

**March
2026**

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Communities Newsletter

Ipstones, Onecote, Butterton, and
Warslow with Elkstones



Welcome to the March Communities Newsletter

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

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

moorlandsa9@gmail.com

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Who Is Missing?

Get your community listed here for **FREE**



WE ARE ON FACEBOOK

Search for: @themoorlandchurches.staffs

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

The view today is actually clear, although the brief appearance of the sun this morning has gone. What a dreadful wet grey dreary month February has been!! I lost my mojo a fair bit as it rained and rained and rained. It is astonishing how the weather can so easily affect one's mood (and energy levels). But the snowdrops are totally amazing and the crocuses are showing now (a bit rain bashed) and those tete-a-tete daffodils are looking like they might break into flower soon. I am hopeful spring will be here soon!

The garden now resembles a huge tip, an enormous warren, as those pesky rabbits have bred and bred over the last three months and extended their estate further and further...its lethal to walk on with zillions of rabbit holes to trip one up. At least Robert and Jacquey helped sort the moles. Am at sea as to what to do to recover it! Any advice out there????

The view also feels rather precious too just now, as I move into my last month with you all. Most of the time I am too busy to really think about it, but when I do my heart does a bit of a flip flop. Yes, I am eagerly anticipating retirement, and moving properly to our home in Ardnamurchan, but I am also incredibly sad at the thought of leaving all you wonderful communities and people. The best way to describe it is that I have a tummy full of ambivalence and a brain stuffed to the brim with lists and lists of things "I must do before I go".

And Lent adds to my mixed feelings. Lent (over the whole of March this year) is an important time for reflection, of the year past, and of how we live our lives. This year I have neither given anything up or (as is more usual with me) given daily to a specific charity or activity. I have chosen to, instead, pray harder and longer every day, for the Ipstones family group of churches, the communities it covers, the wider Deanery it is part of and for all I know. I have set aside 3 books to read. Serious "God books" as Emma calls them, rather than the nonsense historical novels and crime series I usually read, and I am forcing myself to respect my quiet time. And I am reflecting daily on hope.

Ruth F tells me that the word hope is used 187 times in the bible, and alongside it the variants of hope add on another 25. And one of the "God books" I am reading is a fabulous book by Teresa White.

She writes— *"If in God's presence you take a few moments to reflect on the journey of Lent as you experienced it this year...perhaps you will find that, in all the ups and downs of those 6 weeks, one or two sparkles of hope remain in your memory"*.

Well for me, right now at the beginning of Lent those sparkles are shining bright. I have hope in spades for the future life of faith in all the villages I am part of here, hope for love and joy, wisdom and grace to grow day by day as you face your future together, and I step out into mine. Mind you, I've not gone yet —so let's focus together on hope for Lent and make sparkles shine for each of us.



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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St Leonards and Berkhamsytsch	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	5 th Sunday 29 th March Palm Sunday R HOLY WEEK	Monday 30 th March HOLY WEEK	Tuesday 31 st March HOLY WEEK	Wednesday 1 st April HOLY WEEK	Maundy Thursday 2 nd April HOLY WEEK	Good Friday 3 rd April HOLY WEEK	Easter Saturday 4 th April HOLY WEEK	1 st Sunday 5 th April Easter Sunday W HOLY WEEK
Warslow	11.00am Palm Sunday Morning Worship Roger Cutts	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>
Elkstones	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>
Butterton	3.00 Palm Sunday Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	7.00 Holy Week reflections 2 Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	8.00pm Easter Eve Fire Service	<i>To other services</i>
Onecote	9.30 Palm Sunday Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	7.00 Holy Week Reflections 1 Toby Gaddum	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	7.00 Hour before the cross	4.00pm Easter Eve Holy Communion Service Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>
Ipstones	(10.30 at Memorial Hall) 11.00 Palm Sunday procession and Holy Communion Revd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	Holy Week Reflections 3 Roger Cutts	7.00 Agape Supper Service Revd Jane Held	10.30 Walk of Witness joint with Methodists Roger Cutts and Revd Jane Held 9.00 Night Vigil Revd Jane Held	10.30 Childrens Holiday Club Easter Service	3.00 Easter Sunday Benefice Holy Communion and farewell service Revd Jane

Maundy Thursday

AGAPE SUPPER

2nd April 2026 — 7.00pm at St Leonards

All welcome

A service over a meal (*three courses*)

To book, contact:

Revd Jane; jane@janeheld.co.uk 07771 556391

Church Services

The New Rota

For the last 4 years we have been able to provide a service every week at Ipstones, and the level of services people requested at Onecote, Butterton, and more recently at Elkstones and Warslow.

With Revd Jane’s retirement this is not going to be possible, as only ordained priests can preside (*lead*) at Holy Communion. The situation is made more complicated because the family group of churches north of us (*Longnor*) and the family group of churches east of us (*Waterfall*) are already vacant. We have a small pool of retired priests with permission to take service in retirement (*PTO as it is called*), but that pool at its biggest is only 7 priests, who are not

available every Sunday and who usually only do one service a Sunday. That pool cannot cover a holy communion at up to 16 churches a Sunday.

We are looking at 1 holy communion in each family group each Sunday, with services of the word covered by our lovely pool of lay ministers (*Roger, Toby, and our churchwardens when needed*).

The good news is that the advert for the new Vicar will be out in March and we can pray that its successful (*for all 3 jobs!*).

