



# The Window

May 2025



## Footpaths Across Ipsden Parish

The Parish of Ipsden offers access to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) via many public footpaths and bridleways, some of which are part of recognised long routes, namely the Chiltern Way, the Ridgeway and the Icknield Way.

The Chiltern Way, in total some 177 miles, part of which is "Chiltern Way 7" from Woodcote to Ewelme (8.6 miles). It enters our parish on Bottom Lane to the west of Bottom Farm, then strikes north passing bluebells in the wood beyond Blue Tin, down to Well Place, up to Hailey then past Poors Farm, continuing to Woodhouse Farm joining the road north to leave Ipsden parish as it crosses the Ridgeway.



*Bottom Farm (top left), then clockwise the bluebells at Blue Tin, then Hailey and the crossing with Ridgeway (bottom left)*

The Ridgeway (in total some 87 miles) runs for about 1 mile on the northernmost part of the parish boundary eastwards from where it is crossed by Chiltern Way 7 and the Icknield Way, following in part a section of Grim's Ditch, an ancient linear earthwork thought to date back to the Iron Age around 100BC.

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## **Footpaths Across Ipsden Parish (Continued)**

And thirdly, the Ickniel Way, which is probably the oldest road in Britain. It first appeared in Neolithic times about five thousand years ago when man was first learning how to grow food and keep animals. It is part of an ancient trading route that followed the chalk ridge across southern England from the Norfolk coast across East Anglia, on to the plains of Wiltshire and then down to the coast in Dorset (around 400 miles). Today you can make this journey by following the family of recreational routes together known as the [Great Chalk Way](#).

The Ickniel Way runs roughly north/south entering our parish at its northwest corner, where it crosses the Ridgeway to then run south down Forest Row on the western boundary of Ipsden parish. It continues straight across at the T-junction with the Crowmarsh to Ipsden road, then continuing southward still following the western boundary of our parish. Initially after the T-junction, hedgerows restrict the view but soon the view expands into an unobstructed vista across the open countryside.



*The Ickniel Way crossing with The Ridgeway (bottom left), then clockwise, the T-junction with the Crowmarsh-Ipsden road and the hedgerows, finishing with open fields (bottom right)*

The countryside in early spring is mainly green until, on this walk, you burst into a magnificent vast yellow field of rapeseed which is visible from far and wide (as the photograph taken from the A4047 shows, with it filling the fields on either side of Church Lane.

The Ickniel Way proceeds southwards to cross The Street, passing

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## **Footpaths Across Ipsden Parish (Continued)**

by the memorial to John Thurlow Reade (more can be read about this on the Village History page of the Ipsden Village Website (<http://www.ipsdenvillage.co.uk/>)). The path then continues southwards until it crosses the A4074 roughly midway between The Street and the road to Braziers Park, finally leaving Ipsden Parish.

**David Coldwell**



*From right to left: the rapeseed field, next seen in the distance from the A4074 and then, on the left, The Icknield Way crossing the field as it leaves the Parish*

## **Potholes!!!**

This is a request for villagers to go online to Fix my Street to try to get our potholes filled, ideally including a photograph. I wrote to them last month, but it does not seem to have had any effect (other than filling the hole by Ipsden Farm); in particular, the narrow part of The Street by the playground is getting extremely dangerous, to cars, cyclists and pedestrians alike. This is particularly pertinent now that we have had our latest rates bills! If we inundate the Council with requests something might happen, I think that everyone assumes that someone else is dealing with it!



**Mandy Small**

## **Homer Bluebells and Lambs**

A fine and subtle spirit dwells  
In every little flower.  
Each one its own sweet feeling  
breathes  
With more or less of power.

There is a silent eloquence  
In every wild bluebell,  
That fills my softened heart with  
bliss  
That words could never tell.

*("The Bluebell" by Anne Bronte)*

Homer snowdrops have now tucked themselves away until next Spring. Now we have the treat of bluebells filling the woods in Homer Lane and along Ipsden Heath.

Almost half of the world's bluebells are found in the UK. They are relatively rare elsewhere. They take a long time to establish, around 5 to 7 years from seed to flower. Spanish bluebells introduced into gardens can outcompete our native flowers and affect the true bluebell strain, so care must be taken where they are planted.

As with other wildflowers, it is against the law to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy bluebells. Along road verges we are treated with large areas of cowslip and primrose, where they are safe from the temptation to pick. No doubt in competition, lovely new green leaves along with blossom are bursting out at Homer to complement the Spring display.

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# Homer Bluebells and Lambs (Continued)

Our five Black Welsh Mountain Ewes have all lambed with two each. The weather has been kind so they are busy playing "tag" around the paddock, or sitting on mother's back which must be rather cosy.



In the meantime we look forward to the heady scent of bluebells, or wild hyacinth which I think equally suits them.

**Diana Jackson**

## Spring Lamb

Look at me, I am holding tight  
To a baby lamb who was born last  
night,  
Have you noticed as well a cockerel  
and duck  
Who both want a fuss and are  
trying their luck.

