



# Communities Newsletter

Ipstones, Onecote, Butterton, and Warslow with Elkstones

MAY 2026

## Farewell to a highly respected vicar

THE high esteem held for the Rev Jane Held was evident when a farewell thanksgiving service for her ministry took place. This was immediately followed by a “surprise” party in Ipstones Memorial Hall on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Both St Leonard’s Church and the Memorial Hall were packed with residents from several Moorlands villages.

Rev Jane came to the vicarage in Ipstones in late November 2021 and took on the role as priest for Ipstones, Berkhamstch and Onecote the following month. She arrived just as a severe snowstorm hit the area and Ipstones sustained a major power cut.

During her time, she helped to undertake a reorganisation of churches with Butterton, Warslow and Elkstones joining the Ipstones Benefice. Following the sudden death of Father John Baines of Longnor, Rev Jane stretched her priesthood even further afield by helping several villages including Longnor and Waterfall.

Speaking to the community magazine, which she had a major influence on, Rev Jane said: —“I have absolutely loved my four and a half years in the Staffordshire Moorlands. It all began when I was reading the Church Times where jobs are advertised. I kept looking at it and it always seemed to open on the page that the Moorlands job was advertised. I had already got 14 churches to attend in Suffolk, but this seemed to be my calling.

I arrived in Ipstones on November 27th, 2021, on the evening the Christmas market was taking place.

During my first night we had a severe snowstorm and a tree fell down on the corner of the churchyard which brought the power lines down, so we had snow and no power. This was a welcome to Ipstones. We were lucky in one respect that my friends who came with us had a camper van, so we cooked breakfast on their stove.

I have loved my time here and so has Emma. All the people are wonderful, and the villages are great and are all different. People are kind and help one another in needy times. They all have a great community spirit and each hold annual events.

Love the people and the way of life. I have never put roots down, but I have here in the Moorlands. With the sudden death of Father John Baines in Longnor I took on additional churches in several villages and have taken services from Longnor to Ilam and Waterfall. The biggest highlight of my priesthood has been to be just here. People have been so good to me even when my health has suffered I am so glad I applied for the job which has been fabulous.

The thanksgiving service and the party in the Memorial Hall was very much appreciated by both myself and Emma and we both had a lovely and enjoyable time.”



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## Welcome to the May 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](mailto:moorlandsmag@outlook.com)

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# Editorial Team

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## Executive Editor

Leslie Jackson

email: [moorlandsmag@outlook.com](mailto:moorlandsmag@outlook.com)

## Design & Typesetting

Tony Brookes

## Printing & Production

Pam Ramsay

## Advertising Support

Position Vacant

Copy deadline for the  
June edition is:

**Tuesday May 26th**

All copy to be sent to:

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

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# Clergy Addresses & Phone Numbers

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## VACANT

Contact churchwardens for a specific church or  
Toby Gaddum 07774 261183

## Minister of the Methodist Church

**Ipstones and Onecote:** Rev Julie Hassall  
19 Shelley Drive, Cheadle ST10 1XR.

Tel: 01538 751907

Email: [julie.hassall@methodist.org.uk](mailto:julie.hassall@methodist.org.uk)

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# Village Contact Numbers

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## St. Leonard's Ipstones

Robert White (*churchwarden*) 01538 266891

Jacque Millward (*churchwarden*) 07799780561

**St. Luke's Onecote** Janet Stone (*churchwarden*)

Jean Tickell 01538 304334 (*churchwarden*)

## St. Bartholomew's Butterton

Rachel Hopper 07709 039147 (*churchwarden*)

Maggie Risby 01538 304115

(*PCC secretary and churchwarden*)

**Ipstones W.I.** Jane Fleet 01538 260074

**Ipstones Historical Society** Alison Cartledge

## Ipstones and Foxt Senior Citizens

Linda Malyon and Margaret Burnett 07973 480184

## Ipstones Memorial Hall Bookings

Jane Fleet 01538 260074

## St Lawrence Warslow

Judy Prince (*deputy churchwarden*)

## St John the Baptist Elkstones

Myrtle Alcock (*deputy churchwarden*) 01538 304225

## Ipstones British Legion

Margaret Burnett 07973 480184

**Ipstones Parish Council** Judith Ward 07973 522861

## Ipstones Agricultural Society

Andrew Stevenson 01538 266317

**Captain of Bells** David Jack 01538 266902

## Village of Ipstones Common Good Trust

Barry Shuttleworth 01538 266633

## Friends of St. Leonard's

Ann Jackson 01538 266840

**Ipstones Tiny Tots Nursery** 01538 266000

**Ipstones Creative Writing Group** 01538 266633

## Ipstones Community Choir

Denise Rowe 07739 179722

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# Who Is Missing?

Get your community listed here for **FREE**



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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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# News From The Editor

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## Welcome

I have been asked to take over the role as editor of the community magazine which covers the parishes of Ipstones, Onecote, Butterton, Warslow and Elkstones.

As I am passionate about our communities I have taken on the challenge following the retirement of Rev Jane Held who has done a great job editing the magazine over the last few years.

I have lived all my life in Ipstones and have worked right across the Staffordshire Moorlands and beyond as a journalist for more than 20 years.

I have spent all my career in the media industry from print to journalism. When I retired, I was chief reporter at the Leek Post and Times. I have also served for 35 years at Ipstones Fire Station, twenty as officer-in-charge.

The magazine is what it states, it's a community news edition produced monthly for just £1.

I would like to incorporate more news from our communities. So, if you know anyone who is celebrating a milestone event like a special birthday or wedding anniversary, please let me know. Also, news from parish councils in your area would be appreciated.

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## Easter Lilies



Donations received from:

- **Revd. Jane Held**
- **The Clowes family**  
In memory of Mary, Samuel and Sister Pat
- **Robert White**
- From **Jean Goodwin** in memory of Roy
- From **Clifford and Violet Randle** in memory of both families
- In memory of my parents, Jenny and Ken Blackburn from **Jacquey Millward**
- In memory of Eileen, Mr Samuel and Mrs Lily Pickering and Mr Cecil "Pop" and Mrs Mary Wakefield from **Geoff Wakefield**
- In memory of Brian Scragg from **Evelyn and all the family**
- In memory of Jean Ratcliffe from **George, Dave, Diane and family**
- In memory of Rachel Wraight from **Delia Staton**
- In memory of Norman Allen from **Kay and family**
- In memory of Harry and Margaret Thompson and Ted Jackson from **Ann and Michael Jackson**
- In memory of Pauline Hammond and Derith May from **Paul Holland**

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## PRAYER CORNER

Lord, you have created us with Love and for Love. We are sorry for the hatred in the world and in our hearts. You endured the cross for Love of us and to conquer hate. Help us to grow in Love. Amen

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# Family Group Of Churches

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## 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