The new temporary monthly rota will follow the pattern **below**:

MONTH x 2026.	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	1 st or 5 th Sunday If 5 th one benefice service only
<i>Liturgical year</i>					
Ipstones	6.30pm Book of Common Prayer Evensong	11am Holy Communion	11.00 am Morning worship	7.30pm Compline	
Onecote	9.30 Holy Communion	9.30 Morning Worship	<i>To other services</i>	9.30 Morning Worship	
Butterton	<i>To other services</i>	3.00 Evening Worship	10.00am Holy Communion or at Elkstones	<i>To other services</i>	
Warslow	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	11.00 Holy Communion	
Elkstones	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	3.00pm Holy Communion if it can be staffed or at Butterton	<i>To other services</i>	

<p>Walk of Witness</p> <p>Maundy Thursday</p> <p>2nd April 2026</p> <p>Ipstones</p>	<p>10.30 – 10.45 Gather on High St opposite Jim’s</p> <p>10.45 Walk along Church Lane to Noon Sun Common then up the hill</p> <p>11.30 Prayers around the cross</p> <p>11.45 Hot Soup and bacon rolls at St Leonards</p>	
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Church Services

Church Liturgical colours G =green R=red P=purple W=White	1st Sunday 1 st March Second Sunday of Lent P	2nd Sunday 8 th March Third Sunday of Lent P	3rd Sunday 15 th March Mothering Sunday P	4th Sunday 22 nd March Fifth Sunday of Lent Passiontide begins P	5th Sunday 29 th March Palm Sunday R
Lectionary	Genesis 12: 1-4 Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-17	Exodus 17: 1-7 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-42	See lectionary for all choices:	Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Roman 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45	Isaiah 50: 4-9 Philippians 2: 5- 11 Matthew 21: 1-11
Warslow	11.00 Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i> Baptism 1.00pm Rev'd Jane	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	11.00am Palm Sunday Morning Worship Roger Cutts
Elkstones	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	3.00 Mothering Sunday Service Rev'd Jane Held	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>
Butterton	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	10.00 Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held	3.00 Palm Sunday Rev'd Jane Held
Onecote	9.30 Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held	9.30 Morning Worship Debra Tickell	9.30 Mothering Sunday Roger Cutts	<i>To other services</i> 12.30 Baptism Rev'd Jane	9.30 Palm Sunday Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held
Ipstones	<i>To other services</i> 3.30 BCP Evening Prayer Roger Cutts	8.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held 11.00 Morning Worship Roger Cutts 7.30 Compline Rev'd Jane Held	11.00 Mothering Sunday Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held	11.00 Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held	10.45 Palm Sunday procession from Hall 11.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Jane Held

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



Church Rota

Ipstones Rota:

SPECIAL SERVICES: see rota for Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday		
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 swop and make a note of the changes on the clipboard in church		
MARCH 2026		
Welcomers/Sides People		
Sunday	Name	Name
1 st March	n/a	n/a
8 th March	Zoe Johnson	Pat Nash
15 th March	Ruth Flint	John Flint
22 nd March	tbc	Ann Jackson
29 th March	tbc	tbc
Readers		
1 st March	n/a	n/a
8 th March	Zoe Johnson	Ruth Flint
15 th March	Linda Malyon	David Jack
22 nd March	Ruth Flint	Linda Malyon
29 th March	Ann Jackson	Jacquey Millward
Eucharistic Assistant		
1 st March	n/a	n/a
8 th March	n/a	n/a
15 th March	Ann Jackson	n/a
22 nd March	David Jack	n/a
29 th March	Jacquey Millward	n/a
Refreshments		
1 st March	n/a	n/a
8 th March	volunteers	n/a
15 th March	Volunteers	n/a
22 nd March	Volunteers	n/a
29 th March	Volunteers	n/a

Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase a Lily in memory of a loved one please use the slip below. Please give the slip, along with your payment to Pam Wain by Thursday 26th March.



If you would like to create a display for Easter or help to decorate the Church on Saturday 4th April from 10.00 am, please contact Jackie Wilbraham.

I would like to order Lily(s). 

Name

Address

£

In memory of

St. Leonard's Ipstones

St Leonard's, Ipstones



What a busy month we have ahead, after a couple of quiet months.

We begin with joining our Methodist colleagues for the World Day of Prayer service on Friday 6th March. This year the service is at the Chapel in Ipstones at 2.00pm that day. The service has been put together by Nigerian Christian Women and has the best songs ever. Do come and support us, remembering especially how dangerous it is to be a Christian in some parts of Nigeria.

Mothering Sunday is on the 15th March. We will be having a child (and family) focussed Holy Communion at St Leonards at 11.00am that morning. Bring everyone along – good songs, and good stories, an activity, and a chance to be given some lovely flowers to give to the parent or carer in your family you wish (mum, granny, grandpa, dad, aunty, uncle, carer – the person who has best mothered you over the last year).

A nice thing to do before you treat yourselves to a special Sunday lunch.

We are of course preparing for Easter. Jackie Wilbraham and the Friends of St Leonards, alongside Jackie's fabulous volunteer flower team will be making the church look amazing as always. And, as always there will be Easter Lilies. If you would like to make a donation, in memory of a loved one, for the purchase of Easter Lilies please can you get it to Pam Wain before 26th March 2026. You can find a little form to go with the donation in this magazine.

