown ups.

On occasions when the chatting went on late, he would snuggle up in his father's old and worn black overcoat lying on the bench. Next morning he would wake up beside his father still wrapped in the overcoat with his so familiar smell, mixed with the cigarette smoke clinging to its fibres.

Some 60+++ years later, in one of those quite by chance moments, Pierre Demarquet was to become my penfriend. He was a volunteer at a residential home for older people in the small town of Le Creuset, in the Burgundy region of France. I managed a similar set up in North Staffordshire.

We shared a vision to *'twin'* these two homes, and having made several visits to Le Maison de Retrait du Canada, where my family and I were always welcomed enthusiastically by the residents and staff alike, building good foundations for a potential project to add interest to the lives of residents living in care on both sides of the Channel.

Needless to say, our idea was unsupported and *'poo pooed'* by the Staffordshire *'Powers that be'*. Well, it wasn't their idea was it? If you had one of your own, anything more adventurous than the annual day trip

to Llandudno, you were certainly seen as a problem in my experience!

During our visits to Burgundy over several years, we visited some obscure restaurants, enjoying delicious memorable lunches, and embracing the French way of life with Pierre.

Our lunch dates usually seemed to end up at a wine co-operative, or in someone's wine cellar, when Pierre would share his vast knowledge of wines with Barry, and Oliver our teenage son hanging onto every word.

On the last night of one such holiday, we invited Pierre and his partner Simone, a dour, formidable woman, to share supper with us in our holiday let, a very impressive property backing onto the owner's vast vine yard, in the village of Givry.

Barry had bought different wines each day during our holiday, and when he asked Pierre which he recommended we buy to bring back home, he answered *'Which do you like'*. Barry told him he liked them all, Pierre replying with the typical French shrug of the shoulders.

Our friendship took many twists and turns over the years.

In line with what seemed to be the French custom, Pierre had to vacate Simone's home following her death. After being together for very many years, though not married, he had no alternative but to return to his roots in the suburb of Paris, Brie Comte Robert, to be near his only son Alain.

The day he left what had been his home in the tiny village of St.Desert, he had one suitcase and a rucksack over his shoulder. It must have been a heart-breaking day for him.

This charming, generous, gentleman, a connoisseur of fine wine and chocolate, die in his late 90's.

—*Geraldine Shuttleworth*

The Walk

The Walk

The walk of life continues in the moments we find in Daybreak.

Back in Ipstones in rolling mist of dawn above Stocks Green in predawn pink peach glow of sunrise to be.

It radiates through the twilight morning mist as I reminisce of Hartington and Wolfscote dale walkabout yesterday...

Sundays hike by the river Dove, in the quiet calm natural world, with other walkers...plus two young deer high above the wood on our journey...

me and sister (Paul & Ann). Our mums favourite sound of water babbling with the flow on the river dove and occasional birdsong, the only soundtrack...

Natures harmony clearing my mind and heart as I drink in Natures medicine of tranquility.

Every step immersed us in the timeless moments of being truly at one with a beautiful environment...of oneness with earths wonders and Gods creation. Inspiring my soul...the World...to a writers mind is a Poets joy, to recall and ponder Natures find...

—*Paul Holland*



The Armchair Travellers

The Big Apple!

This trip is a mix of some business and pleasure, but I will stick to the fun parts for this article! We have been to New York before and understand the need to pace ourselves and not try to do everything!

On this trip, one of our favourite singers is performing at Radio City Music Hall on the same dates as our visit, and we managed to get tickets. Our hotel is right next door and well located for lots of the attractions, 10 mins to Central Park.

We arrived in New York on a cold and wet evening and wandered from the hotel to find some food. We stumbled across an Irish bar, “Sean’s”, that became our local for the visit. They do great food and have a nice local bar feel with great staff.

Day 1: Some business meetings, then some time to explore before heading to Radio City. We had a wander through the Rockefeller Centre, watched the ice skating, and visited St Patrick’s Cathedral. The cathedral was constructed starting in 1858 to accommodate the growing Archdiocese of New York and to replace the old Cathedral. Work was halted in the early 1860s during the American Civil War; the cathedral was completed in 1878. A beautiful, quiet place in a very busy city, it was a nice change of pace.

Radio City Music Hall opened in 1932 as part of the construction of the Rockefeller Centre. The 5,960-seat theatre is the home of the Rockettes and the *Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City. It is a lovely venue, all very art deco inside. The ladies’ toilets have the original seating areas with mirrors, where ladies can reapply their make-up. A great venue, comfortable seats and very central. I would highly recommend a visit; they also run tours of the venue that get great reviews.

