Astbury & Smallwood
Parish News
November 2026
Price £1

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My sincere apologies go to all readers for the missing October edition of *ASPN*. After two unexplained (so far) episodes of my fainting and collapsing at home resulting only in some bruising and after consultation with NHS 111 we decided to visit A&E at Macclesfield. While there on 2nd September, I had a third episode which resulted in my breaking my left thigh bone in two places. Thence came 28 days in hospital with a return home on the 30th. Thank you to everyone who telephoned, emailed, visited me in hospital or has done so since - you have all been so kind to me and I am so grateful to have such a wonderful collection of friends. Here now is the November edition, and I hope that nothing unforeseen will happen to the December one.

Bill

After another successful series of services at Somerford Chapel this year, the Christmas Carol Service will tale place at 2.30 pm on Sunday 12th December.

I would like to thank Rachel H. and Rachel, Brenda, Sandie and Nick for helping at the concert on 4th October and to Kate, Rachel, Carole's granddaughter Rachel, Naomi, Gillian and Sandie for the delicious cakes: everyone is always impressed by the range and quality of the cakes! We made £220 and just as importantly lovely music was enjoyed.

I have been remiss in not letting you know just how successful the Fashion Show was, raising £1,203! All credit goes to Karen, Karina and Steve who organized the event and raffle. I know Karen is most grateful for the help she received from John Carter, Nick, Brenda and Denise and (me).

The next event will be the Christmas Fair 14th November, 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. Here we need some help. This event is being widely advertised and we can expect lots of people. As we are serving drinks and cakes all day, I do have to ask for more cakes please. This is the last event this year where cakes are being offered. I have made a Victoria Sponge and an apple cake. We shall need help in manning the refreshment table. I will do a stint from 11 till 1, and please could I have volunteers to do a couple of shifts during the afternoon. We are pricing a drink and a piece of cake at £5. Let's see if we can make this event equally successful.

Now to our further events:

At the Murder Mystery evening on 21st November and the Simon and Garfunkel concert on the 27th, we will again be serving drinks, so no more cakes needed!

I am delighted to add another excellent concert to our Autumn/Winter events: Brian and David, the owners of the Old Hall have kindly offered to host a Christmas concert featuring the Little Moreton Singers on Friday 4th December at 4.00 pm. There will be music, mulled wine and mince pies in the beautiful Old Hall. If you have never been, don't miss this chance. Your Christmas starts here! Tickets are £25 and include the refreshments. You can obtain tickets from me. Jane Sharman

<u>Astbury Ladies' Fellowship:</u> Carole opened the September meeting and welcomed everyone., including Isabel Beech, a new member. Carole gave a particularly warm welcome back to Jan Hardie-Woolridge, who had agreed to demonstrate some of the tricks of the trade when it comes to flower arranging. Jan began with boxes which she had fashioned using a milk container and facing it with cardboard. She had brought along beautiful David Austin roses called *Queen of Sweden*. In a container made from ice cream boxes varnished and painted or decoupaged, using a grid of chicken wire to hold the stems, she demonstrated making a sort of herbaceous border with autumn flowers and attractive foliage called *Cornus elatus*.

She popped in some small David Austin roses called *Grace*, and stressed the importance of keeping the foliage out of the water. Dahlias, Michaelmas daisies, rose hips and Euphorbia were included in this pretty seasonal arrangement. Euphorbia needs care because it is an irritant. She also added hydrangea and cosmos which last well in water, but advised that they need deadheading because once they start to produce seeds they die off.

Scented winter box in bud vases, grasses for movement, looked very pretty. An elephant candle holder makes something to put on the table to cheer up a dull morning. Jan had also brought along Celebratory boxes made for two of our members with special occasions. A Christmas arrangement in a simple home-made gold box came next. She used artificial flowers and foliage. Three different heights were created with three blooms. Bay and rosemary were added to make it smell nice. A simple trick using sellotape across the top of the vase helps the flowers to stand. Rose hips are good to us, where possible, if you have small children.

