



CHURCH NEWS

Hi folks,

Happy new year!

As we enter 2026, I'm sure we all realise that the world as a whole is increasingly unsettled. Part of this is the increasing polarisation of the political scene. For example, internationally, the American president and his associates seems hell-bent on stoking up division, in Europe as elsewhere; while the Russian president continues to peddle his own 'alternative truth' to justify his ongoing, unprovoked destruction of a sovereign nation.

Meanwhile, 2025 was the second-hottest year, globally, on record – just behind 2024, while fossil fuel emissions reached an all-time high. The reality of climate change and the threats that it poses are hard to deny.

So how do we enter 2026 without succumbing to despair? Here are a few suggestions:

- Enjoy the world around us – for example, family, friends, our gardens, the beauty of the Somerset Levels and the Polden Hills and its wildlife.
- Do what you can, not what you can't – none of us can change international politics, but we can do things that enable us to be responsible citizens – for example, in choosing to live a lifestyle that involves lower carbon emissions.
- Get to know the Creator – the One who created our world does not delight in the destruction of his creation – but he is sovereign still.



Let's hope and pray for 2026 to be less polarised and more peaceful than 2025!

Every blessing,
Rich Tweedy
vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk

ISSUE No 375

JANUARY 2026



ASHCOTT & PEDWELL

WHAT'S ON

YOUR MONTHLY VILLAGE GUIDE TO NEWS AND EVENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



ASHCOTT PANTOMIME DECEMBER 2005. SEE PAGES 4 & 5

Please supply all items for inclusion in the next edition by the 17th of the month to: ashcottwhatson@gmail.com
Or, if you can't email, you can post hard copies in the letter box at the Village Hall.

What's On is compiled, published and distributed by volunteers on behalf of Ashcott Village Hall and receives financial support from Ashcott Parish Council

HALL CHAIR: DEBBIE SHINGLER

01458 210947

HALL SECRETARY: MARTIN TIMMS

01458 210691

BOOKING SECRETARY: MELANIE FRENCH

01458 211182

ASHCOTT VILLAGE HALL JANUARY BOOKINGS

* = In Committee Room # = Caterer Outside

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	-	-	-	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
AM	-	-	Table Tennis	Table Tennis			Table Tennis
PM	-	-			# Fish & Chips #		
Eve	-	-					
	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
AM	Line Dancing	Table Tennis	Table tennis	Table tennis	Table Tennis		Table Tennis
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis		
Eve	Table Tennis		Table Tennis	Line Dancing VH Committee*			
	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
AM	Line Dancing	Table Tennis	Toddlers	Table tennis	Table Tennis	Big Breakfast	Table Tennis
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis		
Eve	Table Tennis	Garden Club	Table Tennis	WI	# Fish & Chips #	Private Event	
	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
AM	Line Dancing	Table Tennis	Toddlers	Table Tennis	Table Tennis	Avalon Stitchers	Table Tennis
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis	Avalon Stitchers	
Eve	Table Tennis Parish Council*		Table Tennis		# Pizza in the Hall #		Quiz Night
	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	-
AM	Line Dancing	Table Tennis	Toddlers	Table Tennis	Table Tennis	-	-
PM		Short Mat Bowls			Table Tennis	-	-
Eve	Table Tennis		Table Tennis		# Fish & Chips #	-	-

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

The following activities listed below regularly take place in the Village. A contact name and telephone number are also given for those requiring further information on any activity.

Ashcott Ladies Rounders Team	Ali Evans	210828
Ashcott Village Hall Committee	Debbie Shingler	210947
Ashcott Parish Council	Vicky Young	860827
Ashcott Garden Club	Trish Hulatt	210861
Playing Field Pavilion Bookings	Paula Willoughby	210523
Ashcott Youth Football	Colin Macpherson	07921210364
Avalon Stitches	Daphne Willis	07484101425
Coffee Morning - Ashcott Church	Marion Folkes	211246
Ashcott Garden Show	Kay Wensley	210973
Line Dancing (U3A)	Elaine Robertson	01458 840252
Miles & Hurman Trust	Sandra Frampton	210050
Baby & Toddlers	Paula Willoughby	210523
Retired Men's Breakfast Club	Ian Bagg	210770
Pantomime	Sue Wilton	210585
Ashcott Beer Festival	Duncan Cameron	210713
Short Mat Bowls	Jenny Todman	210437
Table Tennis	Peter Rendle	210583
Table Tennis (U3A)	Wendy Fouracres	07890604059
Village Agent	Main Line	01823 331222
W.I.	Angela Nutt	210889
All Saints Church	John Harvey	210562
Ashcott Church Bell Ringers	Henry Routley	210238

If there are any other activities which you may be interested in, and possibly like to help organise, please contact the Chair:

Debbie Shingler on 210947

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!



