

The Plough



December 2025

To: AVERHAM, STAYTHORPE & KELHAM VILLAGERS



St Wilfrid's Church, Kelham

Re-AImagined as a Winter theme, to suit the Christmas poem below.

If you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star,
I'm no longer in Bethlehem,
I'm right here where you are

You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations
You'll have to look beyond the
stores
And all the decorations

But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you

You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came,
And you'll find me in the stillness,
As I'm whispering your name.
Love, Jesus

WHAT'S ON DECEMBER?

Christmas Festival	Sherwood Forest Brass Band £5	5 th Dec.	19:00
High St., Laxton NG22 0NX			
YFC Tractor Run		6 th Dec.	See page 9
Staythorpe Road, Staythorpe and Averham Bypass			
Jazz Carols		6 th Dec.	19:00 for 19:30
St. Michael and All Angels Church			
Messy Church		7 th Dec.	16:00
St. Michael and All Angels Church			
W.I. Meeting Christmas Party		8 th Dec.	19:15
Robin Hood Theatre			
RHTC It's A Wonderful Life		9 th -13 th Dec.	19:30
Robin Hood Theatre			+ Sat 14:30
Garden Club Christmas Dinner		16 th Dec.	19:00
Cross Keys, Upton			
Ossington Carol Service		21 st Dec.	18:00
The Hut, Ossington NG23 6LJ			
Mobile Library		22 nd Dec	14:10 - 14:25
Staythorpe Road, Averham			
Community Carol Singing		24 th Dec.	17:30
Right hand side of Pinfold Lane, Averham			
Midnight Mass		24 th Dec.	23:30
St. Wilfrid's Church North Muskham			
Family Service and Holy Communion		25 th Dec.	10:00
St. Michael and All Angels Church			



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Christmas Carols on Pinfold Lane – A Festive Gathering



It's that magical time of year again, and the Allen household on **Pinfold Lane** is opening its garden – for the much-loved **Community Christmas Carol Service**. Once more, neighbours, friends, and families will gather under the twinkling lights to sing their favourite carols together. Whether you're a confident singer or just enjoy humming along, the evening promises to be filled with warmth, laughter, and festive cheer. This is a **family-friendly** event, so bring the children, the grandparents, and even the neighbours you've been meaning to chat to. And if you can, bring along a little spare change – we'll be collecting for good causes, helping to spread the Christmas spirit even further.

So wrap up warm, grab your Santa hat, and join us on **Pinfold Lane** for an evening that will leave you glowing inside and out.

STILL Waiting for the Green Light: ASK Hive's Epic Quest



It all began in early 2023, when ASK Hive first knocked on the door of Nottinghamshire County Council with a modest proposal: "Hello, we'd like to buy a school, please." Not for nostalgic reasons or to relive the trauma of PE class, but to transform part of the former Averham school grounds into a buzzing community hub.

So here we are, three years later and a full year after reaching agreement, waiting for the verdict. Will ASK Hive half a school? Will the community finally have a space to gather, create, and caffeinate? Whatever happens, we're proud of the journey so far. It's been a masterclass in patience, persistence and polite pestering. Stay tuned. The Hive might just be about to get a whole lot buzzier. **Bob** askhive@outlook.com

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY?

Mobile Library

Staythorpe Road, Averham

19th Jan. 14:10 - 14:25

RHTC The Queen and I

Robin Hood Theatre

27th – 31st Jan. 19:30
+ Sat 14:30

Garden Club Meeting

Robin Hood Theatre, Averham

20th Jan. 19:00

See page 21 for Church Services

Editor: Bob McGhee

ploughmageditor@gmail.com

Spooktacular Fun in Averham: Halloween Competition Delights All Ages

This year's Halloween doorstep challenges in Averham was nothing short of magical—and mischievous! The village came alive with creativity, laughter and a touch of eerie charm as



families created spooky doorstep masterpieces for our annual Halloween competition, transforming the community into a cauldron of colour, costume and carved masterpieces.

Pumpkins, Banners and Bewitching Style

From grinning gourds to ghostly garlands, the level of artistry on display was spellbinding. Pumpkins were carved with astonishing precision—some spooky, some silly, all spooktacular. Homemade banners fluttered with flair, adding a festive backdrop to the event. And the fancy dress? A parade of pint-sized witches, wizards, skeletons, and superheroes stole the show, each costume bursting with imagination and personality.

Continued on page 5

Spooktacular Fun Continued

Sugar, Smiles, and Sweet Memories

The children of Averham embraced the spirit with gusto, dashing from activity to activity with wide eyes and sticky fingers. Rumour has it the village experienced a collective sugar rush that lasted well into the week—but every giggle and grin made it worth it.



A Heartfelt Thanks to Tracey

None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of Tracey, who not only organised the event with her usual warmth and flair, but also took on judging duties and captured the joy in a series of wonderful photographs. Her dedication brought the community together in celebration, and we are all deeply grateful.

