

The Plough

Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe Community and Parish Magazine

March 2021

Poem by M E J H Kingsley
1923 - 2000

The day was cold, the sky was grey, my spirits they were low,
My garden looks so drab, was it time to mow?
My spirits flew in feathers then as at my feet I saw,
A little dancing snowdrop, the first of many more,
A little white frocked fairy, looking oh so gay
Thank you little snowdrop for brightening up my day



Editor: Judith Mills. Editor.plough@hotmail.com ; 07775781591

Plough Website:

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

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THE ADVERTS and USEFUL CONTACTS

From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who made very kind comments about the new format for The Plough. Everyone seems to like it.

Also thanks to all those who have contributed to this month's edition—it's lovely to see new and different types of article being submitted, whether it's the poem on the cover page, written by Jamie Kingsley's father, gardening tips from John Clegg or the perils of working from home from Georgian Walton.

All contributions are welcome—stories, photographs, letters, book reviews—so please do keep them coming.

I make no apologies for the inclusion of so many photographs of snowdrops, as they are mentioned several times in different articles. Maybe because people have not been out and about so much, but they are absolutely magnificent in the Monks' Graveyard, Kelham Church churchyard and all around Kelham Hall and all through our villages. Unfortunately, they don't print so well in black and white, but there's still time to take a socially distanced walk through Kelham and Averham to enjoy them.

It'll soon be time for daffodils!

Judith Mills, Editor



VILLAGE NOTICE BOARD

NEXT FOODBANK COLLECTION

The next foodbank collection will be just after Easter. Dates will be confirmed in the next Edition of The Plough and via the WhatsApp links. The collection points will remain the same.

If you'd like to know more about the Trussell Trust, which runs local food banks, have a look at their website <https://www.trusselltrust.org>

An apology from the Editor

The video mentioned in the last edition should have referred to a Medieval House in Blacksmith's Lane, not directly to Blacksmith's Cottage which is not the building discussed in the video. I'm sorry for an inconvenience experienced by the owners of both buildings.

Averham Bench Repaired

In the last issue of The Plough, the PC report noted that the bench at the west end of The Close, Averham was damaged beyond economic repair, was rarely used and would be removed.

It now appears it is often used by both villagers and passing cyclists. Plus there is always a fat robin sat upon it!

Wood and materials have all been donated and the bench has been returned to its former glory. Well just look at it now. A valuable Averham asset returned.



Heart felt thanks to the friends, family and neighbours of Graham Carlisle for their hard work.



An Invitation to AKS WI Tea Party

March 15th at 2.30pm

Via Zoom.

**This is an open invitation to anyone
who would like**

To join us for our first meeting this year.

**Just 'come along' with a cup of tea and cake
and meet**

old friends and make new ones.

Please contact Angela Moore angela@oranalysts.com and she
will forward the link

Hope you can join in.

GERALD BIRKETT

Gerald, a resident of Kelham, collapsed and died while out walking along Broadgate Lane towards Kelham Hills, on January 8th, aged 70. His family, in their shock, take comfort from knowing he was enjoying himself when he died.

Gerald was a well known agricultural machinery salesman for the John Deere dealership of J M Maltby in Newark. His hobbies included gardening, especially vegetables. He was a member of Southwell and District Agricultural Society, and part of the very efficient car parking team at the annual Ploughing Match and Show.

We send condolences to daughters Caroline and Rachael and families in their sudden and untimely loss.

Gardening Hints n' Tips - Vegetables

from John Clegg

March approaches, and it is already time to start sowing!

This year I am sowing my broad beans and garlic in February. I normally sow them November/December in my allotment beds, but missed this winter, so they will be late appearing. One good thing is I have some garlic bulbs saved over from last year's crop, so that has saved a bit on costs. Broad beans go 2 inches deep, normal garlic 2 inches and elephant garlic 3 or 4 inches deep—enough to deter any mice but not too deep to germinate successfully. You can also try supermarket organic garlic bulbs—separate the cloves and sow individually.

Seeds I will sow in greenhouse multitrays in late February include beetroot, calabrese (broccoli), cabbage, lettuce, spinach and lisbon onions (treat as spring onions or full onions, if left to mature).

Seeds to sow now inside and keep warm on a window sill include tomatoes, peppers and aubergines. I am trying out seeds saved from supermarket red peppers. A couple of years back, as an alternative to seeds, I overwintered a tomato plant indoors, taken from a September cutting. By April it was



growing well and cuttings off that produced yet more free plants.