Day 2: After a morning of meetings, we headed to Central Park and did one of the pedicab tours so we could cover some more ground. Central Park is 843 acres (341 ha) and is the most visited urban park in

the United States, with an estimated 42 million visitors annually. It was great to see all the movie locations and also John Lennon’s house and memorial.

A wander round some of the shops, FAO Schwarz was a bit disappointing, a very famous New York toy store, but other than a great doorman, it was just another shop!

We had another visit to Radio City to see Jason Isbell again, this time with his band, another great night!

Day 3: A big snowstorm was due to start, but we were lucky that the theatres were still going to run the matinee performance of Chess. We wandered over to Times Square as the theatre was close by, Times Square is as crowded and just not for us. Lots of tacky tourist shops and far too many people. We grabbed a coffee in the new Friends coffee shop but it was very disappointing, other than having a sofa for a photo opportunity and some themed names for the coffee and food it was just another coffee shop!

The musical was great, although the seats in the theatre were not very comfortable or up to the standard of Radio City. By the time the show was over, the storm was starting, so we had a snowy walk back to the hotel. The city closed the roads from 9pm to 12am the next day, and the airport was closed. Our flight was cancelled the next day, but luckily, we managed to get one 24 hours later. It was interesting to watch the storm from the comfort of our 26th-floor hotel room. It didn’t seem as bad as the TV was showing—I think we were protected by the other buildings.

The next day, we wandered out for brunch, and amazingly, the pavements were all clear; an army of people was out clearing the pavements and keeping them clear. We found a Carnegie’s diner and camped out whilst the city came back to life.

I like New York and will hopefully go back, but think at a warmer time of the year.

Little Country Kitchen

For various all things personal, there hasn't been a lot of cooking going on in this Little Country Kitchen over the last few weeks, very much more assembling than cooking, and a fall back on M&S prepared tasty morsels, with the odd delicious treat from Rob the Ippy Butcher, but time to move on and plough through foodie magazines for inspiration – though not yet time for me to move onto the 'green stuff'.

Browsing in front of the cosy log burner, I came across a couple of cake recipes in DISH, an inspiring glossy foodie magazine from down under. I'd love to subscribe but postage costs make it prohibitive, so when I hear of someone travelling, I ask if they will courier a copy back for me in their luggage, and yes, a few days ago I came across someone packing their bags for such a trip¹²

BLUEBERRY AND OLIVE OIL SNACKING CAKE

I really do think there are times when a simple stir together cake, with fresh blueberries and zestie lemon really hits the spot, so here we go...

Ingredients

1 cup caster sugar+ 1 tablespoon extra
1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest
1 cup of ricotta cheese
½ cup of light olive oil
2 large eggs
2 tablespoons of plain yoghurt or sour cream
1½ cups of plain flour with 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon sea salt and ¼ teaspoon baking soda
250g fresh blueberries or use unthawed frozen berries.

Grease 22cm square cake tin and fully line with baking paper. Preheat oven to 180/gas 4 regular bake.

Method

Put sugar and zest in large bowl and rub together with finger tips until sugar is like damp pale yellow sand. Stir in ricotta, oil, eggs and yoghurt or sour cream.

Combine flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda, and stir into the ricotta mixture until just combined. Fold in half of the blueberries. Spoon into the prepared tin and scatter over the remaining berries and the extra tablespoon sugar.

Bake for 40-45 minutes until fully cooked and lightly browned on top, covering with foil if it starts to get too brown. Cool on wire rack.

Serve with a dollop of thick cream, or if you want to serve warm as a pudding, custard would be ok.

CHOCOLATE CARAMEL HAZELNUT SLICE

Down under, a variety of slices are always available in coffee shops, which folk enjoy at 'morning tea' time, though most drink coffee!!

Ingredients

280g butter, softened
Two thirds cup caster sugar and ½ cup of brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract (*not essence*)
3 cups plain flour and 1 teaspoon baking powder
Two thirds cup of cocoa powder
395g tin of sweetened condensed milk
395g tin of caramel condensed milk
60g butter, softened
1 tablespoon golden syrup
1 tablespoon strong espresso coffee powder missed with
2 teaspoons of boiling water
1 cup of roasted skinned hazelnuts

Line the base and sides of a 28cm x 20cm slice tin with baking powder.

Preheat oven to 180.gas 4 regular bake.

In a large bowl beat the butter, sugar and vanilla extract until pale and soft. Add flour, baking powder and cocoa and mix well. Place three quarters of the mix into the prepared tin and smooth firmly with the back of a tablespoon. Pop in the fridge while preparing the rest of the ingredients.

