



The Window

**November
2026**



Did You Pass the "Life in the UK" Test?

At about 7pm over 50 people from the village and surrounding area assembled in Ipsden Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 17 October. The occasion was a Quiz Night with a distinctly British flavour.

Thanks to Tammy Bast for arranging a great evening. Tammy was ably supported by Dan Bast, Richard Moberly, Kate Moberly and Gill Munoz. Richard was a very fair question master and judge, there were not too many fights and no yellow cards were necessary. Dan passed the papers around for marking with skill and diplomacy. Food arrived smoothly at just the right time and the bar was perfect.

At the start we defined our teams and names and selected our bonus points round. I'm not sure we knew what was coming when we made our selections! Dan kept the scores throughout the evening and there were no



VAR appeals, so he must have got it right on-field! Raffle tickets were lapped up at an alarming rate before we really got down to the action.

There were five rounds of questions, roughly 8-10 per round: British history, British phrases and sayings, locations upon the local map, Life in the UK, and UK food and cookery. After round 3 we were treated to a generous ploughman's: lovely crunchy and soft bread, a variety of cheeses and some healthy sides (tomatoes on the vine were great!). Followed by the unhealthy bit: chocolate brownies and cream. Raffle prizes came after round 4.



Dan then presented the final scores. I am proud to say that my team "Bottom of the Hill" was pronounced the winner, though I can claim no great contribution to that. It seemed to me that it was all pretty close, so congratulations to everyone who took part. The evening closed with the offer of the leftover cheeses to take home, I assumes it all went because they were excellent.

Finally, we have to finish by thanking once again all those who created such an enjoyable and friendly evening. And of course to David Coldwell for his usual brilliant pictures that captured the event so well. The net proceeds will be about £600 and will go to the restoration fund for St Mary's Church Ipsden.

Peter Bennett

Harvest Festival

A wonderfully packed church at St Mary's Ipsden celebrated Harvest Festival with a service led by Rev'd John Blair on the early evening of Sunday 4 October. We gave thanks for our local farmers, even more so this year.

A sourdough harvest loaf, baked by David Kelley, was presented made from locally grown and milled flour and the church was filled with the most beautiful flower and fruit arrangements. A huge thank you is due to the



flower-arranging ladies, who yet again outdid themselves. The traditional readings were recited by Dan Bast, Andrew Darke and David Kelley, and prayers were read by Tammy Bast.



Many people brought food and drinks to share after the service, and lots stayed to catch up with friends.

Very generous donations of tinned and packaged goods were passed on after the service for the local food bank at Sonning Common.

Thank you to all who attended, donated food and drink, sang in the choir (directed by Andrew Darke and Gary Magill), decorated the church, and generally came to support our local farming community. Thanks too to Emma Magill, David Kelley and Andrew Darke for the lovely photographs.

Clare Davis

A Sobering Evening

Some 40 residents from Ipsden and nearby attended a screening on 16 October of a film that raises awareness of the impacts – current and future – of climate change. The evening was organized by Nina Thomas and Kate Moberly, and was hosted by Janet and Tim Chatterton of the Goring and Streatley Sustainability Group, with a discussion after the screening.



The film was released earlier this year and comprises clips from the 'National Emergency Briefing', held in Westminster in 2025, in which leading figures in science, medicine and economics, among other fields, presented their research on how the precipitous pace of climate change is affecting society and the natural world, and outlined what measures governments and society need to take in order to deal with these effects; the clips are interspersed with reaction from 'ordinary' people (and a sprinkling of celebrities), hosted by environmental campaigner and TV presenter Chris Packham.



Communities up and down the country have attended screenings like this one, and close to 200,000 people have now seen the film: as its stated aim is to stimulate discussion and action, and to demonstrate the extent of the risks climate change poses, it is clearly effective. We discussed our reactions to the film initially in small groups and then fed back to the whole room, and our reactions reflected those of the interviewees in the film itself – shock at the accelerating speed with which climate change is impacting us, jeopardising everything from national security to food supply.