Until next year, Averham—keep your broomsticks polished and your pumpkins primed!

Theatre News



On Friday, October 17th in the afternoon we were delighted to welcome Gyles and Michele Brandreth to the theatre with the Wolfit Endowment Trust to unveil a plaque commemorating Sir Donald Wolfit's early performances at the theatre. Gyles told us of his acquaintance with Sir Donald and Ronald Harwood his biographer, and admired the theatre that Sir Donald helped us buy in 1967 with a very generous donation. He was very impressed with the work of the Wolfit Trust and encouraged both organisations to keep up their excellent contribution to the cultural life of the Newark area. We can't wait to continue working behind the scenes to bring you brilliant shows and a huge thank you Gyles, Michele, the Wolfit Endowment Trust and all our fabulous volunteers!

John Wolfendon

ROBIN HOOD THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS



It's a
Wonderful
Life

By Mary Elliott Nelson

A timeless
Christmas story
retold

TUES 9TH TO SAT 13TH DECEMBER 2025

PERFORMANCES 7.30PM EVERY NIGHT & 2.30PM SATURDAY MATINEE

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TICKETS £14.00 MEMBERS £12.00

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wreaths. Member, Tracey Young gave us the ideas and helped us all along using festive ribbon and lots of different Christmassy tinklements. Tracey was thanked for her hard work in amassing such a huge array of materials. It was a really fabulous evening helped along with a bevvv or two of mulled wine!!

Plans for our December meeting which, as usual, is a Christmas Party. We have also have invited a magician along for the festivities. The Christmas Party will be on Monday December 8th at 19:00 at the Robin Hood Theatre in Averham.

If you would like to know more about your local WI group please contact:

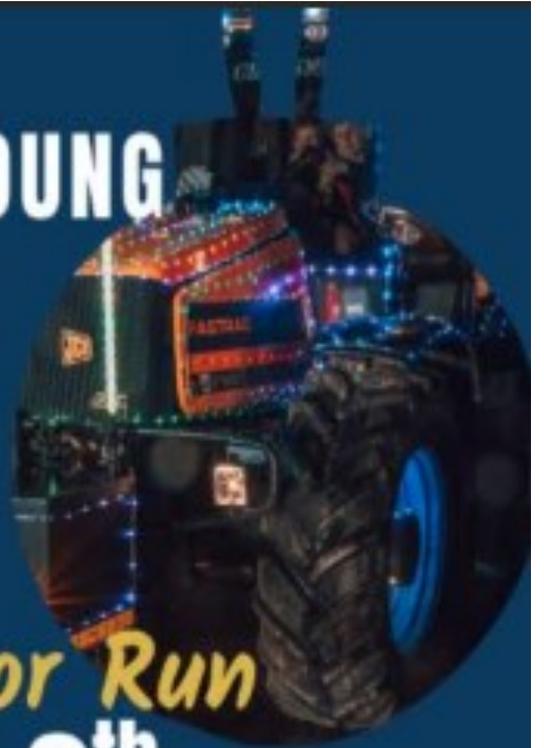
Jenny Quickmire

on 07890641102.

Our meeting on November 10th was attended by 14 members and 4 guests who had a really jolly evening creating some really professional looking Christmas



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS



Santa's Tractor Run **Saturday 6th** **December** *2025*

from 5pm-8:30pm

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Oxton | Calverton | Woodborough
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Haveringham | Thurgarton |
Bleasby*



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



Jazz Carols Are Back at Averham Church!

After last year's toe-tapping triumph, Roger and Diana are thrilled to welcome back the (locally legendary) Gatsby Go-Getters for another unforgettable evening of **Jazz Carols** on **Saturday, 6th December**.

Expect a heartwarming blend of swing, soul, and sing-along favourites — all wrapped in festive cheer. Whether you're pitch-perfect or proudly off-key, everyone's invited to raise their voices!

During the interval, enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink, plus a mince pie to sweeten the season.

Tickets are just £10, and they're going fast — Averham Church is cosy, so early booking is essential.

Bring your friends, bring your family, and bring your best festive spirit.

It's Christmas, with a jazzy twist — and it wouldn't be the same without you.

For tickets and more information, please refer ask:

Roger: 07904 243 304 1, Hopwas Close, Averham

Hilary: 07970 389 182 The Poplars, Church Lane

Tracey: 07970 179 755 5, Ayrshire Way, 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**

Women's and Girls Softball Cricket in Newark

As the year draws to a close and we all start looking ahead, some of us come up with New Year's resolutions. A common one is getting fitter/doing more physical exercise. In principle, it seems like a good idea, but in practice many



of us find ourselves giving up early in our attempts. We tell ourselves, "It's a waste of time" or "I'm not seeing any progress." Or simply we get bored because we don't have anyone to do it with. Does that sound familiar? If this resonates, you should try Softball Cricket with Newark Ransome & Marles Cricket Club. We offer the perfect place for women to mix the best of socialising and learning new skills through fun, physical activities.