I think I might stay, just where I  
am,  
And spend the night here on the  
straw with the lamb,  
The trouble is, though, we should  
let our Mums know,  
We don't want to part, or the tears  
will flow.

**Shirley Hives**



*My niece sent me this picture  
of her granddaughter*

## **Dates for Your Diary**

Sat 3 May	Ipsden Bird Walk	See page 12
Sun 4 May	Cholsey VE Talk	See page 11
Wed 9 May	Ipsden Coffee Morning	
Sat 17 May	Cholsey Repair Café	See page 12
Sun 18 May	Ipsden Church Meetings	See page 9
Sat 24 May	Denny's Taster Day	See page 11
Sun 8 June	North Stoke Open Gardens	See page 10
Wed 11 June	Ipsden Coffee Morning	

## **Ipsden Village Lottery Winners**

29 March	Wendy McConville	19 April	Martin Small
5 April	J Plaisted	26 April	See next issue
12 April	Jane Penney	3 May	See next issue

## **Ipsden Village Lottery Tickets**

There are numbers available for the Ipsden Lottery, which helps fund our Village Memorial Hall. A ticket is £1 per week, payable in 10-week blocks, with the winning number worth £25 each week. The winning number is the Saturday night bonus ball number in the National Lottery. If you are interested in joining, please talk to Shirley in the shop to arrange payment and to choose your number.

**Clare Davis**

## **Distribution of The Window**

Thanks to Vaughan Williams and the team of volunteers who give up their spare time to deliver paper copies to homes in Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke. The Window is available online on the Ipsden village website and some paper copies are held in the Ipsden shop for individual collection.

**This newsletter is edited, published, printed and distributed by the churches of Ipsden and North Stoke. The copy deadline for the next issue will be 20 May please.**

## **May and June Church Services**

The churches at both Ipsden and North Stoke are open daily during daylight hours for visits and private prayer

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ipsden</b>	<b>North Stoke</b>
<b>Sun 4 May</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 7 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 11 May</b>	<b>10am Service of The Word. Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)</b>	
Wed 14 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 18 May</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 21 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 25 May</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>	<b>11am Morning Prayer</b>
Wed 28 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 1 June</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 4 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 8 June "Pentecost"</b>	<b>10am Service of The Word. Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)</b>	
Wed 11 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 15 June Trinity Sunday</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 18 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 22 June</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>	<b>11am Morning Prayer</b>
Wed 25 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 29 June</b>	<b>10.30am Team Service for the Feast of St Peter &amp; St Paul at Checkendon</b>	

## **View from the Vicarage**



Easter is a time of joy and celebration for many, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of new beginnings. However, once the festivities are over, it's not uncommon to experience a sense of emptiness or sadness. This feeling, often referred to as the "post-Easter blues," can be challenging to navigate. Indeed, the Sunday after Easter was traditionally known as Low Sunday. It was a day of reflection and calm after the festivities and excess of the Octave of Easter.

Historically, Easter began a period of celebration and feasting. The harsh restrictions of Lent were no longer in effect, and to celebrate the resurrection of Christ a week of gluttony and partying commenced. This reflected the older pre-Christian origins of April, where a whole month was dedicated to worshipping the goddess *Eostre*.

In contrast to the high or elevated feeling on the Sunday of Easter, Low Sunday was the first after a week where modesty would be shown. In some places voices would be lowered, heads bowed, and it would be acknowledged as a quiet day.

Low Sunday may no longer be recognised in the same way, but the sense of anti-climax may still pervade, when the chocolates have been eaten, the lamb lunch is a distant memory, and the family have all gone home. After such a significant event, it's natural to experience a sense of emotional let-down or a return to normalcy, which can feel like a "low" compared to the festive "high".

We must not lose sight of the hope and renewal which was awakened at Easter. Reflecting on the significance of Jesus' resurrection can help rekindle that sense of joy and purpose. Spending time in prayer or reading and meditating on scripture will help us to reconnect with the spiritual meaning of Easter. The message of new life and redemption is forever a source of comfort and inspiration.

One of the best ways to combat feelings of loneliness or sadness is to connect with others. Whether it's through church, or coffee mornings, engaging in fellowship provides a sense of belonging and support. It is important to reach out to friends, family, or fellow believers to share our feelings and find encouragement.

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## **View from the Vicarage (Continued)**

The time between Easter and Pentecost, when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles (8 June) is a period of waiting and anticipation. This waiting period can sometimes feel like a lull, contributing to feelings of restlessness or blues. Yet, this season of waiting is not an empty one — it is filled with promise.

Just as the disciples waited for the Holy Spirit, we too can use this time to nurture our faith, strengthen our connections, and prepare our hearts for what is to come. Easter is not merely a single day or fleeting event; its message lingers, shaping our lives with a renewed sense of purpose. The resurrection teaches us that light follows darkness, that renewal is always possible, and that joy can be found even in quiet moments.

So, rather than dwelling on the quiet after celebration, let us embrace it. Let us use this time to deepen our faith, to serve others, and to carry the message of Easter forward. For in the gentle unfolding of the weeks ahead, we may discover that hope was never meant to be confined to a single day — it is meant to shine through every moment of our lives.