Mix condensed milk, caramel condensed milk, butter and golden syrup in a microwave-proof bowl. Microwave for 1 minute and whisk until smooth. This may take two goes to ensure the butter is melted and smooth. Whisk in coffee mix and put in the fridge for 15 minutes.

Pour caramel over the base and distribute the hazelnuts evenly. Sprinkle over remaining quarter of base mix, giving it a good squish as you crumble so it forms clumps.

Bake for 30 minutes until golden and cooked through. Cool in tin, remove and cut slice into squares – whatever size you want them. Recipe says makes 30 squares – but they will be quite small.

Hope you enjoy baking with the Little Country Kitchen.

Ipstones Gardening

Jobs For April

Pot up plug plants into 9–10cm pots using a good compost. Water in well, but then let them dry out slightly between waterings. Place in a position in good light, but out of burning sunlight.

Most outdoor vegetables can be sown now. Sow salad crops little and often for a continuous supply. More tender vegetables can be sown indoors in plug trays to give strong plants for planting out later.

Now's a good time to move evergreen shrubs growing in the wrong place. Water well before moving, dig up a good-sized rootball, replant in well prepared soil and water in thoroughly.

For masses of cheap summer colour, sow the seeds of Californian poppies, pot marigolds, love-in-a-mist and other hardy annuals in a sunny border, and they'll burst into flower from June until Autumn.

Support tall plants like delphiniums while they're still young.

The plants will quickly cover the support and very soon you'll never know it's there. This is better than waiting until they're in full leaf.

Put your bedding plants outside on fine days, but bring them in at night. This will harden them up, so they'll get off to a much better start once you plant them outside when the last frosts have finished.

As plants are growing strongly now, make sure they are fed regularly to produce a floral extravaganza. High potash Flower Power is perfect for all flowering plants and fruiting vegetables.

It's too early to put summer hanging baskets and containers outside, but you can plant them up now for an earlier display, as long as you can keep them somewhere with good light and frost protection.

Re-pot pot-bound foliage houseplants into slightly bigger pots. Most flowering houseplants perform better if kept slightly pot-bound. Use fresh compost and water them in well.

Cut back last year's stems on hardy fuchsias, penstemons, artemisia and other slightly tender plants. It's best to cut them back very hard to just above where you can see signs of new growth.

PLACES TO VISIT

Chatsworth Garden Centre

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They offer inspirational products for the home and garden that echo the impressive setting of Chatsworth from Outdoor Living, Clothing and Homewares to all your gardening requirements.



Opening Times

- *Garden centre*

Monday to Saturday: 9am to 5.30pm

Sunday: 10am to 4.30pm (10am - 10.30am for browsing only)

- *Restaurants*

Monday to Saturday: 9am to 5pm

Sunday: 10am to 4pm

- *Easter Opening Hours*

Good Friday: 9am to 5.30pm

Easter Sunday: 10.30am to 3.30pm

(Outdoor plant area and restaurant only)

Easter Monday: 9am to 5.30pm

Contact Us

Calton Lees, Beeley Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2NX

Tel: 01629 734 004

A QUIZ FOR APRIL... DOWN ON THE FARM

1. Tags for identification are clipped to which part of the body on beef cattle?
2. In the 90's what illness thought to be confined to cattle was found to impact other animals and humans?
3. California produces 98% of the US output of which green nut?
4. In APICULTURE is the technical term for raising what type of insect?
5. Apart from Billy which other 'B' word describes the male goat?
6. What is a Gloucester Old Spot?
7. What is the name used for a chicken reared entirely for meat?
8. What was the first breed of animal. To have been domesticated as a source of food?
9. How many stomachs does a cow have...2,3,4,5?
10. Which country is the biggest producer of wheat?
11. How many acres are there in a hectare?
12. Which breed of cow is the biggest producer of milk?
13. Which breed of animal includes Saddleback and Tamworth?
14. Turkeys are native to which continent?
15. If you mate a female horse and a male donkey what is their offspring?
16. 'Away to me' and 'Come' are commands used by farmers to which animal?
17. What is a Rhode Island Red?
18. What is the underside of a horses hoof called?
19. What colour is the face of a Suffolk Sheep?
20. What is the most intelligent farm animal?