This winter I overwintered a couple of dwarf red pepper plants (see left). They are doing OK and buds are appearing, although the fruits are too small, really.

Chilli peppers are another popular

plant to try overwintering indoors.

The photo on the right is my lemon plant sown from a pip last June. Keeping my fingers crossed on that one!



The Trials and Tribulations of Home Working

Many of us at the moment have found that we've been banished from our normal work places and our homes have become our new offices. This is a new concept for many of us, it's a personal space we often share with family and pets and adapting it into a place to work effectively isn't always easy.



Here are some hints and tips from **Georgina Walton** which may help.

Environment

- Have a 'work area' that is comfortable to work in. A proper chair, good lighting and plants all add to a better environment. Do a 'commute' to and from it, and step away from it when you aren't working.
- Have a separate keyboard and mouse to the laptop. Ensure the screen is at eye level, either with a separate screen or laptop holder.
- Move away from the work area sometimes – like you'd go to a meeting room in the office. A change of chair, scenery and room can help mix the day up.
- Try standing at a breakfast bar or kitchen counter, or invest in a standing desk. It's better for your back, helps you keep alert and burns more calories!
- At the end of the working day turn off your PC and put it away. Just because your home is your new office doesn't mean that you have to work an extended day, and it's important to separate work and home life.

Wellbeing

- Book 'wellbeing' slots in calendars every day for breaks and to do something other than work. It may be getting some fresh air and exercise, doing a 20 minute workout, listening to a pod cast or reading a book, or catching up on some chores.
- Make time for home schooling, or having a lunch break together with your children. Many employees are allowing flexible working hours, so take advantage of these where you can.
- Ensure you book in some social time with your work colleagues during the working day, like you'd have a corridor or water cooler chat. We have 'coffee roulette' where we're allocated someone to spend half an hour a

week to chat to, the only rule being you can't talk about work. I've spoken to people in the business I've never met before which has been great, and got to know people I work regularly with on a more personal basis which really helps build relationships.

- Keep a routine where possible. Ensure you get up, have a shower and 'get ready' for work. Some people have a walk before and after work in the time it would have taken them to commute to the office. But if there is the odd day where you want to sit in your pyjamas all day (or only 'work dress' the top half and stay in comfy loungewear from the waist down!) that's absolutely fine too.



Meetings

- Instead of half hour or full hour meetings, make them 15 minutes or 45 minutes, or instead of starting and finishing on the hour start at 5 past and finish at 5 to. This gives everyone chance to wrap up and prepare for the next meeting, get a cuppa or have a break.
- Anyone suffering from Teams / Zoom fatigue?? Download the app on your phone as well as your laptop and try walking meetings when you can to get some fresh air and exercise at the same time. Don't always feel pressurised to turn your camera on either, and give other people the opportunity to have their camera off if they want a break from the screen.
- Avoid booking (and accepting) meetings over lunch breaks. If there is a long meeting (over 2 hours), ensure there are regular break times.
- If you're not keen on people seeing you haven't tidied the breakfast pots away or seeing that your office space is also the junk room use a filter screen or use the blur background feature. (Just make sure you don't accidentally turn yourself into a cat as the Texas lawyer did!)



And finally...

- Don't be hard on yourself!! Many of us are having to juggle like never before, and it's OK for people to see that you're at home and have a home life as well as a work life. Don't worry that you're working from the kitchen / spare room / under the stairs. Or if half way through a video call your children remind you they haven't eaten for half an hour, the cat jumps on the keyboard or the dog is attacking the postman. It's all part of our new working life and adds to the fun.



Georgina Walton

Letter to the Editor

The Oak Tree in the grounds of Averham School

In February 1944 I walked from Staythorpe with my mother to Averham to become a pupil at Averham School. In the school grounds there was an oak tree, I believe it had been planted to mark the turn of the century. Oak trees don't grow much each year, it became a magnificent tree but alas it has now been destroyed and has become a village eyesore. I would like to know:

- A. Who requested the destruction?
- B. Who sanctioned it?
- C. And why?

John Hamby
Corner Cottage, Averham



FROM THE EDITOR: the letter was referred to the Parish Council for comment. The Chairman has provided a full reply which is printed on p. 16 and contacted Mr Hamby directly about this matter. I am grateful to John Wolfenden for the photographs.



