

# The Plough

February 2026

To: AVERHAM, STAYTHORPE & KELHAM VILLAGERS



**Welcome**, we are now firmly settled into 2026, for some; glad to see 2025 go; for others wonderful memories. Let's work at making this year special in as many ways as we can. We are very fortunate to live in this excellent, caring community, enjoying all it offers. The Plough will continue to be produced and delivered to your door free of charge. This is only possible due to the generosity of our advertisers and contributions from groups and individuals in and around our three villages. Thank you to you all.

**Editor**

# WHAT'S ON FEBRUARY?

<b>The Queen and I</b>		27 <sup>th</sup> –31 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	19:30	
	Robin Hood Theatre			+ Sat 14:30
<b>W.I. Meeting</b>		9 <sup>th</sup>	Feb.	19:00
	Robin Hood Theatre			
<b>Valentine ❤️'s Day</b>		14 <sup>th</sup>	Feb.	Don't forget your loved one.
<b>Mobile Library</b>	Staythorpe Road, Averham	16 <sup>th</sup>	Feb.	14:10 - 14:25
<b>Garden Club</b>		17 <sup>th</sup>	Feb.	19:00
	Robin Hood Theatre			
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		18 <sup>th</sup>	Feb.	19:00
	St Wilfrid's Church, North Muskham			
<b>Messy Church</b>		22 <sup>nd</sup>	Feb.	16:00
	St. Michael and All Angels Church			
<b>Hive Management Meeting</b>		27 <sup>th</sup>	Feb.	19:30
	Kelham Hall, Estates Office			

**See page 17 for All Church Services**

**Editor: Bob McGhee**

ploughmageditor@gmail.com



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PRESENTS



# THE QUEEN AND I

A COMEDY BY SUE TOWNSEND

FROM SCEPTRE TO SKINT: THE QUEEN'S FUMOUS COUNCIL ESTATE ESCAPE

TUES 27<sup>TH</sup> TO SAT 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026

PERFORMANCES AT 7.30PM EACH EVENING AND 2.30PM SATURDAY MATINEE

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# ASH WEDNESDAY

## What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, and spiritual preparation leading up to Easter. Traditionally observed by Catholics and now embraced by several Protestant denominations, Ash Wednesday serves as a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance.

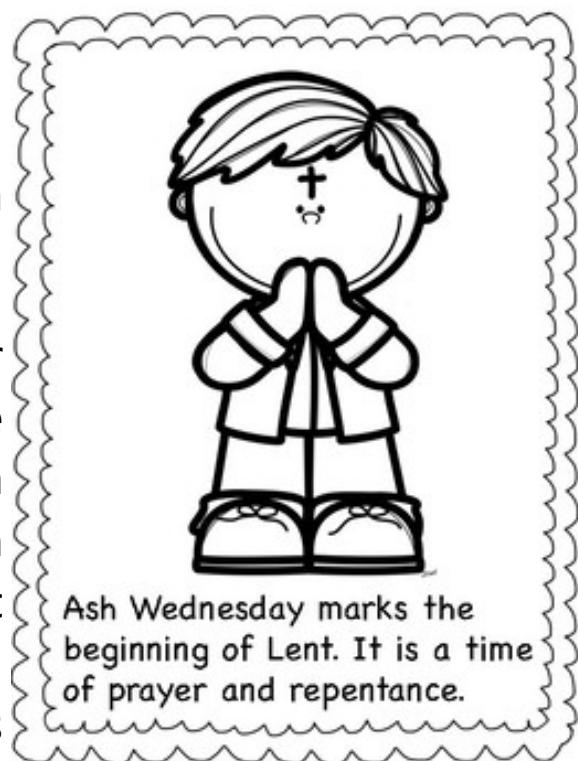
During Ash Wednesday services, a priest or minister applies ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of worshippers, often while reciting the words: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"* ([Genesis 3:19](#)). The ashes, typically made from the burned palm branches of the previous year's Palm Sunday, symbolise grief over sin, humility before God, and the hope found in Christ's sacrifices on the cross.