Holy Week is of course extra busy. It begins with Palm Sunday. For those who wish we will be walking from the Memorial Hall to church with our palm crosses at 10.45 on the 29th March, and the full Palm Sunday Service starts at 11.00am. A special service to start the best week in the religious calendar. On Wednesday night, 1st March, we have a quiet service

of reflection in St Leonards, reflecting on Hope for the Future. If you want to go to the other 2 reflection services, we begin on the 30th March at Onecote at 7.00 reflecting on Hope in the Vacancy, followed on the 31st March at Butterton reflecting on Hope when Lost.

On Maundy Thursday, a convoy of cars with 4 folk each will be heading off from church at 9.45am to Lichfield Cathedral for the Chrism Mass at 11.00am. This is an amazing moving and important service, where the oils used by priests for baptism, healing, and confirmation are blessed, and everyone in ministry renews their faithful vows to serve God. After the service we have soup and rolls.

Please let Revd Jane know if you too would like to join us. (07771 556391). That evening we are holding the Agape Supper in St Leonards at 7.00pm. This service recollects the Last Supper, which was held at the Jewish Passover. We hold the service by candlelight, whilst eating and drinking together. We begin with a seder plate (the traditional Passover platter used at the beginning of Passover, followed by lamb stew, and finished with apple crumble. If you would like to book in, and join us please let Revd Jane know.

On Good Friday, we are holding the traditional joint Walk of Witness alongside our Methodist friends. We gather round the cross at the corner opposite Jim's shop at 10.30am and walk from the High St at 10.45 along to Noon Sun, and then up the hill to plant the cross itself. Hot tomato soup and bacon rolls will be provided at St Leonards, after the walk. At 9.00pm that evening we are holding a Night Vigil service at 9.00pm in church.

Easter Saturday morning brings a lighter note with the Easter Holiday Club meeting in church at 10.30am for Easter related activities, a song or 2, a story, snack and a grand easter egg hunt to follow. Church will be chaotically joyful no doubt with much fun, noise and mess!

St. Leonard's Ipstones *(continued...)*

And then finally on Easter Day we meet at 3.00pm for a big Easter Service, when Revd Jane leads her last service in the Deanery.

All are welcome, whoever you may be, to join us and to celebrate the amazing joy of the Easter miracle, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will see you at some point in March, we are sure.

Church Donations

We are very grateful for the amazing donation in memory of John and Rosemary Shemilt.

Their daughter, Jane writes:—

'It is with a happy heart that I donate the wonderful sum of £1,150 in memory of my most precious parents, Rosemary and John Schmitt. St Leonards Church was and is a very special place for my Mum and Dad. They were married there 61 years ago, having been baptised and confirmed also.

I was confirmed at St Leonards, my sister and myself also married there. My parents were regular attendees at St Leonards and both my sister and I grew up going to church. Over the years mum helped at the Flower Festivals too, and in her later years enjoyed the Prayer Café. I also enjoyed going with here when possible and taking my own girls.

So St Leonards is a very special church to my Mum and Dad and its wonderful that such a great sum was donated "in their memory."

With lots of love and blessings.

My parents would be so thankful. Jane and family xxx (included by request).

We have also recently received a significant interim bequest from the estate of the late Mrs Jean Bibby. We are deeply thankful for her generosity.



LENT STUDY GROUP

**17TH February,
3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th 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

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

Advanced Notice:

A date for your diary.

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

More details to follow...

St Bartholomew's Butterton Correspondent

St Bartholomew's, Butterton

Lottery Ball Winners January:

- 1st- £40- Karen Wigglesworth
- 2nd- £20- Jan and Paul Lees
- 3rd- £10- Carole Hudson

Lottery Ball Winners February—NEW SEASON

- 1st- £40- Toby Gaddum
- 2nd- £20- Serena and Frank Taylor
- 3rd- £10- Joe Gibbs

Participant numbers have increased this year and it means that half the proceeds go towards Church funds. Thanks everyone.

The APCM will be held on Monday 27th April at 7pm in Church.

Anyone who would like to be added to the Church Electoral Roll should contact Maggie Risby please.

Butterton Village Hall

In the diary for February/March - two children's parties, a 21st birthday party, a christening, a Gold and Silver valuation day, three sessions of a Duke of Edinburgh training course, Pilates and Dog training.

Having had new gates fitted, the old wooden gates are going spare. A reasonable donation could secure. Please contact Hilary on 01538 422314 or Maggie 01538 304115.

Whilst talking about our new gates...a sad announcement. Baz (Barry) Rowley has died. Baz funded gates for both the Church and Village Hall. He will be sadly missed. RIP Baz.

Butterton Parish Council

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

An item recently discussed was the presence of radon being emitted from underlying rock in the parish. Radon is naturally occurring, a colourless, odourless radioactive gas caused by the breakdown of uranium in the soil. It is apparently the second leading cause of lung cancer, trailing behind smoking. If anyone has any info re radon ie meters installed, preventative measures etc, the PC would be most grateful to hear from you. Meanwhile the PC is currently researching the topic.

Butterton History Group

Although no events are planned at the moment, we continue to work behind the scenes. Recent acquisitions include a complete 1896 diary kept by Anne Burnett (nee Hambleton), wife of James of Clayton House. It gives a valuable and interesting insight into her daily life. A parcel from an ebay dealer is expected shortly.

St Luke's Onecote



From Jean Tickell on behalf of St Lukes

*“Wait it on the Lord; Be of good courage
And He shall strengthen your heart.”—Psalm 27: 14*

As I write these notes, we have just had a most successful evening in the Village Hall as we hosted our Vicar Jane's talk. It was as expected, most informative and also humorous.

