

MUSKHAM MAGAZINE

April 2026



Magnolia trees are renowned for their stunning flowers and glossy foliage, making them a popular choice for gardens and landscapes.

The Muskham Magazine is produced on behalf of:

The Methodist Church, North Muskham; St Wilfrid's Church, North Muskham; and
St Wilfrid's Church, South Muskham

Church of England

Enquiries about arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals in the North and South Muskham Church of England Churches should be made to the Church Wardens

Church Wardens – those generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Church

South Muskham	David Watson	01636 707248
North Muskham	Ann Willey	01636 605477
	Martin Talbot	01636 676935/07702729974

More info: www.riversideparishes.co.uk www.facebook.com/riversidemessy

Methodist Church

Enquiries about arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals in the Methodist Church should be made with Revd. Peter Hibberts.
Email: peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk Tel: 01636 812166.

**Articles for possible inclusion in this magazine should be emailed (in Microsoft Word format) to: muskhammagazine@yahoo.com
Copy required by Friday 17th April for the May 2026 edition.**

The Methodist Church 

The Church of England
across Nottinghamshire



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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Muskham Magazine Fund

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For the May 2026 edition of the magazine -

Copy required by Friday 17th April 2026.



Printed on a FSC certified material and is recyclable

Did you know?

To see a copy of the Muskham Magazine in colour see www.northmuskhamvillage.co.uk
Or www.riversideparishes.co.uk



Happy Easter!



Welcome to our April edition of Muskham Magazine. The signs of spring are all around us, filling our senses as the new season becomes established. There are noisy fields filled with bleating lambs and answering ewes; scent filled gardens with beautiful hyacinths; rhubarb patches with pink and red stalks promising delicious rhubarb crumbles (at least that's the case in our house), emerald green spring crops that have fought through the recent vagaries in our weather. Our days have been reset in preparation for summertime. I couldn't resist including the wonderful Magnolia Tree on our front cover. The photo was taken on St Patrick's Day. For parts of the north and west of the United Kingdom the warmest day of the year with temperatures reaching the high teens.

What will April bring? On the flippant side, (although not if you are a farmer) April showers and let us pray that they will be just showers and not downpours. Will the war in Iran have ended? Will our attentions have returned to the dire situations in Gaza ,Ukraine or Sudan?

Will we be beset by other major conflicts that have been bubbling under the surface?

I find it all too big to think about. It all feels out of my control and my influence. What can I the holder of a bus pass living in a village in middle England possibly do to make life better?

I can think about and help the neighbours and people in my local village and community. There are a number of opportunities and initiatives set out in this magazine of ways you can help others and improve our local environment.

TWAM p14, BNM p9, local wildlife P8, Beaumont House p5 Bingo p17 to highlight a few.

Mr. Scott Pearson, the new Head Teacher at Muskham Primary School is looking for volunteers to help our children learning to read and to help them to gain confidence and to find pleasure in reading. All volunteers must fulfill safeguarding checks before they can begin. I look forward to my afternoons with the children in Foundation Class. It is a wonderful privilege to see how the children progress over the course of the year. Is there something you can do or support? Wishing you a Blessed Easter.



Beaumont House
Hospice Care

Beaumont House launches 'Catering with Care', a new catering service that also helps fund hospice care in the community

Beaumont House Hospice Care in Newark has launched a new catering service, **Catering with Care**, delivering beautifully prepared food, all whilst helping to fund vital hospice care in the community.

The new service offers freshly prepared cream and savoury tea boxes, corporate breakfasts, catering for events, meetings and special occasions, along with individually wrapped 'Beaumont House biscuits'.

Developed by Beaumont House's experienced catering team, the hospice aims to create a sustainable new income stream that directly funds high-quality meals tailored to individual patient needs, preferences and cultural requirements. A vital part of hospice care.

Jo-Anne Wilson, Catering & Housekeeping Team Lead at Beaumont House said:

"Food is about so much more than eating. It's about comfort, routine and human connection. Catering with Care allows people to enjoy beautifully prepared food for their own events while knowing they are helping us provide meals that bring comfort to the patients and families that we care for."

The Catering with Care service is ideal for local businesses, community groups and individuals looking for catering while also knowing they are supporting Beaumont House to make a meaningful difference.