Carole also mentioned some events in church – the Craft Fair on 14th November and the Murder Mystery Evening on the 21st, and the Simon & Garfunkel Concert on the 28th, Bill Ball is still in hospital after a fall in which he broke his femur in two places; Bill has been a great supporter of the Fellowship and does all our printing. Member Rae Burchall has broken her femur too and is currently in Mount Hall Care Home in Bollington. Mary Booth has been blue-lighted to hospital suffering from a virus which both she and John have had, but Mary's condition was quite critical. She now seems to be picking up. Several members volunteered to bring raffle prizes. Caroline's jams are selling well and she has raised £50 so far for church. Flowers were given to Norma in celebration of her birthday.

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Carole opened the October meeting and welcomed everyone. She had been at the funeral of David Barlow which had been conducted by Reader Bev Boulton from Church Lawton in the absence of Heather while in Canada with her daughter. Carole shared a wonderfully thoughtful poem actually chosen by David for the funeral. She also wished Heather a safe journey home and told us Bill Ball is having physio on his leg. Steph is recovering from an operation and is still in hospital, as is Rhoda's husband Philip. Christine Brookes is at home and working on her mobility. Carole remembered them all in her prayers.

prizes and came home feeling better than when we arrived.

Margaret Pearson

Astbury Women's Institute: President Kate Naylor opened the meeting and welcomed all members new and old. *Jerusalem* was sung accompanied, by Margaret Hollinshead on piano. Our October birthday buttonholes were then distributed and we held a minute's silence to remember our dearly departed friend Marion Higginbottom.

Our competition this month was ' Apple in any Medium' organized and displayed by Dotty Kallis and was judged by our speaker on the evening. We had some really good entries and the competition was won by Kate Naylor for her deconstructed Apple pie with Carol Steer coming second with a lovely 3D picture.

This month, we welcomed Peter Aston from The Old Saw Mill, who gave us a fascinating, informative and entertaining talk about the origins and history of the enterprise. What began as a humble venture pressing apple juice from friends' surplus apples grew into an amazing enterprise, with conservation at the heart of everything Peter and his wife did. Their achievements included establishing a café that was honoured by a royal visit from the then Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Peter and his wife Linda were passionate about serving their local community. During the various Covid lockdowns, The Old Saw Mill provided a vital meal delivery service for vulnerable people, demonstrating their commitment to helping those in need. Sadly, the business eventually became unviable and The Old Saw Mill has now closed. However, Peter and Linda have exciting plans for the future, including developing a piece of unused land in Congleton. They remain committed to serving the community while continuing to uphold their conservation principles, and they still provide freshly cooked meals for local people.

Peter's talk introduced us to a truly inspiring couple whose dedication, hard work and selflessness showed us all what can be achieved by members of the public with a vision and a desire to make a difference. We all felt proud to listen to him.

We also had the pleasure of sampling some of the delicious apple juice produced by The Old Saw Mill, which was a lovely way to round off a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring talk.

Pamela has booked the Lunch, which will be a week later than we previously thought, so Wednesday 27th January at The Legs of Man. The price will be £30, payable next month. At the November meeting we shall enjoy Wild Life slides, and Carole suggested that we might ask the Year Six children from Astbury School to join us.

This month's speaker, Rev Anne Freestone, apologised that she was not the tour of the church that we were expecting. She is often called on to cover churches in the Congleton area and is still very busy. She began her talk explaining that for people around the world Christ has many faces, and her talk encompassed the Visual, Spiritual and Sensory. She shared a book of images of Christ and others, talking us through selected images. The first was *Christ in the Desert*, painted by Russian artist Ivan Kramskoi during the Russian Revolution. 'Where does he stand in those troubled times?' she asked. The second image was *The Good Samaritan*, by Jacques B. When we ask 'Who will reach out in our time of need?' It symbolizes Christ the Bringer of Hope.

The third painting was *The Angry Christ* by a 20th century Filipino artist. Anne asked if we really need the rich robes and the trappings of the church to take action to make the world a better place. She explained that she was Co-leader for Safeguarder Training in the church but was taking a break from her role this year. Nonetheless she feels that our actions are most important to living a Christian life. Finally came *Mary Magdalene* by Jan Van Eyck in the National Gallery. Does this represent the forgiving face of Christ? Or simply a woman who came face to face with him – someone who cared for him and knew him well?

In her role as padre to the armed forces and the Queen Alexandra Nurses, at her final service in that role, Anne was presented with a special doormat with the symbol of Christ printed on it. She also showed us a precious badge from the armed forces which she is now entitled to wear.