This is also open to girls (from Year 5 upwards) and so it's a great way to bond with your daughter or open her up to new social opportunities with girls her own age.

We already have a range of secondary school aged girls with us, and we're going into Muskham Primary School (and others) in the New Year to promote the sessions to more Year 5 and 6 girls.

Join us for our winter sessions in the New Year at the Barnby Road Academy on Mondays: 12th, 19th and 26th January as well as 2nd and 9th February from 5:45 to 6:45pm.

If you want to attend or have any further questions about the sessions, please contact our coach, **Kit**, on 07764 413541.

In the meantime, we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and hope to see you in the New Year!

ROBIN HOOD THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS



THE QUEEN AND I

A COMEDY BY SUE TOWNSEND

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

TUES 27TH TO SAT 31ST JANUARY 2026

PERFORMANCES AT 7.30PM EACH EVENING AND 2.30PM SATURDAY MATINEE

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ASK Garden Club Report

November 2025

We met at the Robin Hood theatre on the 21st of October for our AGM and a photographic 'trip down memory lane' a review of the past year's meetings and garden visits.

We had a great turnout with 22 attendees. Aaron our chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded with approval of the minutes from the previous AGM on October 22nd 2024. They were approved with one correction; Heather was minuted as being co-opted onto the committee in error and this was corrected.

Aaron began his report by thanking myself and all members of the outgoing committee for their support and dedication to the club and made a special thank you to Steve, our treasurer, for his work managing our finances. He then followed with a brief run through of our previous season's meetings and garden visits....

At our November meeting we welcomed Andrew Young who gave us a talk and PowerPoint demonstration on his tour of Japanese gardens. In January we all met at Southwell Garden Centre for a fruit tree pruning workshop by Marc Richmond. Ian Stephens was our speaker at our February meeting.... and this was all about lawn care. March saw the return of Andrew Young to our group who presented on the history of the National Garden Scheme and in April Rachel Barrowcliffe gave us a presentation on her work at the Tropical Butterfly House in Sheffield.

May was the start of our garden visits; Park Farm in Southwell being the first, followed by visits to Gaunts Hill in Bestwood in June and a very different eco garden at Waxwings and Goldcrest in July.

Continued on page 15

ASK Garden Club Report Continued

Steve presented his treasurer's report. In addition to keeping the accounts he provided a projection of the club's finances for the coming year. It was from this, in order to maintain a full schedule of events, that the annual subscription be increased to £20pp, this was unanimously approved. Steve explained he had renewed the club's insurance, but the new policy cannot now include cover for any other 'ASK' in our parish groups as previously.

The committee then stood down and the new committee and officers were elected as follows:

Aaron Lawrence – Chair

Nigel Britton – Secretary

Steve Emeny – Treasurer (non committee member)

Dawn Lawrence

Margaret Harvey

Nicki George

Colin George

Bob Galley (new committee member)



Business done, we all enjoyed our photographic trip down memory lane followed by a fabulous raffle with multiple prizes, complementary refreshments and a hurriedly prepared quiz.... oops my fault, multi choice without the choices! On the 16th December we're off to The Cross Keys Upton for our Christmas Party then for our January meeting on the 20th we return to the Robin Hood Theatre when there will be a presentation from the Sherwood Forest Trust on 'History, Legend and Conservation'.

The annual subscription for 2025-26 is £20pp. This is a great time to join the club, members benefit from priority places to our summer visits, activities, regular news updates and receive a 10% discount at Southwell Garden Centre on most purchases.

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

U3A visit Kelham and Averham



On 29 October, 18 members of the Southwell U3A Church Visiting Group descended on Kelham and Averham. While the group gathered at Kelham, they were able to view a short video about the historic graffiti in the church and read the information displays around the building. They were welcomed by Phil Staniforth, Churchwarden who talked more about the graffiti which is considered to be of national importance and also drew attention to the organ together with its ornate Case which was bought from Lincoln Theological College when it closed down. Phil then handed over to Judith Mills who explained the importance of Bridget, 3rd Duchess of Rutland to the church and parish. Not only did she build a memorial for her father, she also paid for a number of other improvements including a new tower roof. Judith explained that in 1755 the then Rector died and because Kelham was considered too poor to support its own priest, the parish was combined with Averham to form a single parish of Averham-cum-Kelham. And for the next 100 years, all succeeding Rectors were connected to Bridget, either by descent or marriage – or sometimes both.