Cream and savoury teas can be ordered for a range of occasions, including celebrations, gifts or workplace events.

Kim Story, one of Catering with Care's first customers, says

"We used Jo and her team to cater for a little post wedding family get together. Food was superb, certainly highly recommended. One of our guest said he had never tasted quiche quite like. It.

Please support this amazing Beaumont House Hospice Care service."

Catering with Care forms part of Beaumont House's ongoing commitment to finding innovative ways to fund vital hospice services, at a time when demand for end-of-life care continues to grow across the local community.

More information about Catering with Care, including menus and how to place an order, can be found at beaumonthouse.co.uk/support-us/catering

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink!

February was another wet month in the UK. Not a record, but plenty enough around to keep us indoors and our washing on the drying rack. March started off much better, and I hope that as we read this in April, spring will truly be sprung. Easter is a week away and the garden beckons!

Whether we are planning our planting seeds or washing the car, the availability of water has never been much of a worry. While it is now widely

metered, and getting more expensive, it is still not scarce. Water is essential, in so many ways. We would truly start to worry if none of it was drinkable or fit for common uses, we might wish. Our headline quote from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 1798 poem speaks to the common things that can so easily be taken for granted. Adrift at sea, the ancient mariner has lessons to learn of scarcity and abundance, and of disrespecting nature!

Most world faiths revere water in some form as a symbol and a blessing. John's gospel digs deep into both the practical and spiritual necessity of water, water that often comes to symbolise New Life. Few things are as essential as Water when thinking about life on this blue/green planet. As a geologist, I learnt that life on this planet could only have developed as it did due to the special properties of water. Water is a fantastic solvent, it keeps our cells stiff but not too rigid, it carries nutrients and minerals wherever life needs them. It keeps us healthy, and without it we are dead in only a few days. Water is life, in symbol and fact. Water is so good for cleaning things, it has come to symbolise Purity. Ritual washing has always been a central part of religious practice. So many faiths promote the ritual washing of hands, faces and even feet. In the Christian sacrament of baptism, water symbolises Jesus' power to wash us clean. Without it and present us as righteous before God. A central theme during lent and Easter as we remember the sacrifice and death of Jesus Christ on our behalf. And water is also a sign of blessing – for baptism is more than just a spiritual bath - it is a sign of God's blessing and recognition. Jesus was himself baptised in water, an important moment when his divine parentage was confirmed for all to hear. Along with fire, water also represents the cleansing and reviving work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

So, when you next reach for a bottle of water on a hot spring day, take a moment to wonder at the blessing it is, the life it brings, and say a word of thanks to the source of our living water, Jesus Christ. The one who came, lived, died and rose again that we might experience life, and that in all its fullness.



And when you are refreshed, reuse or recycle that bottle, as a way of putting thankfulness into action.

Duncan Smith –

Methodist Local Lay Pastor for Collingham.



Nottinghamshire Family Hubs – Here for Families, Every Step of the Way

Nottinghamshire Family Hubs are here to make family life a little easier. Whether you're expecting a baby, caring for a toddler or navigating the teenage years our hubs offer free, welcoming support right in your local community.

Call or drop in for advice, to meet other families, or access practical help with things like:

Child development ,play and early learning

Parenting support and courses

Health visiting and midwifery clinics

Mental health and well being support

Help with childcare and employment
and training

Support and advice for children with
Special

Educational Needs and Disability(SEND)



Our staff are friendly, knowledgeable, and here to help—no matter what your family looks like or what challenges you're facing.

To find your nearest Family Hub, view upcoming activities, or learn more about the services available, visit:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/familyhubs

Family life can be busy, messy and wonderful—we're here for all of it.

Spring Is Nearly Here

Roll on spring ! We have had a lot of bleak grey weather this winter and we are all ready for a bit of sunshine and some cheery flowers and faces !!

I had part of the Australian spring back in Melbourne last year and it was good to have part of a second spring for 2025. Sadly, the Australian spring was closely followed by a tremendously hot summer with a bad fire season which badly affected people and wildlife. Due to high temperatures, there were wide cases of female fruit bats dropping dead in the trees with young still suckling them. High temperatures kill people and wildlife.

Wildlife conservation bodies and the public did their best to help affected wildlife and I hear that the young buds of eucalyptus which lie dormant under the bark, are now sprouting with young growth to help heal the bushland.

