

# The Plough

## Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe Community and Parish Magazine

May 2021



A display of canned and bottled fruit grown in Kelham by the ladies of the village during WWII—extra sugar was available for preservation. The display was in what is now the Old Post Office workshop.

*Photo courtesy of David Hearn*

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Plough Website:

<https://www.aksplough.co.uk/community/the-plough-15062/home>

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## From the Editor

I'm delighted to say that yet again, there's a variety of items in this month's Plough: two book reviews and a book launch; some walks around the village being arranged by the WI and plans for our churches to re-open.

And, of course, the Food Bank Collection (yet again a great success) and the Averham Easter Egg Hunt have to be mentioned. John Clegg gives some suggestions for saving money on veg—I rather think these might be fun to do with your children/grand children.

This month, I've also included information about the Mary Elizabeth Siebel Trust, which provides grants to allow older people to stay in their homes. Recently, they've seen fewer applications so if you think you know someone who would qualify, please do read the article.

Finally, you may have noticed recently that the number of advertisements has reduced considerably this year. This is because many companies haven't been trading recently, and therefore have not been advertising.

If you know of a local company that might benefit from local advertising, please do ask them to get in touch—our rates are reasonable and we are keen to promote local business.

*Judith Mills, Editor*

## Does anyone remember Tommy

or Cllr Sam Wilford, for that matter?



I've been spending more time walking in Kelham Hall grounds recently, having become a dog-owner. I came across this plaque, next to a tree, which I thought was a splendid memorial to a beloved pet.

Presumably, the Council

referred to was the District Council. It made me wonder if Tommy was a regular feature at Council meetings? The tree, by the way, is just coming into leaf and is starting to look rather lovely.



Even the pandemic cannot stop the resurgence of vinyl which is good news for Tony Mills from Averham. Tony opened Vinyl Attraction on Stodman Street in Newark on 1 June 2019 and during the last lockdown, moved to larger premises at 6-8 Carter Gate Newark—he needed more space due to the growing popularity of vinyl.

Tony sells new and used vinyl and will buy most decent collections if no longer needed by the owners. Also available in the shop are bespoke framed records and memorabilia, band t-shirts, jigsaws from popular album covers, record players and other music related merchandise. Nothing goes to waste at the shop. If the genre is not suitable for his customers, Tony will donate vinyl to the local charity shops, or his partner, Jo, will



make unique clocks and other items from the vinyl.



Record Store Day is a big event in the vinyl calendar when limited edition records or coloured vinyl are released specifically for the independent record shops. Vinyl Attraction is lucky to be registered for this event which will bring music lovers from all over the county to Newark to purchase the rare items.

They cannot be sold online and are not available from larger stores. This year it is split over two dates again due to the existing government restrictions.

RSD's 2021 are **12 June** and **17 July**. Details are available from the website.

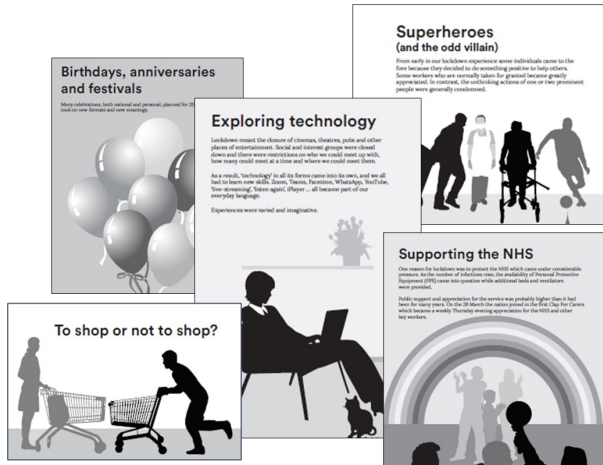
[www.vinylattraction.co.uk](http://www.vinylattraction.co.uk)

[Tony@vinylattraction.co.uk](mailto:Tony@vinylattraction.co.uk)

# A 'Virtual' Book launch

## *Lockdown 2020: the first 100 days*

This beautifully illustrated book, published by the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives (FONA), is a compilation of extracts from 13 diaries written during the first lockdown. Arranged in themes, it covers a whole range of new experiences, from what was the best way to shop to the emotional shock of not being able to see or touch loved ones. It also covers subjects such as the environment, local and national heroes and supporting the NHS.



There is plenty of local and social interest as I am one of the contributors and, of course live in Kelham and Trysh Williams was here until recently, while some of the other contributors live only a few miles away.

As it is not possible to hold a 'normal', in-person book launch, some of the diarists have contributed to a short video about the book which will be available on the Great Nottinghamshire History Fair website between 1-31 May. (PLEASE NOTE – the site does not go live until 1 May.)

