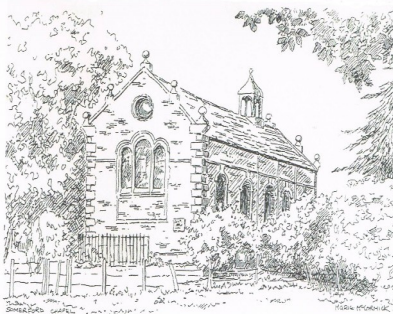
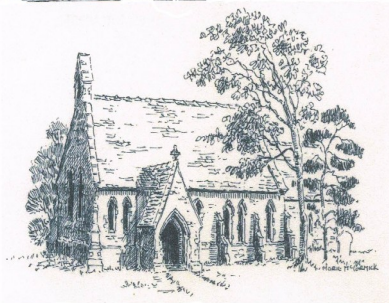


Astbury & Smallwood Parish News

July 2026

Price £1



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Dear Friends,

I hope you were as encouraged by Sophie's letter in last month's magazine as I was! I have heard a few of you comment on it, so I think we were. Schools work is tough stuff and the joy that shone through Sophie's account demonstrates how much Christians in school are needed and valued. A bit like our churches really!

It is easy to look at our churches Sunday by Sunday and not feel a little bit of despair. Numbers are low, volunteers are few and tired. Yet we do see new people joining us little by little. We live in a world that admires success. Bigger is often assumed to be better, and growth is usually measured in numbers, influence and achievement. It's easy for us to feel the same pressures. We wonder whether we're doing enough, attracting enough people, or making enough impact.

However, the Gospels tell us a different story. Jesus never asked his followers to become impressive. He called them to become faithful. He washed feet, welcomed children, ate with outsiders and gave himself in love. His greatness was seen in humility. At the moment, I am reading a book written by a friend of ours, called 'The Humble Church'. In it he, reminds us that this is still the Church's calling today, to show up for people and build community. Church is not simply how many people gather on a Sunday, but how faithfully it reflects the character of Christ throughout the week.

Whenever we pray for a neighbour, visit someone who is lonely, prepare refreshments, welcome a newcomer, sing God's praises,

support a local charity, or quietly care for one another, we are living out the gospel. They may never make headlines, but they matter deeply to God. A humble church doesn't seek attention for itself. Instead, it points people towards Jesus. It is known for its kindness; for its generosity; for its willingness to listen, learn and serve. The New Testament reminds us that we are the Body of Christ. Every member has a part to play. Every act of service, however small it seems, contributes to God's work in the world. Churches grow when people feel welcomed, feel that they belong and that 'this could be their tribe'.

Perhaps our calling today is not to become a larger church as quickly as possible, but to become a deeper church: a community known for its welcome, its generosity, its prayerfulness and its joy. A place where people encounter not our achievements, but the love of Christ. If we continue to grow in love, hospitality, compassion and faithfulness, then we are already becoming the kind of church God delights in.

May we never lose heart if our efforts seem ordinary. God's kingdom has always grown through ordinary people who quietly trust him. Seeds planted in love often bear fruit that we may never fully see. So let us keep welcoming, praying, serving and encouraging one another. In doing so, we become what Christ has always called his Church to be: a humble people, confident not in ourselves, but in the grace of God. Thank you for all that you do.

Heather

'Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.'

James 4, 10)

Editor – Mr W. Ball

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The Sunday services at Somerford Chapel will continue with Evensong at 2.30 pm on the first Sunday of each month (5th July, 2nd August and

5th September). The Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on 27th September and the Christmas Carol Service on 12th December.

There will also be a concert in aid of MND research by Audley Male Voice Choir on Sunday 9th August at 3.00 pm.

Do put these dates in your diary, and we look forward to welcoming to the Chapel.

Dates for your diary: Sunday 5th July at 2.00 pm in church: Janet Pazio (viola), Catherine Young (cello) and David Roberts (piano) will be playing classical music including Bach and Beethoven. The concert will last about an hour and tea and cakes will be served. This is a free concert but much needed donations would be appreciated.

Later –

Afternoon events:

8th August at 3.00 pm: Troublesome Reeds, Liz Cuttell and friends.

23rd August at 2.00 pm: A ukelele band

28th September at 2.00 pm: Archie.

We will need cake for these concerts (I have already made a fruity traybake!) Please make a cake in order to thank the musicians and raise more money for the church.

Evening events:

Fashion Show 24th October 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Christmas Fair 14th November 11.00 am – 4.00 pm

A Murder Mystery Evening 21st. November 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel 27th November 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

We shall be serving wine at these evening events

Russell Watson Concerts: 16th, 17th & 19th December (tickets sold separately)

Tickets for A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel can be booked online at <http://bit.ly/4vhY0pu><http://bit.ly/4vhY0pu>

Watch out for online booking for the other evening events.