We had a hall full of people who all seemed to be going home with smiles on their faces. Many thanks to everyone who provided refreshments.

I'm sure you are aware we are in the season of Lent, also in this period we celebrate Mothering Sunday, our service is March 15th at 9.30 am led by Roger Cults. There will be a posey for each Mum and a home-made simmer cake to share.

After that on Good Friday, we have an hour before the Cross, led by Toby Goddum. This begins at 7pm. Next, on March 29th we have Holy Communion at 9.30am. This will be Jane's last service at Onecote.

We then come to Easter Sunday itself. We have a Benefice service at Ipstones led by Rev Jane at 3pm. This will be Jane's last service with us all. Although we have no service at Onecote that day, anyone who wishes to, may leave flowers in the church windows in memory of family or friends, as usual.

We are to led to believe that the hand-over to Toby is going very well, we must all try to support Toby in any way we can.

My best wishes to all, Jean.

Ipstones Methodist Church

March 2026

One of my favourite psalms is Psalm 121, which is one of the set psalms during Lent:



- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

The psalms were originally written as poetry, and this one was perhaps composed as encouragement for pilgrims making their way to Jerusalem.

I was brought up in Devon and the village where I lived was overlooked by the beautiful hills of Dartmoor. For me, the hills of Dartmoor in my childhood represented escape, peace and quiet, and a search for spiritual meaning, which we may describe as God. But hills do not signify peace and beauty for everybody. To some they can be places of danger, a desert experience, loneliness, or the fear of falling or being attacked by robbers.

These would have been real threats in biblical times and indeed in former times in this country. In the days of the stagecoach there was the threat of highwaymen for example. So the psalm also provides comfort to the pilgrim, assuring them of God's presence during their journey.

Whether it represents a single journey or the "journey of life", this psalm is both a beautiful piece of poetry and a source of encouragement. Why not read it again slowly and let its words rest in your heart and mind?

—Roger Cutts

SERVICES DURING MARCH

- **March 1st** at 10.30am Local arrangement
- **March 6th** at 2.00pm World Day of Prayer
- **March 8th** at 10.30am Rev Julie Hassall
(Service to include Holy Communion)
- **March 15th** at 10.30am Mr Dennis Johnson
- **March 22nd** at 10.30am Rev Denise Williamson
- **March 29th** at 10.30am Rev Joyce Smith

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

March 3rd, 17th & 31st

Tuesdays 10am – 12noon

Everyone Welcome!



Elkstones & Warslow News

Warslow Church News

It is lovely to see the snowdrops in the Church Yard signs of the hope of spring and Easter... yet to come.

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.

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.

Whilst we have all these plans and actions, we always have space for new offers of help. If you would like to help Warslow Church, **in any way**, please contact Judy Prince or Emma Gould who would be more than happy to discuss matters with you.

Fundraising

As noted, before 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!

It is proposed that we hold our Flower Festival on the same weekend as our Family Group and make a day trip for visitors who will follow the trail between Warslow and Ipstones via Butterton and Onecote.

Date and Theme to follow...

Ruth Wildblood nee Fradley

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 12th at 1pm.

We are sorry to hear that our dear friend Dorothy Mellor is unwell, we wish her speedy recovery.

Forthcoming Services

Our next Service is Holy Communion at 11 a.m. on 1st March 2026.

Lectionary Readings/Life Events

Weekly Lectionary Readings

set Bible readings for March 2026

Sunday 1st March

Genesis 12: 1-4; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17

Sunday 8th March

Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42

Sunday 15th March

Samuel 16: 1-10; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John Ch.9
(or readings for Mothering Sunday)

Sunday 22nd March

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Roman 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

Sunday 29th March

Isaiah 50: 4-9; Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 21: 1-11

Life Events

(February 2026)

Funerals

Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

9th January 2026

Stanley "Peter" Richardson

at Ipstones

22nd January 2026

Emily

Baptisms

Welcome to your Church family

15th January 2026

Ezme Goddard

15th January 2026

James Salt



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Thought For The Month

It is quite hard for us mortals to understand why Jesus, in his time on earth, who showed us the way he wanted us to live our lives, should then be subjected to a terrible death on a cross!

Jesus didnt come to the world merely to tell us what to do; He came to do for us what we could never do for ourselves.

There are four sections to Christ's life.
Firstly, a baby in a manger, a death on a cross, a body in a tomb and resurrection as a King on His throne.

No- one but Jesus has accomplished this, and a Christian faith is the acceptance of these truths.

As Christians these truths give us confidence.
"Walking with God is the most rewarding life possible"
—Psalm 16

God wants to be his top priority...always.
We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.

Heavenly Father,
I pray today that you will always be my top priority.
AMEN

Ipstones Historical Society / Warm Welcome

The Ipstones Historical Society met on 29th January 2026, in the Memorial Hall extension for our annual members evening.

This meeting is a chance for members and visitors to bring along and discuss any items of historical interest or talk about documents they think relevant and interesting.

This year we had a wide selection of items which included, a Mearsham pipe, a number of geological fossils, pictures of a member's aunt from the 1920's along with accompanying vintage cards she had sent over the years.

There were discussions about press cuttings regarding an escaped German POW from the war who roamed around the Moorland's until his eventual capture. Another society member brought along her relatives' writings she had published which depicted Art Nouveau drawings and some details of farming life as well as wedding present lists which are vastly different from today's.