[inspireculture.org.uk/historyfair2021](https://inspireculture.org.uk/historyfair2021)

Another local connection is that the video was edited by Katie-Jane Clancy, who lives in Averham.

Details of how to obtain a copy of the book are also in the video or you can buy a copy direct from me. It costs £4.50 and has been produced with support from Nottinghamshire Local History Association and Cllr Sue Saddington, Nottinghamshire County Council.

*I have to declare an interest because of my involvement with the book, and am only drawing attention to it because of the local interest. Please do have a look at the video by going to the Fair website and searching for FONA or the book title.*

*Judith Mills*



## THE PLOUGH READING CIRCLE

### Two Book Reviews for May

#### ***A Life on Our Planet* by David Attenborough**

##### **Review by Helen Rushby**

My son bought this book for me for Christmas. It is well written. All the evidence and references are there yet it is an easy read for 'ordinary' people in the same way that his documentaries are.

At the same time it is a difficult read. Using his lifespan of 94 years he describes how he has witnessed the decline of the natural world. In that time the world population has almost quadrupled, carbon in the atmosphere has doubled and the wilderness has dropped by half. Our greatest mistake. If we continue living as we do at present the world it is on course to tip and collapse in around 90 years.

The final part of the book sets out the fundamental changes we must make to our lives now and in the next few years to restore the natural balance of this world if we want our grandchildren and great grandchildren to be able to live on Earth.

I hope you will read this book and/or watch the documentary of the same name (available on iPlayer and Netflix).

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ***The Man on the Street* by Trevor Wood**

##### **Review by Jenny Quickmire**

My choice for this month is what I call a Marmite book: you either love it or hate it! *The Man on the Street* tells the story of Jimmy, an army veteran of the Falklands conflict who suffers from PTSD. As a consequence, his life drops to bits and he loses his home, family and friends and ends up living on the streets of Newcastle-on-Tyne. It is a very graphic tale of the hardships and deprivations of this way of living but also carries with it a sense of loyalty, duty

and honour. A real conflict going on especially within the main character Jimmy, but you are rooting for him all the way through a contorted story of murder, fraud, and police brutality with a bit of a love story bubbling up. Be warned the language is very graphic in parts and it describes the rawness of life, but I found it a real page turner. Made me think an awful lot about the homeless on our streets. Very well written with an individual style. Looking forward to Mr Wood's second book *One Way Street* which is due for Kindle release on June 10th. (I treated myself to a Kindle a few days ago. I think I am going to enjoy using it—I will let you know. My main reason for getting it was so I could get an early copy of *One Way Street*.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## LIBRARY SERVICES

The County Libraries re-opened on 12 April, but opening times may be different from place to place. Full details of all the libraries and how they are adapting to government regulations can be found at

<https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/reading-information/find-a-library/>

All the county libraries are managed by INSPIRE CULTURE, which also runs a whole series of events—'virtual' at the moment but in libraries and other venues when possible. From the website you can find more suggestions for new reads, join a poetry club or simply sign-up for a regular newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DON'T FORGET

Send your Book Reviews, Comments and Recommendations to [editor.plough@hotmail.com](mailto:editor.plough@hotmail.com) or via the Kelham or Averham WhatsApp group.

If you don't use email, then phone me on 07775781591 and I'll let you know where you can send your comments.





## NOTICE BOARD

**Another great food bank collection— weighed in at 84.8 kgs**



Just some of the contributions left at one of our collection points. Thank you to everyone who donated.



### Averham Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday saw an Easter Egg hunt in Averham Church Yard. Everyone had a really great time and the Easter Bunny helpers wore rabbit ears and fluffy tails.

The weather was amazing and the children were even more amazing. One little boy waking at 5am that morning in excitement and another little girl arriving dressed as a bumble bee. (Photos on next page.)

We had several generous donations of eggs plus a significant cash donation. Added to what had already been purchased, we had oodles of eggs and everyone went away with an armful, or a bucketful in some instances! A huge thanks to all that donated—they know who they are!



Also a massive thank you to Averham Church for allowing us to use their grounds. It was a perfect venue. Bunting to line the path was borrowed from a couple of ladies in the village, so thanks to them.

There was a one way system and a track and trace QR code posted for everyone to use.

The left over large eggs, only 4, were sold and proceeds passed to the Church. The smaller left over eggs were hidden under the large trees in the church grounds and one of the family groups returned later to find them.

This would not have happened without the help of Jo Jo and Alison. The three of us made up a fluffle of Easter Bunny helpers. Here's to next year's Easter Egg Hunt event.



Much fun had by all—  
Thank you to everyone  
who helped with  
organising this event.