Ash Wednesday also sets the stage for Lent, a season reflecting on Jesus's 40-day fast and temptation in the wilderness ([Matthew 4:1-11](#)). The day before, known as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday, is often a time of feasting before the fasting and discipline of Lent begin. Many cultures celebrate with indulgent foods like pancakes or pastries as a final moment of enjoyment before the season of reflection and self-denial.

## When is Ash Wednesday?

For 2026, Ash Wednesday will be observed on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ash Wednesday falls 46 days before Easter Sunday, marking the official start of Lent. Since Easter follows the lunar calendar rather than a fixed date, Ash Wednesday's date changes each year. It always takes place on a Wednesday, but the specific date shifts between February 4 and March 10 depending on when Easter is celebrated that year.



## Commitment?



After several stop / starts over the years Notts CC officials have put the proposal to the politicians, who have agreed to sell the site in two sections:

- 1: The Staythorpe Road 'T' junction side to become housing (pending planning permission application aimed at September 2026)
- 2: The main entrance of the school and along the A617 to be sold to a community body. (hopefully The Hive).

There is an implication that the sale will include the demolition of the old school, but doesn't say whether the housing development, or the community element will pay for this.

The Hive team have enquired whether a new application is required and if they are successful whether they can move the conveyancing contract to the exchange element of the contract. This commits both parties to the contract (whatever is agreed) and puts the team in a much better position for fundraising from groups like The National Lottery Community Fund.

The team hope to find out by the March issue whether they have been selected as the Community Group to take this community project forward.

Next steps from the Hive team will be to re-start conversations with all villagers to see what you want to see happen in The Hive for: activities, educational/informational and social events, plus your ideas on the look and feel of The Hive and Community Garden. All of this will inform the Architectural brief that will give a good basis for costing to get the whole project going.

## Community Carols and Christmas events

December started with the Jazz Carol programme at St. Michael and All Angels church. Roger King organised the event assisted by the Parish Council who contributed by adding the temporary toilets. The sound system and sound engineer, Dave Downs, were provided free of charge. Very well attended and enjoyed by all and the mince pies and drinks went down a treat at the interval. The event raised around £160 for church funds, (possibly just to be flushed away, as the church plans to add a toilet inside).

On Christmas Eve, Alison and John Allen hosted the Community Carol service in Averham. Sound and music was compiled and provided by Steve Emeny with ASK About organising the mulled wine, drinks and mince pies. A very enjoyable evening for everyone, and they raised £160 for Beaumond House.

## Tractor & Bike Runs: Villages Lit Up in Style

**Our Community doesn't just do Christmas** — it *glows* it, *rumbles* it, and occasionally *toots its horn* at it. December's Tractor and Bike Runs once again transformed our quiet roads into a moving festival of fairy lights, tinsel, and engines that sounded like they were humming carols albeit slightly off-key. The Nottinghamshire Young Farmers and their 63 tractors, raised over £11,000 this year! WOW!!

There were Santas, reindeer, snowmen, and at least one tractor that appeared to be dressed as a giant Christmas pudding, each decorated with enough lights to be visible from space. .

Villagers lined the streets armed with woolly hats, hot chocolate, and the kind of enthusiasm usually reserved for royal weddings and Bake Off finals. Children waved, dogs barked, and at least one resident claimed their house shook "in a festive way" as the convoy rolled past.

The festivities seem like ancient history now we are into mid-January but we are still sharing our stories about Christmas and New Year, so we have our Institute Christmas and New Year news!

We had our Christmas party in December which had an added extra to the food and crackers in the form of a very laid back but very entertaining illusionist/magician. Some of his tricks were absolutely mind blowing but also very amusing especially when he recruited Nicola Clegg to assist him with the tricks. So we were just very relieved he didn't saw her in half! A very good evening.

We managed to collect 16 presents all nicely wrapped for the ladies staying at the Women's Refuge too. So nice to share just a few little good things in life. The festive spirit tipped over into January as we held our very noisy but fun games night!

