



St Michael and All Angels

Services for December

Sunday 7	8.15am	Holy Communion	
	10.00am	Sunday School	
Sunday 14	9.15am	Holy Communion	
	3.00pm	Village Carol Service	
Sunday 21	10.30am	Holy Communion	
Wednesday 24(Christmas Eve)	3.00pm	Christingle Service	at Roade
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	at Roade
Thursday 25 (Christmas Day)	10.30am	Benefice Celebration	at Hartwell
Sunday 28	6.00pm	Evensong	

Ashton's Vale Farmhouse Shop

10.30am to 4.00pm
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday

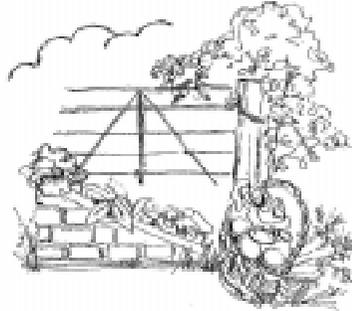
Produce includes:-

Home reared meats, free range eggs, organic vegetables, home made cakes, biscuits, savouries, jams and preserves, olive oil and many other gastronomic delights.

There will also be other small collectables and gift ideas. Cards, wrapping paper and fresh flower arrangements. Teas and Coffee also served.

For more information, contact Bette 07711 628246

Orders for Christmas turkeys taken now



Ashtons Own Special Christmas Puddings are now available. The prices are as for last year - £8.75 for a 2lb and 4.75 for a 1lb and £2.25 for a jar of delicious and highly fattening alcoholic brandy butter. If you would like to order, please ring either Ann on 862975 or Marion on 864254

Useful Contacts

Parish Council Chairman - Bernard Day 862383 Towcester Police Station Western Area 01327 300300
 Parish Council Clerk - Stephanie Fowler 862904 Community Policeman - PC Brown 01327 303215
 Ashton District Councillor - Martin Wilson 864254 E-mail - Justin.Brown@Northants.PNN.Police.uk
 Footpath Warden - Peter Coulson 864214 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator - David Farrand 863225
 Village Internet Site - www.ashtonvillage.co.uk

Letters or Articles for A.V.N. to David & Delia Farrand, 20 Hartwell Road Telephone 863225
Whilst every care is taken regarding the issue of this newsletter, the Editors accept no liability for the accuracy of the contributions

ASHTON Village News

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Friday 5 December Christmas Bazaar

3.15 - 5.15
at the School

Christmas gift stall
Cake stall
Raffle
and lots more



Any donations for stalls or offers of help greatly appreciated!
Please contact Yvonne on 862628
or drop donations to the school.

Thanks

Len Hayward - a personal recollection

Len Hayward died in Cynthia Spencer Hospice on 10 August. He had lived in Hartwell since 1989 but was truly a man of Ashton. He met Audrey when posted to Ashton during the 39-45 War and they lived here together for over 45 years.

Antje and I did not meet Len until the early 70s by which time he was widely known and respected in the village. The Old Rectory garden was in urgent need of the regular attention of an experienced professional rather than the infrequent potterings of two ignorant amateurs. Lennie provided just that for the next thirty years or more. Wednesday was Len's day at the Old Rectory and Antje stayed at home on Wednesdays as much to listen to Len as to make him tea! She remembers him pushing his wheelbarrow up the hill from his cottage behind Tew's shop (our wheelbarrow had a puncture - for 30 years) with his spade shining like a mirror.

He mentioned retirement at 80 and we stupidly thought he meant it. We had a retirement lunch for him together with three other notable Ashtonian gentlemen, Frank Bird, Peter Garrett and George Livett. We should have sold tickets, it was such a lively amusing occasion - but retirement it was not. The following April Len was on the telephone asking when he could start - and he was still helping us in the garden earlier this year.

Len had a tough upbringing and early life and, perhaps because of that, he was one of nature's gentlemen. He was a natural storyteller and a wise man but he never forced his views on anyone. When Audrey died, he was inevitably heart-broken but not broken. The house he then kept in Hartwell was spotless and neat, as was the garden. For us here he gradually created a garden that was a joy but not a showpiece, perhaps that describes Len himself.

We are proud to have had Len as a friend.

News from St Michael and All Angels

Sunday School will be on **7 December** at 10am. Everyone is welcome. Sunday School will be followed by a **Christmas Party** in the School Hall. Lunch and fun are provided and the party is expected finish about 1 o'clock.

Ashton Village Carol Service will be held on Sunday **14 December** at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome. The service will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

The **church** will be open for **decoration** on Saturday **13 December** from 10am to 11.30am. All offers of help are accepted as well as gifts of flowers and greenery.

The next **Coffee Morning** will be on Wednesday **10 December**, 10am - 11.30am at the Barn (courtesy of Mr and Mrs Zannotto). £1 for Coffee and Biscuits. There will also be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy. If anyone feels that they might prefer these events to be "Afternoon Teas" instead, please let Marion know on 864254. Proceeds to the Church and a local Charity.

ASHTON SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION



FAMILY CHRISTMAS DISCO

7.30pm FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 2003

AT MENS OWN RUGBY CLUB

BAR RAFFLE

LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS AROUND THE VILLAGE
FOR MORE INFORMATION!



MORE NEWS FROM A.S.P.A.

A big Thank you goes out to everyone for the fantastic support and attendance at this years Bonfire celebrations. Another huge success in aid of Ashton School, in which the funds raised will contribute greatly towards some much needed electrical equipment and improving the School's computer systems. Finally, on behalf of Ashton School we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year for 2004.

Ashton Primary School

Wednesday 17 December
2.30pm

School Nativity Play

All friends and seniors welcome



David and Delia would like to thank the Parish Council and Ashton Coffee Mornings for their donations towards AVN funds. We type in and design the newsletter voluntarily and use donations to cover printing costs. Many Thanks for your support.