

The Plough

November 2025

To: AVERHAM, STAYTHORPE & KELHAM VILLAGERS



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child has delivered 100 million gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children in the last 23 years. Local churches at Averham and Muskham have been collecting, filling and preparing these Christmas Boxes to bring excitement and a smile to needy children around the world.

Continued on Page 3

WHAT'S ON?

Halloween Competition

31st Oct.

Post on Averham WhatsApp to add another destination for children!

All Souls Service

1st Nov. 14:00

St. Michael and All Angels Church

Messy Church

2nd Nov. 16:00

St. Michael and All Angels Church

Nottingham Piscatorial Society

5th Nov. 18:15

Cedric Ford Pavillion at Newark Showground

W.I. Meeting

13th Nov. 19:15

Robin Hood Theatre

Garden Club

18th Nov. 19:00

Robin Hood Theatre

Mobile Library

24th Nov. 14:10 - 14:25

Staythorpe Road, Averham

Christmas Festival

5th Dec. 19:00

High St., Laxton NG22 0NX

YFC Tractor Run

6th Dec. Early evening

Staythorpe Road, Staythorpe and Averham Bypass

Jazz Carols

6th Dec. 19:00 for 19:30

St. Michael and All Angels Church

See page 18 for Church Services

Editor: Bob McGhee

ploughmageditor@gmail.com



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Messy Church: Where Glitter Meets Giggles and Community Comes First

If you've ever walked past the Averham church and wondered why it smells faintly of glue sticks and joy, chances are you've stumbled upon

Messy Church—a monthly gathering that's less about pews and sermons, and more about paint-splattered aprons, biscuit crumbs, and belly laughs.



So what *is* Messy Church?

At its heart, Messy Church is a place where families come together to explore big ideas through creativity, play, and shared food. Yes, it's hosted by the church, but don't worry—there's no pressure to pray, sing hymns, or know your Corinthians from your Chronicles. It's open to everyone, whether you're a regular churchgoer, a curious newcomer, or just someone who enjoys a good craft session and a cuppa.

What Happens at Messy Church?

Each session has a theme—something uplifting, thoughtful, or just plain fun. Think "light in the darkness," "building bridges," or "celebrating kindness." Then comes the messy bit: tables piled high with craft materials, from pipe cleaners and googly eyes to cardboard castles and edible art. Kids (and grown-ups!) dive in, creating masterpieces that may or may not survive the journey home.

There's usually a short story or reflection—something gentle and meaningful, often told with puppets, props, or a bit of drama. Then everyone gathers for a shared meal. It's not fancy, but it's hearty, homemade, and served with love. And yes, there's always pudding.

Messy Church: Where Glitter Meets Giggles and Community Comes First Continued

Who's It For?

Messy Church is for *everyone*. Families with young children, grandparents with visiting grandkids, single parents, curious neighbours—it's a place where all ages mix, chat, and get stuck in. You don't need to bring anything except your sense of humour and maybe a wet wipe or two.

It's especially great for those who want to connect with others but find traditional church a bit formal or intimidating. Messy Church is relaxed, noisy, and gloriously imperfect—just like life.

Why It Matters

In a world that can feel increasingly disconnected, Messy Church offers something rare; a space to be together, to create, to laugh, and to share. It's not about converting anyone—it's about community, compassion, and the kind of messy joy that comes from glitter in your hair and tomato sauce on your jumper.

So next time you see a poster for Messy Church, don't think "religious event"—think "crafty chaos with cake." Come along, roll up your sleeves, and join the fun. You might just find it's the most meaningful mess you've ever made.



Nottingham Piscatorial Society

On Wednesday Evening 5th November 2025 Nottingham Piscatorial Society Guest Speaker Evening and Tackle Show has 3 guest speakers. The first, Dai Gribble is a phenomenal angler. Even to win a weekly Drennan cup award is an achievement. However in 2015 Dai won the Drennan Cup and two years later repeated the feat. The other two speakers come as a duo, Brian Skoyles and Julian Cundiff. With, between them, over 118 years of being hooked by the Piscatorial bug, Jules and Brian look back on some of their spectacular highs, sad times, and more than a few humorous fishing memories from the Carp fishing world.



Martin Salter (Angling Trust) will also be coming along with the latest details of the Water Quality initiative with news on what's happening behind the scenes regarding cleaning up our rivers. This year we have a great selection of tackle shops, bait companies and exhibitors of great interest. These include tackle stands from Retford Angling and Billing Tackle, Fiskies Feeders, Dynamite Baits, Trent Baits and Vortex Baits.