Member Angela Moore had brought her 1st novel which she has just finished and she is hoping to get it published this year. The hidden talents of our members knows no bounds. A very true statement as our February speaker is member Jayne Owens, who whilst she manages a very high powered job with the British Red Cross also manages to give us very interesting illustrated talks. We have one lined up for **February 9th 7pm** at the Robin Hood Theatre titled 'The Tears of the Gods' which is the story of amber. Knowing that jewels and precious stones are a favourite topic for Jayne it is anticipated to be a cracking evening. If anyone would like to dip their toe in W.I. waters, so to speak, do come along. Entry is £3.00 which includes a raffle and refreshments. It is possible for non-members to have 3 meetings under non-membership status before taking up paid membership. We offer lots of little excursions and interest besides the monthly get together.

If you would like to know more about your local W.I. group please contact:

**Jenny Quickmire** on 07890641102.

## Tools With A Mission

What's that? Never heard of it!

Over the next couple of months you're going to hear a lot more about *Tools With A Mission* because Kelham Church has decided to offer its support during 2026.

It's a Charity that collects unwanted tools, refurbishes them, and distributes them to people in developing countries who can use them to earn a living and gives others the opportunity to use their skills and experience in tangible ways that benefit others. At the same time, it prevents thousands of unwanted items either going to landfill or cluttering up our homes.

In the UK, the Charity can supply refurbished tools to Community organisations as well as providing volunteering opportunities to a whole range of people – anything from van driving to admin work. It provides space for volunteers – often with mental health problems – to socialise, make friends and at the same time use their skills in a significant way. Their work also supports other groups according to their needs, for example, offering work placements to young people with additional needs.

Overseas, it sends tool kits to training centres in six countries in Africa. Trainees study carpentry, tailoring, mechanics and other practical skills and after successfully completing the course, they are given a tool kit so they can start earning a living, support themselves and feed their families.

**Save the dates:- On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April**, Kelham Church will hold an 'Open Churches' weekend when you will be able to donate any unwanted tools you have – it doesn't matter if it's a single screwdriver or shed-load – we will collect them together and donate on behalf of our villages.

So when you're doing your annual Spring Cleaning, think of Tools With A Mission and sort out those overcrowded shelves and cupboards full of neglected tools.

For more information about the Open Church weekend and our charity collection in next month's Plough.

**TWAM**

Tools with a Mission

**Judith Mills**

# ASK Garden Club Report



nursery which he then displayed in our meeting room. John engaged in a relaxed manner with our group, inviting interaction from all our members.

So much so, despite it being a cold night and the heating going off at 9pm, no one seemed to want to go home!

We look forward to our group catching up with John again when he'll be exhibiting at local garden shows throughout the summer, details to follow in a future addition of The Plough.

Salvias or ornamental sages are great and come in a vast range of forms and colours to enrich any herbaceous border. They flower for months on end from midsummer until the first hard frosts. The bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects benefit from the nectar rich flowers. The latin for salvia is *salveo* which means heal or save.

Well, this was one of our busiest meetings.... We welcomed John Schofield in November to give us a talk and presentation on plants and in particular his collection of herbaceous perennial salvias. John arrived in a van crammed full with plants from his



## ASK Garden Club Report Continued

We're familiar with *salvia officinalis*, as a culinary herb; however the Romans and ancient Greeks used it as a medicinal herb for healing.

Salvias look great in a mixed herbaceous border, but also consider planting them amongst roses. It's said that they will keep mildew and black spot at bay and as the rose's flowers dwindle, salvias will begin to flower at their best. They look great as part of an exotic planting scheme or simply as a standalone plant in a pot.

Varieties such as *Salvia nemorosa* and *Salvia sylvestris* are hardy and should come back year after year. Top tip, if you cut back after the first flowers fade in July this will ensure you have another display in late summer to early autumn.

Salvias grow best in full sun and free draining soil. If over winter the soil is too cold and wet salvias may be lost, therefore take cuttings late summer or grow tender varieties in pots and keep them in a frost free location over the winter months.

Also it's best to wait until late spring before you cut back the old top growth as this helps protect the root against the cold.