Local wildlife here needs our help as well and there are already peacock and brimstone butterflies flitting in my garden and ladybirds creeping out of hibernation reminding me to get things in motion to increase food and habitats for wildlife.

There are regular bird skirmishes over food, nest sites and the small water features that I have dotted around the garden with the robins being especially aggressive. I have checked all my bird nesting boxes for any damage needing repair and cleared out old nesting material that could carry damp and parasites which can reduce breeding success. Some of the boxes had material indicating two nesting attempts including unhatched eggs, perhaps because of inclement weather spells last year. Those old eggs definitely need to be removed.

Some of the boxes weren't used last year and so I have relocated them to see if those are better sites. New seedlings are appearing in the garden and where there are too many, I am moving them to new places in the garden or passing them on to friends. The valerian has gone a bit mad and so some of that has been moved ready to provide a useful nectar source for pollinators such as a range of bees, butterflies and moths with maybe some hummingbird hawkmoths.

I still remember the excitement at seeing my first hummingbird hawkmoth, such a beautiful speedy creature darting around my flower bed looking for all its worth like a mini hummingbird! Climate change is affecting species such as this and there are winners and losers with the changes we are seeing in the distribution of plants, animals and crops. Who would have thought forty years ago that the UK would have vineyards growing successfully here in Nottinghamshire and that grapes for bubbly would be grown on the Scottish borders.

I have been mulching all my borders to help keep moisture in during the summer months and have decided to re vamp one corner around an existing old clematis that the birds love nesting in with a variety of wildlife friendly shrubs such as buddleia, forsythia, hawthorn and guelder rose. I will pile up some logs and upturned broken terracotta pots to provide wildlife refuges while the scrub grows up.

The toad patrol on Crow Lane has so far helped move 377 toads and two frogs. Please drive carefully down Crow Lane during the amphibian breeding season February to May.

We have now set up the swift champion group in Bathley to promote the survey and nesting of swifts.

If you are interested in taking part in Bathley, North Muskham, Little Carlton or South Muskham, then please email me at jane.southey@gmail.com



Blooming North Muskham 2026

If you would like a Summer Hanging Basket for your front garden please enquire for more details including cost

Alison Luke

07962 020867

adluke@btinternet.com



Muskham Art Group will be celebrating their 25th anniversary this year and to mark this occasion will be holding an art exhibition at the South Muskham Village Hall NG23 6EE on Saturday 25th April from 10 am until 4 pm.



Decisions - Local and International



When you last went to the supermarket why did you buy this rather than that item or product?

That decision in your brain doesn't really matter that much - but if you are in command of a rocket in the Middle East why did you do this rather than that matters a great deal - people can get killed as a result. Deeper still decisions made in the minds of Vladimir Putin or Donald Trump mean war or peace.

There is a lot of research into why people make decisions. I have counted 9 theories - from incentive theory to expectancy-value theory - but they all seem too simple. Human beings are wonderfully complex creatures and no simple theory really fits.

The season of Lent forces us to consider an older idea. The idea of sin and the forgiveness of sin is at the very heart of Christian understanding of our relationships with other people and with God. It is about the way we treat the world around us and shows us the reasons behind war and violence....'out of the heart (mind) come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.... (Matthew 15.19). The Bible says our lives will be properly fulfilled if we do what is right and try to follow the purposes of God in our lives. That is the best way of living. Needless to say the complexity of human life means that saying 'Decide to do what is right' raises a thousand questions, but that is the central statement.

I've heard people say, 'I've never hurt anyone in my life'. I didn't believe them then and I don't believe them now. None of us has not sinned and hurt other people in the process. And in doing so we have broken the standards of God - whether we see them written in the Ten Commandments or in a commonsense view of the world around us.

Fortunately, the Bible does not end with laws - it ends with forgiveness. As we walk with Jesus through Holy Week we see the awful effects of sin upon him as he draws nearer and nearer to Golgotha. And from there we walk with him to the earth-shattering quietness of the Easter garden. And each step we take with him shows how our sin can be forgiven and we can be set free from what binds our lives.

Decisions matter. Whether we talk about theories of motivation or about sin in the Bible. Decisions can be about what is in our shopping basket - or whether we go to war. And the most important decision is whether we will follow Christ to cross and garden. Blessings this Eastertide Bishop John Finney (Rtd)



Hello From Me – Scott Pearson Headteacher at Muskham Primary School.