It would be hard to leave such a sobering screening without feeling very concerned. Yet, in the film, each expert's report was balanced with hope, showing us that leading figures in every field are busy trying to develop

solutions to help mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. And the hosts encouraged us to think about how we too can respond constructively to the climate crisis. At one level, this might imply lobbying our MP or using our vote at the next election, or simply spreading the word, but we were also urged to think about actions we can take at a local level, both individually and as a community: Goring and Wallingford, to name just a couple of places locally, have community action groups that are very busy with sustainability projects and campaigns. There was a generally positive feeling that together we can support each other to develop resilience in the event that times get harder.



Lottie Rundall

Editor's Note: Thanks to David Coldwell for the photographs of the evening. Afterwards, whilst musing on the enormity of all this I wondered what individuals, as mere specks in such a global issue, could actually achieve. My daughter sent me this quotation which goes a little way to resolve a dilemma that perhaps occurs to many of us.

"To be hopeful in bad times is not foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage and kindness.

"What we choose to emphasise in this complex history will determine the lives of us and of those who follow. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places – and there are so many – where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

"And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvellous victory."

Howard Zinn (1922 – 2010)

Ten Myths About Climate Change

The climate crisis is becoming a hot topic in mainstream media. But there's a lot of confusion around what climate change actually is and what's causing it. That's why WWF has tried to clear up some of the most frequently heard myths, so that you can tell fiction from fact! Here are the first five, the remaining five we will feature next month.

Myth 1: The Earth's climate has always changed

Over the course of Earth's 4.5-billion-year history, the climate has changed a lot, this is true. However, the rapid warming we're seeing now can't be explained by natural cycles of warming and cooling. The kind of changes that would normally happen over hundreds of thousands of years are happening in decades.



Global temperatures are now at their highest since records began. In fact, the 10 warmest years on Earth, since 1880, have occurred since 2014. In 2024 our world got hotter than ever before, temporarily going beyond the 1.5C climate threshold for the first time.

So, when people talk about climate change today, they mean anthropogenic (human-made) climate change. This is the warming of Earth's average temperature as a result of human activity, such as burning coal, oil and gas to produce energy to fuel our homes and transport, and cutting down trees to produce the food we eat. You can read more about it here: [How do we know climate change is real?](#)

Myth 2: Global warming isn't real as it's still cold

Global warming is causing the Earth's average surface temperature to rise which, in turn, is causing changes in our natural climate systems. These changes are making all sorts of extreme weather events more likely and more severe, including more intense droughts, heatwaves and hurricanes but also, strangely, an increased potential for more severe cold weather events.



There is also an important distinction between weather and climate. Weather refers to short-term changes in the Earth's atmosphere and represents things such as temperature, rain and cloudiness. Climate refers

to longer-term changes in the Earth's atmosphere over extended periods of time.

Short-term changes in the weather will continue and that is why we can still experience cold snaps, despite the fact that the Earth's temperature is warming. On top of this, we will keep on experiencing natural seasonal variations as the Earth orbits around the sun, so winter will continue to feel cooler than summer, even though the overall temperature is higher than it was 100 years ago.

Due to where we are in the world, the UK and Ireland are likely to get more wind and rain as a result of climate change, while New York could see more snow. The complex interaction between factors in the Earth's climate makes extreme weather events, both hot and cold, more unpredictable and impactful.

Myth 3: Heatwaves and wildfires have nothing to do with climate change



Climate change makes extreme weather more frequent and intense, including heatwaves, wildfires and floods. The evidence shows that extreme heatwaves have increased since the 1950s and human-induced climate change is the main driver; with every additional increment of global warming, these extremes continue to increase.

Because climate change creates warmer and drier conditions, even if a wildfire is started as a result of human activity, there is more fuel available when vegetation is very dry, and the relative humidity of the air will be lower, allowing fires to spread further and faster. In addition, the global wildfire season is getting longer, due to higher temperatures and longer droughts. Wildfires can pose an immediate threat to the lives of people and animals in the area, as well as causing damage to soil, vegetation and whole ecosystems. Smoke and ash from wildfires pollute air, water and land.