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# Church Services

Church Liturgical colours G =green R=red P=purple W=White	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2026 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May Trinity Sunday
<b>Lectionary Readings</b>	Acts 7: 55-end Psalm 31:1-5 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14	Acts 17: 22-31 Psalm 66: 7-end 1 Peter 3: 13-end John 14: 15-21	Acts 1: 6-14 Psalm 68: 1-10 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11 John 17: 1-11	Acts 2: 1-21 Psalm 104: 26-36 1 Corinthians 12: 3-13 John 20: 19-23	Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-end Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end Matthew 28: 16-end
Warslow	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	11.00 Holy Communion Revd Carol Richardson	<i>To other services</i>
Elkstones	<i>To other services</i>	<i>To other services</i>	3.00pm Holy Communion Revd Patrick Griffin	<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 Ven John Hall	<i>To other services</i>	3.00pm Deanery Holy Communion Archdeacon Megan Smith
Onecote	9.30 Holy Communion Revd David	9.30 Morning Worship Roger Cutts	<i>To other services</i>	9.30 Morning Worship Toby Gaddum	<i>To other services</i>
Ipstones	6.30pm BCP Evensong Roger Cutts	11am Holy Communion Revd Carol Richardson	11.00 am Morning worship Roger Cutts (Bellringers Sunday)	11.00 am Morning Worship Toby Gaddum 7.30pm Compline John Flint	10.30am Joint Ecumenical Service with Methodists at Ipstones Chapel Roger Cutts

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# Newsletter News

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## THE NEWSLETTER:

### IMPORTANT

A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

[Moorlandsmag@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Les Jackson:  
[moorlandsmag@outlook.com](mailto:moorlandsmag@outlook.com)

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# Farewell To Jane

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## People Gathered to Say Farewell to Rev Jane

MORE than 150 people gathered in St. Leonard's Church, Ipstones to say farewell to Rev'd Jane Held on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Rev Jane had been Priest in charge of the Ipstones family group of churches for the last four and a half years.

Conducted by The Ven. Dr. Megan Smith, Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent, Rev'd Patrick Griffin, Vicar of Alstonefield, Ilam and Wetton and Rev'd Julie Hassall, Superintendent Staffordshire Moorlands Methodist Circuit, the Service of Thanksgiving for Jane's Ministry included three of Jane's favourite hymns, an anthem by the Ipstones Community Choir and reflections by Roger Cutts, Lay Reader and Councillor Linda Malyon.

Jane's ministry in Ipstones started in the five churches of the Ipstones family group and was soon extended to include all 17 churches in the Alstonefield Deanery.

That, plus Jane's enthusiastic involvement with the two primary schools in the deanery and community groups such as the Ipstones Warm Welcome project (a joint venture with Ipstones Methodist Chapel) and the Ipstones Community Fire Station, made for a packed church and a packed Ipstones Memorial Hall, where a party was held after the service.



All present, and many others in the local communities where Jane has worked so tirelessly, have benefitted greatly from her ministry and wish Jane and her partner a long and fulfilling retirement in the relative tranquillity of Ardnamurchan, Scotland.

—Rachel Hopper



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# News From The Pew

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For those of you who don't know me, my name is Toby and you may think it odd that having had just over four years of Rev'd Jane's musings from "*View from the Vicarage*", you now have me.

I am very blessed to have been appointed Lay Chair for our Family Group of churches as well as Lay Chair for the Alstonfield Deanery. Hence why it is now me penning, *a view from.....*

I would like to start this month's thoughts by giving my heartfelt thanks to Rev'd Jane for handing everything over to us in a very organised and detailed way. I could not have wished for a more comprehensive start in serving you and our churches.

As a community we gave Rev'd Jane and Emma a wonderful send off with a Thanksgiving Service at St Leonard's followed by their Farewell Party at the Memorial Hall. Thank you to all those who contributed to the planning and execution of a wonderful Saturday afternoon on 11<sup>th</sup> April. The Churchwardens across our Family Group, Dolly Birds, the Community Choir, the Bellringers, the Memorial Hall committee and so many others in the background. Thank you so much. I know that Rev'd Jane and Emma were totally blown away. We did keep it a surprise despite all the posters, as they didn't know the detail of the service or the party.

I am writing these words from the Isle of Mull in Scotland where I have come up for a few days. The sun is shining brightly as I hope it is in the Staffordshire Moorlands and I am looking across the Sound of Mull towards Ardnamurchan, where Rev'd Jane, Emma and Magnus are settling into their new life.

Rev'd Jane's ministry amongst us all was a blessing to us and God used her in so many ways to reach out to every one of us, young and old.

Her season with us has come to a natural end and we start a new season together as we wait, hope and pray for a new vicar.

In the meantime, our lives carry on, the challenges we face, our hopes, our dreams, our disappointments. We still have God as our shining light through Jesus and we still have each other. We have so much to hope for as spring starts to bud and blossom.

Life will be different now and we are in a new season. Psalm 27 verse 14 says "*Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*"

Services in our churches will continue as normal as will other community events.

I will try and meet as many of you as possible over the coming months. I do work in the textile industry, and I am serving in the Army Reserves as well as a busy home life. So, I may not be as visible as Rev'd Jane was, but we have an amazing team of Christian people in all our churches. We are here for you, our wonderful community.

We continue to pray for you in your lives.

God Bless you all.

—Toby Gaddum

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# St. Leonard's Ipstones

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## St Leonard's, Ipstones



Another busy month for us and also a very sad time as we said our goodbyes to Reverend Jane and Emma as they set off for their new adventures in Scotland.

Holy week went by with a visit to Lichfield Cathedral on Maundy Thursday, followed by the AGAPE supper in church which was enjoyed by all and was very well attended. On Good Friday we met in the Square, this was a very poignant service before walking up to Noonsun to place the cross on the hill and sing a final hymn, then we went into church for soup and bacon rolls.

On Easter Saturday the children's craft day was well attended, and the children really enjoyed the Easter egg hunt in the church yard. Jane's final service was on Easter Sunday, and it was lovely to see so many people gathered. Drinks and hot cross buns went down very well at the end.

Our final big day was the farewell service for Reverend Jane on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> led by Archdeacon Megan and Reverend Patrick, which was a very sad occasion but followed by a celebratory party in the Memorial Hall. Thanks to Dolly Birds for the amazing buffet and also to all who helped on the day.

We are now looking forward to warmer months ahead with the Flower Festival planned for the weekend of June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> beginning on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> with a concert by the Ashbourne Town Band, tickets will be available soon. Look out for the posters.

Looking ahead to the Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast also in June on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

*More details to follow...*

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## Poem For Jane

What can I say about Reverend Jane  
I have thought about it time and again  
Perhaps saying she has a caring heart  
Might be an appropriate place to start

Everyone mentions her welcoming face  
With the friendly smile always in place  
She connects with people young and old  
The school children love her, so I'm told

If stressed she can use a word starting with 'B'  
Which is a delicate part of the male anatomy  
At first this created some surprise and shocks  
Because it's the one that rhymes with socks

When she leaves, we will miss Reverend Jane  
It won't be easy to find the likes of her again  
Dedicated, eccentric, courageous and caring  
With her warmth and hospitality for sharing

Now she's retiring to the place she likes best  
We wish Jane and Emma love, peace and rest  
—Linda Perry

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# St Bartholomew's Butterton Correspondent

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## St Bartholomew's Church

Firstly, may I say I am looking forward to working with Leslie Jackson again after a break of a few years. Thank you Leslie for 'stepping up to the mark'. Maggie.