THE PLOUGH READING CIRCLE

Not Your Usual 'Book Club'

A FEW THOUGHTS from Janet Emeny

This is more of a recommendation of a few books rather than a review.

I used to be a “Mills and Boons” romance girl in my youth moving on to the likes of Jilly Cooper’s *Riders* and Alan Titchmarsh’s gentle romantic novels in my middle age. It wasn’t really until I retired a few years ago (early retirement that is) that I looked for more interesting and thrilling reads to fill my time. One of my closest friends has always had a book in her hands and began to pass some on to me. They were usually thrillers or science fiction and the more I read the more I enjoyed. So here are a couple I would recommend to those with similar tastes.

S K Tremayne is one of my favourite authors and the first book of his I came across is *The Ice Twins* a psychological thriller about twins’ misidentification. I found the story creepy but moving and these feelings stayed with me a long time after I had finished reading it. Another of his books *The Fire Child* is gripping and scary right from the start.

I find that if a book doesn’t grip me right from the start I often give up on the read after only a couple of chapters. One such book is *The Institute* by Stephen King. This science fiction horror had me confused at the beginning. The first chapter is about a disgraced former Cop and I almost didn’t pick the book up again. However the second chapter was so different that I thought I had picked up a different book altogether. The story continues from the perspective of a 12 year-old boy who is abducted and taken to a top secret facility because of his extremely high intelligence. I was gripped from that point on but all through this fictional story I felt uneasy and wondered if this was something that could really happen or even be happening today! I am so glad I did not put this book down after the first chapter!

Finally, I read a book a few years ago and cannot remember the title or the author. It was a fictional novel about a couple who had the opportunity to have their unborn twin babies genetically modified to avoid disease in their future. However the consequences were devastating and again the story was very thought provoking. If anyone recognises this novel and remembers the author or title please let me know.

A google-search suggests that this book may be Perfect People by Peter James. It was nominated for a Welcome Trust book prize in 2012 (though not the winner). If it is not this book, all other suggestions welcome.

Other book recommendations are

- Three books by Anton du Beke: *One Enchanted Evening*; *Moonlight over Mayfair* and *A Christmas to Remember*. More details on his website <https://www.antondubeke.tv> and for those who like a bit of exercise, there are some on-line dance classes as well.
- *Once Upon a Tyne*: the story of Ant and Dec's 30 years on the TV.
- Modern detective fiction: anything by L J Ross, particularly his DCI Ryan Mysteries, which begin on Lindisfarne and focus on the North East.
- Medieval murder mysteries: *The Savernake Novels*, an 11 book series by Susanna M Newstead. Set at the end of the 12th century, Aumary Belvoir recounts his career as Warden of the Savernake Forest.

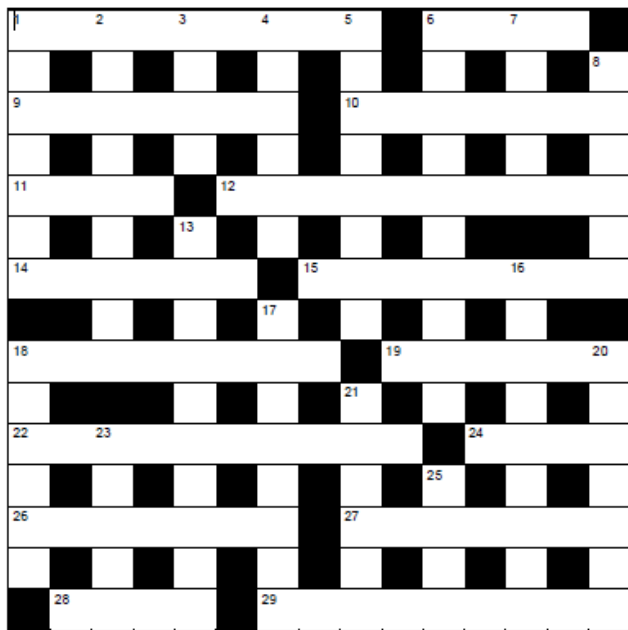
Although bookshops are not able to open—yet— they are offering a delivery service. If you want to shop locally, then The Bookcase at Lowdham, an independent bookshop, has a great website and regular recommendations for what to read next. <https://www.thebookcase.co.uk/>

If you want to use the bigger retailers; Waterstone, W H Smith and similar book sellers also have good websites and recommendations. And if you sign-up for easyfundraising.org.uk, they'll make a donation to your chosen charity every time you buy from them. The charity is your choice, but maybe you'd consider donating to either Kelham or Averbham churches.