Myth 4: China is mostly responsible for climate change



Human-induced climate change is something that has been happening for many years and Western countries, like the UK, have played a big role in contributing to carbon emissions over the past 200 years. This means that only looking at who are today's the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases is an oversimplification of a very nuanced topic.

A lot of the products we purchase in the UK are manufactured in China, meaning that we are essentially transferring a large portion of our emissions to the countries responsible for creating the products we use. Part of the reason emissions from highly industrialised countries are so high is because of the high demand for products created by them, from countries such as the UK.

Despite being one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases today, in part because it's such a big country, China's emissions per person are less than other countries like the United States. China is also currently investing heavily in renewable energy. The increase in investment has been in response to the rapid growth of green business, the demand for renewable energy and the need to clean up air pollution in its major cities.

Climate change is a global issue, and we all have a responsibility to step up to tackle the climate crisis. The problem will not be solved unless all countries put in as much effort as they can and work together. Action on climate change will need serious investment but has the potential to deliver huge benefits for nature and people. We all need to raise our voices and fight for our world!

Myth 5: Plants need carbon dioxide

Plants do need carbon dioxide (CO₂) to live. Plants and forests remove and store away huge amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year. The problem is, there's only so much carbon dioxide they can absorb and this amount is getting less, as more and more forests are cut down across the world, largely to produce our food.



Let's be clear, CO₂ itself does not cause problems. It's part of the natural global ecosystem. The problem is the quantity of CO₂ that's being produced by us as humans; there hasn't been this level of CO₂ in the atmosphere for three million years.

WWF is the leading global environmental charity, bringing our world back to life. Nature is in crisis. Wildlife is declining, habitats are disappearing, and climate change is reshaping the planet. We're tackling the root causes of nature loss and climate change, so people and nature can thrive together. This demands conservation at scale and major changes to the systems that drive destruction. It's a huge challenge, but there is still time to turn things around. Working globally with governments, businesses, partners and communities, we're focused on achieving three key outcomes.

Pumpkins, Apples and Acorns

At Early Days Nursery, September came round so quickly after the summer break. The lovely weather meant we could all spend most of our days outside – we all love that experience so much. Our older children in Owls class have been making pumpkin potions, cooking with all the lovely apples Nesta found. They went to the Church to meet vicar John and they presented him with a stone they had decorated and an Autumn wreath. They enjoyed a mini film about the story of an Acorn and sang their Autumn songs.

Many babies joined our Hedgehog class and so, for a couple of weeks, there was quite a high volume of noise as they gently settled in with us; transition from home to nursery is such an important time and we handle it

individually, working with families to get the best start possible. They have been adoring our huge new 'light' toy equipment and stunning wall projector which has created such an amazing sensory experience for our youngest little ones.

Nicola Murphy



French Drains and “Fapplejack”

On Friday 9 October a jolly gang of volunteers set to on an Autumn clear-up of Ipsden churchyard. A lot was achieved; clearing French drains around church, removing moss and turf from the path, careful removal of ivy and moss from gravestones and memorials. Lots of fine work was done, weeding the two graves in the new garden of remembrance. Thank you to all who turned out and worked so hard. Particular thanks are due to Robin Hart who, as well as coordinating everything, rounded the morning off by providing hot coffee and delicious “fapplejack”.



David Kelley

An Update on the Bridleway 31 Inquiry

Public Local Inquiry to Determine Oxfordshire County Council: Ipsden Bridleway No. 31 Modification Order 2023

The Public Local Inquiry to determine the Ipsden Bridleway No. 31 Modification Order, which opened on Tuesday 21 April and sat through to Thursday 23 April, when it was adjourned to reconvene virtually (online) on Thursday 11 June 2026, had its final sitting on Friday 18 September in Ipsden Village Hall.