## St Bartholomew's Butterton

A busy time with meetings dedicated to the handover from Jane to the PCCs. My printer is gently humming away in the background and we as Churchwardens at St Bartholomew's have every and any form required to progress through the interregnum. Thank you Jane.

Then there was the 'Surprise Party' when apparently Jane wore her best knickers !!! I am unsure as to how much Jane 'sussed' it all in the end...The service in St Leonards on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> was very moving and the after party at the Memorial Hall was full to capacity. There was a queue to write in the Memories Book. I am sure both Jane and Emma will enjoy a good read after unpacking those boxes!

Sadly, included in all the busyness of the last few three/four weeks, we have said our goodbyes to three of our friends. Barry (Baz) Rowley, Edna Thompson and Margaret Dutton. May they RIP. We are putting our thinking hats on in preparation for the Flower Festival upcoming in June. Pilgrimage and Hope being the theme. Next week (*Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April*) sees our APCM, our first without Jane but Toby is coming along to keep us on track. I will let you know in the next issue how things progressed.

The Churchyard Tidy took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March and the churchyard has had it's first mow and strim. All looks good and freshened. Thanks to Tommy Slater, our Groundsman.

The Lottery Ball Draw for April took place at the Warm Welcome on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. Winners were 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £40- Jesse Prince, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £20- Di and Gray Salt and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of £10 – Lisa Salt. Warm Welcome continues to be very popular. The cakes are delicious ! The next meeting is 10.30am-12.30pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May and then Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone welcome to come and join us. We now have coloured sketches of the church available in the form of cards/mounted pictures in a frame. Available at the back of the church.

## Butterton Village Hall

There have been quite a few bookings lately. Christening parties, Chocolate Bingo, Wakes for two of our departed friends and a group of Derby School Duke of Edinburgh students who are using the Hall as a base to practice their skills.

Pig Racing is on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. This is always an hilarious event with great rivalry between the competitors. Refreshments and a Bar are available. The Summer Fayre is most likely to be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July but watch this space for any changes.

The Repair Cafe visits us for a second time on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. More details in the next issue. The Village Hall AGM is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at the Village Hall.

## Butterton Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at the Village Hall. All Parishioners are welcome to attend. If any specific item requires discussion, please let the Clerk know beforehand so that sufficient time can be allowed.

## Butterton History Group

The new Roll of Honour is in place in church. Thanks to Peter Tomlinson for donating the slab of mahogany and Leek Signs for creating the sign. Funding was courtesy of a Leaden Boot grant. Many thanks to everyone concerned. We could do with some advice as to how we polish/stain the plaque as the lettering could suffer if we get it wrong.

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# St Luke's Onecote

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*"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." —Psalm 16:8*

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As I write these notes I am thinking of the wonderful farewell party we all arranged for Jane.

Jane knew something was going on but she didn't quite know what. I think she was expecting a cup of tea and a biscuit!

The buffet was very good and provided by the Dolly Birds, quite a lot of the cakes were provided by the usual band of bakers...you know who you are. Many thanks to the Dolly Birds and anyone who helped in any way.

Before the party, we held a farewell service at St Leonard's. This service was put together by Toby who had led the organisation of the whole afternoon.

Our Lay Readers and what clergy we have left took part in the service with Bible readings and several reflections to which Jane replied. Our Archdeacon Megan Smith delivered the sermon. Everyone got quite emotional indeed.

It will seem very strange thinking that Jane isn't with us anymore, the best thing we can do is to carry on in the way she has shown us, which has worked so well.

Now we must thank Toby for taking on the task of generally organising everything for us.

I understand that he and Jane have had a lot of handover meetings during the last few months.

We all wish Jane and Emma a long happy and healthy retirement in Scotland.

Just to let you know, Our APCM is on May 11th in church at 7.30pm. Do try to come and support us in this if you can.

Our thoughts now turn to the Flower Festival. The theme of this is Pilgrimage, this can be interpreted any way you wish, and this will take place on the 6th and 7th of June.

**The winners** of our March fabric fund draw are:

- 1: Dawn Grindey
- 2: Sue Peach.
- 3: Steven Lees

Congratulations to all of you.

—Best wishes from Jean.

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# Ipstones Methodist Church

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**During the month of May  
we celebrate Aldersgate Day**

Wednesday, 24th May, 1738, became the day John Wesley later remembered as a turning point in his spiritual life. On that evening, he went, “very unwillingly,” to a meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, where someone was reading from Luther’s Preface to the Epistle to the Romans.

Wesley had recently returned from a disappointing missionary experience in Georgia, America, and he was burdened by doubt and discouragement. Yet during the meeting he experienced what he later described as his heart being “strangely warmed,” and he gained a new assurance of God’s love and of salvation through faith in Christ alone.

This moment mattered deeply because it did not simply give Wesley comfort; it reshaped his whole understanding of faith. For him, Christianity became not just a matter of religious duty or outward discipline, but of inward trust, living grace, and a living relationship with God. From that night onward, Wesley’s preaching and pastoral work carried a new emphasis on personal conversion, assurance, and the transforming power of God’s grace.

John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience, often described as his conversion, marked a turning point in his spiritual life.

The Aldersgate experience had a profound effect on Wesley’s future preaching and spiritual life. It gave him a fresh assurance of salvation, and after that he preached more boldly about justification by faith and the free grace of God.

In short, John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience helped shape his message and the movement that came to define Methodism.

—Roger Cutts (*with the assistance of Perplexity.ai*)



## SERVICES DURING MAY

- **May 3rd at 10.30am**  
Local arrangement
- **May 10th at 10.30am**  
Mr Dennis Johnson
- **May 17th at 10.30am**  
Rev Colin Cooper  
(Service to include Holy Communion)
- **May 24th at 10.30am**  
Rev Julie Hassall
- **May 31st at 10.30am**  
Dr Lynne Bradbury

Coffee, toast, cake and chat  
In the Methodist schoolroom

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Tuesdays 10am – 12noon*

**Everyone Welcome!**



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# Elkstones & Warslow News

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## St John's Church, Elkstones

Our next service will be Holy Communion on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Rev. Patrick Griffin

Cleaning and Flowers for May – Elizabeth Buxton

### **Flower Festival Coming Up! – Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>**

The subject of this year's Flower Festival will be 'The Knightage' so the flower arrangements will be based around any part of the life or career of anyone who has been knighted, i.e. entitled to call themselves Sir or Dame.

There is lots of scope to choose someone from the past or someone still living, so if you will be prepared to do an arrangement, please ring and let Myrtle know as soon as possible, so that you can be included in the programme.

Also, if you can provide cakes for the refreshments and/or volunteer to serve on the refreshment rota or the tombola Rota, please let Myrtle know as soon as possible (01538 304225) so that we can work out a schedule.

We will also need offers of raffle prizes and tombola prizes.

Hazel Bailey is collecting things for the tombola, and is currently very short of items, so please let Hazel know (01538 304303) if you can supply prizes. Thank you in anticipation!

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## Warslow Church News

### **Easter Service**

Although we did not have an Easter Service at Warslow some of our congregation attended the Sunrise Service at Newtown and the Easter Service at Ipstones.