Here's hoping we have a very successful Summer/Autumn.

Jane Sharman

Astbury Ladies' Fellowship: We had a change of speaker for the Fellowship meeting in June. Kate Reynolds had got us down for June 2027, so at short notice Ray Caudwell had stepped in to talk to us about growing up in the 50s and 60s. The meeting began with the Fellowship prayer, adding our 'get well' wishes for those who are under par. The Chairman gave news of Astbury May Day, which had been a busy successful day. Our plant stall church fundraiser took £352 in sales, and other sales and donations made a final total of £425, our best result ever. Our thanks go to all those people who gave plants and cuttings out of their goodness, and also for the donations.

Our Fellowship Lunch is on Wednesday 15th July at the Legs of Man (£29). Pamela (01260 591518.) is still taking names but would appreciate payment by 1st July.

It was now time for our speaker Ray Caudwell to take us down memory lane to growing up in the 50s and 60s. He had brought things to show us – a ceramic hot water bottle, a mincer that clamped onto the kitchen table, a tin opener like a short dagger that you plunged into the tin – an identity card. He reminded us of segregation at school, school milk frozen in winter. Kitchens without fridges, slowness of travel, the annual charabanc going to the seaside! Members joined with their own memories, and we thanked him warmly for his interesting talk. We had a cup of tea and drew the raffle.

Very aware of how we need to raise money for our church this year, we listened to a list of events which will take place in Astbury Church – please see opposite page. Our own Fellowship effort will be on Wednesday 21st October at 12.30 pm. Meet then at the Village Hall and walk over to church, where Bill Ball will give an illustrated talk about the church; and then back to the Village Hall for a cup of tea. Please tell your friends about all the events, which promise to be very enjoyable.

I look forward to seeing you at the Legs of Man on 15th July at 12.15 pm.

Carole (07484 525829)

Astbury Women's Institute: President Kate Naylor opened the meeting and welcomed all members new and old. Two new members joined our committee and were presented with Committee badges. *Jerusalem* was sung, accompanied valiantly by Margaret Hollinshead on piano. Our June birthday buttonholes were then distributed.

The book swap table was organized by Maureen Steele and we had an excellent artisan table with Linda Brayford and raffle by Carol Steele. Our competition this month was 'A photo of your favourite walk', officiated once again by Jen Fagan and won by Di Malkin with a photo of a walk which she began doing in lockdown and has continued to do.



This month's speaker was Josephine Gosling, her talk was titled 'Following Famous Footsteps'. Josephine has been walking regularly with her husband for many years and has covered many hundreds of miles both in the UK and abroad. She based her talk on walks which are either mentioned in poems or novels by famous writers and poets or are in locations where writers or poets were born or where they have lived. It was a very entertaining and informative talk accompanied by

photographs that Josephine has taken over many years. Many subjects were discussed, such as Why was William Wordsworth investigated as a spy? How did Jane Austin describe Lyme Regis? What did Charles Dickens think of his grandma? How did Oprah Winfrey's Book Club change America? And What did Margaret Mitchell change in *Gone With The Wind* on publication. With mentions of the Bronte Family and their lives and travels. We all agreed it was a very agreeable evening, enhanced by tea and cake and the raffle draw.



We then finished the evening off with our National Anthem assisted once again by Margaret on piano and the meeting was closed. Our next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 1st July at 7.30 pm: all are welcome and should you wish to find any more information about Astbury WI please contact Kate Naylor on 07875 691170. We always warmly welcome new members!

Dotty Kallis

Sartor's Quiz (Answers on page 14)

1. To which saint is the cathedral in Vienna dedicated? a. St James; b. St Mark; c. St Paul; d. St Stephen.
 2. A son of the manse is a minister's son in which country? a. England; b. Ireland; c. Scotland; d. Wales.
 3. How many Articles form the set of doctrinal formulas finally accepted by the Church of England? a. 30; b. 33; c. 36; d. 39.
 4. Which king of Judah became king at the age of sixteen and reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem? a. Uzziah; b. Amaziah; c. Joash; d. Hezekiah.
 5. Which one of the following was never part of the Israelite community living in exile? a. Ezra; b. Job; c. Esther; d. Nehemiah.
 6. Who wrote the book of Philemon? a. Philemon; b. Onesimas; c. Paul; d. Peter.
 7. Of which of the tribes of Israel was Paul a member? a. Judah; b. Benjamin; c. Reuben; d. Simeon.
 8. Avogadro's Hypothesis is concerned with what? a. Heat; b. Light; c. Motion; d. Hases.
 9. Which river flows under the bridge at Avignon? a. Garonne; b. Loire; c. Rhône; d. Seine.
 10. Which one was the jazz trumpeter? a. Clive James; b. Eric James; c. Harry James; d. Jesse James.
-

WORDS OF WIT & WISDOM

The only ones among you who will really be happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. Albert Schweitzer

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.
Psalm 1, 1 – 2

Will your eyes behold
through the morning light,
the city of gold
and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe
by the heav'nly shore,
when life's storms are past
for evermore?