The final sitting was opened promptly at 10am by Inspector Nigel Farthing who said that one reason for being here was to consider the implications of the line of the bridleway which Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had arranged to be set out by a surveying company. It was also an opportunity for parties to give a closing statement but not an occasion to reopen the evidence.



The Inspector said that he had not yet made up his mind on this matter but he would like to come to a view that, if the Order were confirmed, where should the 14ft width of the bridleway be? It was apparent from evidence given in previous sittings of the inquiry, and the closing statements at this sitting, that there were negative implications and concerns for all properties along the route in question (route shown on the following map).

In the event that the Order was confirmed OCC presented a "Statement of Intent" to do the following:-

"Undertake informal consultations on and make and advertise a Public Path Order to divert and/or extinguish part of the width of the Order Route so that the legal line of the bridleway can follow a route which runs within (the Inspector suggested replacing "runs within" with "respected") existing property boundaries"

OCC did point out that the success of an Order could not be guaranteed as the process would be subject to consultation and would be open to objection. Closing statements were given by or on behalf of the residents firstly of Lowbury Shaw (Kirby/ Milner), then Hawthornes (Maitland-Smith) and finally Oaklands (Elcox for Vickers), all of whom were objectors to the Order. The OCC closing statement was given by their legal council Robin Carr, a public rights of way specialist. There was no representation by the

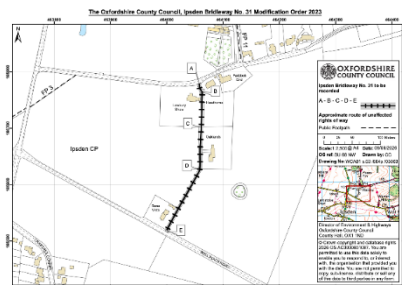
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) that instigated this matter through an application in 2012 to add Ipsden Bridleway No. 31 to the Definitive Map.

There were two main threads to the objections as follows:-

- Firstly that the Council's position was wrong for the following reasons:
 - The 1856 Inclosure Award exceeded its legal powers by setting up an unlawful scheme for creating and maintaining the highways in Ipsden.
 - The route in question is described differently on four occasions in the same document and only once as 'public'.
 - There is no record of any public right of way on this route in any other statutory document before or after the 1856 Inclosure Award — and none has been claimed until this application in 2012.
 - The parcel of land that the Council is claiming for the bridleway is more than double the area of land set out in the Inclosure Award.
 - The Inclosure Award's description of this route was intended to allow a new means of access, just on the southern part of the claimed route, to and from an isolated homestead whose traditional route to other parts of the village was extinguished in the enclosure process.
 - This was countered by OCC in their closing statement in which they stated that the route remaining undiscovered for so long was not unusual and is a matter that has been recognised and acknowledged by Government for at least 30 years. In terms of the legality of the route itself OCC, relied on the evidence of expert witness Dr Tom Breen, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, MIPROW, who was clear in his evidence that the Inclosure Award set out and created public bridleway rights over the entire Order Route.
- Secondly that if the Order is confirmed the route of the bridleway width should be no more than 8ft and that its alignment should avoid property with various gates of 5 feet width or more, and that it is located tight against the boundary fence on the northern half, to reflect the intentions of the Inclosure Award itself.

As at the print date of this issue of The Window the Inspector's decision has not been issued but it is imminent.

David Coldwell



The Soldier Bear

During the week commencing 28 September, over a hundred Polish war veteran families and their descendants, Polish dignitaries and Checkendon parish notables, gathered for a stirring commemoration outside the Black Horse pub, where a blue plaque was unveiled to honour the 80th anniversary of the first arrival of Polish service personnel to Checkendon Camp in 1946.



These were mostly soldiers from 2 Corps, now unable to return to their homeland, which had been swallowed up by the Soviet Union. Over the next few years many of their families would join them, and the Checkendon Camp would become their "temporary" home for

the next twenty years, with births, marriages, and deaths. Fragments of the camp in the woods beyond the Black Horse may still be seen - crumbling Nissan huts, concrete bases, tumbling brick. The post box by the main gate was still in operation until just a few years ago, only recently ripped away by some bureaucrat with no sense of history. There remains in the parish churchyard a "Polish section", where one of my predecessors "looked the other way" to permit a number of Roman Catholic burials for those who had passed away in the camp.