The group discussed the founding of the NHS in 1948 and personal experiences of medical treatments both before and after its inception. The most

up to date topic of discussion was around the granting of a bridleway in the village and its impacts upon the area of Clerk's Bank and Whitehough.

The booking secretary gave out our annual programme of events list for this forthcoming year which is as follows:

26th Feb:	History of Alton
26th Mar:	War Pigeons
30th April:	AGM
28th May:	Unpicking the Threads
25th June:	The life of Robert Hooke
30th July:	Outing TBA
27th Aug:	Growing up in the 50's
24th Sept:	Proverbs and Idioms
29th Oct:	Leek Polish connections
26th Nov:	Mines of the Peak District
December:	No meeting

The next meeting of the society will be in February; as detailed above.

The fee for Society members is £1.00, non-members £4.00 on the door.

Please come along and join in with fascinating historical talks and events, everyone is welcome.

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

At The Methodist School Room,
Brookfields Road, Ipstones

drop in for:

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

For more information about 'Warm Welcome' please contact:

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

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Ipstones *online*
The community Facebook page for Ipstones and the surrounding area

Organising an event?

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

Visit Facebook and search for **Ipstonesonline**

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

Ipstones Memorial Hall & Grounds

What's On: Regular activities to join

	ACTIVITY	FOR MORE INFO:
MONDAY	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:
Saturday 28 th March 11am	Fused Glass Workshop with Paula Andrews	Paula Andrews 07879 368811
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
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**

250 CLUB

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

250 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW

February 2026

£20	No. 180	Kay Jones
£15	No. 19	Margaret Burnett
£10	No. 21	Julie Salt

250 CLUB

Ipstones Parish Council

DRIVERS have been urged to be more cautious and patient while driving through Ipstones village.

It comes after Ipstones Parish Council received numerous correspondence from residents raising their concerns over speeding and congestion along High Street.

The congestion is having an impact on emergency vehicles getting through. Recently, a fire engine and an ambulance have been impeded by congestion while on 999 calls.

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

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

A recent survey, organised by the parish council, showed that 53 per cent of residents supported the idea, while 32 per cent agree with the additional yellow lines being implemented with conditions. Just three people did not support the idea.

During the last two weeks the parish council have received additional emails and letters from residents highlighting their concern over the speed of vehicles and the narrow footpaths along the road.

The parish council have recorded the concerns of resident's emails, letters and the recent survey returns and have drawn up a list of 17 potential solutions to the problems identified.

At the last meeting of the parish council held on February 4th, several residents attended the authority's meeting outlining their fears of speed and congestion along High Street.

The problem of speed was also highlighted along Froghall Road.

The meeting was also attended by Leek Rural County Councillor Charlotte Kelly and Churnet Valley County Councillor Sue Beardmore along with police representatives.

Many residents spoke out about their fears of walking down high street with their children to school and shops due to speed and lorries having to mount the pavements due to vehicles trying to get through the small pinch gap.

Parish councillors informed residents they had been working on a solution for the last two years, including extending the yellow lines on the north side and installing traffic speed identification signs, but had not received any support from the county council until now.

Following the meeting councillor Kelly said she would report the issue to Staffordshire County Council highways.

One day later Councillor Kelly informed the parish council that the county council had now agreed to complete an assessment of the area and report back.

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

March 2026

The Folk Club in Ipstones continues to thrive. We met together on the third Wednesday of February in the Methodist Schoolroom and enjoyed a time of singing, playing and refreshments. We are having a bigger event this month in the Methodist Church with nationally renowned guest performers.

Keith Kendrick and Sylvia Needham will be performing on Wednesday 18th March.

Close harmony traditional English music with concertina accompaniment.

Support will be provided by Dave Joynson— a local singer songwriter.

Tickets £10 each (*under 18's half price*) please call or text me on 07979 755210 to book.

Tickets will also be available on the door on the night from 7pm.

We look forward to welcoming you, —Roger Cutts

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

Newsletter Subscriptions

Magazine Subscriptions

The subscription period for the magazine runs from April to March and the price of the magazine is being kept at £1 a copy. The sum of £12 is due for the year commencing April. Your distributor should have given you an envelope with a reminder to pay with this month's magazine.

There are several ways to pay:

Cash or Cheque: Please make cheques payable to: PCC of Ipstones (St Leonards)
Please return to your distributor in the envelope provided.

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.

We keep a list of subscribers, so your name and address details are stored on a spreadsheet purely for the purpose of magazine administration.

There is also the option of receiving the magazine electronically by email. You may receive this in addition to the printed magazine or in place of it. We will no longer be making a formal charge for the electronic copy, but donations will be gratefully received by any of the payment methods listed above.

I will be responsible for maintaining the list of subscribers for printed copies and the email list for electronic copies. This data will be maintained according to GDPR legislation and will not be used for any purpose apart from magazine subscription management.

—Roger Cutts

Newsletter News

Having enjoyed my work on the monthly newsletter for two and a half years, it is now time for me to hand over to someone new. I will be ending my present reign as newsletter typesetter and designer at the end of July.

If there is someone in the village who feels able and willing to take on this voluntary role, please contact Jane Held on 07771 556391.

—Tony Brookes

Ipstones Writers' Group

We were all overjoyed to see the sun when we met this afternoon after the almost constant grey and rainy days of the last few weeks. Our writing prompt for February was 'Seeds and Growth; a fitting topic for this time of year.