The service at Newtown was extremely blessed this year as we experienced the beautiful sunrise.

Our Ipstones service was also poignant as this was the last service that Rev. Jane undertook. Thank you to our friends at Newtown and Ipstones for their hospitality!

### **Manifold School Service**

This was, as usual, an excellent service where pupils and their families celebrated Easter. The children presented Jane with a Portrait in recognition and thanks for her weekly visits to the children. Easter eggs were presented to all the children by Jane.

### **Ipstones Thanksgiving Service for Jane Held**

Judy and Emma were honoured to represent the church family of St Lawrence and St John at this service. It was a privilege to participate in such a service of deep respect and gratitude for Jane's ministrations – a very humbling experience. We wish Jane, Emma and Magnus much happiness in Scotland!

### **Church Yard Mowing Team**

It is delightful to see the first 'mow' of the season, what a splendid job the team make! Thank you to past, current and new members of the team – your efforts are much appreciated and thanks always to Steve Bentley for organising you all!

### **The months ahead**

We are now in Interregnum.

As noted, Toby Gaddum and the Leadership Team are working hard to maintain 'service as usual'. We are truly blessed to have him taking the helm! THANK YOU!

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# Warslow News

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**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 **07768 340253** or Emma Gould **07989 294809**.

## Thoughts and prayers

Carl Garnett.

We are saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Carl, a well-known member of our community.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Rachel, John and Family. May he Rest in Peace.

We are saddened to hear that Dorothy is once more incapacitated. We wish her a speedy recovery back to her vibrant self.

## Fundraising

Flower Festival 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026—Pilgrimage.

Thank you to the exhibitors who have kindly offered to do a display! There is always space for anyone who would like to take part. Please let Judy or Emma know.

As noted before, the displays do not have to be biblical, just a personal interpretation of the theme. No pressure or prior knowledge required just a willing heart!

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm in St Lawrence Church Warslow.

Please come forward if you are interested in joining the P.C.C. or going onto the Electoral Roll.

## Bell Ringers

Thank you to Mick Riley for hosting the Manifold Ringers and Friends Bell Ringers who rang the bells of St Lawrence in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of The Peak District National Park on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026. We also thank them for their kind donation to the Church.

We thank Mick for his dedication in ringing our bells when we have a service.

## Palm Sunday Service

It was lovely to have Roger Cutts with us – he gave a beautiful and pensive service, and we were thrilled to have him accompany us with his guitar. Thank You Roger!

## Forthcoming Services

Whilst 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 on **24<sup>th</sup> May 2026** when we will be having the sacrament of Holy Communion with Rev'd Carol Richardson.

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

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# Ipstones Parish Council News

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## Residents Hit with Another Hike in Council Tax

RESIDENTS across the parish of Ipstones have now received their annual council tax bill for the forthcoming year. Yet again people will have noticed that their bills have increased again. The majority of the council tax bill goes to Staffordshire County Council.

For the average Band D property, taxpayers will pay **£2,325.05** during the next 12 months. Out of this, Staffordshire County Council will take £1,686.42; Staffordshire Moorlands District Council £178.21; Staffordshire Police £302.57; Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service £96.77 and **Ipstones Parish Council £61.08**.

While the four main payments are spent across the county, every penny of the parish council's precept is used within the parish.

The parish council has been busy over the last two years establishing the long-term future of several green sites in the parish along with maintaining the large cemetery ground in Ipstones.

During the last two years the council has also been successful in obtaining long leases to take over the Mayfair Avenue greenfield site and a derelict site in Froghall Road which has now been successfully converted into an orchard. It is hoped that the parish council will take over the full ownership of the Mayfair Avenue site in the near future.

The authority also supports Ipstones and Foxt village halls with an annual grant and donates to village activities including Ipstones Agricultural Show and the Christmas market.

During the last six months the parish council has drawn up a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish which will run until 2040. This should soon be available for public consultation.

The council employs a part time clerk and a self-employed lengthsmen.

Last year's parish council precept was £31,952.59, which equated to a Band D precept charge of £57.17.

This year an increase of £5,000 takes the precept to £36,952.59 which equates to a Band D precept charge of £61.08 an increase of £3.91 for the year.

Bands A, B and C will pay less with higher bands paying slightly more.

The parish council has just overseen a £20,000 refurbishment of Foxt play area after being awarded a grant for the National Lottery.

Several new pieces of equipment have been installed on the site which sits opposite to the village hall.

To keep costs down several councillors have volunteered to complete some maintenance work in the parish, in an effort to save money, for the community.

Following a debate at the last meeting of the parish council it was agreed to ask for an Increase of £5,000 for the forthcoming year.

### **Chairman of the parish council, Councillor Linda Malyon, said:**

*"As a parish council, district and county councils, public services, we along with them, have been put in a difficult position when it has come to setting the parish precept. We unfortunately have had to increase the precept this year to enable us to provide the services we do and the grants to local parish organisations, to help them to continue doing the good work that they do, this additional increase will add £3.91 to a Band D property."*

*"There have been increases from all the other bodies that make up the council tax also because of the changes that happened in the budget, much of these we believe should be picked up by the Government and not passed down once again to council taxpayers. It should be about local services and to enhance local services, all the national insurance, pay increases etc., should be covered by government not by the council tax, otherwise it's not doing what council tax was intended, it is then just another form of tax which people will struggle to pay, and some services and jobs will be at risk, leaving inadequate services given to the people we serve, so we apologise in advance."*

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# Local Interest

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## Passport to Sovereign State of Ipstones

Back in June 2002 there was a Declaration of Independence by the People's Council of Ipstones, to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

The idea born from discussions between my husband Barry and the late John Bates, resulted in the main road through Ipstones being blocked between 10am and 4pm from the Toll House down to the bottom of the village. Car drivers were stopped and required to buy an Ipstones Passport for £1 to enable them to pass through.

The event was well received and featured on the 10pm TV news.

Only a small amount of Ipstones passports remain, and are now given to special people, who leave footprints on the heart of our community when they move to pastures new.

An Ipstones Passport was presented to Rev'd Jane, at her farewell party on Saturday, April 11th – a special and amazing woman, who came into our community in December 2021, who has certainly left footprints and memories on our hearts.

Best Wishes also to,  
Emma and Magnus.

—Geraldine  
Shuttleworth



## An Ipstones Chronicle of Faith

by Paul Neville Holland

Each moments journey, dedication to Rev Jane. The lighthouse of community family and spiritual leader of Ipstones heart who moves on with her life's journey. May God speed and love follow you and Emma to Scotland.

To raise spirits – harness your fate, you are born to create.

God fills us with fire and light that's great – your song to state – life awake on time, in the moment - never too late.

Know in your heart – the one you Love – your soul's mate – spiritual contract is your soul's contract, to fulfil destiny – Wow..... in joy, God is how!

Love is the hearts victory in spiritual purpose – kindness a way of living true to your souls destiny – the Creator our source of goodness, that guides us to be – with open mind and heart – to the beautiful world we are born into - touch each other with such love, is divine and sacred truth – all the holy teachers – God gifts our humanity with.... Jesus is the door and open way of love and light to the cosmic eternal life.