## Gardening Hints-n-Tips—Vegetables

### Update from John Clegg



It is mid-April and we have had a fantastic spell of dry sunny weather this month. My seeds saved from supermarket bell and chilli peppers have successfully sprouted and are now transplanted into larger pots in the greenhouse (a sunny window ledge is also fine); also some commercial cherry tomato seeds (see photo).

I have planted out spinach seedlings between my broad beans outside, so hopefully they will give several cuttings before the beans outgrow them. I also have some chard and pak choi ready to plant out, to provide greens after the spinach. There is some chard still growing strong outside from last year as well. Late April I would suggest sowing courgettes and cucumber seeds singly about 10mm deep in 3 inch pots of potting compost, but don't plant out the former till at least the end of May and the latter mid June (if growing on outside). May is a good month to sow climbing beans (Cobra and Blue Lake are good), either in pots or straight in the ground (late May). Use bamboo 'wigwams' to train them up.

If you fancy trying your hand at growing veg for free, it is possible to 'revive' items from your fridge. I am experimenting with a lettuce base. After a week it is already growing new leaves just in a jar of water. Suspend the base about 8mm in water. Change the water every couple of days and plant out when roots establish underneath (see photo). You can also try celery (cut off the bottom two inches of the bunch), leeks and onion bottoms and whole garlic cloves. Beetroot tops likewise can give young salad leaves.



You can also grow dried pulses effectively for free, such as whole peas and chickpeas from jars, the same as you would from seed packets. Just make sure they haven't been heated (e.g. for blind-baking pastry cases) first.



## WI News for May 2021

Well we are still on ZOOM but enjoying the many different opportunities offered to us by the WI, at a local, village level, at County-wide level and even at National level.

Locally, in April we had a super speaker, Hannah Marples. She had been part of the team for the TV series *A Stitch in Time* which was the title of her talk. Six different costumes dating from the medieval period to the 19th century had been created for the programme. Hannah explained that all the sewing methods and to a large extent materials were based on historical/archaeological research. Most of the fabrics and threads were hand spun and the buttons were hand made. Helen stated that she was hooked on making the buttons (pardon the pun) and had become renowned for her button making skills. She explained the different techniques used to produce the exquisite embroideries and embellishments on the garments requiring not only skill but terrific patience. Surprisingly all the embroidery team were male. So much for the myth about patience then.

We welcomed three members from Southwell WI as well as 12 of our own members. Another positive aspect of living with COVID– we are learning new ways of doing things and broadening our horizons in a different way!

And looking to the future: we are hoping to have our first live meeting in July which will be a picnic by the riverside at Averham.

May will be a ZOOMed Resolution meeting when we will be discussing aspects of recognizing ovarian cancer. Heavy stuff but none the less very pertinent to all women of all ages. Also during May we have a series of walks planned:

- May 5th 2pm, meeting in the fishermen's car park for a 3 mile walk along the river and circuiting back across the fields.
- May 12th 2pm, meeting at Kelham Hills for a special walk through the Dumbles.
- May 19th 2pm, a walk from Staythorpe to Upton is planned
- May 26th 2pm, a walk around Southwell with hopefully a proper coffee break.

If any non-members would like to join in please contact Jenny Q. 07890641102. We would be delighted to see you.

*Jenny Quickmire, Meeting Secretary*

## VEGAN CHOCOLATE CAKE

I discovered this recipe on the BBC Good Food website when I was looking for an easy to make cake that would meet the needs of the various food preferences of my family. It is very easy and delicious—so delicious that I don't have a photo as it disappears before I've had time to get my camera out. It is also very rich so possibly more of a 'celebration' cake than everyday teatime.

### INGREDIENTS

#### CAKE

150g dairy-free spread (I use Vitalite), plus extra for greasing tins.  
300ml dairy-free milk (I use oat milk)  
1 tbsp cider vinegar  
300g self-raising flour  
200g caster sugar (the original recipe says golden, but I use ordinary and it works just fine)  
4tbsp cocoa powder  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
½ tsp vanilla or orange extract\*

#### 'BUTTERCREAM'

100g dairy-free dark chocolate (this could be in the 'free from' aisle in your supermarket, not 'baking' or 'confectionary')  
200g dairy-free spread (Vitalite)  
400g icing sugar  
5 tbsp cocoa powder  
1 tbsp dairy free milk (oat milk)  
OPTIONAL— orange extract for flavouring\*

\* The first time I made this cake (mid-pandemic), my supermarket didn't have any vanilla extract and I didn't want to trawl around other shops, so I bought Valencian Orange to flavour the sponge and it worked really well—chocolate and orange being a match made in heaven. The second time I used vanilla in the sponge and orange in the buttercream which was a perfect mix. But don't put orange in both—it's too strong.