Priscilla Jane Owens (1829 – 1899): *Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?*

The shortest pencil is better than the longest memory.
UCB *Word for Today*, Monday 23rd January 2017.

There is no such thing as conversation. It is an illusion. There are interesting monologues, that is all. Rebecca West

Invest yourself in good deeds, whose interest you enjoy in this life and whose capital awaits you in the world to come.
Rabbi Lionel Blue: *The Godseeker's Guide*, p144

I dreamt that I was making a speech in the House. I woke up, and by Jove I was!

Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire (1833 – 1908)

May they go with you,
Whatever life sends:
The joy of laughter
And the love of friends.

Arnold Taylor

FASCINATING FACTS

Religion is a way of life, involving customs and ceremonies that validate what matters to us, and which reinforce the attachments by which we live. It is both a faith and a form of membership, in which the destiny of the individual is bound up with that of a community. And it is a way in which the ordinary, the everyday and the unsurprising are rescued from the flow of time and re-made as sacrosanct.

Roger Scruton: *Our Church*, p6

In case you wondered, a plug with 21 pins used to connect parts of a video or audio systems, called a Scart, takes its name from an acronym of Syndicat des Constructeurs des appareils Radiorécepteurs et Téléviseurs, the European syndicate which developed it.

The Defenestration of Prague (1618) refers not to a mass breaking of all the windows by a crowd of cross Czechs but to the dramatic gesture with which the Czech Protestants challenged the authority and religion of the Habsburg Emperors within the Czech Lands. On an issue of church building a crowd of nobles and knights marched on Prague Castle and, after a dispute, threw two imperial councillors, Counts Martinic and Slavata, and their secretary out of a high window. Falling on rubbish, the victims survived. (The Czechs bounced?)

William of Ockham (or Occam) (c1285 – c1349) was not a precursor of King Gillette (1855 – 1932) but a Franciscan scholastic philosopher perhaps best known to posterity for his razor, which was not a shaving instrument but the deployment in theology of the rule of ontological economy (‘entities are not to be multiplied beyond necessity’) a maxim that means that all unnecessary facts or constituents in the subject being analysed should be eliminated. King Gillette still gets my vote (‘Facial hair is not to be multiplied beyond necessity.’)

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Astbury & Smallwood Parish News

Publication & Copy Dates 2026

Publication is on the last Sunday of the preceding month –

The August issue will be published on 26th July

Last Date for material 17th July

The September issue will be published on 30th August

Last Date for material 21st August

The October issue will be published on 27th September

Last Date for material 18th September

The November issue will be published on 25th October

Last Date for material 16th October

The December issue will be published on 29th November

Last Date for material 20th November

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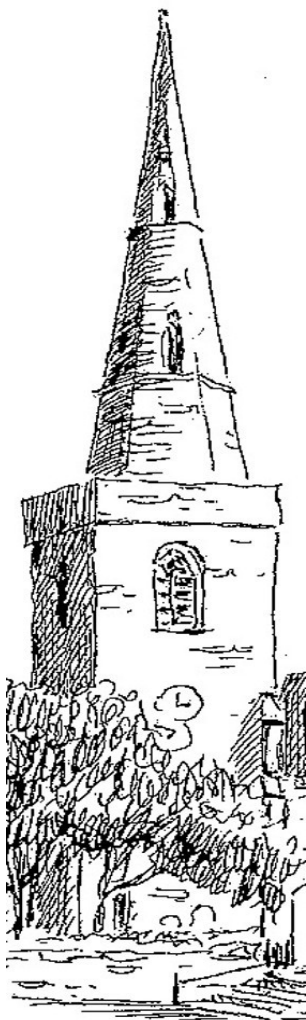
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CENTRE OF ASTBURY**



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Registered Charity No. 1178664

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ASSISTANT PRIEST	Rev Steph Morris	07703 587003
READERS	Andrew Bevington	07957 961140
	Andrew Bailey	01260 640616
	Prof Denise Morrey-Carter	01260 702512