DON'T FORGET

Send your Reviews, Comments and Suggestions for New Books to Editor.plough@hotmail.com . If you don't have email, then phone me on 07775781591 and I'll let you know where you can send your comments.

A CROSSWORD—I'M TOLD IT'S EASY!



ACROSS

- 1 City of ancestral suffering (9)
- 6 Evasive about son being comfortable (4)
- 9 Sue assumes two fellows in charge to be enough (7)
- 10 Disrupted most of literary film preview (7)
- 11 Blades appearing when people have a row (4)
- 12 Note lack of talk about one displaying toughness (10)
- 14 B in test characteristic of a certain group (6)
- 15 Calming drug is vet's idea possibly (8)
- 18 Reliable-sounding Scottish city (8)
- 19 They work with a tool (6)
- 22 Applaud – yes, one goes wild, see (4,4,2)
- 24 Encourage some of our generation (4)
- 26 A complex plot's beginning to engross Peter perhaps (7)
- 27 Loose rocks by church make an unpleasant sound (7)
- 28 Advance payment for poet first off (4)
- 29 Former Blue Peter presenter wearing vest? (9)

DOWN

- 1 Stick it to the end, leaving after the others (4,3)
- 2 Tent fire destroyed one Egyptian queen (9)
- 3 A family related by blood (4)
- 4 Two letters read aloud in tent (6)
- 5 Crooked Eritrean lawyer may ask for one (8)
- 6 Generous cleaner's given one board (10)
- 7 Ring lost in bar or beauty parlour (5)
- 8 Country producing oil we hear (6)
- 13 Middle name put first in place for telephone operators (4,6)
- 16 I close home – that's serious (2,7)
- 17 E.g. insert mobile numbers (8)
- 18 For example, American backed Charles (4,2)
- 20 Chap is to walk with female (7)
- 21 Relative keeps us in money (6)
- 23 Decorate for a party with sailors (5)
- 25 Exam offers alternative to a student (4)

Solution in p.14



NEWS FROM THE ROBIN HOOD THEATRE

Thanks to a grant from Newark and Sherwood District Council as part of their Visitor Experience Improvement programme the Theatre Company has taken advantage of the lockdown to make improvements to the building, including



a more theatrical look and the better flooring in the bar. Thanks also to the Ladies Luncheon Club and the



RHT 200 Club which made substantial donations.

Some work remains to be done, especially in the Wolfit Room, where the long-standing damp problem in the external wall needs tackling. At the bottom of the wall a 'french drain' style trench has been excavated and back filled with gravel to hold a membrane against the base of the wall in place of the absent damp proof course. Discussions are ongoing with a builder about replacing the roof felt and boarding. So a longer time scale until there will be a complete the makeover of the Wolfit Room.

The programme has been considerably disrupted and a decision has been made not to commit to a full production run until September, though it depends on what is possible. The one-man show *Chalk* and a collection of ten-minute plays with the collective title of *Tenners* have been pencilled in, tentatively, for 21 June and 19 July respectively, subject to getting access to the theatre for rehearsals.

Con't over page

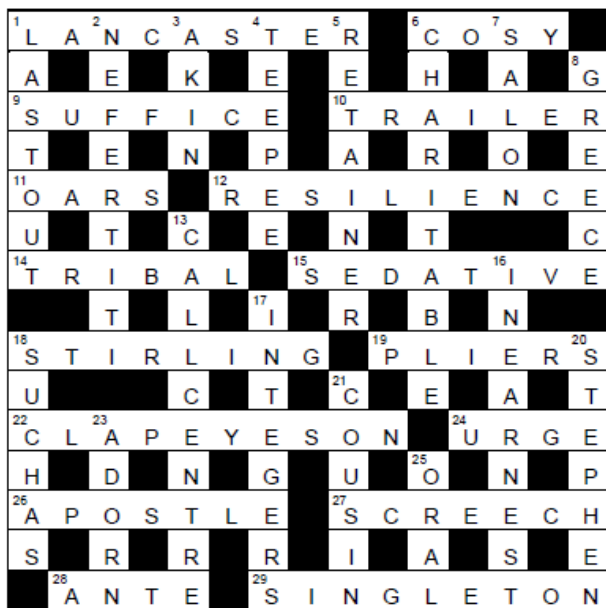
RHTC Report cont.