For some of us (*well just me actually*), this proved too difficult and, although I started two or three times, I failed to complete anything. For my sins I did make the cake for this meeting. My first ever carrot cake. At least that was a success.

Needless to say, all of our other writers produced thought provoking and/or amusing pieces. One wrote movingly of 'The Friday Flood'. A sad reflection on the sorry state of our Social Care Services and the impact this can have on people's lives.

Another gave a fascinating insight into role of maize in the lives and culture of the Mayan people. Maize cobs store very well apparently and constituted 8% of the Mayan diet. Among many amazing (*pun intended*) facts was their brewing of the 53% proof pox (*pronounced posh*) from corn seed and its role in their many festivals. Their corn god was likened to our own corn dollies in appearance although it was noted that their celebration of a successful harvest was likely to have been more 'boozy' compared with our modern harvest festivals. This drew some disbelieving chuckles from the audience!

We were then treated to a witty piece on the varied nature and 'ingenuity' of seeds. From the clever antics of 'helicopter' seeds to largest and humorously shaped coco-de-mer seed. Our writer recalled her childhood fascination with the fast growing mustard and cress on the kitchen windowsill and runner bean seeds held in jars with blotting paper at school. (*Do they still do that?*). It was noted that one of the oldest seeds successfully germinated was not found in Tutankhamen's tomb, but was a 2000 year old date palm seed.

Our next writer produced a heartwarming story comparing seeds and growth to the slow but eventual recovery from injury and loss in the Afghanistan conflict.

A poem by William Henry Davis began the thoughts of the next writer, reflecting on the welcome signs of spring in her daily walk and role of seeds and growth in our lives. With a special affinity for trees, she described the joy of planting and watching the growth of a special 'anniversary' tree, comparing trees' ability to support of each other through the 'wood-wide-web' to the way individuals can support each other in a community.

And a poem about the chance finding and planting of an acorn followed. The writer aptly described the feelings of hope and expectation when returning to the place it had been planted. Joy at observing its growth over the years and eventually sorrow as a house move forced a parting.

We finished with a tale of ploughing oxen; shepherds guarding their sheep at the forest edge and an encounter with a huntsman and pack of hounds. Although the shepherds' dogs mistrusted the hounds they proved their worth by fighting off a pack of marauding wolves overnight, returning bloodied and limping to the sheepfold the following morning.

Tea and cake followed with our 5 minute writing task 'Sounds that we love and hate'. Always amusing and a happy end to our meeting.

—Rosie for Ipstones writers.

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

Hot & Cold/More Warm Than Hot

All Shall be Well

Owls hoot, just before dawn,
And then the blackbird sings.
I smile in the warmth of my bed,
And gradually open my eyes.
All shall be well.

Gently waking, stretch each leg,
Preparing for the day ahead.
Then sit and stretch and take deep breaths,
It's good to be alive.
All shall be well.

I stand and gaze through open window,
Clouds scudding by in pale blue sky.
Frost on grass and panes of glass,
Ice cold in the early dawn.
All shall be well.

Across the way, the sheep are grazing,
New life soon, amazing.
Quietly thinking of those I love,
With prayers for their new day.
All shall be well.

The weatherman says it's early Spring,
As I wrap up warm against the cold.
I see my breath as I walk the dog,
Like steam in the ice-cold air.
All shall be well.

A Cacophony of sound fills the air,
Arriving at Frogall basin.
So good to see the Canada geese,
Flown in, from who knows where.
All shall be well.

A gentle walk along canal,
Dog darting to and fro.
Sniffing, bouncing, full of joy.
Happy barking from my boy.
All shall be well

Stop, be still, listen,
Bird song, fills my heart.
Song thrush, nuthatch, great tit, wren,
And robin redbreast, comes bobbing along.
All shall be well.

Tall, Majestic, friendly trees,
Reflected in the water.
Fat buds and joyful catkins hang,
And shiver in the breeze.
All shall be well.

Green woodpecker, laughs at me,
Because he can't be seen.
Grey wagtails, pairing.
Busy birds nest building.
All shall be well.

Leaning and peering over the bridge,
Water cascades on rocks.
Bubbling, churning, rushing on,
Into what ocean, will it flow?
All shall be well

Home warm again, with garden view
It's time for morning prayer.
Birdsong and time to sit and stare,
Content to know, that
All shall be well

Inspired by

Everything is Going to be All Right

How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.

—Derek Mahon, *from Selected Poems*

Little Country Kitchen

Now How Does This Happen?

Revisiting a cook book that had been around for a while on the kitchen bookshelves, flicking through, a **FRUITED TEA LOAF** in the Rick Stein's Simple Suppers caught my eye, and thought I'd give it a go.

I made it for the other half and I, and it was delicious, thickly spread with favourite President butter, and jam for him.

I am sure most bakers will have their own tea loaf recipe, but thought I'd like to share this because it's simple to make with a good result.

However, the next week I made it for a group of friends, using exactly the same recipe with the same amount of dried fruit, and they said it was good, but I didn't think quite as good as the first attempt. I mentioned this to a cooking buddy, who said 'Now how does this happen'? One of baking mysteries I suppose.

FRUITED TEA LOAF

Ingredients

300ml strong tea, made with 3 Earl Grey or English Breakfast teabags

350g mixed dried fruit, such as raisins, sultanas, chopped dates, currants, mixed peel, chopped apricots etc.