Cadence and Free Spirit Rods

Nottingham Piscatorial Society continued

A new book launch by Little Egret Press about the River Trent by Bob Roberts, Dave Dog publications, Kings Weir Spoppers (the original and the best). Mills Tackle and centre pins (Gary is carrying out centre pin reel servicing on the night so bring your old pin in with you), Poachers Palette Taxidermy.

Only £5 on the door, so no need to prebook and the doors open at 6.15pm sharp. The first 50 early birds through the door receive either a Trent or Dynamite Baits goody bag from our friends at the respected companies. As usual there will be a mega raffle with all the profits on the night allocated to the NPS junior section and getting juniors into fishing.

Wednesday, 5th November, at The Cedric Ford Pavilion, Newark Showground, Winthorpe, NG24 2NY. Please look for the NPS guest speaker event signs once you enter the showground by the main gates.

Muskham Preschool

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muskhamplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

Averham Church Open Afternoon and Macmillan Fundraiser

Averham Church was packed on the afternoon of 20th September. Villagers from not just Averham but also Kelham and Staythorpe came along to enjoy the events. And there were visitors not only from our villages but friends and relatives of villagers and even some members of The Thoroton Society (Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeological Society), all interested to find out more about this ancient and important building.

The afternoon began with a presentation by Dr Chris Brooke, Honorary Associate Professor, University of Nottingham. Chris explained that his fascination with Averham Church began when he was 17 to the extent that he had included a study of the Church as part of his PhD thesis. Based on external examination of the fabric of the Church – including the herringbone masonry – Chris and others had concluded that the building was a pre-Conquest structure but with later modifications, repairs and remodelling. The removal of the bells and clock mechanism in 2012 allowed for a more detailed study, particularly of the tower. This analysis revealed traces of an earlier roof line and more importantly a blocked up arched opening at first floor level in the east facing wall (i.e. the wall that faces the Nave). In 2018 and again in 2020 brick and rubble were removed from the archway but the whole doorway could not be opened up as a large, flat stone had at sometime been inserted to block the opening. By good fortune, a small remnant of oak timber was found along the former roofline which was radio-carbon dated to the year 1000 plus or minus 33 years, thus confirming Chris's previous conclusions about the early date for the construction of the church. In summary, St Michael and All Angels is a rare Anglo-Saxon stone-built church, with a two-storied tower, Nave and Chancel, all constructed in the late 10th or very early 11th century making it an important and rare survival.

Continued on Page 8

Averham Church Open Afternoon and Macmillan Fundraiser continued

A full description of Chris's findings including photographs and diagrams as well as his conclusions about the importance of Averham church have been published by Cambridge University Press and can be read on-line by rearching for Antiquaries Journal Averham. After Chris's talk, the Bell Ringers gave us a resounding peel which was best heard outside the church and a few people took up the offer to 'have-a-go-at bell ringing'. Other brave souls, including a 93 year old, climbed the tower steps to view some of the ancient masonry and admire the view from the top. There was also a poster display of research on the complicated history of the Parish of Averham-cum-Kelham and some of its Rectors, which will be published in The Plough in future editions – something to look out for.

The afternoon was also a fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support. The tombola table was covered with items ranging from tea towels to wine bottles and soap to small bags – all of which were won. Of course, there was a



raffle with ten prizes which were also extremely popular with tickets in high demand. All this was topped off with delicious cakes. In total **£600 was raised** all of which has been donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thanks have to go to Hilary Snell for coming up with the idea in the first place, and her overall organisation of the afternoon, and to Val Chester, Tracey Carlisle, Jenny Quickmire and Louise Cooper, for looking after the raffle, tombola and cakes. To Martin Cooper and the bell ringing team for putting on such a great performance and especially to everyone who came along – you know who you are – for making the afternoon such a lively and enjoyable event.

Judith Mills





Newark
Women's Aid

Helping Women and Children Rebuild their Lives since 1975

29th September 2025

Dear Hilary

Once again, we write to thank the villagers of Averham, Kelham & Staythorpe for the generous Harvest donation that was collected from St. Wilfrid's Church, Kelham. The fresh produce, sacks of potatoes provided by local farmers and dried/tins and toiletries was truly amazing. It is always lovely to see that there are some very generous and caring individuals in this world, who choose to support our small Charity. On behalf of the families in the Refuge, would you please convey our utmost thanks to you all.

We really do appreciate your continued support, it really does make a difference to the families we support.