The plans for the 2021-22 programme are

<i>Relatively Speaking</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	21 st – 25 th September 2021
<i>The Vicar of Dibley</i>	7 th – 11 th December 2021
<i>Breezeblock Park</i> by Willy Russell	25 th – 29 th January 2022
<i>Breaking the Code</i> by Hugh Whitemore	26 th – 30 th April 2022
<i>On the Rocks</i> by Amy Rosenthal	14 th – 18 th June 2022

Crossword solution

CROSSWORD SET BY <http://www.alberichcrosswords.com/>



Parish Council Update

As this edition of the Plough falls between Parish Council meetings there is not the normal update, however there are two things that warrant mention; namely the ongoing situation with the Network Rail road crossings between Nottingham and Newark and the pollarding of the oak tree in the grounds of Sutton Manner School.

Network Rail Road Crossings.

As all of you will be aware for several years now there have been ongoing problems with the barrier controls at the various road crossing along the Trent Valley villages. County Councillor Sue Saddington has been championing this cause for some time and finally managed to persuade Network Rail to hold a meeting with all interested parties to discuss the ongoing problems. The meeting was held via video conference on Tuesday 16th February and was well represented with County, District and Parish Councillors in attendance, with additional representatives from the 'blue light' services and local businesses. The AKS Parish Council was represented by Cllr Fereday and Cllr Cobley of Kelham and Staythorpe wards respectively.

Network Rail representatives provided an overview of their 'state of the art' systems at each of the crossings and explained how they had made further improvements through the continual upgrading of components to improve their performance. They also outlined how much more efficient the automated barriers are versus the original manual systems and stated that the crossing on the Nottingham to Newark track are performing above the National Average. Statistical information was tabled indicating the number and responses to incidents on or in connection with the crossings. This data however only logged technical failures and they had no data relating to the severity of the impact on the local community.

Discussion was had regarding recent incidents and especially the chaos that results from failures at the Newark Castle crossing and the resultant delays to emergency services vehicles. Also the recent failure at Bleasby where the crossing was closed for over 4 hours was also discussed which resulted in long delays to local residents causing emergency services to have to divert

via Southwell and Fiskerton. A number of other instances were cited by attendees where delays and problems had been experienced. Network Rail highlighted that they aim to respond to all issues within thirty minutes to an hour, however Parish Councillors gave examples where this had not been the case in the past and requested improvements, quoting one situation where engineers had to travel from Stoke-on-Trent!

CLlr Cobley specifically enquired as to the general condition of the Staythorpe Crossing site, the failure to replace the original street lighting, the future of the existing signal box and the theft from this building. We were requested by Network Rail to provide our complaints in writing so they could subsequently look into them. They did add that Staythorpe signal box is to be removed at some point in the future as an organisation from Bristol has purchased it for a heritage railway project.

Network Rail highlighted that in the event of crossing failures, it is illegal to proceed over the crossing if the red lights are flashing regardless of the position of the barriers. The proposal to increase the speed of trains between Newark & Nottingham is still under discussion.

The meeting closed with Network Rail requesting that attendees pass on their re-assurance that they are doing everything possible to improve these situations and to offer a better service in the future

The Parish Council requests that should any incidents or failures occur in the future that you notify the Parish Clerk at the earliest opportunity so that it can be logged, with information then being passed on to CLlr Saddington and Network Rail.

Sutton Manners Oak Tree

As you will see a query has been raised by Mr. John Hamby about the pollarding of the oak tree that stands in the grounds of the Sutton Manners School. This query was also passed on to the Parish Council affording us the opportunity to have the query and response in the same edition of the Plough. I personally have contacted Mr Hamby to talk to him about the situation and feel it appropriate to map out the events that led to the pollarding of the oak tree so that all are aware of the facts.

Like Mr Hamby, the PC were very shocked and disappointed by the degree of

the cutting back of the oak tree and have followed this up with Notts. County Council. Unfortunately, the Parish Council have no jurisdiction over arboricultural works, such matters being dealt with either by N&DC or, as in this case, NCC.