## Method

- Step 1 Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Grease the base and sides of 2 x 20cm sandwich tins with dairy-free spread, then line the bases with baking parchment/greaseproof paper.
- Step 2 Put the dairy-free milk in a jug and add the vinegar – it will split but don't worry. Put all of the other cake ingredients into a large bowl, pour over the milk mixture and beat well until smooth. Divide the mixture between the prepared tins and bake for 25-30 mins or until a skewer inserted into the middle of the cakes comes out cleanly. Leave to cool in the tins for 10mins then turn out onto wire racks to cool completely.
- Step 3 To make the 'buttercream', put the chocolate into a heatproof bowl and melt in the microwave stirring every 30 seconds, or melt in a dish over a pan of warm water (the traditional way!). Leave the melted chocolate to cool for 5 minutes. Beat the dairy-free spread and icing sugar together with a wooden spoon then sift in the cocoa powder with a pinch of salt. Pour in the melted chocolate and dairy-free milk and keep mixing until smooth.
- Step 4 Sandwich the two cooled sponges together with half of the buttercream then pile the rest on top and down the sides. Decorate with fresh fruit or whatever your preference is—I tend to leave mine plain (because of fussy eaters) and just create some peaks in the buttercream topping.

In copying out these instructions, I've just noticed that salt is meant to be added to the buttercream in Step 3. As I hadn't read this instruction, I haven't done it, but I do add the orange essence at about this point.

This quantity of buttercream means that there's a generous middle layer and plenty to cover the top and sides.

The cake serves 10-12.

Who knows how many calories—I wouldn't like to count!.



THE MARY ELIZABETH SIEBEL  
TRUST

## **Calls for grant applications from the elderly**

The Mary Elizabeth Siebell Trust is calling for local elderly, or their families or carers, to make an application for a grant.

The Trust offers grants to people over 60 years of age who suffer from a disability, illness, or mobility issues, who live within a 12 mile radius of Newark Town Hall ,and who may need additional financial help to remain independent in their own homes.

### **A lasting legacy that helps the elderly of Newark and surrounding villages.**

You probably won't have heard of her but Florence Siebel has been helping the elderly of Newark since 1990. Born in Cheshire in 1899, she was a former teacher at the Lilley and Stone Girl's High School in Newark. After retiring, Florence lived in her Winthorpe home until she passed away aged 91. But she left a lasting legacy in her will that has improved the lives of the elderly people of Newark ever since.

Florence Siebel was fortunate to have inherited a large estate from her parents which meant she was able to live out her days in her own home and she became very determined that the elderly people of Newark should be able to do the same. So, Florence set up the Mary Elizabeth Siebel Trust (MES Trust) in memory of her own mother.

## **Apply for a grant today**

Sarah Allen of Tallents Solicitors and Clerk to the Trustees said: "If you meet the criteria for the grant, or a member of your family does, and help is needed to continue to live in your own home, then we would be delighted to receive an application from you."

The Trustees meet every two months to consider the applications made for grants from the MES Trust but recently the number of applications have been dropping, so we hope that by reminding people and their families about the



Mary Elizabeth Siebel Trust, we will be able to distribute more grants to people in need in Newark.

We have also set up a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/MaryElizabethSiebelTrust](https://www.facebook.com/MaryElizabethSiebelTrust)) where people can see the application form and details about the charity and its works. Everyone is welcome to like the page and share it with anyone who might benefit from a grant.

## **How the MES Trust can help**

Grant criteria:

- over 60 years of age, with a disability, illness or mobility issues
- live within a 12 mile radius of Newark Town Hall
- be in need of assistance to remain in your own home.

Grants can be considered for the following, but this is not an exhaustive list:

- Mobility aids
- Reclining chairs
- Bathing aids
- Special beds
- Stair lifts
- Minor property repairs and renovation
- Cookers
- Carpets
- Fridges

An application form can be obtained from Tallents Solicitors (call 01636 671881) or your doctor's surgery, local library, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Beaumont House Community Hospice and local care shops. It must be supported by your doctor or healthcare professional. On receipt, the applicant will be contacted for assessment and any further information required.

Sarah finishes: "It would be lovely to be able to support more elderly people in the Newark community this year to retain their independence for longer so we really hope people will help spread the word about the grants being offered by the Mary Elizabeth Siebel Trust."

For more information or an application form contact:

Sarah Allen, Tallents Solicitors  
3 Middlegate, Newark, NG24 1AQ  
01636 671881



## Parish Council Update

### **Network Rail Crossings:**

The PC would again like to remind everyone about the reporting of issues encountered with any of the rail crossings in the area. As we reported in the last issue Network Rail only keep a record of track side problems and not the wider issues caused such as lengthy waiting times or disruption to the local community.