I am delighted to introduce myself to the Muskham community as the new Headteacher of Muskham Primary School. I have worked in primary education for the past 24 years and feel incredibly proud to have joined such a warm, welcoming and supportive school community.

My career in education began in a large primary school in Peterborough. From there, I have had the privilege of teaching and leading in a wide variety of school settings. These have ranged from large inner-city schools, where as many as 33 different languages were spoken by pupils and families, to smaller and more rural school environments. Each of these experiences has helped shape my approach to education and strengthened my belief in the importance of strong relationships, high expectations and an inclusive school culture.

Most recently, I worked as a School Improvement Advisor in Rutland. In this role I supported school leaders across a number of schools, working closely with them to improve pupil outcomes and to develop the very best teaching practices for children. While I greatly valued this work, I realised how much I missed being part of a single school community and leading a school on a daily basis.

When the opportunity arose to become Headteacher of Muskham Primary School, I was immediately drawn to the role. From my first visit it was clear that the school is a special place. The wonderful children, dedicated staff, and the supportive parents and carers make Muskham Primary a truly nurturing and vibrant community.

Looking ahead, my vision for the school is simple but deeply important:
that every child feels valued and is able to shine in their own unique way.
I strongly believe in creating an inclusive school where every child feels that school is a place where they belong - a true “home from home”.

I feel very fortunate to be part of the Muskham community and look forward to working closely with pupils, staff, parents and the wider village as we continue to help every child grow, thrive and succeed.

Kind Regards,
Mr S Pearson

Headteacher
Muskham Primary School



Feedback from the North Muskham Parish Council Meeting 9/3/26

The March meeting of the Parish Council was well attended by residents, many of whom were interested in details contained within a letter circulating about **North Marsh** (The Willows). The Chair confirmed that this letter had not been sent from the Parish Council, albeit some residents were under the impression it had been. Background was given on past attempts by the Parish Council to acquire the land, and recent resident concerns over activity on the site. Agencies, including Planning Enforcement, the County Council's Rights of Way team and the Environment Agency had all been contacted.

The meeting was suspended for 25 minutes to allow all points to be made.

The Parish Council listened to, and noted, the concerns raised and reiterated that all relevant agencies that had the ability to influence and control development in the area were fully aware and, it was understood, were in discussion with the landowner. Representatives of the landowner were asked if they wished to speak but confirmed they were only there to observe.

Residents were reminded to complete the **Neighbourhood Plan Survey** for the closing date of 13th March. No new Government funding was planned for Neighbourhood Plans so costs would likely have to fall to parish reserves, subject to availability.

A consultation was currently live on **Local Government Reorganisation**. Options put forward are still under review by Central Government.

Planning permission had been granted for works at Ness Farm & Cromwell Quarry; previous footpath expectations were confirmed incorrect (no permissive footpaths planned).

A submission had been made to Newark & Sherwood District Council in relation to the Foxholes Solar Farm (22/01983/FULM). Members were concerned at the impact on Vicarage Lane should this be approved, and the cumulative impact when considered with the GNR Solar Park.

Two planning matters were considered:

Rose Cottage, Main Street (25/01920/FUL) – no change to earlier objections.

Applegreen Services redevelopment (25/02087/FUL) – pedestrian access concerns remain unresolved.

The Parish Council's current **handyman** would be retiring in June. The Parish Council was seeking expressions of interest from anyone who may want to take over the role. Please email the Clerk, Jayne Saunders,

at northmuskhampc@hotmail.co.uk, if you would like to receive further details.

An application has been submitted to **Historic England for an interpretation board at the Muskham Cross**.

A consultation is currently open in relation to the **Cadent H2East Pipeline**.

Further details can be found at www.h2east.co.uk.

An open day was planned for the **Café/Hub Project**, but no date had yet been set.

The **Blooming North Muskham** team has been making strides in tidying the village, planting bulbs, cleaning signs, siding up verges and making the village look cared for prior to judging in the East Midlands in Bloom competition. Thanks to all the volunteers who have come forward.

A village wide **litter pick** will be held on Saturday, 28th March 2026, starting at 10am from the MRCC. Please come along and support if you can. All equipment will be provided.