We travel as souls – sparks and flames of spiritual nature – epic and ever evolving in grandeur and majesty – life is wonder, alive and aware – conscious of eternity – our eternal odyssey.

For faith awakens your lifeforce and true power, and strong energy – which is the light of love within – so shine and begin – your soul's truth always will win!

This is what I believe.

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# Ipstones Historical Society / Hall Centenary

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The Ipstones Historical Society met on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026, in the Memorial Hall extension for a talk given by Mr Brough entitled, War Pigeons.



Our speaker began his talk by outlining the origins of pigeons as a species. They were originally bred from rock doves and over the centuries they have been used as a food source and to carry messages particularly during times of war. This was seen as early as Egyptian times and through the ages to the Franco-Prussian war in 1810 to convey information from Paris as it was under siege.

The real benefits of war pigeons were found during World War I, where lofts were set up on the Western Front. These messages were vital to troop movements and enemy locations. This form of communication became commonplace before the widespread use of radios.

The Second World War was the conflict that proved the pigeon's worth as an integral part of the military operations. A quarter of a million birds were used, all sourced from British fanciers and the Special Pigeon Service was created by the War Office.

The pigeons were sent on thousands of missions stored in special cylinders which could be dropped into occupied France and the Low Countries. The resistance picked up the birds and sent messages back to Britain in tiny canisters attached to their legs. These messages contained information on Nazi troop movements and the locations of shot down planes. Many lives were saved and the information was fast as the birds could be back within hours of release. Pigeons informed war command that D – Day had started.

The Dicken Medal was awarded to animals for bravery in conflict and 32 pigeons received it, more than any other animal. Cher Ami was a famous bird who won the award.

After the war the National Pigeon Association developed the working-class sport of pigeon racing and even Queen Elizabeth II had her own loft.

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**The next meeting** of the society will be on **30<sup>th</sup> April**, for our AGM. The fee for Society members is £1.00, non-members £4.00 on the door. Please come along, everyone is welcome. May's meeting will be a talk entitled, Unpicking the Threads.

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## Ipstones Memorial Hall Centenary

### Mid-Summer 2028

During the weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2028, it is proposed to celebrate the Centenary of the opening of Ipstones Memorial Hall.

One suggestion is *'An exhibition of villager's photographs and memorabilia'*.

Another is a series of games for the children.

### We need your feedback

Does the village of Ipstones want to celebrate this important milestone?

or

Shall we just forget it? Your thoughts and suggestions would be most helpful

So please pass any comments to the Ipstones Memorial Hall Committee or email:

[mhallcentenary@gmail.com](mailto:mhallcentenary@gmail.com)

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## Family Warm Welcome

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# 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

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# 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 <a href="mailto:Louise@podumpilates.com">Louise@podumpilates.com</a>
	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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:Louise@podumpilates.com">Louise@podumpilates.com</a>
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:
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm – 9pm	<b>Fused Glass Workshop</b> with Paula Andrews	Paula Andrews 07879 368811
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2pm	<b>Ipstones &amp; Foxt Senior Citizens</b> Afternoon Tea and Subs. New members welcome.	Linda 07824 449178 or Margaret 07973 480184
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 6pm for 6.30pm	St Leonard's First School PFA <b>Bingo Fundraiser</b>	Grace Eastwood 07970 053312
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm	<b>Ipstones Community Supper Club</b> <i>Jacket potato supper &amp; Reflexology talk</i>	Margaret 07973 480184 or Sally 07768 173850
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> July from 9.45am	<b>Ipstones 5ish Road Race</b>	Linda Malyon 07824 449178
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Ipstones <b>74<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Show</b>	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

### April 2026 draw

£20	No. 226	Lindy Ann Salt
£15	No. 92	John Richards
£10	No. 115	Paul Emery

250 CLUB

250 CLUB

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## Community Supper Club

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IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

# Community Supper Club

A simple supper  
followed by a **Reflexology** talk  
from Kelly (Elysium Reflexology)



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## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

6.30pm–9.00pm at Ipstones Memorial Hall

Includes jacket potato and fillings supper  
(bring your own drinks)

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### £8 per person

Booking essential (to help with catering)

Tickets available from:

Margaret **07973 480184** or Sally **07768 173850**

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

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# Newsletter Subscriptions / Ipstones Folk News

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## 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](mailto: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

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## Folk News May 2026

Our sing-around in April was well attended and about 15 of us enjoyed an evening full of variety and entertainment.

Our Guest Night in May will be with renowned performers Paul Walker and Karen Pfeiffer supported by the Leek Peace Choir. (see separate poster)

This will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm. Tickets £10 each (under 18's half price) please call or text me on 07979 755210 to book.

—Roger Cutts



*Dave and Mary Joynson with Tim and Ann Mundy jamming together at Ipstones Folk Club*

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# Ipstones Folk Night

Ipstones Folk Club in the  
Staffordshire Moorlands. ST10 2LY  
on Wednesday 20th May

## Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer

Stoke-on-Trent meets Stuttgart!



- an unforgettable experience blending musical excellence with theatrical presence.  
Their new show '**Cheaper Than Therapy**' blends wit, warmth, harmony, entertainment  
and deeply engaging songs that connect with audiences from start to finish.

### Supported by The Leek Peace Choir

Doors 7.00 for 7.30pm

£ 10 per head

- to book tickets for this event email to [peacethroughfolk@gmail](mailto:peacethroughfolk@gmail.com) or from  
Malc ( 07494 738 939), Roger Cutts or Karen Pfeiffer

or buy online via <https://wegottickets.com/event/690495> (£10 + WGT booking fee)

## Peace through Folk Events May to November 2026

(including **guest nights**)

Join us at our regular Folk Club sessions\* on the third Wednesday of each month at  
The Methodist Church, Ipstones, ST10 2LY, Staffordshire.

### May 20th - Guest night with Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer

supported by The Leek Peace Choir

\*June 17th - Sing (& play) around

\*July 15th - Sing (& play) around

### August 19th - Guest night with Tom Perry & Clive Brooks

\*September 16th - Sing (& play) around

\*October 21st - Sing (& play) around

### November 14th - Peace Concert

details TBA.

Contact for more information and advance ticket bookings:  
by Email: [peacethroughfolk@gmail.com](mailto:peacethroughfolk@gmail.com) or text or call : 07494 738 939

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# Ipstones Folk News

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## Peace through Folk Newsletter (issued April 2026)

Future Ipstones Folk Club events in the wonderful acoustics of The Historic Methodist Church:

**April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around - free admission

**May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Guest night with Karen Pfeiffer and Paul Walker supported by The Leek Peace Choir  
**Tickets £10**



With glowing reviews from Edinburgh Fringe and beyond, Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer bring a unique Anglo-German flair to the folk scene. Their new show **'Cheaper Than Therapy'** blends wit, warmth, harmony, entertainment and deeply engaging songs that connect with audiences from start to finish. With just two voices, guitar and Irish flute/recorders, Paul and Karen let their folk-inspired arrangements and imaginative song-writing sparkle combined with their playful cultural banter (*Stoke-on-Trent meets Stuttgart!*).