Many of those first soldier-refugees at Checkendon would have been among those who fought with honour in Italy at Monte Cassino, and of those, most would have been very familiar with their soldier-bear, possibly the most curious, and touching, refugee story I have ever come across.

When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, the Russians freed the thousands of Poles they themselves had deported and imprisoned in Siberia, and these men and their families began to move back from the Gulag, down through Iran, to Palestine, from where they were able, under General Anders, to present themselves as a new Army to fight alongside the Allied forces. While they were outside Tehran in 1942, a young Lieutenant came across an orphaned bear cub, which he purchased. The cub was adopted by the 22nd Artillery Company and was named "Wojtek" (joyful

warrior) by the troops. With them the young cub moved, and grew, as they journeyed through Iran, Iraq, and Syria. He enjoyed fruit, and beer, and eating cigarettes.

When the British military refused him access on board the transport ship taking the troops to Italy ("no mascots permitted"), the Poles simply issued the bear cub with enlistment papers, and presented him as a member of their company, with the rank of private. In recognition of his service in the battle for Monte Cassino he was promoted to the rank of corporal. The bear stayed with the 22nd Artillery Company throughout the Italian campaign, and with them was transported to Scotland in 1945 at the war's end.



When the unit was demobilised in 1947, Wojtek was re-homed in Edinburgh Zoo, where he spent the rest of his life as a minor celebrity, still responding with joy when spoken to in Polish, and even appearing on Blue Peter. He died of natural causes in 1963 aged 21, weighing nearly 500kg, and being almost 6 ft tall.

Wojtek was born and orphaned in Iran, adopted and raised by the then stateless Poles amidst the chaos of the second world war, given a reluctant berth by the Brits, cared for in retirement by probably puzzled Scots, who nevertheless afforded this motherless creature a place in the world. Wojtek the soldier-bear resonates with the world as we find it today, with millions of people moving, some driven by war, others by poverty or ideology or climate change, others by fear, in search of a place to call home.

All through his life Wojtek was given a place with no expectations of permanence or stability, (because the world itself could not be regarded as either permanent or stable) by people who loved him. From this I conclude that love is more important than home. Why else should an orphaned Syrian Brown Bear have no fewer than eighteen sculptures or memorials dedicated to him across Europe? To my mind the best of these is the earliest, by David Harding in 1954, now on display at the Polish Institute in London.

Rev'd Canon Kevin

Ladybirds, Bees and Others



When the weather turns cold, it might seem as though most wildlife has disappeared until spring. But if you take a closer look, you'll find that plenty of insects and other creepy crawlies are still around. Ladybirds often spend the winter sheltering together in places such as conifers, old seedheads, and hollow plant stems, clustering together to stay warm. Various species can also be found on ivy, such as the 7-spot, 22-spot, and harlequin ladybird.

Bees have different ways of getting through the colder season. On milder days, you might spot buff-tailed bumblebees out and about, as this species is being seen flying more often during the winter months, and bumblebee queens may emerge from hibernation during these mild spells.



Honeybee queens usually stay inside their hives for the winter, only venturing out on particularly sunny days, while solitary bees leave their nests when they are ready to mate. For any bee active in winter, finding nectar is vital, as there is a real risk of starvation if food is scarce.

One of the simplest ways to help winter pollinators and other insects is by growing plants that flower during the colder months. Single-flowered hellebores are particularly useful because their open blooms make pollen and nectar easy to reach.

Crocuses are another good choice, especially when planted in a sunny position where the flowers can fully open. Snowdrops and aconites also provide valuable food, while ivy offers both shelter and a late nectar source.

You don't need to be a keen gardener to make a difference. Leaving fallen leaves where they land or creating small piles of twigs and leaves can provide important habitats for insects. And if you come across a queen bee that appears to be struggling, you can gently move her to nearby flowers or offer a 1:1 sugar and water solution.