## ASK Garden Club Report Continued

For our December meeting we had our annual Christmas Party. This year we gathered at The Cross Keys in Upton. Landlady Joy and her top team did us proud and we all enjoyed a festive meal, mega portion sizes and great service. Steve came up with a challenging, but fun multi choice "Great British Food and Farming Quiz" to test our knowledge. Another competition was for the best festive posy, this was won by Dawn, with a particularly creative arrangement made with elements from her garden.



We look forward to our new gardening season when on the 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in The Robin Hood Theatre, Rachel Barrowcliffe returns to give us a presentation on her "Expedition to Costa Rica".

Then, on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, Roger Blaney will be presenting on "Allotment Growing and Heritage Seed Varieties".

Why not join our club, annual membership is just £20pp. As well as our monthly meetings you will benefit from regular news updates, invites and discounts at Southwell Garden Centre.

And finally.... A big thank you to Sue Saddington, our County Councillor for a donation of £150 from her Divisional Fund. This contributes towards the cost of our room hire for our meetings through the winter season.

Come and join us at our February meeting, for more information contact:

**Nigel Britton** at [bootiqueonline@outlook.com](mailto:bootiqueonline@outlook.com)



## New Councillor

The P.C. (Parish Council) were pleased to announce the addition of a new Councillor; Mr. Tim Barbary who brings a broad range of international board level business experience to the team.

One of Tim's main aims is to resurrect a new Parish Plan (the last plan was 2006) for the residents and businesses of the parish. This will be a basis for what the residents and businesses would like to see happen in our parish and informs the current Newark and Sherwood District Council plans for the future. It includes:

**Social Issues:** Addressing community needs and aspirations, including housing, employment and community services.

**Environmental Concerns:** Protecting natural resources, improving the environment and enhancing the quality of life.

**Economic Development:** Promoting economic growth, job creation and community businesses

**Infrastructure:** Improving roads, public transport and other essential services

**Community Engagement:** Encouraging participation and involvement from the community in planning and decision making processes.

These areas are chosen based on the community's needs identified through surveys, research and consultations. The Parish Plan aims to create a vision for the future and an action plan to achieve that vision, ensuring that the community's voice is heard and that the plan is based on evidence and community input.

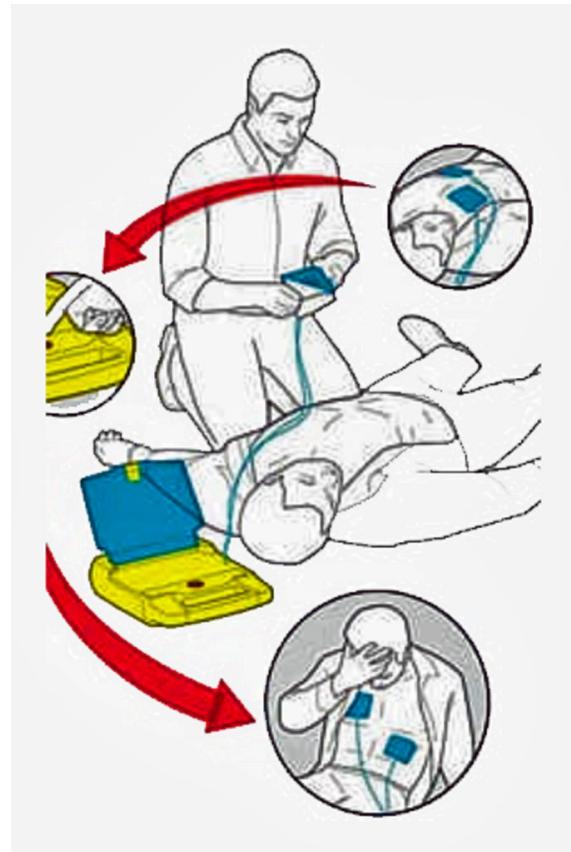
# Parish Council Continued

A lifesaving decision was made to repair existing Defibrillators and add a new one. Repairs and updates have been carried out in Staythorpe and Averham Park, with the addition of a new one at the end of Staythorpe Road on Hopwas Close, Averham. The hope is we never use them, however, here are brief details: **ACCESS CODE to ALL machine cabinets is C0159X**

## Brief Instruction on using a defibrillator

To use a defibrillator effectively, follow these steps:

1. **Call emergency services** and start CPR if you are trained.
2. **Remove clothing** from the person's chest to expose the skin.
3. **Attach the pads** to the chest, following the devices instructions.
4. **Allow the device to analyse** the heart rhythm.
5. **Deliver the shock** if advised, ensuring no one is touching the person.
6. **Resume CPR** if the shock is not needed.
7. **Keep the pads in place** until further instruction is given.