*With Easter Blessings,  
Canon John*



## **Ipsden APM and APCM**

This year's annual church meetings for St Mary's Ipsden will be held on Sunday 18 May at 10.45am in St Mary the Virgin Church. ALL ARE WELCOME! Coffee & cake to be provided from 10.30 am at the end of the normal Sunday service. For legal reasons there are two meetings.

The purpose of the first (the Annual Parish Meeting – APM) is to elect the two churchwardens and broadly all village residents are entitled to vote, as long as they are on the civic electoral roll. The second meeting (the Annual Parochial Church Meeting - APCM) includes presentation of annual reports, financial statements and election of PCC (Parochial Church Council) members and synod representatives. Voting at this second meeting is restricted to persons on the church electoral roll. Anyone requiring further detail should contact me or Susie Williams, the PCC Secretary.

**Clare Davis**

## “Open Gardens” Returns!

“Open Gardens” is returning to North Stoke on Sunday 8 June, from 2pm until 5.30pm. Tickets (£7 cash or card, children under 14 free) will be available on the day at the Village Hall. As well as the many gardens that are open, there will also be plant sales, other stalls, Tea and Cakes (£3) and toilet facilities in the Village Hall. Free parking is at The Farmyard in The Street (OX10 6BL) with overflow parking spaces in The Field, Pockocks Lane (OX10 6ET).



Open Gardens  
The UK National Directory

**Help Needed Please!** *As always we are enormously grateful to the garden owners who generously allow us to visit their beautiful gardens. But the success of the afternoon also depends upon the merry band of volunteers who help run the afternoon.*

*So please come and join us if you are able to, either on the day or beforehand. Nearer the time we will need cakes and plants for our sale, please think of us when you are planting seeds, propagating or splitting plants. I would be delighted to hear from you if you are able to help in any way (07867 635 495). Many thanks.*



North Stoke Open Gardens is kindly sponsored by Warmingham Estate Agents.

**Angela Stanton**



## **Denny's Next Taster Morning**

If you have always wanted to learn how to paint but haven't known where to start, then please join me on Saturday 24 May in one of my enjoyable watercolour taster mornings in Ipsden village hall.

We will be painting rape fields and buttercup meadows using loose wet in wet techniques, and a natural sponge to paint distant spring trees, producing atmospheric landscapes in lemon hues evocative of the time of year when yellow in the landscape is widespread.

The course is suitable for absolute beginners to test drive watercolour as well as for students who have painted before and would like to learn new techniques and stay motivated with their painting. So don't be shy, join me for a creative morning learning about the wonders of watercolour. The workshop runs from 10am to 1pm at Ipsden village hall, The Street, Ipsden OX10 6AH, with all materials and refreshments supplied. For full details and to book online please check out my website [www.dennywebb.com](http://www.dennywebb.com) where you can also purchase paintings, prints and cards. You can contact me by email at [redkites1@gmail.com](mailto:redkites1@gmail.com) or phone me on 01491 680942 or 07827 581363.

**Denny Webb**



## **WATERCOLOUR TASTER MORNING**

### **Cholsey VE Day**

On Sunday 4 May, at The Cholsey Pavilion, Mark Lawson will give an illustrated talk entitled "Airborne into D-Day", starting at 7pm. This will be part of Cholsey's VE Day commemoration at the Recreation Ground. Mark's talk will examine military involvement from airfields in our general area. Admission is free and a bar will be available.

**Ian Wheeler**

## **Evening Song**

This month Gary and Emma Magill will be leading another guided bird walk – this time to enjoy the birds towards the end of the day on Saturday 3 May.

We will meet at 6.30pm at Woodhouse Farm (OX10 6PT) with a 'welcome' drink, before a guided walk starting 7pm and aiming to finish back at Woodhouse about 8.45pm (sunset 8.30pm). We hope to see and hear some of the Corn Buntings and Yellowhammers that are increasingly frequenting the area, as well as looking out for returning migrants, and enjoy the bird song as the daylight reduces.

Please contact me, Robin Hart, to book a place: 1 Crabtree Cottages, Ipsden; 07979 426336 or [Woodhousefarm.rob@outlook.com](mailto:Woodhousefarm.rob@outlook.com)  
Contributions of £15 per person, in aid of St Mary's Church, Ipsden, will include a welcome drink before the walk.

**Robin Hart**



*Last year's bird walk took place early one rather chilly morning in February. Hopefully this year's will be a little warmer!*

## **Cholsey Repair Café**

Give or take a pandemic or two, Cholsey Repair Café has been active for about five years and sometimes surprised itself with the range of domestic items that it has succeeded in bringing back to useful life.

The sessions take place on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months, so the next one will be on Saturday 17 May at the Cholsey Pavilion, between 10am and 12.45pm.

Skilled fixers can tackle electrical equipment, bicycles, tool and knife sharpening, repairs to clothing, light woodwork, toys, glueing, ultrasonic cleaning and more. No charge is made for repairs or advice but a donation is appreciated, to cover operating costs. Read more at

[www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com) or email [repaircafe@cholsey.com](mailto:repaircafe@cholsey.com)

**Ian Wheeler**