Jessica Bower

Dates for Your Diary

Sun 8 November	Remembrance Sunday Service	See page 18
Sun 8 November	Remembrance Sunday Curry Lunch	See page 20
Wed 11 November	Ipsden Coffee Morning	See page 24
Wed 18 November	Ipsden Games Cafes	See page 21
Thurs 19 or 26 Nov	IPC Meeting	See page 20
Sat 21 November	Cholsey Repair Cafe	See page 21
Sat 21 November	Ipsden Bake-Off	See page 23
Sat 28 November	Ipsden Bingo Night	See page 20
Sun 6 December	Advent Service of Light	See page 19
Wed 9 December	Christmas Coffee Morning	See page 24
Sun 20 December	Nine Lessons & Carols	See page 19
Thur 24 December	Midnight Mass Ipsden	See page 19
Fri 25 December	Christmas Day N Stoke	See page 19

Ipsden Village Lottery Winners

26 Sept	Jane Penney	17 October	Jenny Booth
3 October	Martin Small	24 October	See next issue
10 October	Kate Miller	31 October	See next issue

View from the Vicarage



Banana Pudding

November is, improbably, Banana Pudding Lovers Month. I know! You weren't expecting that – but then, neither was I! Yet there is something wonderfully outrageous about beginning a month of solemn remembrance with a dessert that is, by nature, messy, sweet, comforting, and impossible to eat with dignity. It is the sort of thing that reminds us that life, even in its gravest seasons, refuses to be entirely serious.

And perhaps that is precisely the point. November is the month when the nation pauses to remember its dead: the fallen of war, the cost of peace, the weight of sacrifice. It is also the month when many of us remember our own beloved dead. For me, it carries the quiet ache of 24 November, the day Jean died. A date that sits in the calendar like a stone in the shoe: small, but impossible to ignore. Remembrance is never abstract. It is personal, particular and often painfully precise. Yet into this solemnity comes the outrageous reminder that life is still sweet. Still warm. Still capable of surprising us with joy. Banana pudding, of all things, becomes a small parable: grief and delight can sit in the same bowl. Scripture knows this well. The psalmist cries, *"My tears have been my food day and night,"* yet also insists, *"Taste and see that the Lord is good."* Tears and sweetness held together.

And then, as if November were not already full, comes Diwali, the festival of light. A celebration of the victory of goodness over evil, light over darkness, hope over despair. Our Hindu friends light lamps to declare that darkness does not get the final word. Christians should understand this instinct deeply. We proclaim it every Easter, every funeral, every time we dare to pray in the face of sorrow: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*

So here is my outrageous claim for November: This month is not about choosing between grief and joy, solemnity and celebration, remembrance and pudding. It is about refusing to let any single emotion tell the whole story, because:

- Remembrance without hope becomes despair
- Celebration without honesty becomes denial
- Grief without love becomes emptiness
- And joy without memory becomes shallow

But when we hold them together, the sweetness of pudding, the sting of loss, the glow of lamps, the silence of the cenotaph, and we discover something profoundly scriptural: God meets us in the mixture. Not in the tidy categories we prefer, but in the untidy, human reality that shapes our days.

Jean's memory, the nation's remembrance, the lamps of Diwali, and even the spoonful of pudding all whisper the same truth. Light persists. Love endures. And God is not embarrassed by our complicated hearts.

Perhaps the real feast of November is a banquet where sorrow and sweetness sit side by side, and Christ, the Light of the World, is quietly present at the table. To quote Kahlil Gibran in *The Prophet*: *'Your joy is your sorrow unmasked. And the self-same well from which your laughter rises was often filled with your tears. And how else can it be?'*

Blessings to you all

Canon John Blair



Deadlines and Distribution

The Window is edited, published and distributed by the churches of St Mary's Ipsden and St Mary's North Stoke. Please note that, as usual, there will be no January issue. Therefore, if you want to announce any January 2027 events, you should look to include them in the December issue. **The deadline for contributions to the December issue is 18 November.**

Thanks to Vaughan Williams and the team of volunteers who give up their time to deliver free paper copies to homes in Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke. If you don't get a copy delivered and think you should, please let me know via email peter.bennett28@btopenworld.com, sending me your name and address so that we can investigate and see if we can rectify the situation.