The PC were contacted in November 2020 by a resident who stated that some of the over hanging branches looked to be in poor condition and that some routine maintenance work may be required. This was raised at the PC meeting in December where it was agreed that the school should be contacted to inform them of the comments received. This was duly done via the Deputy Head of the school who said that they would inform NCC and request that the oak tree be inspected. The PC were informed that NCC had been contacted and planned to carry out an inspection.

When that inspection took place or who undertook it is not known. The next contact that the PC had was from Cllr Allen who informed other council members of the excessive pollarding. It was noted that the work was undertaken by Via working on behalf of NCC.

At the PC meeting in January the issue of the severe pollarding was discussed and it was decided to contact NCC for an explanation. This was duly done and we were informed that on inspection the oak tree was showing signs of disease hence severe pollarding was required. They did however assure the PC that the tree canopy would grow back in the future.

Future Meetings

The next Parish Council Meetings will take place on Tuesday 2nd March and Tuesday 13th April via video conference commencing at 7pm.

Members of the public are welcome to join the meetings and are invited to contact the clerk for further information.

Her contact details are

Jenny Cawkwell 07563 639379 aksparishclerk@outlook.com

The agenda for the meetings will be displayed on the village notice boards
and website AKSPC.org.uk

SNOWDROPS IN THE MONKS' GRAVEYARD AND KELHAM HALL



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



Kelham, Averham and Staythorpe are part of the Riverside Benefice which also includes North and South Muskham. At the moment, because all churches have had to close due to the pandemic, services and meetings are on-line, via ZOOM. As lockdown eases over the next few months, we may be able open up for services, but they will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

(Please note: North Muskham church is closed at the moment for roof repairs.)

A full list of services for March and Easter follows. If you'd like to join in any of these, please contact Rev'd Georgie on

georgie.hadley@yahoo.co.uk; 07811 393 920

Church Services and Meetings

March Services—all starting at 9.30am.

Government restrictions may apply to host church

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 7 March | Lord's Supper at St Michael and All Angel's, Averham |
| 14 March | Mothering Sunday: Morning Prayer at St Wilfrid's, South Muskham |
| 21 March | Lord's Supper at St Wilfrid's, Kelham |
| 28 March | Palm Sunday service at St Michael and All Angel's, Averham |



Thursday evenings, throughout March 6pm, Evening Prayer, by Zoom

Saturday 6 March 10am virtual coffee and cake

Services for Holy Week and Easter

- | | | |
|---|--------|--|
| 29 March | 6pm | Night Prayer (also known as Compline) by Zoom |
| 30 March | 6pm | Night Prayer (also known as Compline) by Zoom |
| 31 March | 6pm | Night Prayer (also known as Compline) by Zoom |
| 1 April Maundy Thursday at South Muskham | | |
| | 7pm | Foot washing and Tenebrae service—when the altar is stripped of adornments and gradually candles and lights are dimmed |
| 2 April Good Friday: | | |
| | 2pm | An Hour at the Cross by Zoom |
| 3 April Easter Saturday: | | |
| | 7pm | Vigil service of Light either at Kelham or by ZOOM |
| 4 April Easter Sunday: | | |
| | 7.30am | <i>Sunrise Service</i> either at Riverside at The Ferry, North Muskham or in the Churchyard at North Muskham |
| | 10am | at St Michael and All Angels, Averham |
| | | <i>Holy Communion and Renewal of Baptismal Vows</i> |





***New Beginnings
Rev'd Georgie's Message
to all in
Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe***

I always think the months of February and March are strange months! The new year, with its sense of a new start and forward movement, is well and truly over; spring has not yet begun to spring, although we see promising signs here and there. In my garden that promise comes with the brave little snow drops and noticing the sticky buds on the Horse Chestnut trees that I grew and planted; doing my bit for the environment. This year I have six oak trees to plant. I find myself thinking about what else I want to plant in the garden this year. These months I feel are months of new beginnings rather than January.

These months seem to be months of change. With blue skies and sunshine seemingly alternating with snow, wind and lashing rain, is a helpful reminder that life never moves in a straight line between fixed points!

Many by now are hoping for change, some have received their first dose of vaccine, but the road ahead has many twists and turns and we can be certain we will have some protection from it. I think we will be washing our hands, keeping our distance and wearing masks for quite a while yet.

I wonder what will the new beginning be like? How will we feel? What will we do? For some it will be tinged with fear and trepidation; for others excitement.