Yours sincerely

Marlene, Lisa, Lucy & Hatty -

Marlene, Lisa, Lucy and Hatty
Newark Women's Aid

Christmas Festival

5th, 6th, 7th December 2025

Friday 5th December

7:00 pm, Saint Michaels Church, Laxton

**Come along and join us for a concert by
The Sherwood Forest Brass Band
Tickets £5, inc. light refreshments**

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07870 394125**

In October members enjoyed a talk by Karen Wynyard, who is one of the team of Southwell Wool Bombers. She gave the extraordinary story of how it all began in 2017. It was the vision of Sue Rodgers who managed to gather a team of 30 people prepared to knit very intricate designs and straight forward squares which most of us can manage! They ended up with so many squares that an almost full size elephant was created and held court in Southwell Library!

The very much reduced team have managed to present an exhibition every year since with themes ranging from The Lost Sons of Southwell (in remembrance of those young men lost in WW1 and WW2). Stitching Up, Christmas Yarn Bomb, Green Southwell, Flowers, the Queen's Jubilee and the King's Coronation. Plans are in hand, and knitting needles working hard, in preparation for next year but the theme is top secret!

It is necessary to start on the next year's exhibits almost directly following the end of the last as there is so much work to pull together. The team need to create 130 bollard caps alone solely for King Street and Queen Street in Southwell, as there are 112 bollards. Sadly it is necessary to make extra to cover work of the vandals and wear and tear damage. A mammoth task but the team feel it is well worth the effort for the community spirit that it creates and raises money for local charities.

November sees us bracing ourselves for the Christmas celebrations when member Tracey Young will be helping us make a Christmas Wreath from ribbons and bits and bobs. It's always a popular meeting doing a bit of hands on and a nice one to come along to dip your toe so to speak, in the WI movement. You would be made very welcome. Just turn up at 7pm on November 10th at the Robin Hood Theatre. If you would like more info please contact **Jenny Quickmire** on **07890641102**.

The ASK Hive team: poised, buzzing, and slightly twitchy...



Still waiting for their grand moment in front of the NCC Property and Finance Committee, the ASK Hive team are beginning to feel like kids outside a sweet shop—nose pressed to the glass, waiting for someone to open the door. The proposal, agreed with officials way back in August and December last year, seems to have missed the October meeting bus. Next stop: November.

But don't worry, the team haven't been twiddling their thumbs! While the Committee gets its ducks in a row, the ASK team has been flapping its wings in preparation for the next big phase in the adventure: **Development Funding**. This phase involves a dizzying array of surveys—topographical, biodiversity, trees, ground reports, ecological, asbestos, noise... basically, if it can be measured, sniffed, or mapped, it's on the list. About fifteen in total. Yes, fifteen. Deep breaths.

Add to that the legal conveyancing, contracts, architects, structural engineers, and other delightful grown-up things, and you've got a price tag of around **£90,000**. Gulp.

Thankfully, some of these surveys may already be tucked away in NCC's filing cabinet and could be generously handed over (fingers and toes crossed). For the rest, there's a sprinkle of grant funding and a hopeful eye on friendly professionals who might be willing to lend a hand—pro bono or at a kindly discounted rate. If you know a tree whisperer or a legal guru, now's the time to say hello.

Meanwhile, the team is crafting a business prospectus to rally local support and raise funds. Think of it as a love letter to the community—with spreadsheets. And with a new Parish Plan in the works, they're planning some good old-fashioned door-to-door chats to explain both initiatives and how villagers can get involved.

If the NCC Committee gives the green light, it'll be **all hands to the helm, hoist the sails, and full steam ahead**. The Hive is ready to buzz into action.

CONCERT
CHRISTMAS
JAZZ CAROLS

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

7.30PM START. DOORS OPEN 7.00PM

St Michael & All Angels Church
AVERHAM

Ticket only event @ £10.00 pp, including refreshments

Reserve your seats early, message 07904 243304





ASK Garden Club Report

November 2025

Potatoes, Beans and Flower Competition It's not quite the Ploughing Match, but our annual September meeting is when our members find out who's grown the heaviest crop of potatoes from one

seed potato in their bucket. Also, who's grown the longest runner bean pod and who's found the prettiest cut flower from their garden. All this excitement and a fuddle too make this meeting a members' favourite!

Buckets arrived with the potato tops cut off with the contents undisturbed and were lined up outside the theatre awaiting being emptied and the potatoes weighed. As you can imagine it can be a little messy and very hard on the back, but thankfully Robert took charge of emptying the 20 plus buckets, picking out the potatoes so they could be weighed, labelled and bagged by myself and Colin.... yes, it's all taken very seriously! While this was all going on the beans were being carefully measured by Margaret and Dawn and the cut flowers were being examined for interest, beauty and quality by our very own guest judge Steve.