Church Services for November and December

Date	Ipsden	North Stoke
Sun 1 November	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 4 November	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 8 November	10.45am Remembrance Sunday Service at Ipsden with laying of wreaths at North Stoke at approximately 12 noon	
Wed 11 November	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 15 November	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 18 November	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 22 November	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
Wed 25 November	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 29 November	10.30am Team Advent Carol Service at Checkendon	
Wed 2 December	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 6 December	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Sun 6 December	5pm A Service of Light followed by candlelit walk	
Wed 9 December	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 13 December	10am Service of the Word Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (wait to be admitted)	
Wed 16 December	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	

Church Services for Christmas

Date	Ipsden	North Stoke
Sun 20 December	6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols	4pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Wed 23 December	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Thurs 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30pm Midnight Communion	
Fri 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY		10am Holy Communion with Carols
Sun 27 December	10.30am Team Service at St Mary's Ipsden Alternative Carols and Readings	
Wed 30 December	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	

Church Opening Hours

As well as for services, both churches at Ipsden and North Stoke are open during daylight hours for private visits and worship.

A Service of Light for Advent

It is our intention to have a light shining in our Churches during the hours of darkness from Advent to Epiphany, because we want our Churches to shine gently into the night, carrying Christ's light through the darkest weeks of the year and offering a visible blessing to all who pass by.



Come and join the special celebration of this in Ipsden at 5pm on Sunday 6 December when, after a short Litany of Light, we will walk by torchlight to The King William IV for Mulled Wine, Nibbles and Song. Bring a torch with you; there will be a limited number of Fire Torches to purchase.

Clare Davis & Rev'd John Blair

Remembrance Sunday Curry Lunch

The Remembrance Sunday Curry Lunch will be held on 8 November in Ipsden Village Hall. Food will be served at 1pm. Tickets are £12.50 each and are available from The Shop, Ros Hall, and Anne Millsop. Net proceeds will be split between Combat Stress and St Mary's Church. There will be a bar and a draw.



Bingo Night Returns!



Bingo returns to Ipsden on Saturday evening, 28 November, in the Memorial Village Hall. Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 7pm. Pay at the door!

There will be a bar selling wine, beer, spirits, soft drinks & snacks. Stay behind after the last game for nibbles and an eye on Christmas!

Rev'd John Blair

IPC Meeting



The next Ipsden Parish Council meeting will be at 6;30pm on either the 19 or 26 November in the village hall. The date will be confirmed on the Ipsden Village website and the notice board by the village shop one week before the actual date.

Ipsden Parish Council

Cholsey Repair Café

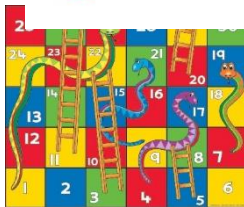
The last Cholsey Repair Café of 2026 will take place at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 21 November, between 10am and 12.45pm. Skilled volunteers will be there to help with repairs to a wide range of portable domestic items, bicycles, gardening tools and textiles



No charge is made but donations towards running costs are always appreciated. The scheme runs regularly on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months, or you can refer to www.cholseyrepaircafe.com for latest information.

Ian Wheeler

Ipsden Games Café – Afternoon *and* Evening



Games Café will take place, as usual, on the third Wednesday of the month – in this case, Wednesday 18 November, at Ipsden Village Hall. The afternoon session will be from 3 to 5pm, with the evening session from 7 to 9pm.

There'll be the usual hot drinks with cakes and biscuits, and you're welcome to bring something stronger for the evening session if you wish. We have a wide selection of games, but feel free to bring your own favourites along too. Equally, if you simply want a warm space to sit and chat, that's fine too – there's no obligation to play games at all!