Interest remains in organising a **Village Festival in the Summer**. Volunteers would be invited to attend the April meeting to confirm details.

Highways issues remained ongoing and had been raised with Via. These included surfacing issues on Waltons Lane & Great North Road, **speeding concerns** and the A1 roundabout. An interactive speed sign has been requested to be deployed on Nelsons Lane and Main Street.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on

Monday, 13th April 2026 at 7pm in the MRCC.

Smile Lines

Wheels

A boy was praying for a bicycle, and the vicar told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. The following week, when the boy arrived for church on a bicycle, the vicar assured him that his prayers had been heard. The boy looked embarrassed. "Actually, I stole the bike, and now I'm here to pray for forgiveness".

Show and Tell

A schoolteacher asked her students to each bring in an object that represented their religion. The first student got up and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Baptist, and this is a casserole."

Fake?

"The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never be sure they are genuine." – Winston Churchill.

Economic definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

Don't delay

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because by that time there will be a tax on it.

Cured

A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

Polite

A New York traffic expert says that some London taxi drivers are refreshingly different – and witty – compared to those in New York. He tells the story of the London taxi driver who screeched to a halt when a tourist bolted into the road, and then stopped, looking around in confusion. Leaning out of the window the taxi driver asked very politely: "I say, sir, may I ask, what are your immediate plans?"

You are invited to an
OPEN WEEKEND
and
Donation of tools for
TOOLS WITH A MISSION
St Wilfrid's Church Kelham
18th April – 19th April 2026



The Church will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 18th April and from 12 noon to 4pm on Sunday 19th April. Tea and coffee will be available all day.

Come to have a look around and learn about the story of this ancient church including its 18th century Parish Register which will be on display. To help you find out more about the places we cannot open up or are hard to see – the historic graffiti, the bells, and the view from the tower - there will be a PowerPoint presentation running continually. So please call in to see us at a time that suits you.

Tools can be donated at any time the Church is open, a list of useful tools and other items is below. If you want to know more about TWAM, John Noble, its CEO, will be giving a talk on Sunday 19th at 2.30pm .

Gardening tools: forks, spades, shovels, hoes, rakes, hand forks, trowels, secateurs, shears	Carpenters' tools: braces, clamps, hand drills and bits, planes, saws, screwdrivers
Builders' tools: spirit levels, sledgehammers, chisels, hammers, tape measures	Electricians' tools: hacksaws, soldering irons, wire strippers, electrical pliers
Mechanics' tools: spanners, allen keys, files, vices, wheel wrenches	Power tools: drills, sanders, planers, angle grinders and routers.
Sewing and knitting machines: manual, electric, haberdashery, patterns, needles, wool, etc.	IT equipment: fully working desk top and laptop – minimum Windows 7, cables

PLEASE PACK DONATED TOOLS IN BOXES OR STRONG BAGS AND ENSURE THAT NO SHARP BLADES OR POINTS ARE PROTUDING.

(We understand that this is not possible for larger items such as garden forks etc.)





Tennis:

7 floodlit courts
Group and individual coaching
at all levels
10 LTA Notts League Teams
Junior LTA League Teams
County LTA Tournaments
Free trial group lessons

Tennis and Pickleball:

Coaching for all levels
available – juniors &
adults
Social play sessions for
members
Non-members can book
courts online and simply
pay to play

Pickleball:

5 brand new floodlit dedicated pickleball courts
Introduction to pickleball course starting February – learn the
essential shots and core fundamentals of pickleball, under-
stand the rules, play the game – drive, drop, dink!



Cauntton Lawn Tennis Club, Horsebridge Meadows, Maplebeck Road, Cauntton, NG23 6AS

Email: info@cauntontennisclub.co.uk

Website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/CaunttonLawnTennisClub



The Easter Bunny will once again be running around North Muskham on Easter Day offering Cadbury's eggs out for a donation.

All proceeds will go to **Teenage Cancer Trust**. If anyone wants to book an egg they can message me on email I will also advertise on Facebook nearer the time If you need more info please contact me Dave Brumpton.

Dave.brumpton@sky.com

The Truth Behind Les Misérables

An Illustrated talk By David Price
To be Presented

On Monday 20th April 2026
In The M.R.C.C. North Muskhams 19:30



The truth behind Les Mis

David Price's talk on the truth behind les Misérables delves into the historical context and inspiration behind Victor Hugo's epic novel. Price, an experienced public speaker and tutor in adult education, shares insights into the social history of France in the 19th century, particularly focusing on the events that formed the backdrop to Les Misérables. His talks are well illustrated, informative and often include musical extracts, making them engaging and memorable for audiences.