For detailed instructions and visual guidance, refer to the provided booklets and guides.

## Village WhatsApp Groups

Did you know that our villages have their own WhatsApp Groups?

Well, we do and they keep us in touch with what's happening around us and share community news. If you'd like to join, here are the 'Administrator' details:

◊ <b>Averham:</b> Tracey Carlisle	<b>07970 179755</b>
◊ <b>Kelham:</b> Danni Gray	<b>07860 458397</b>
◊ <b>Staythorpe:</b> Debs Storey	<b>07974 957684</b>

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Please call us on 07714799408, find us on Facebook or email us at:

[muskhamplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:muskhamplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk)

## KELHAM CHURCH

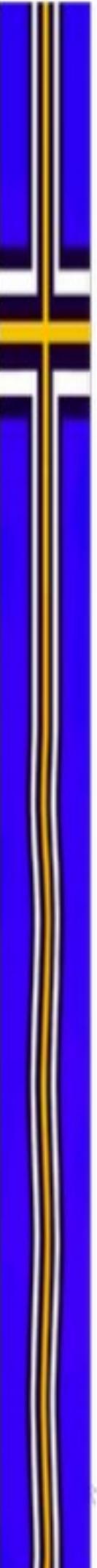
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## AVERHAM CHURCH

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## Dear Villagers,

I hope you've had a good start to the new year. As we move through February it's always a joy to see the first signs of a new season approaching with the early buds and flowers beginning to show and new life appearing.

It's been a joy to see signs of new life in the church too in recent times with lots of reports of people returning to church and statistics to show for it (google the 'Quiet Revival' report if you haven't already).

At St Michael's Church in Farnsfield (where I'm the vicar) we've been blessed to have seen that a little over these past few years, many new people joining our church family, attending Alpha Courses, and taking steps in faith. One of the highlights of 2025 was seeing 14 adults (many of whom were new to church this past year) being baptised as a sign of their newfound faith and desire to follow Jesus.

Perhaps you've sensed a fresh openness to spiritual things too, either in yourself or in others?

All this is a really exciting context to the new 'Rural Clusters' which have been created in conversation with the team at the diocese and particularly our Archdeacons. Farnsfield has been identified as the 'hub' church for 'Rural Cluster 3' which includes the Riverside churches of North & South Muskham, Averham & Kelham, and a number of parishes in between.

The new Rural Cluster won't change anything in terms of parish boundaries – and I'm pleased to say the plan is still for the Riverside parishes to have their own vicar in due course. Rather this is a strategic and missional partnership aimed at enabling our churches to work together to resource new ministry and encourage growth.

..... Continued page 16



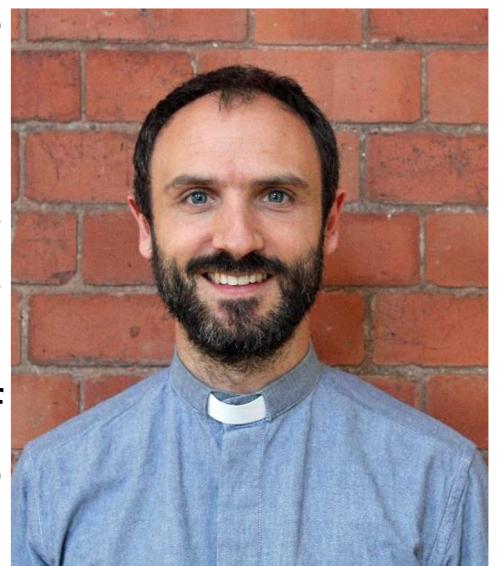
.....Continued from page 15

Alongside the clergy posts which will continue as planned, there will be a number of new paid cluster roles which have been made possible through the generosity of the national church, and which will support new mission and ministry. My role as the (fancy title alert) 'Lead Mission Enabler' will be to work alongside this new team, as well as local clergy and Parochial Church Councils, to support these developments.