We heard about the Pilgrim Route of northern Spain. She told us of a coach trip along the Camino de Santiago and showed us her Pilgrim card which was stamped in all the special places they had visited on the trip. Finally we listened to music from South Africa – *Ukuthula*, a spiritual song, sung by a choir of the indigenous people of South Africa. Uplifting, even though we may not be able to understand every word.

After our tea, coffee and biscuits we drew the raffle for a variety of

The usual tea cake and raffle ended our evening. We then finished with our National Anthem assisted once again by Margaret on piano and the meeting was closed.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd December. 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

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Sartor's Quiz (Answers on page 12)

1. Who wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*? a. William Blake; b. John Bunyan; c. John Milton; d. Edmund Spenser.
2. The church of St Laurence, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, belongs to which period of architecture? a. Saxon; b. Norman;, Early English; d. Perpendicular.
3. Of what is St Pancras a patron saint? a. Churches; b. Pilgrims; c. Children; d. Railways.
4. What instrument did David play to drive away Saul's evil spirit? a. Flute; b. Lyre; c. Psaltery; d. Shofar.
5. Which son of Saul became young David's close friend? a. Abinabab; b. Jonathan; c. Malchishua; d. Ishbosheth.
6. Which of the seven 'deacons' appointed to serve the people was 'full of grace and power and did great signs and wonders'? a. Nicolaus; b. Philip; c. Stephen; d. Timon.
7. Which of the seven 'deacons' went to the city of Samaria and 'proclaimed the Messiah' to them? a. Nicolaus; b. Philip; c. Stephen; d. Timon.
8. Which 19th century politician lived at Hughenden? a. Peel; b. Palmerston; c. Disraeli; d. Gladstone.
9. What kind of birds did he consider indispensable on his terrace? a. Ducks; b. Swans; c. Pheasants; d. Peacocks.
10. Which famous performer was the brother of Elsie and Doris Waters? a. Max Miller; b. Jimmy James; c. Gillie Potter; d. Jerk Warner.

WORDS OF WIT & WISDOM

People who like this sort of thing will find this the sort of thing they like.
Abraham Lincoln (1809-65): his judgement on a book.

I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than street justice.
Abraham Lincoln: remark reported by Joseph Gillespie.

By this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all their sins from which you could mot be set free by the law of Moses. Acts 13,39
This is the beginning of the Christian religion. A. N. Wilson

For the most part I am convinced that they (the New Testament writers) had no idea that they were writing Holy Scripture . . . Paul, for instance, writing in haste and urgency to some of his wayward and difficult Christians. We have to take these living New Testament documents in their context, a context of supreme urgency and often of acute danger.
J. B. Phillips, referring to his translation of the Epistles: *Letters to Young Churches* (1947)

Margot Asquith, the wife of the Liberal Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith, recalled the couple's last conversation in Downing Street, late in 1916:
Margot: Why don't you go to bed, darling? Even last night when I came I found you translating Kipling into Greek. Surely that was an effort.
Asquith: Not at all: it was a relaxation.
Margot: What are you reading now?
Asquith: The Bible.
Margot: What part of the Bible?
Asquith: The Crucifixion.
Jeremy Paxman, *The Political Animal*, p 280.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

FASCINATING FACTS

When the Casablanca conference ended on 24th January 1943, Churchill drove with Roosevelt to Marrakesh, four hours away, to see again, and to show to the President, the sunset tinting red the snow on the distant Atlas mountains, which he had seen, and been so moved by, six months earlier. Together they gazed at the purple hills, where the light and colours were constantly changing. 'It's the most lovely spot in the whole world', the PM murmured. After Roosevelt's departure the next day, Churchill took out his paints and painted a picture of the Atlas mountains, the only picture he painted during the whole war.