An unforgettable experience blending musical excellence with theatrical presence emerges. They have performed across the UK, Ireland, Germany, Australia and New Zealand, and are known for captivating

performances that draw people in, and leave them singing after. — *"Eclectic, performed with passion"*  
—Folk & Honey

*"A first-class experience"* —Bietigheimer Zeitung  
*"Great show!"* —Graham Norton

This cultural fusion brings not just songs and stories full of humour and depth—but connection, laughter, and those little moments that turn a good evening into a highlight.

See their website: [www.paulwalkermusic.co.uk](http://www.paulwalkermusic.co.uk)

**June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around—free admission

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around—free admission

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

Guest night with Tom Perry & Clive Brooks

**Tickets £10**



**Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>:** Sing (& play) around—free admission

**October 21<sup>st</sup>:** Sing (& play) around—free admission

**November 14<sup>th</sup>:** Peace Concert with Reg Meuross, Leek Peace Choir and others. *Details TBA*

*Contact for more information:*

by Email: [peacethroughfolk@gmail.com](mailto:peacethroughfolk@gmail.com) or text or call: 07494 738 939

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**Peace through Folk** is a Not-for-Profit Trust run by volunteers.

Our aim is—through all forms of music and performing arts—to celebrate and promote Peace, Friendship, Reconciliation, and the preservation of a kinder, sustainable Planet Earth for all by working together and recognising that we have more in common than that which divides.

Peace through Folk is self-financing, operating within a self-sufficient positive financial framework, without the encumbrances of financial risk, debt, or dependency on external funding sources.

Surplus money generated from events is used to develop future events, and concerts, gatherings, that are complementary to the above aims.

Also, we have supported (so far over £47,000) to four organisations who provide direct aid to child victims of war - UNHCR, Save The Children, War Child, and Médecins Sans Frontières

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# Ipstones Writers' Group

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## WRITING FOR FUN WITH THE IPSTONES WRITERS

With a couple of members on holiday at our last get together at the end of March, it was a smaller gathering than usual, but very enjoyable with time flying by as it always seems to.

Our writing prompt 'ON THE ROAD' produced a variety of stories to share, the first mentioning 'The road to Mandalay, where the flying fishes play', the city of Dundee on Scotland's east coast was mentioned along with a speed boat ride somewhere, and Bonnie Prince Charlie escaping from Culloden disguised as an Irish maid, Betsy.....now that was a tale.

One wrote of an experience a few years ago out walking, coming across a frog, once kissed by a princess, with two friends who got squashed on the road when trying to cross the road to Belmont Pool.

A member whose other half is a lorry driver and always on the road, spoke of the brightly coloured wagons of the gypsies he came across, the one pot meals cooked in a pot suspended over a fire, known as Joey Grey stew which was eaten with bread, and bacon pudding. She spoke of the gypsy men working on farms, while women were at home cleaning and looking after the children.

Someone else spoke of being the entertainment with her brother. What father Mozart said went, they travelled about from big house to big house, where there was money to be made, but they did wonder how long people would enjoy their music. The youngsters sang, and father played music, as he was no singer. She knew when all this ended, she would be at home helping mother around the house. As another grand chateau came into view on the distant horizon, it was time to get ready for another performance.

Another spoke of her contribution, the Journey of Life, being 'a work in progress' which she told us may be returned to or abandoned.

One spoke of printer malfunction, though his story around always being on the road, was quite political, and unfortunately way over the head of someone with a Secondary Modern education, that was completed at a secretarial college from the age of 14. Sorry.

On a dreary wet morning, 'On the road to Hell' by the singer Chris Rea, came to mind for one writer who found it depressing. Her mind turned to dancing golden daffodils, blossom and young lambs in the field - far more uplifting for her.

So soon it was time to enjoy a slice of something tasty with coffee and tea all round.

Next time this writing prompt will be a challenge... PURPLE. We asked if he was joking? No, he wasn't, so PURPLE it is then.

Until next time Best Wishes on behalf of the Ipstones Writers.

—*Geraldine.*

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

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## An Awkward Moment

(May 2023)

We have all had those moments in life when a child innocently repeats something they have heard one or both of their parents say, causing an awkward moment. The challenge is to avoid hurting others at all costs and learn from the lesson, not to repeat the mistake again. I remember working in primary schools in my late teens and hearing some astonishing statements from children, do parents realise how honest and innocent their children are?

Pondering this subject matter, I can think of a few awkward moments in my life, a careless remark can not only be awkward but can be devastating, can end friendships and in some cases lead to aggressive behaviour. Thankfully I've learned from those occasions in my life but there are moments 40/50 years later I still regret ever having happened.

This story is about a glorious Spring weekend, and we were taking a long Thursday evening drive as a family from our home in Wembley to stay with Granny on Exmoor for a few days. Friday and Saturday were glorious days, out and about on the moors. Walking and damming rivers; playing on the rocks and paddling in the sea. Picnics and fish and chips on our way back to Granny's left us all tired, relaxed, and happy.

Granny was very tired on Sunday, so we planned to stay at home. We went to church and cooked Sunday lunch and then we took the children for a walk along the river whilst Granny had a doze. On our return Granny suggested we went out for a cream tea. We declined as we were all quite full, from our Sunday lunch. We were happy with a light snack later.

However, during the discussion around going out came that rather awful, awkward moment. Our son who was probably about nine or ten at the time said, "Yay let's go out for tea at the 'Copper Kettle Coven'."

Gordon, who had just taken a mouthful of tea almost spat it out as he tried not to shout with laughter, before proceeding to choke noisily. My mother said, "sorry Tom what did you say?"

As is so often the case it was left to me to quickly try and cover the moment. As Charlotte ran to the bedroom in fits of giggles. I threw Tom a warning glare with my back turned on Mum. He looked a little confused as I said 'He asked if we could go to the Copper Kettle, but it's closed on Sundays isn't it, Mum? And anyway, I don't think we could do it justice after our big Sunday lunch.' Tom ran up to the bedroom as his sister had heard and realised the faux pas, so had called him to play a game.

It was all Gordon's fault – I blame him for this one, absolutely. My Mum used to meet regularly for coffee at the Copper Kettle with a number of elderly friends and Gordon used to joke about them forming the 'Copper Kettle Coven'. I'm not saying I didn't laugh and tell him he was awful; it became a bit of a family joke. However, Tom had simply thought this was the name of the tea shop and had therefore called it this, in complete innocence. Thankfully Mum's hearing was not as good as it might have been, and Charlotte had been chatting to Gordon at the time, so I don't think Mum heard for certain. There was no atmosphere afterwards and I was greatly relieved as I wouldn't have hurt her.

—Submitted by Sarah Burgess Parker

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# Eating Out Locally

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## EAT OUT AT MONTY'S

On the cobbles of Leek Market Place, stands Monty's Fish and Chip Restaurant, which I hadn't visited since the Covid Pandemic, but the other day I enjoyed lunch, catching up with an lppy family on the next table.



The lunch time 'Special' available between mid-day and 2pm is £8.80, for either cod, chips and peas with tea or coffee on the side, or a choice of pie, chips and peas.