The day after I committed my life to Jesus and became a Christian, felt a bit like that, with so many questions. But it is like every new beginning it starts with the first step.

We are not alone. We will need each other to walk the path and to readjust our way of being to think differently. Our friends, family and communities will be very important as we move together and individually. Just like becoming a Christian.

Many of you were baptised and whether you knew it or not became part of God's family. It was a new beginning. Somewhere you may still have a certificate, a candle or even a book about it. Words were spoken on your behalf, you will have God parents who gave promises to God on your behalf.

Some of those words are for the people of God's family;

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these children/candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

Parents and God parents you said these words;

Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.

Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

We are reminded

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.

You speak for them today.

Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

After all those words we reply

With the help of God, we will.

The child/ candidate is signed with the sign of the cross and there are some powerful words spoken and prayed ;

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

The prayer

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Sadly Baptisms have been cancelled through COVID, but it's never too late to think of this new beginning. An Aunt of mine was baptised in her 80s !

Remembering the baptismal promises may be a good place to start in this time of new beginnings. It can give you a firm foundation to your first step on this new journey. Change the word you to me in the prayer.

Job, a character from the Old Testament and the subject of the Reflection that follows, had a life of ups and downs. It is a reminder to us that whatever challenges we face, and however those around us respond, God is always present with us.

Rev'd Georgie Hadley

email: georgie.hadley@yahoo.co.uk; 07811 393 920

OR find the Riverside Benefice on FACEBOOK

Bible Reading and Reflection from the Arthur Rank Centre

Bible reading: Book of Job, Chapter 6, Verses 1 to 13

Reflection: Poor Job! He has lost all his possessions, his family members have tragically died and he has been covered in sores and pain. Yet he struggles to stay good and upright in the face of desolation. The sentiment he proclaims and tries to hold on to is, "The Lord gives, the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21).

His wife, who has had enough of it all, is unsympathetic and tells him he's daft because he doesn't give way to cursing God in anger (Job 2:9). Poor Job! Then three 'friends' arrive, not that they bring any comfort. In his desolation Job curses the day of his birth (Job 3:1-26).

In response, the first friend, Eliphaz, shows an attitude that is so common (Job 4:1-5:27). The logic of his argument is:

1. If you are good then you will prosper, from which follows...
2. If you are prosperous then you have been good, from which follows
... If you are not prosperous, you have been bad!

- We read Job's response in this passage.
- How can this passage help us in our circumstances?
- What does it tell us about the Christian response to others, about our self-perception and attitudes, about redemption?
- All that has happened has shaken us. How can and how does faith help us?

We, perhaps, have a sense of not only isolating as individuals, but also being a nation in increasing isolation.

The way in which we feel that we have been drained may vary, as our energy is sapped in a variety of ways according to our circumstances, but the sense of running on empty is widespread. How do you feel this at present?

Yet Job, even in his drained state, even when God seems deaf to his pleas, continues to trust, even at his wit's end.

Prayer

Loving God,
you call us to be present with those who are in pain,
as you call others to be present with us in our pain.
As we continue to live through this experience of pandemic,
may we take comfort from Job's story,
knowing that you walk with us.
Amen.

Points to ponder.

As the UK COVID-19 death toll and infections continue to rise, we know that behind these numbers are individuals, families and communities – many of them the rural communities in which we work and minister – who are living through almost unbearable pain and grief.

Who in your community needs your compassionate presence today? What might that look like, given our current COVID restrictions?

But many of us are also grieving and in pain, and it's as important that we seek out the support that we need as it is that we extend it to others.

How might you find the compassionate presence you need today? Who could you phone, text or go for a walk with?

How important are these words from Hebrews 10:25

do not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another.

Holy Week at Genoa

By Oscar Wilde

I wandered through Scoglietto's far retreat,
The oranges on each o'erhanging spray
Burned as bright lamps of gold to shame the day;
Some startled bird with fluttering wings and fleet
Made snow of all the blossoms; at my feet
Like silver moons the pale narcissi lay:
And the curved waves that streaked the great green bay
Laughed i'the sun, and life seemed very sweet.
Outside the young boy-priest passed singing clear,
'Jesus the son of Mary has been slain,
O come and fill His sepulchre with flowers.'
Ah, God! Ah, God! those dear Hellenic hours
Had drowned all memory of Thy bitter pain,
The Cross, the Crown, the Soldiers and the Spear.