The Village Hall is an important part of our Ashcott community, and is supported by a hardworking and enthusiastic committee. However there are occasions when they would really appreciate a helping hand.

If you are willing to help out in setting up the Hall for events, lending a hand during maintenance week, general tidying up, or litter picking for example, we would love to hear from you. Whatever you can do, however little, would be greatly appreciated. And if we can enrol a register of volunteers to call on when needed, that would really help.

Further details from Debbie Shingler, Chairperson
01458 210947

ASHCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2026.

In case you missed last month there is a new method of contacting highways to report faults.

Please report on their portal on this link

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

ashcottpc@gmail.com

Dates for Upcoming Meetings

Month	Meeting Date –7pm On Monday the	Items for the agenda by 5pm on Tuesday the
January	19th	13th
February	16th	10th
March	16th	10th



Polden Wheel Church Services January 2026

Sunday 4th January

9.30 **Catcott**

11.00 **Chilton Polden**

Epiphany (White)

Holy Communion (BCP)

Informal Worship

Sunday 11th January

9.30 **Burtle**

11.00 **Ashcott**

4.00 **Edington**

Baptism of Christ (White)

Holy Communion

Informal Worship **

Holy Communion

Sunday 18th January

10.00 **Shapwick**

10.30 **Chilton Polden**

Epiphany 3 (White)

Café Church

Holy Communion

Tuesday 20th January

7.00 **Catcott**

A Quiet Service

Sunday 25 January

9.30 **Shapwick**

11.00 **Burtle**

6.30 **Ashcott**

Epiphany 4 (White)

Holy Communion

Informal Worship

Holy Communion

Wednesday 28th January

10.00 **Edington**

Holy Communion

Sunday 1st February

9.30 **Catcott**

11.00 **Chilton Polden**

Third Sunday before Lent (Green)

Holy Communion (BCP)

Informal Worship**

** With Polden Praise

ASHCOTT VILLAGE HALL PANTOMIME - DICK WHITTINGTON

Another great pantomime, written and directed by Sam Lewin and produced by Sophie Hunt-Davison.

This year it was the panto classic Dick Whittington, where young Dick (Rosalyn Pole-Evans) goes off to London to seek his fortune. Dick has fallen in love with Alice Fitzwarren (Emma Davies), the daughter of Alderman Fitzwarren (Sue Wilton). Along this path of true love Dick has to contend with the threats and antics of King Rat (Chris Weeks), one of panto's great villains. Dick and his new-found friend Cat (Charlotte Honeybun), are helped through their troubles with King Rat by the ever-watchful Fairy Bowbells (Lee Searle).

King Rat is eventually defeated, Dick becomes Lord Mayor of London and he and Alice are reunited. A perfect ending.

There was wonderful singing with six numbers from the chorus and throughout the story we had great comedy from Sarah the Cook (Matthew Le-Hunte), Idle Jack (Charlie Tearall) and Idle John (Taylor Searle) and, of course, Captain Barnacles (Marcus Vaz) and Boson Billy (Sam Lewin).

Thanks to Splatplot for creating the wonderful scenery, providing the background to Dick's adventures, and congratulations to everyone who helped to deliver this amazing pantomime possible. Well done everyone!

See you all next Christmas.

ATKINSON
GALLERY

9 JAN - 24 JAN 2026

WED TO SAT | 9.30 AM - 5.00 PM

STUDENT EXHIBITION

The show celebrates the creative talents of our students from youngest to oldest, including fantastic work by Millfield Pre-Prep pupils, Year 8 pupils as well as Year 9, GCSE, A level and BTEC students.



NIGEL, JUDY AND THE TEAM AT

The Ashcroft

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AND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO OUR PUB & RESTAURANT.

BAR OPEN

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 12 - 2.30PM 5- 11PM,

SUNDAY 12 - 10PM

FOOD SERVED

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY:

LUNCH 12 - 2.30PM

EVENINGS 6 - 9PM

SUNDAY LUNCH 12 - 4PM

TEL: 01458 767187



MEYER
THEATRE

21 - 23 JANUARY 2026

7.15 PM - BOOK ONLINE

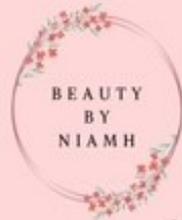
SISTER
ACT

MILLFIELD



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HANDS:

MANICURE £18

MANICURE WITH NORMAL POLISH £20

GEL POLISH £30

BIAB £35

INFILL OR SOAK OFF & RE DO BIAB £38

SOAK OFF & RE DO GEL POLISH £35

FILE & NORMAL POLISH £13

REMOVAL & TIDY £10

MINIMAL NAIL ART £1

FEET:

FILE & POLISH £13

GEL POLISH WITH REMOVAL £30

PEDICURE WITH NORMAL POLISH £38

PEDICURE WITH GEL POLISH £40

PEDICURE WITH NO POLISH £30

GEL POLISH £25

REMOVAL & TIDY £10

EYELASH TINT £10

BROW TINT £10

EYELASH LIFT & TINT £35

EYEBROW SHAPE & TINT £15

EYEBROW SHAPE £12

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LASH LIFT AND TINTING)

WAXING:

UNDERARM £12

1/2 LEG WAX £20

FULL LEG WAX £28

LIP OR CHIN £9

FACIALS:
(PRODUCTS USED
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45 MIN £45



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PANTO

2025



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ASHCOTT GARDEN CLUB

Tuesday 13th January

7.30pm

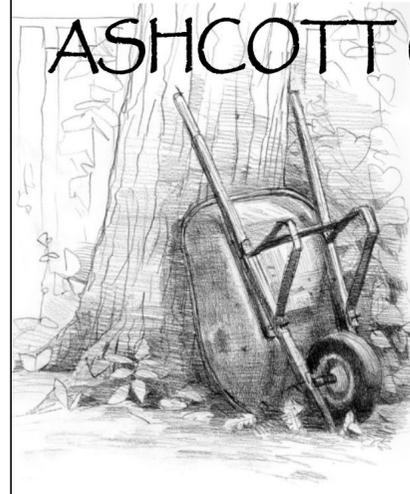
in the VILLAGE HALL

‘Badgers
in my Kitchen’

A talk by Pauline Kidner

from Secret World Wildlife Rescue Centre.

All welcome. £2.50 for non - members



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MELANIEBENNETT@ALBIONINNASHCOTT.COM

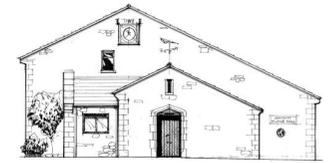


VILLAGE HALL YOUTH COUNCIL

Are you young, community minded and want to have your say on the future of the village hall, including fundraisers that appeal to you?

We at Ashcott Village Hall are looking to start a youth council of 12 for the younger members of the community to put their views across. We are looking for members aged between 13 and 18. Meetings will be held every two months at a time and date to be agreed upon.

Due to regulations all members under the age of sixteen will need to be accompanied by family member aged 18 or older. There will be a representative of the hall committee present at every meeting to ensure your point



gets directly to the ears of those who need it. Due to the limited spaces we will be looking at candidates who supply a brief cover letter on why they should be chosen for the youth council, including age, name and a contact telephone number.

Letters should be addressed to:

Debbie Shingler (AVH committee)
Ashcott Village hall, High street, Ashcott
TA7 9PZ
e: Djshingler@btinternet.com

COFFEE MORNING

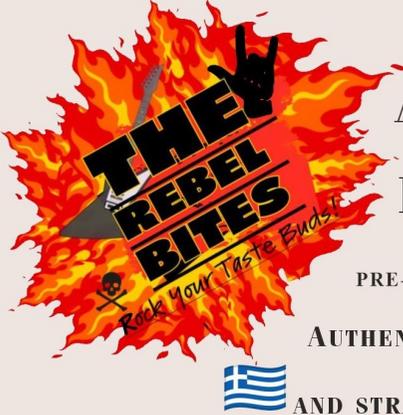
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10 - 12 AM

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5:30 - 8:00pm



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BREAKFAST

A colorful illustration of a breakfast spread. It includes a bowl of cereal with fruit, a glass of juice, a plate with two sunny-side-up eggs and three strips of bacon, a steaming cup of coffee, a teapot, and a toaster with two slices of toast. The background is a light blue checkered pattern.

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BRING & BUY STALL

ASHCOTT VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 17th JANUARY
9.00am – 11.00am

FREE PROSTATE CANCER TESTING EVENT



Saturday 21st February 2026, 10am-4pm
Wells Town Hall, Market Place, Wells, BA5 2RB

Somerset Prostate Support Association is hosting a FREE event on Saturday 21st February 2026 for men aged 40 and over.

Every year in the UK 40,000 men are diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and around 10,000 die from the disease. Early diagnosis can be crucial to successful treatment.

Appointments take 10-15 minutes and MUST be BOOKED ONLINE, IN ADVANCE. It will NOT be possible to be tested on the day without a prior appointment.

All tests are confidential and are carried out by qualified medical

To book your appointment at a time to suit you:-

1. Visit <https://myspatests.org.uk/events/>
2. Register yourself using your email address.
3. Click 'Find an event' - search for SPSA.
4. Select the event, scroll down, choose a convenient time slot and book it.

practitioners.

For any questions regarding the tests please contact Peter Hopwood:- telephone 01458 441669 or email peterhopwood46@gmail.com.

Donations to SPSA for future testing events will be gratefully received either at the event or via spsa.uk where you can donate online.