It's order at the counter, grab your own cutlery, and sit and wait for your meal which is cooked to order and brought to your table piping hot, in a reasonable time. I chose fish, which was an adequate size for me, with batter that was crisp and delicious.

Friendly service, and everything seemed clean and tidy. Toilets are on the ground floor level.

Would certainly recommend lunch at Monty's which I thought excellent value.

### **Advanced Notice:**

A date for your diary...

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

*More details to follow...*

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# Little Country Kitchen

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Still not totally committed to the green stuff, I found a couple of salad recipes that might bridge the gap from early Spring to warmer days.

**WARM ROASTED POTATO SALAD** with Parmesan, Walnut and Garlic May, which can be Gluten Free or not, and **LEMONY SUMAC CHICKEN SALAD** with dates, feta and baby spinach.

## **WARM ROASTED POTATO SALAD** *(serves 6-8)*

800g waxy potatoes, scrubbed  
2 red onions, peeled with root left on  
10 cloves garlic, skin on  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
Sea salt and ground black pepper

### **DRESSING**

1/3 cup walnuts, toasted  
½ cup good quality mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon olive oil and 1 tablespoon wholegrain mustard  
2 tablespoons freshly grated parmesan, plus extra for garnish  
2-3 teaspoons lemon juice or white wine vinegar  
2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

### **Preheat oven to 200regular bake/gas 6**

Cut the potatoes into large chunks, leavy tiny ones whole, and slice each onion into 6 wedges through the root end. Toss potatoes and onions and garlic with the olive oil and place in a single layer on a large baking tray, seasoning generously.

Roast for about 40 minutes, until the potatoes are golden and tender, turning over a couple of times during cooking, removing the garlic and onion when cooked. Potatoes will take longer.

**DRESSING.** Squeeze the flesh from 6 of the roasted garlic cloves into a bowl. Add 2 tablespoons of the walnuts, finely chopped, and the mayo. Olive oil, mustard and parmesan. Add lemon juice or vinegar to taste and season with salt and pepper.

**TO SERVE.** Toss the remaining garlic cloves, warm potatoes and onions with enough dressing to coat and transfer to serving bowl. Scatter with remaining walnuts, extra grated parmesan, parsley and freshly ground pepper. Serve remaining dressing separately.

## **LEMONY SUMAC CHICKEN AND CHICKPEA SALAD** *(serves 4-6)*

6 skinless, boneless chicken thighs  
Sea salt and ground black pepper  
2 tablespoons sumac spice  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
400g can of chickpeas, rinsed and drained  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 medium pita flatbreads GF or not, ripped into large pieces

### **TO ASSEMBLE**

2 cups of baby spinach leaves  
1 small cucumber, sliced  
½ cup parsley leaves  
1 red onion, very thinly sliced, tossed with 2 tablespoons lemon juice  
6 fresh dates, pitted and quartered lengthways  
150g soft feta  
½ cup pomegranate seeds,  
Citrus olive oil for drizzling over

**TO PREPARE** Season the chicken and sprinkle with the sumac. Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a frying pan over medium heat.

Cook the chicken for about 8 minutes, or until cooked through. Transfer to a plate, cover loosely and rest for a few minutes. **DON'T WASH THE PAN.**

Add the chickpeas to the pan and cook until golden, stirring frequently, but take care as they can split. Stir in lemon juice and let it bubble up, then scrape into a bowl. Wash the pan and add 1 tablespoon each of butter and oil. Cook the bread in batches until golden and crisp. Place on kitchen towels and sprinkle with salt. Add remaining butter and oil to the pan as needed between batches.

**NEXT** Slice the chicken. Layer up the spinach, chickpeas, cucumber and parsley on a platter. Top with chicken, drained red onions, dates, spoonfuls of the feta and pomegranate seeds. Spoon over chicken resting juices and a generous drizzle of the citrus olive oil.

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# Ipstones Gardening

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## JOBS FOR MAY

Plant out summer bedding once the threat of severe frosts is over—probably towards the end of the month. Cover with horticultural fleece if cold weather is forecast. Water in with Flower Power.

For a riot of colour you can't beat summer-flowering bulbs—such as lilies, dahlias, begonias, cannas and gladiolo—plus a host of others. Now's the time to make a start on planting them.

Compost heaps can get swamped with grass clippings during the summer and often go soggy and smelly. To stop this, add some shredded or torn-up newspaper when adding the grass.

All vegetables—but especially tomatoes, peppers and aubergines—are easy to grow in pots on a sunny patio. Buy young plants now and put outside after the last frosts.

Keep sweet peas well watered or the buds may drop off in dry weather. Once they start blooming, feed and pick the flower stems regularly to produce even more flowers.

If possible, mow your lawn once or twice a week. It'll look and grow much better with regular mowing. Feen once a month with Lawn Magic for a stronger, healthier, better lawn.

Once this year's polyanthus and primroses have finished flowering, dig them up and divide into smaller sections. Replant in a shady part of the garden for a fabulous display next year.

Prune winter and spring-flowering shrubs after flowering has finished by completely removing a few of the older stems. Prune out frost damaged shoots from affected evergreens.

Tie in the shoots of climbing and rambling roses and other climbers as they grow to improve their overall appearance. Training in a fan shape or as near to horizontal as possible improves flowering.

Mulching beds and borders with bark or compost can help retain soil moisture, keep roots moist and cool, and keep down the weeds. A really thick layer (5–7.5cm/2–3in) works best.

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## PLACES TO VISIT

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### Heath House Farm

A family owned and operated Garden Nursery, Tea Room and Gift Shop.



### The Garden Centre

The Garden Centre is open 7 days a week 9.00am-5pm Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm on Sundays.



**Address:** Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook, Stoke-on-Trent. ST11 9BQ.



**Phone:** (01782) 396027

### Tea Room

Open every day from 9.30am to 4pm  
*(hot food finishes at 3pm)*

Open 10am-4pm on Sundays, serving delicious Sunday Lunches.

Call in for breakfast, home-cooked lunches, coffee & cake and lots more.

Bookings available for larger tables *(of 5 or more)*.  
*(Booking is available & advisable for all party sizes for Sunday Lunch)*

### Gift Shop

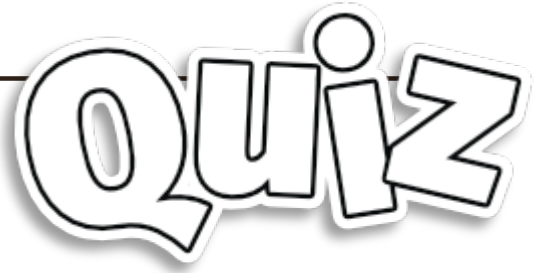
The gift shop is filled to the brim with scarves, jewellery, accessories, cards & wraps and lots of other pretty bits and pieces!

Open 7 days a week, from 9.30am-4.30pm.

### Dogs

Dogs are very welcome in the garden centre and our outside seating areas, but we only allow assistance dogs inside the gift shop and tea room.