It is therefore important that any issues, whether great or small, are reported to the PC via the usual channels, as and when they happen, so that they can be logged and reported at County level. It is only by doing so that a full picture can be painted and the true extent of the problems with the crossings determined as to date Network Rail only capture selective data.

### **Parish Council Information Channel:**

Thank you to those of you who have subscribed to the information channel and have started to receive information, any feedback that you have would be gratefully received. We would actively encourage as many parishioners as possible subscribe to the channel in order to create a comprehensive network allowing information to be circulated throughout our community as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In order to subscribe: first install the Telegram app on your preferred device (or all of them) by clicking on the first link below, then subscribe to the channel by clicking on the second link below.

<https://telegram.org/dl>

<https://t.me/AKS messaging>

### **Manners Sutton School Community Room:**

The PC is in ongoing dialogue with NCC regarding this specific subject and is still looking to gather together a body of evidence to present to NCC. Staythorpe Power Station has been contacted and their Business Support Co-ordinator is looking into their files to see if they still have records of their financial contribution and associated conditions.

At the time of writing there has only been a small response to our previous request for information. In order to present the strongest case we need to

build that body of evidence, which we cannot do without the assistance of the parishioners. If you have information of when, what the use was, for how long and approximate numbers could you please forward it to the PC via the Clerk at your earliest convenience.

### **Parish Council Meeting 13.04.2021**

The PC meeting was again held via VC due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation. There were two member of the public in attendance.

The PC continues to lobby the Education Authority and Notts County Council regarding the inclusion of Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe in the Minster School catchment area. The PC has been advised that there will be no response forthcoming until after the forthcoming elections. In the meantime the PC has made initial contact with the Minster School which will be followed up post meeting.

The grounds to Manners Sutton School have been closed on the recommendation of School Board and NCC in line with NCC's normal protocol in such circumstances and on Health and Safety grounds, stating issues with the skip and the declaration that existing play equipment is unsafe. Unfortunately it appears that the grounds will remain closed for the near future. The PC will continue to liaise with the School Board and NCC to hopefully re-open them at the earliest opportunity.

As the school grounds were originally gifted to the Parish by the Manners Sutton family the PC agreed to look into the ownership of the grounds and if there were any conditions contained within the deeds in the event that there were no longer a school on the site.

### **Other matters:**

The PC is awaiting a response from NCC regarding the potential construction of steps in the steep section of the footpath between the Trent and Staythorpe Power Station, which is part of the Trent Valley Way. Staythorpe Power Station has also been contacted in relation to this and are prepared to assist depending upon the response from NCC.

### **Road Safety:**

The PC agreed to approach NCC Highways regarding the installation of a "viewing" mirror on the sharp bend just after the houses on right hand side of Broadgate Lane, heading towards the old brickyard following the report of recent near misses involving passing vehicles.

### **Planning Applications:**

- 21/00146/FUL- Erection of dwelling Pinfold Lane, Averham – Full planning permission granted.
- 21/00206/FUL - Averham Church - Full planning permission granted.
- 21/00386/ - Peachcroft, Broadgate Lane – demolition of “lean to” shed Full planning permission granted.

### **Future Meetings**

The following **TWO** meetings will be held on

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

at the Robin Hood Theatre, subject to confirmation.

### **Annual Parish Meeting – to be held between 18:30 and 19:00hrs**

The Annual Parish meeting is the opportunity to speak to members of the Parish Council and make suggestions as to future events, projects etc. or what they would like from their Parish Council and/or Parish Councillors.

### **Annual Meeting of the Council – to be held between 19:00 and 20:30hrs**

See notice boards for minutes of meeting and proposed agenda.

### ***Members of the Public Welcome***

[aksparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:aksparishclerk@outlook.com); 07563639379

ALL AGENDAS AND MEETING MINUTES ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE

## **Congratulations**

To Alison and Tracey who've just reached their target of

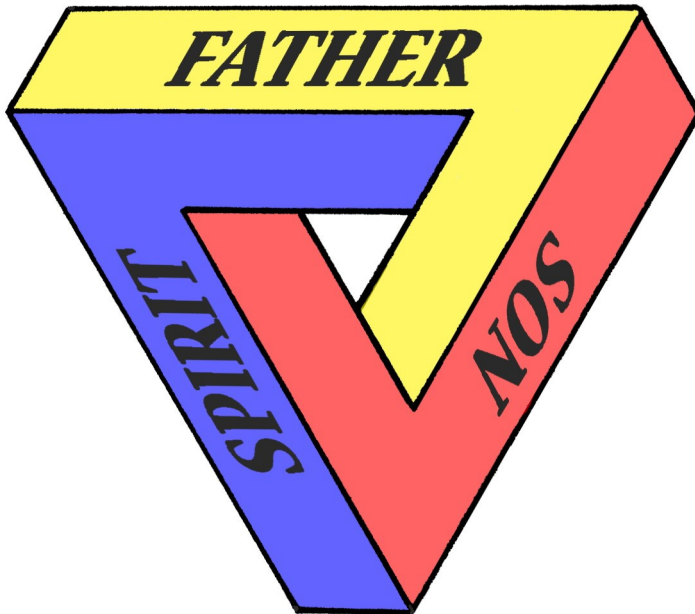
**\* \* \* £1,000 \* \* \***

for Forever Stars through their mask making efforts.

These 'mad mask making ladies from Averham' (their words, not mine!) have decided to give up, but there are still some stocks left at Southwell Garden Centre and Easthorpe News.

However, these 'mad mask making ladies from Averham' (their words, not mine!) have now given up.

**News from St Michael and All Angels, Averham  
And  
St Wilfrid's Church, Kelham**



Kelham, Averham and Staythorpe are part of the Riverside Benefice which also includes North and South Muskham. At the moment, because all churches have had to close due to the pandemic, services and meetings are on-line, via ZOOM. As lockdown eases over the next few months, we will be able open up for services—our first will be at Kelham on 30 May, 9.30am. but they will continue on Zoom as well, for the foreseeable future. (**Please note:** North Muskham church is closed at the moment for roof repairs.)

A full list of services for May is on p.20. If you'd like to join in any of these, please contact Rev'd Georgie on

[georgie.hadley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:georgie.hadley@yahoo.co.uk); 07811 393 920

## Church Services and Meetings

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 2nd May	Morning Prayer	9.30 am	By ZOOM
Sunday 9th May	Holy Communion	9.30 am	By ZOOM
Sunday 16th May	Morning Prayer to mark the Ascension	9.30 am	By ZOOM
Sunday 23rd May	Holy Communion for Pentecost	9.30am	By ZOOM
Sunday 30th May	Holy Communion	9.30am	

**Benefice Service live in Church and on Zoom**

### MIDWEEK SERVICE

Every Thursday      Evening Prayer      6pm      By ZOOM

If you'd like to join in any of these service, please contact Rev'd Georgie on  
[georgie.hadley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:georgie.hadley@yahoo.co.uk); 07811 393 920



**Averham Church** will be opening every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm for private prayer, a moment of calm and reflection or just to take a look around our beautiful church.

This is of course dependant on COVID restrictions and timetable remaining the same. On entering the church please use your smart phone to record the QR code or enter your name and mobile phone number on the track and trace proforma. If other people are in the church, ensure the 2 metre distance between individuals is maintained.

Face masks and hand sanitiser will also be available.

The church will be unattended during these times so if you're passing on a walk, please pop inside and check all is OK. If you have any concerns ring Shaun McLaughlin on 01636 910146 or Hilary Snell on 07970 389182.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Averham Church



## Shaun McLaughlin—New Averham Churchwarden

As mentioned in the Church News, Shaun McLaughlin has agreed to act as Churchwarden for Averham. Shaun says of himself:

I have lived in Nottinghamshire since 2000—moving from Yorkshire, and I have lived in Averham with my wife for just over 4 years. I am an amateur historian and have worked at Newark and Sherwood District Council as Exhibitions Officer for the museum service and Front of House manager at The Palace Theatre.

If you need to contact me, my telephone number is 01636 910146.

### Averham and Kelham Church News

**Splendid news:** Shaun McLaughlin has been welcomed onto the PCC and is taking up the role of Church Warden for Averham. Shaun has a particular interest in historical architecture so we are confident that the fabric of our church will be in safe hands. Welcome Shaun and may you have a long and fulfilling period of office.

The renewal of the path and lighting is still awaiting the approval of the architect but we are all ready to go once the permission is given.

The gifting programme which was launched in April has had some success but the scheme is continuing if you would like to pledge your financial support for St. Michael's in due course. Any contributions are very welcome, even one-off gifts. And thank you to those villagers who have joined our gifting scheme and to those regulars for continuing.

After the great success of the Easter Egg hunt organized by Tracy Carlisle (many, many thanks for this Tracey) we are planning similar events in and around Church over the Summer and are looking for different ways for villagers to become re-connected with Averham church. If there are any suggestions/ideas please let Hilary Snell know (01636 672640).