Food for the fuddle continued to arrive and filled the tables with all sorts of delights. Members and guests mingled and interacted with all the activities, enjoying the food, tea, coffee and a nip of John's homemade wine for a few of us. Then, it was time to reveal the

ASK Garden Club Report Continued

Brian Jobling won the coveted cup for the heaviest crop of potatoes with a weight of 4lb 3oz. I came second with 3lb 12oz and Aaron third with 3lb 6oz, a great improvement from Aaron's 1oz potato weight last year!

Ann Speir's single orange begonia flower won the award for best cut flower.... Ann did it again having won last year, but wasn't so lucky with the potato challenge this time, as previously Ann's potato yield has been hard to beat. After much deliberation and re-measuring some very bendy beans, John Clegg's bean measuring 14½ inches was declared the longest, closely followed by Brian's at 14 inches. John was surprised to win and almost didn't enter as in previous years we've had beans measuring far more.

Raffle called, food cleared away and the theatre car park swept, members left clutching their beans, flowers and bags of potatoes. It's all a bit of fun, not your usual



'horticultural event' but that's what we're all about and makes ASK Garden Club so special.

Next meeting is at the Robin Hood Theatre (the AGM) on Tuesday 18th November at 19:00. Guests are very welcome, but why not join our club?

For further details about our club, please contact me at: bootiqueonline@outlook.com or 07929 367461

Nigel Britton – Club Secretary

ESTD.



2024

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FAITH AND PRAYER

A political leader recently said that though they had been a practising worshipper since childhood, they had later ceased to have a faith because of unanswered prayers - particularly those of someone else who had suffered dreadfully at the cruel hands of their father. A Rabbi responded, "The power of prayer is not that it alters reality, but that it can change us." It's clear that many, perhaps most, prayers don't achieve the requested result, if we're praying for what we desire, irrespective of other considerations.

Jesus said, "Whatever you ask in my name" and that's the crucial part, seeking to attune ourselves and our desires to what's best, what's God's will. Even Jesus' prayer on the Cross, "Father, take this cup from me " didn't get the hoped for response. But he added "yet, not my will, but yours be done." The eventual outcome (his Crucifixion, Resurrection, and our salvation) was what was "best" - that was his life's purpose.

An Archbishop once said, "When I pray, miracles happen; when I don't, they don't." And he didn't mean getting what he wanted, but that things worked out better - perhaps his understanding changed. We may not get our own way, but we may find that we are guided to discover the best way - indeed our understanding may change.

I have found that we discover the value of prayer if we see it as part of our developing faith. We shouldn't give up because "it doesn't work."

Things that can help are:

- practice; keeping at it and seeing how to adapt the prayer:
- reading the Bible regularly; it's amazing how a Bible verse can "speak to" our situation; I've known it to have a direct impact on people:
- taking part in Church worship (something in a sermon, in a prayer, in a hymn, or the words of the Service) can be particularly relevant:
- praying with someone else, or in a small group:
- something we read in a 'spiritual' book or article.

Prayer, then, is essentially about discovering what is best (God's will) and then pursuing this, seeking the guidance and ability to do this.

. Continued

FAITH AND PRAYER continued

Prayer and "listening" go hand in hand - lots of ifs and buts, challenging but potentially rewarding. "The power of prayer is that it can change us."

You may find it helpful to personalise the words of this prayer, which was set for use in Church on a recent Sunday:

"Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you; pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, that

" - fill in the rest yourself."

With every blessing **David Bartlett.**

Lest We Forget

Services with Acts of Remembrance

Saturday 8th November at 10.45 am

St Michael's and All Angels Averham

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:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ◇ Averham: | Tracey Carlisle | 07970 179755 |
| ◇ Kelham: | Danni Gray | 07860 458397 |
| ◇ Staythorpe: | Debs Storey | 07974 957684 |

CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND UNITED SERVICES

Saturday 1st Nov. 2:00 pm	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	All Souls Service
Sunday 2nd Nov. 9:15am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Worship Service Shoe Box
Sunday 2nd Nov. 4:00 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Messy Church
Saturday 8th Nov. 10:45 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Lest we forget Services with Acts of Remembrance
Sunday 9th Nov. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th Nov. 9:30am	St Wilfrid's Kelham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16th Nov. 3:00pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Messy Church
Sunday 23th Nov. 9:30 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th Nov. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Holy Communion

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**For the 2025 editions of the magazine -
Copy required by 17 of the month.**

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St Michael and All Angels Church

AVERHAM

MESSY CHURCH

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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 cllrJohnrMiller@gmail.com aksparishclerk@outlook.com
Clerk:	Will	

FLOOD WARDEN:	Aaron Laurence	07713 594665
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POLICE:	Richard Dunn PCSO	07595 074 292
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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
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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

Southwell.library@inspireculture.org.uk