Martin Gilbert, *Road to Victory*, pp 310-314

A note from Admiral More, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, throws light on the wartime working habits of the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. He liked working up to 2 or 3 in the morning, but he stayed in bed till 8 or 9 am. Then he sat up in bed and went through his telegrams. If the news was good he bounced up and down like a small boy with joy, but if the news was bad he would slowly slide down pulling up the sheet till his face was hardly visible, as though to keep out the bad news,

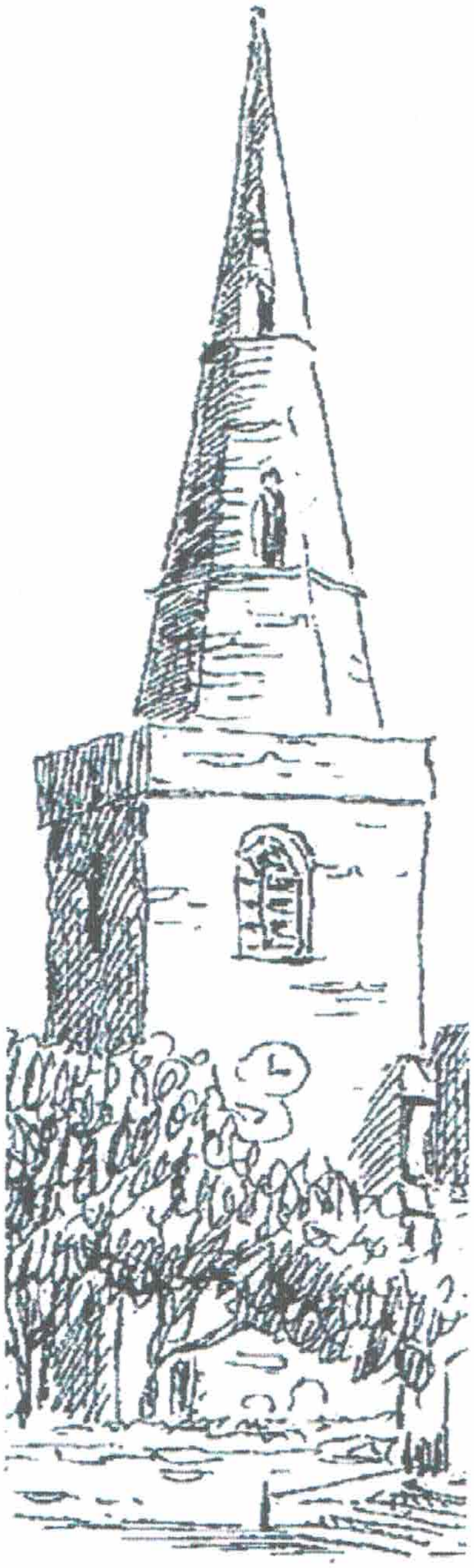
Robb Wilton ('The day war broke out, my Missus said to me . . .') was highly regarded by his fellow comedians. In one sketch with his wife, Florence, she rushes into a fire station to report that her house is on fire. After randomly shuffling piles of paper and trying to make small talk ('Arsenal are not having a good season, are they?'), Robb gets round to shouting down a speaking tube to his assistant, who is busy organizing a football sweep. 'You mustn't let a thing like that interfere with duty' A perfectly timed pause follows, before Rob asks, 'What have I drawn?'

Robb had a ready wit. Towards the end of his career, he appeared at a footballers' social club, which had a corrugated iron roof. Soon after he started, it began to rain heavily, and the rook amplified the sound of the rain. Next door, the local Boys' Brigade were having music practice, playing trumpets and beating drums.. Then someone at the bar dropped a full tray of drinks. Robb reacted with: 'I think they're trying to train me to be a police horse.'

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	Prof Denise Morrey-Carter	01260 702512
CHURCHWARDENS	Dr Sally Drage	01260 270217
	Mrs Brenda Cook	01260 290914

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 Prayer	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
	2.30 pm	school term time	Community Worship	

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Hon Vice Chairman	Mr A. Bevington
Hon Secretary	Prof Denise Morrey-Carter
Hon Assistant Secretary	Mr A. Bailey
Hon Treasurer	Mr P. Kaur
Deanery Synod	Mrs C. Goodwin, Mrs K. Reading
Elected PCC Members	Mrs M. Armstrong, Mr A. Bailey, Mrs D. Barnett, Mr A. Bevington, Mrs K. Bolton, Mr T. Buuskool, Mrs B. Cook, Dr S. Drage, Mrs L. Gleaves, Mrs J. Goodwin, Mr J. Hulse, Mrs M. Keene, Dr J. Moore, Prof. D. Morrey-Carter
Co-opted PCC Members	Mr P Kaur
Sidespeople	see ASTBURY ROTAS
Bell Ringers Tower Captain	
Children's Society	Mrs B. Cook
Family History Queries	Mr W. Ball 01260 279276
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr J. Hulse
Flowers	Mrs B. Cook
Junior Church	
Parish News editor	Mr W. Ball