CHURCHWARDENS VACANT

SERVICES	8.00 am	1st & 3rd Sundays	Holy Communion	BCP
	8.00 am	2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays	Morning Prayer	BCP
	11.00 am	1st & 3rd Sundays	Morning Praise	CW
	11.00 am	2nd & 4th Sundays	Holy Communion	CW
	11.00 am	5th Sunday	Benefice Service	
	6.30 pm	1st & 3rd Sundays	Compline	
	6.30 pm	2nd & 4th Sundays	Evensong	BCP
Wednesday	11.30 am	every Wednesday	Holy Communion	CW
	2.45 pm	every Wednesday	Community Worship	

Funerals and Services of Holy Baptism & Holy Matrimony by arrangement with the Wardens

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Hon. Vice Chairman	Mr A. Bevington	07957 961140
Hon. Secretary	Prof D. Morrey-Carter	
Hon. Asst. Secretary	Mr A. Bailey	01260 640616
Hon. Treasurer	Ms P. Kaur	
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CO-OPTED PCC MEMBERS	Miss P. Blythe, Ms P. Kaur	

SIDSEPEOPLE	see ASTBURY ROTAS	
BELL RINGERS TOWER CAPTAIN		
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	Mrs B. Cook	
CHURCH RECORDS	Mr W. Ball	01260 279276
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	Mr J. Hulse	
FLOWERS	Mrs B. Cook.	
JUNIOR CHURCH		
PARISH NEWS EDITOR	Mr W. Ball	01260 279276
ORGANIST	Dr S. Drage	01260 270217
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR	Mr A. Bevington	07957 961140
VILLAGE HALL BOOKING	Mrs S. Brightwell	07857 234686

ASTBURY ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, School Lane, CW12 4RG.		
Head Teacher	Miss P. Blythe	01260 272528
Chairman of Governors	Mrs H. Bourke	

WEBSITES – www.astburychurch.org.uk www.facebook.com/StMarysAstbury

Astbury & Smallwood Parish News – July 2026

CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECTOR

Astbury Church choir meets to practise every Friday evening
between 7.00 and 8.00 pm.

Astbury Church bellringers meet to practise every Wednesday evening
between 7.30 and 9.30 pm.

ASTBURY ROTAS for CLEANING & BRASS – *currently suspended*

ASTBURY ROTAS

8.00 am	11.00 am	6.30 pm
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Answers to Sartor's Quiz this month (page 8)

1 – d; 2 – c; 3 – d; 4 – a; 5 – b; 6 – c; 7 – b; 8 – d; 9 – c; 10 – c.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony

June	6th	Morgane Dominique Suzanne Graham & Christopher Laurie Barnett Graham
June	20th	Holly Louise Murray & Jack Rhys Pritchard

Burial of the Dead

May	20th	Stephen Parrott	80 ashes
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JOINT PARISHES CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEKS

JUNE

Sun 28th TRINITY IV

8.00 am	Astbury	July <i>Parish News</i> published
9.30 am	Smallwood	Morning Prayer (BCP)
11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise (CW)
6.30 pm	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		Evensong (BCP)

JULY

Wed	1st	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		7.30 pm	Astbury	Women's Institute

Sun 5th TRINITY V

		8.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise (CW)
		1.00 pm	Astbury	Holy Baptism
		2.30 pm	Somerford	Evensong (BCP)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline
Wed	8th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Thu	9th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony

Sun 12th TRINITY VI

		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Morning Praise (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Evensong (BCP)
Wed	15th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.30 pm	Astbury	School Leavers' Service
Fri	17th	6.00 pm		Copy deadline for <i>Parish News</i>
Sat	18th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony

Sun 19th TRINITY VII

		8.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise (CW)
		1.00 pm	Astbury	Holy Baptism
		6.30 pm	Astbury	NO SERVICE *
Wed	22nd	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		1.30 pm	Astbury	Ladies' Fellowship

Joint Parishes Calendar, continued

JULY

Sun 26th TRINITY VIII

		8.00 am	Astbury	August <i>Parish News</i> published
		9.30 am	Smallwood	NO SERVICE *
		11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise (CW)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Wed	29th	11.30 am	Astbury	Evening Prayer (said) (BCP)
		7.30 pm	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
				Women's Institute

AUGUST

Sun 2nd TRINITY IX

		8.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise (CW)
		2.30 pm	Somerford	Evensong (BCP)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline
Wed	5th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Thu	9th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony

* Due to Ministry Team holidays, not all services will be held in July and August

ASTBURY & SMALLWOOD PARISH NEWS

is also available in large-print format.

Please let Mr Ball know if you require such a copy.

Editor – Mr W. Ball

Telephone 01260 279276 email wbbtov@gmail.com

Cover Drawings of St Mary's Church, Astbury,
St John's Church, Smallwood and All Saints' Chapel of Ease,
Somerford by Marie McCormick

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