Continued on page 17

U3A visit Kelham and Averham continued

Arriving at Averham, the guests were welcomed with a tea and coffee and biscuits before Judith continued her story by talking about three of the Rectors, beginning with Charles Manners Sutton, Bridget's grandson. He married his cousin – it's thought they eloped. In 1805 he was elected Archbishop of Canterbury. Charles was succeeded as Rector by Robert Chaplin who, despite his surname, was related to the Manners Suttons because his older sister had married Bridget's son. In 1855, the connection with Bridget was broken when Joseph Walker was installed as Rector. In 1907, he was succeeded by his son, Cyril,



who is best known for beginning the Robin Hood Theatre, but he was an enthusiastic amateur photographer who regularly entertained the villagers with magic lantern. On his death in 1942, Cyril was described as 'the last fox-hunting parson in the county'.

Hilary Snell then took over from Judith to talk about the Anglo Saxon origins of Averham church which make it the oldest church building in the county. She also pointed out the unusual and important water-powered Victoria Memorial Organ, named to mark the death of Queen Victoria. It is one of only two in the country and holds an Historic Organ Certificate.

The group seemed to enjoy the visits very much, staying much longer than expected. Several commented that the short talks had been much welcomed as they added to the interest of the buildings. In appreciation, Kelham Church gained two patio heaters and there were some small cash donations.

If you are aware of any group that might like to make a similar visit, please get in touch.

Judith Mills judithmillseu@outlook.com

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KELHAM CHURCH

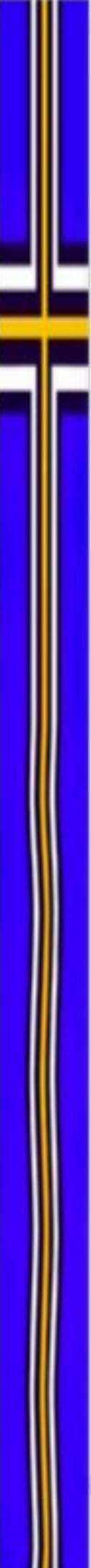
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/c418995a-257a-41b5-9d69-beb91cd43c9a>



AVERHAM CHURCH

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Dear Villagers,

In November the worldwide Christian Church celebrated the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

This was the first Ecumenical Council; a gathering of Christian bishops (325 AD) in present-day Türkiye. It was the first attempt to reach consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom, and to affirm the Christian faith in the triune God.

Christians who only recently had been persecuted in the Roman Empire were able to gather under the patronage of the emperor to affirm their faith and witness to the society around them. Then, as now, the call to unity was heard within the context of a troubled, unequal, and divided world. The council eventually resulted in what we now call the Nicene Creed. The words of the creed are set out below.

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

Continued on page 20

.....Continued from page 19

He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

What strikes you? Does it all seem to align with what you know of the Christian faith?

Possibly the most contested part of the council was the subject of Homousias; a Greek term meaning "of the same essence". It was included to demonstrate that Jesus Christ is fully divine and of the same divine substance as God the Father. This concept was central to the nature of the Trinity in the early Church, particularly in clarifying that Jesus is not a subordinate being, but co-eternal and co-equal with the Father. There's so much more I could say but ultimately, I am just grateful for the gift of this creed that at times can be like a solid anchor in the midst of the uncertain seas of life.

All blessings, **Rev David Lewis**
(Beck and Trent Benefice)



CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND UNITED SERVICES

Sunday 7 nd Dec. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Holy Communion Advent 2
Sunday 7 th Dec. 4:00 pm	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Messy Church
Sunday 14 th Dec. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Carol Service Advent 3
Sunday 14 th Dec. 4:00 pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Christingle
Thursday 18 th Dec. 7:00 pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Carol Service And refreshments
Sunday 21 st Dec. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's Kelham	Carols and Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st Dec. 4:00 pm	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Christingle For Children
Wednesday 24th Dec. 11:30 pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th Dec. 10:00 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Family Service and Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th Dec. 10:00 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 4 th Jan. 9:15 am	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Worship Service
Sunday 11 th Jan. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's South Muskham	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th Jan. 9:30 am	St Wilfrid's Kelham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 18 th Jan. 4:00 pm	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Messy Church
Sunday 25 th Jan. 9:30 am	St Michael and All Angels, Averham	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th Jan. 3:00 pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	Messy Church

ESTD.



2024

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**For the 2025 editions of the magazine -
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St Michael and All Angels Church

AVERHAM

MESSY CHURCH

7th DECEMBER

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DEFIBRILATOR CODE:

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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

AKS PARISH COUNCIL:

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

FLOOD WARDEN: Aaron Laurence 07713 594665

POLICE: Richard Dunn PCSO 07595 074 292

POTHOLES:

Notts County Council 0300 500 80 80

STAYTHORPE POWER STATION:

01636 59 69 00
staythorpe@rwe.com

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:

Environment Agency Flood line: 0345 988 1188

NATIONAL GRID: 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

Southwell.library@inspireculture.org.uk