For those interested in learning more about the true story behind les Misérables, David Prices talk offers a unique perspective that combines historical facts with personal anecdotes and insights into the authors life and work. It is a must-listen for anyone fascinated by the novel and its rich historical significance.

Refreshments provided Everyone Welcome

Small surcharge for non-members



FUN BINGO FOR ALL AGES

Fundraising Event for St Wilfrid's Church, North Muskham

ADULTS £10
CHILDREN (UNDER 12) Free

Saturday 18th April 2026

2:00-4:30 pm

Come and enjoy a few games
of Bingo & refreshments

Ticket price includes bingo games,
Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks and Cakes



**LOTS OF
PRIZES**

Tickets available from
Nicola Talbot 07943 747653
Alison Luke 07962 020867
Sophie Meanwell 07764 459971



There is no **Coffee Morning** in April. There will be **Fun Bingo on 18th April from 2.00pm to 4.30pm.** The next Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday 16th May at St Wilfrid's Church North Muskham 10.00am until 12.00noon.** You are warmly invited to enjoy coffee. Tea and cake .



St Wilfrid's Church, North and South Muskham are collection points for Newark Food Bank. If you have any contributions please leave them in church.

The items urgently needed: -Food Items-

Breakfast Cereal, Long Life Fruit Juice, Long Life Milk, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Sachets of Instant Mash, Pasta Sauce, Cooking Oil, Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Sponge Puddings

Other Items - Toiletries,

A regular update of specific items needed can be found on the website:

<https://newark.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

If you would like items collected, please contact Ann 01636 605477



Holy Week Services Church of England

Sunday 29th March 10.00am	Palm Sunday United Service	Process from Methodist Chapel to St Wilfrid's North
Monday 30th March 7pm	Night Prayer	St Wilfrid's North Muskham
Tuesday 31st March 7pm	Night Prayer	St Wilfrid's Kelham
Wednesday 1st April 7pm	Night Prayer	St Michael and All Angels Averham
Thursday 2nd April 7pm	Holy Communion and Tenebrae	St Wilfrid's South Muskham
Friday 3rd April 10.00am	Messy Church Hot Cross Bun Service	St Wilfrid's North Muskham
Friday 3rd April 2.00pm	Stations of the Cross	St Michael and All Angels Averham
Saturday 4th April 7pm	Easter Eve Service Renewal of Baptismal Vows	St Wilfrid's South Muskham
Sunday 5th April 10.00am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	St Wilfrid's North Muskham

Church of England Services April 2026

Friday 3rd April 10.00am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	
Sunday 5th April 10.00am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th April 9.30am	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th April 9.30am	St Wilfrid's Kelham	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th April 9.30am	St Michael and All Angels Averham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th April 4.00pm	St Michael and All Angels Averham	



Wednesday Evening Prayer 6pm
via Microsoft Teams Please contact
Philip Staniforth for the Team's Link
philip@stanca.co.uk

The Methodist Church

Sunday 5th April	United Service with Anglicans St Wilfrid's North Muskhams	10.00am
Sunday 12th April	Café Church Songs of Praise	2.00pm
Sunday 19th April	Café Church	2.00pm
Sunday 26th April	Local Arrangement	10.30am



CAFÉ CHURCH –
 Informal, relaxed and friendly worship with music, discussion and prayer. You'll find a warm welcome, an engaging experience and tea and cake in our café room. All welcome.

Approved Minutes of Bathley Parish Council Meeting 7th January 2026 7.30pm at The Crown Inn at Bathley

Present: Brian Cross (BC), Hilary Heneghan (HH), Adam Bradley (AB), Jim Hawkins (JH), Cllr Laughton (BL), Madeline Reed (MR) Dominic Heneghan (DH), Sally Grogan (SG) Clerk

Members of Public: Mr A Smith (Internal Auditor)

Apologies: Cllr Saddington

Declaration of Interest: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 29th October 2025 approved Proposed HH, seconded DH.

Matters arising:

The styles on Main Street have been attended to and are now fine.