#### **Churches re-opening.**

As well as Averham church opening up for private prayer during the week, we are cautiously beginning to open up for live services. All being well the first will be a grand affair at St. Wilfrid's Kelham on 30 May at 9.30am. This is a Benefice service when all the Riverside Parishes come together—the first

time since Christmas 2020 that we have been able to meet in this way.

All being well, the next 'live' services will be on 20 June at Kelham and at Averham is on June 27 June, both starting at 9.30am. (And there will be services at South Muskham as well.) But of course we are all holding our breath on how the Covid unlocking progresses. In the meantime, it is possible to enjoy worship via our ZOOM services. It is hoped to continue ZOOMing the live services as well, if the technology is doable.

In the meantime lets us all enjoy the freedom of unlocking and fine weather.



## Coffee and Cake and a Chat

Saturday 15 May  
at 10am.

a chance to catch up with  
friends old and new

By ZOOM for the moment



***Pentecost and the Coming of the Holy Spirit***  
***Rev'd Georgie's Message***  
***to all in***  
***Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe***

Three events are happening this May: two are in the Christian calendar when we celebrate *Ascension* and *Pentecost*.

The other one, on 17 May, is new and marks Step Three out of lockdown. We will have freedom to do so much more. There is a familiar question doing the rounds – “What will you keep and what will you let go after lockdown?”. We have all possibly got in a bit of a lockdown rut; a way of being and doing because we couldn't do anything else. I have found myself challenged on how deep my rut is! Time to evaluate and look at what in my rut is still useful, and what I need to discard.

I love reading and I have given this free rein during the endless shielding (mine goes way back before COVID lockdown). I have tried to balance this between pleasure and study reading. Pleasure has sometimes won out! Does it really matter what we choose to do? Perhaps, like me, you may have decided to ease out slowly, enjoying small steps and not being or putting yourself under pressure.

The other two events—*Ascension* and *Pentecost*—are sometimes over looked. Jesus has died, been buried and risen again. It's done, dusted and over! But *Ascension* and *Pentecost* remind us that Easter Sunday was just the start.

You can read many stories in the New Testament of how Jesus appeared to his disciples after Easter but His work here on earth was done and he needed to go back to his Father. You can read the story of His *Ascension* in *Acts 1-6-11*. Ascension Day this year is on 13 May and we will celebrate it at our Sunday service on 16 May.

Yet again, this could have seemed like the end of the story. What would have happened if He simply went back to heaven? How would the story have unfolded if it hadn't have been for what happened next – *Pentecost* – the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was there from the beginning of time and especially at the beginning of Jesus's ministry. There is a scene in the Bible where He is being baptized in the Jordan River and the Holy Ghost, God's spirit, comes down in

the form of a dove. It empowers Him to begin his mission of healing the human condition and starting a new creation. (Matthew 3: 13-17)



At Pentecost, Jesus appeared to His closest followers and breathed into them the Holy Spirit, empowering them, too, to spread God's goodness throughout the world. The Holy Spirit is the power of God and enables us to understand God's word and to help each one of us in our daily lives. It is through this power we see God moving in our world today. When we come to know Jesus the gift of the Holy Spirit is there for every believer. We celebrate these events each year and their importance never diminishes.

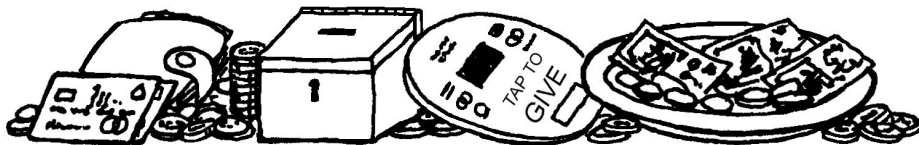
This year we celebrate Pentecost on 23 May. To find out more read Acts 2 1-21.

**Rev'd Georgie Hadley**

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# **A Bible Study from the Arthur Rank Rural Centre**

## **Ask a Silly Question**

Two Bible readings to consider:

*Isaiah 26:3-4*

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

*Mark 12:18-27*

Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. ‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?’

Jesus replied, ‘Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. Now about the dead rising – have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!’

### **A Reflection**

The Gospel reading this week brought to mind a visit I made in my youth (now many years ago) to Speakers’ Corner in Hyde Park. The man to whom I gave my attention was speaking eloquently, explaining why the earth was saucer shaped. His argument had a certain logic; as he pointed out, it explained why the horizon was curved and why the sea did not run off the edge. I am sure that he was not serious, but he made his points enthusiastically and sounded convincing.

Had this speaker been serious, I’d have been justified in responding with the words of Jesus to the Sadducees: ‘Are you in error because you do not know..?’

You are badly mistaken!’ The Sadducees were a sect whose members were drawn from the upper classes of society and were closely associated with the priesthood and temple duties. But they did not believe in an afterlife or resurrection, so their question would not have been taken seriously beyond the fact that it might have been designed to reinforce their own beliefs, and ridicule those who believed differently.

