

DRC News

AUTUMN/WINTER 2022

Offering Spiritual and Pastoral Support to the Rural and Agricultural Community



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Contact DRC on 07710 088972

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"Hello" from Alan Griggs, Lead Agricultural Chaplain



On my travels as an agricultural chaplain and meeting farming families, I am hearing again and again, the frustration that farmers are feeling like 'public enemy number one'. Many farmers remind me that in the not-too-distant past, they were respected and valued for what they do. So, why do farmers feel like this is changing in recent years? Why are farmers feeling so undervalued when they battle on in all weathers and adapt to increasing costs and difficult market conditions to make sure the supermarket shelves are full, and food is available at the click of a button these days? That said, recent global events, and a changing climate, are certainly putting food security front and centre, and hopefully, so too will the crucial role that farmers play in food production alongside their care for the land.

In response, I find myself thinking about the need for us to listen to different perspectives and learn about our differences. When we look more closely at the life of Jesus Christ in the gospels, we read about someone in dialogue with people from all walks of life. Jesus listened to different points of view, yet, Jesus was always willing to challenge injustice and oppression, and was certainly not willing to be pigeon holed by any particular group.

The agricultural community in Derbyshire is incredibly varied, complex, and diverse. How can I fit all our farmers into general terms or pigeon hole them, or squeeze them into rigid headlines that hide the complex realities of life? There must be a place for farmers that hold to more traditional methods as well as new regenerative ways of farming. There must be a place for arable, dairy, beef and sheep farmers and there must be a place for diverse views and opinions within agriculture and between the agricultural community and the world beyond farming. Whatever you do in the agricultural community, the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy is here to confidentially listen when the tension builds and the going gets tough.

One good news story that I would like to share with you, and you can read all about it in the magazine, is when the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy welcomed Rev'd Dr Anne Van Gend to Derbyshire in July from the Diocese of Dunedin in New Zealand's South Island. Anne is looking to roll out a Rural Chaplaincy in New Zealand and came to our beautiful county to look at what we do and how we do it. It was quickly apparent that the issues facing farmers in New Zealand are very similar. I also know that Anne was overwhelmed with the hospitality of our Derbyshire farming community. Hospitality is such an important practice - to welcome and create space to share different ideas and be willing to learn and see others' points of view.

There are many times when Jesus took the time to sit, eat, and talk with people

who were different, marginalised, or outcast by the community. Perhaps, as we go about our business, we might take some time to catch up with someone who we have not seen or spoken to for some time, or even someone we might normally avoid and shares different views!

Every blessing to all in our Derbyshire agricultural community this harvest and the coming Christmas season.

Introducing Rev'd Pete Evens, DRC's new Agricultural Chaplain

Following Jesus has been the great adventure of my life. The story is punctuated by moments when God seemed to point me in a new direction. One such moment was in Wirksworth in 2018. With retirement on the horizon, my wife Michal and I had begun to think 'we could live around here'. Then, in St Mary's Church, Michal handed me a DRC leaflet, and said, 'Here's your next job, Pete.' Agricultural chaplaincy seemed to fit with several chapters of my story so far. So began contact with Alan to see if that moment in Wirksworth might turn into the next chapter of the adventure.



On the UK's hottest day yet, we packed up our home in Sandhurst, and set out for new pastures in Allestree, just 15 minutes drive from our daughter and her family, and somewhat closer to our son and his wife in Glasgow. A week later, I joined the DRC team at their 'showcase day' in Tissington.

Naturally, lots of people ask, 'What did you do before?' Well...

- I set out to be a dairy farmer, with 12 months on an Essex farm (120 Friesians, 6 x 12 herringbone) prior to an agriculture degree at Reading;
- In my 20s, I drove PSV and HGV, ventured into builders' merchanting and practical building;
- Through my 30s, following a sense of God's direction led me to work for a drug and alcohol rehab;
- Emotional exhaustion and personal grief took me back into building during my 40s, probably the most formative time of my life, though it seemed like a wilderness;
- To my surprise, by my 50s I was prepared to work with people again, training as a Baptist minister and pastoring a small congregation for nearly 10 years.