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## QUIZ ACROSS THE DECADES... 80's, 90's and 2000's

1. Which celebrity couple was referred to as 'Brangelina'?
2. What 2000's workout craze involved Latin inspired dance moves?
3. What virtual pet toy was still hugely popular in the early 2000's requiring feeding and care?
4. Who told us they were Stronger than Yesterday in 2000?
5. What currency was officially launched in 2002?
6. Bill Clinton was caught up in a scandal involving inappropriate behaviour with which White House intern in the 90's?
7. What was the highest grossing film of the 90's?
8. Which group sang the 1994 hit WATERFALLS?
9. Who was appointed UK Prime Minister in 1990?
10. Who was 'The Iron Lady'?
11. In the 1980's legwarmers were popularised by which film?
12. Which suspense/horror film director died in 1980?
13. Name the 1982 British sitcom featuring Rick, Vyvyan, Neil and Mike?
14. In which 1980's TV series would you find Blake Carrington?
15. Who was the best-selling musical artist of the 80's?
16. The famine relief concert was organised by?
17. Which Liverpoolian did Barbara Bach marry in 1981?
18. Who was assassinated in New York in December 1980?
19. In 1982 which country gained independence from the UK?
20. Which huge event took place in London on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1981?

**Answers: ANSWERS DOWN ON THE FARM QUIZ**

1. Ear    2. Mad Cow's disease    3. Pistachio nuts    4. Bees    5. Buck    6. Pig    7. A Broiler  
8. Sheep    9. Four    10. China    11. 2½ acres (*just less to be precise*)    12. Holstein    13. Pig  
14. North America—domesticated by the Aztecs, taken to Europe by Spanish    15. Mule    16. Sheep Dog  
17. Chicken    18. The Frog    19. Black    20. Pig
-

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# Leek Foodbank

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Registered charity in England & Wales 1153990

## Demand for foodbank increases as more donations required

Dear Friends and Supporters.

Here is the latest news from the Foodbank, starting with the figures, with comparison to last year:

<b>Total vouchers fulfilled</b>	=	97	(64)
No. of Adults fed	=	133	(88)
No. of Children fed	=	70	(37)
<b>Total no. fed</b>	=	203	(125)

A busy month, and significantly busier than March 2025. We are seeing a lot of clients on a regular basis, and we need to work with them to ensure that we have offered them all the support we can to try to stabilise their financial situations.

Usually in April we would be benefiting from renewed funding for the Household Support Fund, which has provided supermarket vouchers and utility support for our clients. However, this funding stream has now ended, to be replaced by the Crisis & Resilience Fund: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community-support-and-safety/crisis-and-resilience-fund>.

Unfortunately, councils do not have to have their schemes in place until July, (*although Staffordshire have said that they hope to beat this deadline*), so we are currently in a hiatus for emergency support! I imagine that this will impact even more on the numbers we see.

A new facility for the most vulnerable in Leek, the Grace Centre, has now opened at the rear of Trinity Church, and I have had the pleasure of visiting, chatting to the clients and volunteers and meeting the team from Saltbox who are managing the project. We had an in-depth discussion about how we can work together rather than replicating support, with them outlining some of their hopes and plans. I think this is going to be an invaluable resource in the town and I very much look forward to our collaboration.

### Our list of requests remains as follows:

Longlife semi-skim milk; Fruit squash;  
Pasta sauce; Longlife sponge puddings;  
Tinned carrots/corn/peas; Tinned rice pudding;  
Coffee-100/200gm; Instant mash(single/family);  
Noodle snacks; Tea; 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

And the big news is we are now happy to take donations of baked beans again...But 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 (male/female);  
Razors and shaving foam; Toilet rolls

And please remember the BanktheFood app, which will give you access to our latest shopping list, and also send you a reminder when you are shopping: <https://www.bankthefood.com/>

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# Events

IPSTONES METHODIST CHURCH

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

**COFFEE  
TOAST  
CAKE  
& CHAT**



May 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

10a.m. to 12 noon

In the Schoolroom.  
Everyone Welcome.

**GROCERY BINGO!**  
Friday 15th May  
Doors open at 6 & eyes down for 6:30pm  
Ipsstones Memorial Hall  
Family Friendly Event  
Please bring your own refreshments!  
All proceeds go to supporting St Leonard's First School PFA

## BRADNOP VILLAGE HALL



### PLANT SALE & COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

10 am – 12 noon

- ✓ Wide variety of locally grown garden & house plants
- ✓ Bring & Buy stall (garden themed items)
- ✓ Raffle
- ✓ FREE admission & a warm welcome to everyone
- ✓ Cash Only Event

All proceeds in aid of Bradnop Village Hall

Donations of labelled plants, raffle prizes & garden themed items for sale VERY welcome. Please bring them along on the day or drop them off at the Village Hall on the morning of the event.

making music ALL SAINTS LEEK LEAKS ARTS FESTIVAL  
The PHOENIX SINGERS  
Director Ashley Thompson Leek  
**The Creation**  
by Joseph Haydn  
The Phoenix Festival Orchestra and soloists from the RNCM  
Saturday 30th May 2026 7:30pm All Saints Church Leek ST13 5PT  
Tickets: £20 (plus £1 booking fee) u18 FREE (booking required)  
www.buytickets.at/allsaintsleek  
Leek Post Office & Picture Book  
or from All Saints Parish Office  
Tel: 01538 528545  
Registered Charity No. 106074

# Events / Appeals / Advertisements

## The Friends of St Leonard's Church

invite you to start our flower festival  
by joining us for a concert performed by

## The Ashbourne Town Band

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm**

at St Leonard's Church, Ipstones

*Cakes and drinks available for a donation*

**Tickets £8 per person on the door**

This forms part of the flower festival  
which runs from  
5<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> June  
inclusive



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



# Clowes Coaches

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Staffordshire ST13 8TP*

**Call: 01538 300730**

*Barrow Moor,  
Longnor, Buxton  
SK17 0QP*

**Call: 01298 83292**

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

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**Door to Door Services** wherever possible  
with **NO** extra charge

## 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](mailto:donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

CHARITY NO. 1130259



# Event Posters / Advertisements

😊 **WARM WELCOME** 😊



AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BUTTERTON



**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 10.30 – 12.30**

**DATES IN FIRST HALF OF 2026**

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

**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!**

Onecote Village Hall

## Grocery & Cash Bingo

**Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>**

*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.

**New players welcome**

*Free refreshments  
at the interval*



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[www.pipistrellecafe.co.uk](http://www.pipistrellecafe.co.uk)



IPSTONES MEMORIAL HALL

## Beginners Computer Classes

Free of charge for local residents. Equipment provided.



Register your interest for our Spring 2026 classes

Contact Sally Wilson on 07768 173850 or [sallycwilson1@outlook.com](mailto:sallycwilson1@outlook.com) for more information.

# Advertisements

## Graham Watkins & Co.

*Chartered Surveyors, Estate Agents, Auctioneers & Valuers*

- Sales & Valuation of Residential and Agricultural Property, Livestock and Chattels
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(landline)

**01538 266810**

# ADVERTISING SPACE



### Ipstones Village Shop

*Traditional Shop & Post Office*

**Mon to Sat 6.30am-7pm**

**Sunday 8am-4pm**

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for over 100 years*



Proud to support the Church Magazine

### SAMUEL SIGLEY AND SONS

Funeral Directors

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# Advertisements

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