There are many different philosophies and theories taught as if proven fact in order to explain who we are, how we got here, and why we are here. Some are supported to a degree by scientific evidence but, rather like the man espousing his theory that the world is saucer-shaped, there are some gaps in the knowledge and evidence base. But a similar argument is often made concerning the Bible.

The New Testament reading on which I am reflecting is accompanied by Psalm 135 and Isaiah 26:1-15 in the lectionary. Both the psalmist and the prophet make assertions about God that would refute both the philosophy of the Sadducees and those of our own time. The difference for Christians is that, while we may not possess all the answers, we are able to experience the reality of God in a relationship made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is in and through that relationship that the words of the psalmist and prophet ring true. The gospel does not call for ‘blind faith’. Rather, it calls for a faith that seeks knowledge and experience of God and his purpose for our lives.

For many rural churches across the denominations there are genuine and sincere questions about how things will be in the future. Much has changed during the past thirteen months. Questions remain regarding the survival of some church buildings. Much has been gained through taking churches services and other gatherings online. Many rural people have been experiencing church for the first time; will that be lost? What will the Christian presence in rural areas look like a year after the pandemic has ended?

The response that Jesus gave to the Sadducees drew attention to an inconsistency in their belief system. As I walked on from Hyde Park that Sunday, I wondered whether any in the audience had believed the well-reasoned and passionately argued theory about the saucer-shaped world. By contrast, those of us who ‘know the scriptures and the power of God’ can say, ‘I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I



have entrusted to him until that day' (2 Timothy 1:12).

## Questions

What has changed for you?

Do you have blind faith or faith?

Have you ever considered what you have faith in and why?

## Prayer

Loving God, you call us to experience

your saving power and transforming grace.

In these times when many do not know whom to trust,

grant us confidence in what we have discovered

through faith in your word, so that by our words

supported by transformed lives,

we might help others to discover that our God,

the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

Amen.

## A Poem and a Prayer for Ascension Day: 13 May 2021

### ***Ascension***

Scriptures fulfilled,  
Minds opened,  
We followed Him to Bethany.  
And there was joy in the blessing  
Of our risen Lord,  
Jesus, God on earth.

And in the blessing  
Was the leaving,  
And in the leaving  
Was the blessing –  
His Spirit of life and power  
To witness to the world  
Of our ascended Lord,  
Jesus, man in heaven.

*A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153), the main inspiration for the Cistercian Order of Monks.*

To complete Your seamless robe, and  
so to complete our faith, You  
ascended through the air into the  
heavens, before the very eyes of the  
apostles. In this way You showed that  
You are Lord of all, and are the  
fulfilment of all creation. Thus from  
that moment every human and every  
living creature should bow at Your  
name. And, in the eyes of faith, we  
can see that all creation proclaims  
Your greatness.

## 8 May—a day to remember Julian of Norwich a voice from a distant cell

Julian of Norwich was born in 1342 though little is known about her early life. When she was 30 she fell ill and was near death. Suddenly her pain left her, and she received 16 visitations which she wrote down in what became known as the ‘short text’. This was extended 20 years later into her ‘long text’.

Julian became an anchoress – someone who committed herself to a life of solitude, prayer and fasting. Her little ‘cell’ was part of St Julian’s Church, Norwich and the inspiration for her adopted name.

In what is the first book written in English by a known woman author, *Revelations of Divine Love* reveals a mystic of great depth and insight who still read by many thousands today.

Julian taught that all things depend upon the love of God for their being. Her spirituality was focussed on the cross, and she wanted to share the sufferings of Christ. She believed that humanity is separated from God by sin, but redeemed through Christ who reunites us with God.

Julian also emphasised Christ as *mother*, albeit within a conventional Trinitarian understanding of the godhead.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is  
*‘All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.’*  
These words have brought comfort and strength to many.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Editor’s note:* Dame Julian’s *Revelations of Divine Love* is well worth reading, and maybe you could combine it with *The Book of Margery Kempe*. The two women—one from the spiritual and one from the secular world—met and may have become friends of a sort. Margery’s book is thought to be the first autobiography in the English language (as opposed to Julian’s spiritual revelations) and again remarkably was written (or at least dictated) by a woman. It gives a secular view of medieval spirituality which complements Julian writings very well.

But beware, Margery’s continual weeping can become quite annoying—and some of her contemporaries seem to have felt the same!

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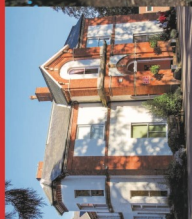
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\* \* \* \* \*

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