Whilst we're still getting our heads around what it all means and how it might all work, I think it's a great opportunity to work together as parishes as we seek to follow God's lead and enable more people to find a home in our churches.

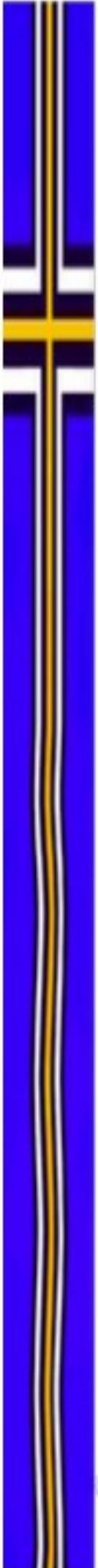
We haven't yet got a name for our new Rural Cluster (we're still currently known by the not-very-catchy title of 'Rural Cluster 3') but we have got a guiding verse to set us on our way. In Luke 10:2 as Jesus sends out his disciples into the towns and places he was about to go, says to them the words: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

If you're the praying type do join us in praying for this exciting new venture as we seek to work together as parishes and share the good news of Jesus with our villages and communities. And if you'd like to find out more then please speak to someone from your local church or feel free to make contact with me directly at [chris@stmichaelsfarnsfield.org](mailto:chris@stmichaelsfarnsfield.org)



**With every blessing for the new year,  
Rev. Chris Pearse**

Priest in Charge of Farnsfield, Kirklington (with Hockerton), Maplbeck & Winkburn, and Lead Mission Enabler for Rural Cluster 3



## CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND UNITED SERVICES

<b>Sunday</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 9:30 am</b>	<b>St Wilfrid's North Muskham</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 9:30 am</b>	<b>St Wilfrid's South Muskham</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 9:30 am</b>	<b>St Wilfrid's North Muskham</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 3:00 pm</b>	<b>St Wilfrid's North Muskham</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 7:00 pm</b>	<b>St Wilfrid's North Muskham</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>22nd Feb. 9:30 am</b>	<b>St Michael and All Angels, Averham</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>22nd Feb. 4:00 pm</b>	<b>St Michael and All Angels, Averham</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>

ESTD.



2024

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# USEFUL CONTACTS

**DEFIBRILATOR CODE:** **C0159X**

## KELHAM CHURCH:

Warden:	Philip Staniforth	01636 703 289
Treasurer:	Steve Emeny	07889 486 260

## AVERHAM CHURCH:

Warden:	Vacancy	
Treasurer:	Hilary Snell	01636 672 640

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Secretary:	Carole Binks	01636 816 343
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## AKS PARISH COUNCIL:

Chair:	John Miller	01636 704670
Clerk:	Will McLaughlin	cllrJohnrMiller@gmail.com aksparishclerk@outlook.com

## FLOOD WARDEN:

Aaron Laurence

07713 594665

## POLICE:

Richard Dunn PCSO

07595 074 292

## POTHOLEs:

Notts County Council	0300 500 80 80
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## STAYTHORPE POWER STATION:

01636 59 69 00

staythorpe@rwe.com

## ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:

Environment Agency Flood line:	0345 988 1188
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## NATIONAL GRID:

[www.nationalgrid.co.uk/power-cut-information](http://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/power-cut-information)

## OTHERS:

ASK Hive:	Roger King	07904 243 304
Garden Club:	Nigel Britton	07929 367 461
W.I. Secretary:	Jenny Quickmire	07890 641 102
Bell Ringers:	Martin Cooper	07810 658 627
Latham Farms:	Steven Gill	07966 382 781
Mobile Library		01636 812148

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