FROM THE REGISTERS, contnued

Burial of the Dead

September	3rd	Christine Morrey	74	
September	9th	Jean Watson	90	ashes
September	11th	Harry Rutter	85	
September	15th	Ilene Machin	95	ashes
September	17th	Lionel Hicks	86	
October	5th	Jean Mary Rankin Moors	88	
October	21st	David Barlow	78	

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JOINT PARISHES CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Sun 1st ALL SAINTS' DAY

	8.00 am	Astbury	No Service	
	9.30 am	Smallwood	No Service	
	11.00 am	Astbury	All Souls' Service	
	4.30 pm	Smallwood	All Souls' Service	
	6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline	
Wed 3rd	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	BCP
	2.30 pm	Astbury	Community Service	
	7.30 pm	Astbury	Women's Institute	
Fri 6th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony	

Sun 8th TRINITY XXIII – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

	8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer	BCP
	9.30 am	Smallwood	No Service	
	10.50 am	Astbury	Remembrance Service	
	3.00 pm	Smallwood	Remembrance Service	
	6.30 pm	Astbury	Evensong	BCP
Wed 10th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	BCP
	2.30 pm	Astbury	Community Service	
Sat 14th	11.00 am	Astbury	Christmas Fair (to 4.00 pm)	

Joint Parishes Calendar, continued

NOVEMBER

Sun 15th TRINITY XXIV

	8.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	BCP
	9.30 am	Swallowed	Holy Communion	CW
	11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise & Baptism	CW
	6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline	
Wed 17th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	BCP
	2.30 pm	Astbury	Community Service	
Fri 20th	6.00 pm		*Parish News* copy deadline	
Sat 21st	7.30 pm	Astbury	A Murder Mystery	

Sun 22nd THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

	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 24th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	BCP
	2.30 pm	Astbury	Community Service	
Fri 27th	7.30 pm	Astbury	'Simon & Garfunkel'	

Sun 29th ADVENT SUNDAY

			Parish News published	
	8.00 am	Astbury	TBC	BCP
	11.00 am	TBA	Benefice Service	
	6.30 pm	Astbury	Advent Carol Service	

DECEMBER

Wed 2nd	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	CW
	2.30 pm	Astbury	Community Service	
	7.30 pm	Astbury	Women's Institute	

Organist	Dr S. Drage	
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mr A. Bevington	
Village Hall Booking	Mrs S. Brightwell	07857 234686

ASTBURY ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, School Lane, CW12 4RG.

Head Teacher	Miss S. Cook
Chair of Governors	Mrs H. Bourke

CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECTOR & CHURCHWARDENS

Astbury Church choir meets to practise every Friday evening between 7.30 and 8.30 pm.
Astbury Church bellringers meet to practise every Wednesday evening between 8.00 and 9.30 pm.

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Answers to Sartor's quiz (page 7)
1 - b; 2 - a; 3 - c; 4 - b; 5 - b; 6 - c; 7 - b; 8 - c; 9 - d; 10 - d

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony

August	29th	Madeleine Annie-Rose Walters & David Mark Walters
September	4th	Amy Louise Ward & Christopher Stephen Nixon
September	5th	Ella Seaton Alice Honeyblossom Kennerley & Aston Dean Martin (at All Saints' Chapel, Somerford)
September	12th	Megan Rose Sheard &George Christopher Gibson
September	26th	Alison Jane Stanly & Rodney Thomas Scott
October	24th	Kirsty Eileen Louise Sidley & Odd Enar Ryan Ewren (Blessing)

Joint Parishes Calendar, continued

DECEMBER

Sun 6th ADVENT II

8.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	BCP
9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion	CW
11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Worship	CW
6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline	

Wed 9th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion	CW
	12.30 pm	Astbury	Ladies' Fellowship Party	

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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
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