Source: Public Domain Poetry <https://www.public-domain-poetry.com/>

Averham and Kelham Church News

Very little news this month as the churches have been physically closed, although spiritually open!

Services still continue on line and are proving very popular. Hopefully we will be able to open the church doors again very soon as we all hope to be able to safely open up our lives again.

If you would like to give a zoom service a try drop an email to Rev.

Georgie and she will forward the link. georgie.hadley@yahoo.co.uk;

07811 393 920

At Averham, the PCC is still awaiting a progress update for the work to begin for the new path and lighting project. Hopefully it will all be done for the first wedding of the year in July. We live in hope.



And everyone at St Michael and All Angels would like to thank Jo Ferguson for the wonderful arrangement for the church for Lent. We are so fortunate in the village to have friends and neighbours who give of their time to celebrate the church festivals.

Meanwhile, at Kelham, we're trying to 'go green', so if you visit the churchyard to put flowers on a grave, can you please put dead flowers and unwanted greenery in the compost clamps on the south side of the church.

At least the snowdrops and aconites give us hope of better things to come.



**Philip Staniforth
and Jenny
Quickmire**

Saints Days and Festivals in March

With Easter falling in early April this year, March is dominated by the season of Lent. But there are plenty of other festivals and commemorations during this month.

1st March: St David's Day, time for daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!



2nd March: St. Chad, the recycled bishop

Chad should be the patron saint of any modern bishop whose consecration is questioned by another bishop. Chad was consecrated a bishop, then deposed – and then re-consecrated! When Chad died in about 672AD, he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th century and believed to be Chad's, are in the Roman Catholic cathedral in Birmingham.

8th March: Woodbine Willie, bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War - the Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front. He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."



14th March: Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods—our human mothers—all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday'—as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

17th March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well ... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.



Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

20th March: Cuthbert, beloved monk and bishop of Lindisfarne

Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (c 634-87) has long been northern England's favourite saint. It is easy to see why: Cuthbert was holy, humble, peaceable, prayerful, faithful in friendship, winsome, and really kind.



21st March: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury & Reformation Martyr

Born in Nottingham in 1489 [actually in Aslockton], Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. If you have ever been caught up in a great event at work, which has gone on to change your own life, then Thomas Cranmer is the saint for you. He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome.

30th March: John Climacus and his ladder to Paradise

Is there something down at, say, B&Q, which reminds your friends of you? John Climacus (d.649) had a thing about ladders. He was a monk in Palestine who was only seen out at the weekends (at church, not B&Q); during the week he prayed and wrote in solitude. He wrote *The Ladder to Paradise*, a treatise of spiritual encouragement to other monks. This gave him his name 'Climacus' (= ladder), and also led to him being chosen as abbot of Sinai when he was 70. John Climacus had a helpful picture of the spiritual life: he saw it as a ladder up which the believer slowly climbed to heaven, with God's help.



Please support Kelham and Averham Churches

We are seeing signs of spring. This gives us hope for the future, we need to hold firmly onto the signs of hope. We hope to meet you all back in church soon. Our church buildings have been a sign of hope for generations. We need to enable them to be signs of hope for the future and we will all need to be involved with that.



Averham Church

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<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/>

* * * * *

The Churches

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Treasurer: 07889 486260 (Steve Emeny)

Averham: Church Warden, (Vacant),

Treasurer: 01636 672640 (Hilary Snell)

Parochial Church Council: Secretary: 01636 816343 (Carole Binks)

* * * * *

AKS Parish Council: website <http://www.akspc.org.uk/community/averham-kelham-and-staythorpe-parish-council-15064/home/>

Chairman: Andy Fereday, 0775 2265081; cllrfereday@gmail.com

Clerk: Jenny Cawkwell; 07563 639379; aksparishclerk@outlook.com

* * * * *

Gardening Club: Nigel Britton; 01636 700023 or 01636 812886

Walker's Group: Debs and Carla; 07974 957 684 or debs@hens-at-home.co.uk

Bell Ringers: Martin Cooper; 07810 658 627 or mlcooper2@gmail.com

Women's Institute: Angela Moore (President) angela@oranalysts.com
or Jenny Quickmire (Meetings Secretary) headbearsenior@gmail.com

* * * * *

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Staythorpe Power Station: Staythorpe@rwe.com; 01636 596900

Lathams' Farms: Steven Gill 07966 382781; Stuart Perkins 07818 171689

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