Answers: SPRINGTIME QUIZ 2026

1. South Pacific 2. Anna Karenina 3. Lily 4. March 5. Cherry Blossom 6. Flora 7. 12 hours 8. April
9. 1st September 10. Easter Sunday 11. A Robin 12. Vernal 13. Daffodil 14. International Womens Day
15. Lent 16. Dandelion 17. Lily of the Valley 18. Forget-me-nots 19. Spring Onions 20. Simnel Cake

Leek Foodbank



Registered charity in England & Wales 1153990

NEWSLETTER February 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters

I'm writing this with the sun shining through the window and I am daring to hope that spring has definitely sprung, although we all know that winter could still come back to bite us! It does make such a difference to see the sunshine, after what seems to have been a very long and gloomy winter.

Here are the figures for Foodbank usage during February, with a comparison to the previous year :-

Total vouchers fulfilled	=	72 (82)
No. of Adults fed	=	95 (122)
No. of Children fed	=	44 (62)
Total no. fed	=	139 (184)

Again, a quieter month, and hopefully this trend will continue.

Reporting back on our plans to recruit an Operations Co-ordinator, we received some excellent applications but could not find a perfect fit for the role, and so we decided not to appoint on this occasion. We intend to work with our excellent team of volunteers to review the tasks that need to be done, and we hope some may be covered in existing volunteer hours or, as new volunteers apply, they may be assigned a particular role. We intend to review the situation in six months' time.

We remain hopeful that we will receive future funding for our Financial Inclusion project, and Citizens Advice have confirmed that they are able to continue to fund the project for another three months after the grant funding ends, so this will take us up to August.

We have just been working on our annual return for the Charity Commission, which involves some statistics and some narrative regarding our work. Whilst it is a legal requirement that we do this, it is also good for reflecting on what has happened over the year. One statistic which I just wanted to mention was the amount of stock which we had at year end – 2825kg – which may sound a lot, but when you think how much was distributed over the year – 33199kg – you realise it is only just over one month's stock, a stark indication of how we would struggle if donations stopped for any reason. Not that I can foresee this happening but it does emphasise the need for us to actively work with the local community to ensure continued support.

With this in mind, we have booked a food drive at Morrisons on Wednesday 25th March, so please come along to see us if you are able to.

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 bags; Pasta-n-sauce/
instant noodles; Tomato ketchup; Chocolate (single
bars and multipacks); Tinned tomatoes;
Tinned potatoes; Dog and cat food (dry and wet)

PLEASE NO PASTA OR TUNA, 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**

Best wishes,
Lindsey Stockton, *Project Manager*

Events



IPSTONES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

EASTER CHOCOLATE BINGO

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL
Wednesday 1st April 2026

DOORS OPEN 7PM | EYES DOWN 7:30PM
Great prizes, raffle, free refreshments

All profits raised will be donated to local organisations / charities

ONECOTE VILLAGE HALL
GROCERY/CASH BINGO – TUESDAY 7th APRIL.

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM, EYES DOWN 7.30PM
PRIZES – QUALITY GROCERIES AND SUBSTANTIAL CASH PRIZES TOTALING OVER £120 (MORE PLAYERS MORE CASH TO WIN).

10 GAMES OF BINGO PLUS TWO FLYERS. EACH PLAYING FOR LINES, CORNERS OR 5 NUMBERS, FOLLOWED BY FULL HOUSE ON EVERY GAME.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE OUR LUCKY 7 GAME TO WIN A GROCERY SHOPPING VOUCHER, THIS HAS ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND WILL BE AROUND £45
NEW PLAYERS VERY WELCOME. FREE REFRESHMENTS AT THE INTERVAL.




PFA

GROCERY BINGO!

Friday 15th May
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Family Friendly Event

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Moorlands Voluntary & Community Transport

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For further information

please contact:

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(Chief Officer) on

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or email:

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Support includes face-to-face visits and encouragement to join local groups, aiming to build friendships and combat isolation.

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

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Holy Week and Easter



Holy Week

30th March: Monday 7.00pm Reflections Service @ Onecote

31st March: Tuesday 7.00pm Reflections Service @ Butterton

1st April: Wednesday 7.00pm Reflections Service @ Ipstones

2nd April: Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Agape Supper @ Ipstones

3rd April: Good Friday 10.30am Walk of Witness from the High Street with hot soup and bacon rolls in Church afterwards

3rd April: Good Friday 7.00pm An Hour before the Cross @ Onecote

3rd April: Good Friday 9.00pm Night Vigil: Ipstones

4th April: Easter Saturday 10.30-12.30am Easter Holiday Club and Easter Egg Hunt @ Ipstones

4th April: Easter Saturday 4.00pm Easter Eve Holy Communion @ Onecote

4th April: Easter Saturday 9.00pm Easter Fire Service @ Butterton

5th April: EASTER DAY 3.00pm Benefice Holy Communion Service and Farewell to Revd Jane @ Ipstones with refreshments afterwards