SG to follow up on the blocked drains on Main Street near Manor Farm.

SG to follow up on the vegetation around the sign at Crow Lane.

SG to follow up on the bollards near Elm Farm. These have been inspected and the outcome was that the bollards are in place so no action was taken. We need two more for safety reasons as the ditch is very deep and the road is not wide enough for two cars.

The salt bags have been delivered to Jim.

Planning Applications: None

Great North Road Solar Park: A lot of questions were put to Elements Green at the meeting in November. Questions were raised concerning the proposed community orchard – ie who owns the trees and the produce. Why will there be a permissive footpath near the ponds near Bracken Farm. Questions were raised regarding the promises from GNR Plus, the proposals are not cast in stone and concerns were raised that they could well not follow through on their proposals.

Roads: The state of the roads continues to be an issue. SG to request a full assessment. Further potholes down Hopyard Lane, Crow Lane, Main Street and near Smalley's need to be reported.

The flood resilience grant and gritting were discussed. We have been accepted for a grant to purchase aqua sacs to help with flooding but have the problem of storing them and distributing them when necessary. JH to contact Clint Holgate if he would be willing to store them and SG to find out further from the council as to how other parishes store their sacs and find out what cubic capacity would be needed for storage. Grit bins were discussed – it was noted that if a resident takes on gritting then they are responsible and liable if there are any accidents or problems. JH to check on the grit bins in the village.

Financial Matters: Invoice for contribution to the Christmas tree was approved for £30 payable to MR. Approved JH, seconded HH
It was agreed to pay Emma McArthur £15 for use of electricity for the Christmas tree lights. Proposed HH, seconded DH
Clerk's invoice for £123 approved. Proposed JH, seconded AB
It was proposed to increase the precept by 5%. Proposed JH, seconded MR
It was agreed to pay Neil O'Keefe for his maintenance of the Green and thanks were given for the good job he is doing. We are waiting for costings and payment will then be made.

General Correspondence: Emailed to Councillors and noted- no matters arising

AOB: JH reported that he discovered that a pane of glass had broken in the defib kiosk. He has kindly repaired the pane and continues to check the defib every month.

The new notice board was discussed and it was agreed to split the £400 cost between the parish council and the funds from the carol singing. A quote had been obtained for £1000 but the cost was actually £400 so provided excellent value. It was agreed to pay M Davidson £200 towards the noticeboard and we await his bank details. Proposed JH, seconded AB

Date of next meeting: 18th March 2026 – 7.30

Date of future meeting
14th May 7.30 The Crown Bathley

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	Daytime Regular Events	Evening Regular Events
Mon	Lunch Club 12.30 phone 07761 463830 or email peggybuck@hotmail.com	7:30pm - History Group (every 3rd Monday of the month) Bryon Harlow 01636 918847 bryonharlow45@talktalk.net
Tues	10:00 - 12:00 Short Mat Bowls Just turn up. Not on in school holidays.	6:30 to 7:30pm - Wild Earth Yoga Sarah Pike 07789 986558 hello@wild-earth-yoga.co.uk 7:45-9:15pm -Table Tennis Just turn up 7:00-10:00pm – weekly Social Evening with licensed bar. Free entrance.
Weds	10.30am -12.30pm – Muskham Craft Group (not in school holidays) Marian: 07796 935002 jmarian89@yahoo.co.uk	
Thurs	10am – 12noon Art Group Jim Wishart - 07831 183523	
Fri	9:30am - Seated Movement Class Rhuel: rhueliosamuels@gmail.com 07477820043	
Week days	Muskham Out of School Club & Muskham Preschool as below	5:00-7:30pm - Cougars Football Cougars train & play at our Playing Fields and have Junior Football Teams for U7, U9, U11 and U13
OFSTED Registered Childcare Facilities		
North Muskham Preschool Manager: Helen Walters 07714 799408	2 – 4 years olds	Monday to Friday (Term Time) 8:30am – 4pm
Muskham Out of School Club Breakfast Club & After School Club School Holidays & Inset Days Manager: Helen Waterfield 07944 467076	4 – 14 years olds	Monday to Friday (Term Time) 7:30-8:50am & 3:30-6pm
Muskham Out of School – Holiday Club Manager: Helen Waterfield 07944 467076	4 – 14 years olds	Monday to Friday (Holidays) 8am to 6pm



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