Email katemoberly@hotmail.com or Lottie thewordbird@yahoo.co.uk if you'd like any further details. We look forward to seeing you!

Kate Moberly, Lottie Rundall and Jesse-May

Volunteer a Little, Make a Big Difference



a little time and make a big difference this Christmas as it is an ideal time to dip your toe into volunteering by supporting your community.

Across Oxfordshire, non-profit organisations are busy preparing festive events that bring people together, support those in need and help make this time of year special. Many of these events rely on the time, enthusiasm and generosity of volunteers to make them happen.

To help connect people with events to get involved with, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) has launched its Christmas Volunteering Calendar.

The online calendar highlights the festive opportunities where people can volunteer. Whether you have a few hours to spare, want to try something new or are looking for a meaningful way to give back this Christmas, volunteering can be a rewarding way to get involved.

For organisations, the calendar provides an opportunity to raise awareness of their festive events, reach potential volunteers and encourage more people to support their cause. By bringing these opportunities together, OCVA hopes to make it easier for residents to discover what is happening across Oxfordshire and find ways to contribute

Visit [OCVA's events calendar](#) and search under the category 'Christmas volunteering'. You can also find volunteering opportunities at: <https://oxonvolunteers.org/>

Danielle Hilton



The Great Ipsden Bake-Off

It's still early autumn but the day of deliciousness is drawing closer! If you haven't done so yet, save the date for an afternoon of indulgence and taste bud celebration: The Great Ipsden Bake Off on Saturday 21 November from 3pm until 5pm.



The first contributions of cakes and cookies have already landed in my mailbox, thank you very much indeed! I will get back to everyone who has entered a cake in due time.

In contrast to the information published in the last issue of The Window, please see the updated information to this event below. There are two main changes:

Firstly, for those coming to taste and vote, there will be no pay-by-piece but bottomless cake, coffee and tea for a fixed rate: £5 for adults and £3 for under tens (cash only please). It's always good when you can pig out without thinking about your bank account, wouldn't you agree? You'll receive a tasting card which you can use to take notes on the cakes you've tried. It'll also double as your ballot to find out who is the best baker in the village.



And secondly, you don't need to enter your cake, cookies or muffins for a certain category. I'll see what kinds of products are entered and then roughly group them. I will ask all bakers to send me the recipes though so I can label allergens. Also, I'll need them to put together our Ipsden recipe book!

Please get in touch at luedtke@ebg-rottenburg.de to enter one of your baked masterpieces or should you have any questions. All cakes must be entered by 11 November. Have a

mouthwatering autumn!

Allen Lüdtkke

Ipsden Coffee Mornings

A huge thank you to the many people who take it in turn to run the coffee mornings, and to the many others who donate their delicious cakes. Everything is free and it's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with neighbours. Ipsden Coffee Mornings are held in Ipsden Village Memorial Hall on the second Wednesday of each month.



The next Coffee Morning is on 11 November, from 10am until 11.30am, and we will observe the 1-minute silence at 11am as it is Armistice Day. And on 9 December we will hold the Christmas Coffee Morning, with mince pies, carol singing and a Christmas Raffle. All are welcome!

Clare Davis

And Finally ... Another Plea for Help

Thank you to all those who contribute to The Window and help to make it relevant to those who dwell or work in Ipsden and North Stoke. We are grateful for all the positive feedback we receive. BUT we always need articles. And that's where all of you can help.

We are a parish magazine, relying on *you* to provide content. We don't have any reporters. We are all volunteers. Stories don't just materialise out of thin air! We can't invent content. If you find The Window interesting, then please help to make it continue to be so. Content must come from those living in the villages. That's all of you! Please don't be shy. Sadly to say, we seem to rely on a few "regulars" and that just does not seem fair!

You might be surprised: what seems mundane and everyday to you may well be interesting and new to others. And don't forget to include news about forthcoming village events. Photographs always add substance. Just let us know if you need help or guidance, and send your contributions to The Window, ipsden.window@gmail.com or me peter.bennett28@btopenworld.com