Zest of an unwaxed lemon

2 medium eggs beaten

200g light soft brown sugar

250g sel-raising flour

1 teaspoon mixed spice

To make one 2lb loaf (use tin approx. 23x12x7cm)

Method

Make the tea in a jug and allow to steep for about 10 minutes. Put the dried fruit and lemon zest in a bowl and pour over the hot tea. Cover the bowl and leave for a couple of hours – I left it overnight.

Preheat the oven to 180/160fan/Gas 2-3 you know your oven. Grease and line the loaf tin with baking parchment or use a bought tin liner.

Beat eggs and sugar together in a bowl, then stir in the flour, mixed spice and soaked fruit and mix well.

Pour the mixture into the prepared loaf tin and bake for 1¼–1½ hours until a skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 15 minutes, then turn the loaf out onto a wire rack to finish cooling.

Hope you enjoy!

HAPPY BAKING WITH THE LITTLE COUNTRY KITCHEN

Ipstones Gardening

Jobs For March

Revitalise established plants in containers by removing the top 5cm/2in of compost mixed with Flower Power All Season controlled-release plant food.

Start dahlia tubers into growth. Place them in trays or pots of compost covering the tubers only, water well and keep warm. If you need more plants, take cuttings from the first shoots when they are 10cm/4in high.

Give pansies, primulas and other spring-flowering bedding plants regular feeds with a high potash fertiliser like Flower Power. This will help them produce a magnificent display over the coming months.

Sort out any bare patches in the lawn. Use a fork to loosen the soil, sprinkle on some fresh grass seed and cover with compost. Keep it well watered and protect from the birds.

Make sure next year's display of spring-flowering bulbs is spectacular. Remove dead flowers and seed heads and feed weekly with Flower Power. Only remove the leaves when they turn yellow.

Start checking plants for attacks of greenfly, blackfly and other insect pests. Squash the blighters if possible, or spray with a Plant Invigorator.

Give a new lease of life to overgrown clumps of hostas, hardy geraniums and other perennials. Dig them up, chop them into smaller sections and re-plant the best ones in soil enriched with compost.

Start watering houseplants more regularly as they come into growth, and start fortnightly feeding with Flower Power. Wipe the leaves with a damp sponge or cloth to remove the build-up of dust.

Protect the blossom of early-flowering apricots, peaches and nectarines from frost damage by covering trees with horticultural fleece whenever frost, cold weather and strong winds are forecast.

Weeds will now be rearing their ugly heads. Hoe small weeds and seedlings as soon as you see them, dig up perennial ones or treat tough weeds with a Double Action Weedkiller.

PLACES TO VISIT

Bridgemere Garden Centre



Opening Times

Garden centre

Monday to Saturday: 9am to 6pm
Sunday: 10am to 4.30pm
(10am - 10.30am for browsing only)

Origins Pâtisserie

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

The Parlour Restaurant

Monday to Saturday: 9am to 4pm
Sunday: 10am to 4pm

Contact Us

Bridgemere Garden Centre, Near Nantwich,
Nantwich, CW5 7SN
Tel: 01270 360 003

Help Appeal

Transforming emergency care

How the HELP Appeal's impact extends beyond funding NHS hospital helipads

The HELP Appeal is best known for its funding of NHS hospital helipads across the country, helping to reduce the time it takes for critically ill and injured patients to reach lifesaving treatment at Emergency Departments after landing in air ambulances. However, our support also extends to funding air ambulance bases, ensuring crews have the facilities they need to respond quickly, efficiently and safely to medical emergencies.

Modern air ambulance operations demand high-quality infrastructure that can support a rapid 24/7 emergency response. Many existing bases were built years ago and no longer meet the needs of an increasingly busy service. Our funding helps transform these bases into purpose-built facilities designed for today's emergency care demands.

A recent example of this support can be seen at the Midlands Air Ambulance. The HELP Appeal provided significant funding to upgrade its air bases, creating state-of-the-art infrastructure that includes expanded hangars, modern crew accommodation and improved operational spaces. These improvements help ensure the charity's aircraft and crews can be ready to respond at a moment's notice. On our vital support, they said:

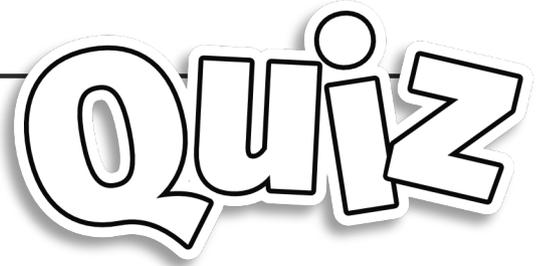
"This £2 million redevelopment, made possible thanks to the generous funding from the HELP Appeal, marks a transformative milestone ... The upgraded facilities will...strengthen our ability to respond swiftly to emergencies and deliver lifesaving care..."

Each base the HELP Appeal funds across the country represents more than bricks and mortar. It is a lifeline for patients, enabling crews to reach emergencies faster and deliver critical care at the roadside and in remote locations. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we will continue to

help air ambulances across the country, which will ultimately help to save more lives.

To learn **how you can support** the HELP Appeal, which has funded 57 NHS hospital helipads with another 40 in the pipeline, as well as funding air ambulance bases, critical care cars, medical equipment and PPE for air ambulance charities and volunteer medics, please visit: www.helpappeal.org.uk.





IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER... A SPRINGTIME QUIZ

1. 'Younger than Springtime' comes from which Rogers and Hammerstein's musical?
2. 'Spring is the home of plans and projects' is a line from which Tolstoy epic novel?
3. Tulips are a member of which flower family?
4. What month does Spring begin in the northern hemisphere?
5. Every year millions of people visit Japan to admire which flower?
6. Who is the Goddess of Spring in Roman mythology?
7. On the day of the Spring Equinox how long is night time?
8. Thai New Year, known as Songkran, takes place during which Spring month?
9. When does Spring begin in Australia?
10. Which Feast Day can take place on any Sunday between 22nd March and 25th April?
11. In North America what bird is said to be the first sign of Spring?
12. What adjective describes something as taking place in Spring?
13. Which Spring flower is associated with St. David's Day on the 1st April?
14. What global holiday is celebrated on the 8th March?
15. What was Spring called in England before the 14th Century?
16. Which Spring flower comes from French for 'lion teeth'?
17. What flower might you be given by friends and family if you celebrated Labour Day in France?
18. What Spring flower *Myosotis Sylvatica* more commonly known?
19. What are scallions?
20. What cake is traditionally eaten at Easter?

Leek Foodbank



Registered charity in England & Wales 1153990

NEWSLETTER January 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters

Welcome to my report on the first month of 2026, and I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

As is customary, I will start with the figures for Foodbank usage during January, with a comparison to the previous year:

Total vouchers fulfilled	= 73 (95)
No. of Adults fed	= 99 (131)
No. of Children fed	= 62 (86)
Total no. fed	= 161 (217)

So, as you can see, a much quieter month than the start of last year, although that does not really paint the whole picture, as we have an increasing number of clients who, rather than asking for a full food voucher, pop in to take a few items from the help yourself trolleys.

Often clients prefer this as it is a less embarrassing way in which to address their need.

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

Regarding donations, you can always keep up to date with what we need by signing up to BanktheFood, which will give you access to our latest shopping list, and also send you a reminder when you are shopping:

<https://www.bankthefood.com/>

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. Best wishes and as always, heartfelt gratitude to you all.

—Lindsey Stockton, Project Manager

If you do not wish to receive Newsletters from Leek and District Foodbank, please email projectmanager@leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line, and your full name in the body of the email.

Events

ONECOTE VILLAGE HALL EASTER GROCERY & CASH BINGO. TUESDAY 3rd MARCH

(DOORS OPEN 6.45PM, EYES DOWN 7.30PM)

IN ADDITION TO OUR USUAL GROCERIES AND CASH PRIZES WE HAVE CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS. SPECIAL EASTER RAFFLE

FREE REFRESHMENTS AT THE INTERVAL -INCLUDING HOMEMADE EASTER CAKES. ALSO, CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE A CHOCOLATE TREAT.

10 GAMES OF BINGO PLUS TWO FLYERS. EACH GAME PLAYING FOR LINES, CORNERS OR 5 NUMBERS, AND ALL FOLLOWED BY A FULL HOUSE. PLENTY OF CHANCES TO WIN. OVER £120 CASH TO BE GIVEN AWAY. IN ADDITION WE HAVE OUR LUCKY 7 GAME TO WIN A MORRISONS/SAINSBURYS SHOPPING VOUCHER; THIS HAS ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND WILL BE AROUND £50. ALL WELCOME.



Gather around the fire to sing and bring a little magic to the spring night. We'll learn songs by ear, and anyone can do it! Your voice is welcome just as it is, no previous singing experience required. A warm welcome awaits, with friendly faces and hot (or cold!) drinks.

All welcome, no booking or tickets required. Donations welcomed for Katie the singing leader.

Thursday 12th March

**Butterton
Ipstones
Onecote
Warslow**



Serving God, Serving Community

BEER and BLESSINGS

24th March 7.00pm
Black Lion, Butterton

*Join us for drinks,
chat, laughter, and prayer*

ALL WELCOME



**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

MVCT»

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



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Farming Life Centre Befriending



The FLC's befriending service connects farming community members with passionate volunteers who understand rural life.

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

CHARITY NO. 1130259



ONECOTE VILLAGE HALL

Grocery and Cash Bingo

Tuesday 3rd February and Tuesday 3rd March



Doors open 6.45pm eyes down 7.30pm

We have plenty of quality groceries on offer

in addition, on average we pay out over £120 each month in cash prizes. come along for a good fun social night. new players always made welcome and will be guided through the night.

12 games of bingo each playing for lines, corners, 5 numbers and all followed by a full house on every game. plenty of chances to win.

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.

Free Refreshments at the Interval

Event Posters / Advertisements

Do You Have a Story To Tell?

IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL
presents

AN INFORMAL EVENING OF STORY TELLING AND CHAT

on Monday 2nd March, at 7pm
in the Blore room

Tickets for the evening are free of charge.
Food contributions for a Bring and Share
Supper will be very welcome.
Bring your own drinks/RAFFLE

TICKETS and more information from:
ROSIE at 32, Froghall Road, Ipstones
Tel. 07802477881

😊 **WARM WELCOME** 😊



AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BUTTERTON



EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 10.30 – 12.30

DATES IN FIRST HALF OF 2026

6th January, 20th January, 3rd February, 17th February, 3rd March, 17th March, 31st
March, 14th April, 28th April, 12th May, 26th May, 9th June, 23rd June

POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A COFFEE / TEA



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



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

Beginners Computer Classes

Free of charge for local residents. Equipment provided.



Register your interest for our Spring 2026 classes

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

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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