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FITTED WHILE YOU WAIT**

**Deb's
Charity
Fun Quiz**
Since 2014

**I want to thank everyone
who has attended this year's quizzes
held at the village hall.
Through your generosity
we have managed to raise the following monies**

Ashcott Village Hall £522
Ashcott Flower Show £157
Ashcott F.C £250
Toddlers £215
Ashcott Primary School £400
Children's Christmas Party £215
Ashcott Table Tennis Club £250
All Saints Church £465

Total £2,474



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ON THE FOLLOWING FRIDAYS

2ND JANUARY

16TH JANUARY

30TH JANUARY

13TH FEBURARY

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If you are looking at improving your property, then please contact Ian for a free visit and a no obligation quote.



ASHCOTT & PEDWELL W.I.

TO ALL LADIES LIVING IN ASHCOTT & PEDWELL

We would like to invite you to our W.I meetings. They are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30p.m in Ashcott Village Hall.

We have a monthly speaker giving talks/demonstrations on various subjects. Also during the evening we have fun quizzes and a great bookshop selling second-hand books for £1.

Tea, coffee and cakes are available during our social time. Visitors are very welcome, there is just a £3 charge for the evening and refreshments.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 15th January 2026 7.30pm

SPEAKER: Cathy Hounsell

TALK: Make do and mend

For further information please contact:

ANGELA NUTT (PRESIDENT) 07834454757



Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Ashcott and the surrounding villages and hamlets

Happy New Year! I hope you've enjoyed a peaceful and restful break of some sort over the last few days. It was lovely to catch up with some of you between Christmas and New Year at your Pub Night!

Firstly, may I thank John Harvey who laid environmentally friendly poppy wreaths (beautifully hand-made by members of a local WI) on my behalf on Remembrance Sunday at All Saints Church in Ashcott and at St Peter's Church in Catcott on 11th November itself.

In mid-November, a group of farmers from the constituency visited Parliament, leaving very early to come to the protests in Westminster. They had a tour of Westminster Hall, both Houses of Parliament, a good breakfast and then were off to join thousands of others protesting for a fairer deal for the farming community. My colleagues and I are working hard to help the Government understand the impact their tax and grant changes will make, which as currently suggested may impact Somerset's tenant farmers and small family farms most, or may simply lead to complex schemes to negate the need to pay any tax at all.

Since my last update on what's going on in Westminster, I've questioned Ministers in the House of Commons about:

- the Government's police review and the large numbers of staff and funding allocated to Police & Crime Commissioners' offices when there are so few local police officers; the closure of many courtrooms at Bristol Crown Court to save over 400 sitting days between now and March 2025 causing long delays in hearing serious cases; delays in concluding cases within the youth justice system
- restoring the plug in grant for electric car chargers
- the Post Office's continuing appalling treatment of victims of the Horizon scandal
- the financial benefits of having a consistent rolling programme of maintenance and replacement for NHS machinery and equipment
- BT's slackness in reconnecting the landline for a local couple – identified as priority customers - and restoring their old telephone number
- the illogical classification of people owning four properties as 'sophisticated' property business owners rather than prudent savers for retirement
- the late release of Ministers' meetings and contacts information under the UK's lax lobbying transparency rules

I've spoken in debates about:

- making the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Council, Rivers Authority and other agencies work together to address flooding problems for Somerset's residents and farmers
- spice spiked vapes
- the protection of agricultural land
- the Building Safety Act 2022 and its adverse effect on a group of leaseholders who have no legal or financial connections to building developers who used unsafe cladding
- World Stroke Day - and the power of advertising in alerting people to the actions they can take when there's a medical emergency

In November, Parliament debated and voted for two Private Members' Bills – the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill** and the **Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill** – better known as the **Puppy Smuggling Bill**. Both draft Bills now progress to Bill Committees with several months of debate ahead, with details discussed line by line. If you'd like to know how I voted and why, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In January, the subjects coming up for debate as Private Members' Bills include:

- New Homes (Solar Generation) Bill** which would require the installation of solar photovoltaic generation equipment on all new homes
- Licensing Hours Extensions Bill** which would amend the Licensing Act 2003 so that licensing hours for events of national significance can be extended more easily
- Fireworks Bill** which would change the law on the sale of fireworks
- Climate and Nature Bill** which would require the UK to achieve climate and nature targets and establish a Climate and Nature Assembly
- Gambling Act 2005 (Monetary Limits for Lotteries) Bill** which would remove fundraising limits which prevent charities' lotteries from giving more money to good causes

If you'd like more information or have any thoughts on these proposals – or anything else I've mentioned this month, please don't hesitate to let me know.

I'll be at your next Ashcott Pub Night from **17:30 to 18:30 on Friday 17th January**. I'd love to meet you; no appointment is necessary and it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

Thank you.

Tessa

You can get hold of me in a number of ways:

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