Now that I'm 'put out to pasture', I'm hoping some of my experiences of life might overlap with your own, and maybe even offer some encouragement as you try to make sense of how your own life has turned out. I look forward to meeting many of you and hearing your stories.

Derbyshire Farmers' Harvest Service

2.30 pm Sunday 16th October 2022

at Bakewell Livestock Market

Agricultural Way, Bakewell, DE45 1AH

(free parking)

We welcome Rev'd Canon Alan Robson

Alan is Agricultural Chaplain in Lincolnshire, founding member of the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network and a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies in England

Derbyshire Poet Philip Holland

Bel Canto & St Anne's Church Choir from Baslow

All Welcome

Supporting farming's
oldest & largest

charity & the work of
the Lincolnshire Rural
Chaplaincy



Parts of the service will also be recorded and can be viewed after the event on the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy YouTube Channel or via the DRC's website:

www.derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk



In partnership with:



**Contact Rev'd Alan Griggs on 07710 088972 for more details
or email: alan@derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk**

From the Farm and Fields

Following the positive responses to the article on lambing in the the last DRC newsletter, in this edition, we focus on our beef cattle farmers. We cannot capture every breed, but we hope you enjoy these comments from farmers across Derbyshire.

From the Derbyshire Dales

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

South Devons

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

My uncle said why not try them so we had some cows AI'd. The heifers were very quiet so we bought a bull then another, etc.

3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

Not thought about it, but something that would sooner walk than run and didn't like corn!

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

Iceman (Icy) - always had time for a scratch behind the shoulder, winter or summer!



From the High Peak

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

South Devons

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

We used to keep Blue Albions but my dad had always fancied the Devons so we changed over. I wasn't very keen at first but they've grown on me & we like the fact they are very docile.

3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

Sorry, I haven't got a second choice!

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

Chatsworth Simon because he was a very elegant looking bull!



From the Derbyshire Dales

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

Belted Galloway

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

We really just stumbled across them but in my opinion the best thing is the quality of the meat. I'm biased I know, but I think it's better than anything else!

3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

I've always liked Herefords so that would be my second choice.

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

We deliberately don't give them names!



From the Amber Valley

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

Pedigree Limousins and some Pure Limousins.

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

I like the look and colour and being able to keep them consistent in shape conformation for the good quality meat for the outlet we produce for.



3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

I would probably go for the Shorthorn.

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

My first pedigree cow was called Nellie. She stayed in my herd until she was 19 years old, and I still have many of her progeny in the herd.

From South Derbyshire

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

Simmentals and Simmental crosses

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

I chose the breed as it is a excellent beef breed with good mothering ability and good growth rates.

3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

If I didn't keep this breed, I would keep Red Aberdeen Angus.

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

I purchased a bull and his name was 'Profitabull' and he lived up to his name as he gave us all male triplets.



From the Derbyshire Dales

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

Blonde d'Aquitaine

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

I suppose we chose Blondes by accident really - it's a long story that started at Carlisle market one day many years ago! We keep them because they are not as wild as some other continental breeds.

3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

Salers

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

Polly - she was the first Blonde I bought



From the Derbyshire/Staffordshire Border

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

Aberdeen Angus

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

Because they're relatively easy; they mainly calve themselves, the calves get up and suck, and you don't have to dehorn them, they make good prices at market and look smart in all black.



3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

Black Limousin

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

Millie

From South Derbyshire

1. What breed of cattle do you keep?

Longhorn

2. What made you choose that breed and what is the best thing about keeping that breed in your opinion?

There are so many positives of the Longhorn breed – they are beautiful, docile animals and produce sought after tender, marbled beef with great customer feedback. The Longhorn crosses well with the Simmental breed and the progeny sell well as calves.

3. If you didn't keep your chosen breed what would be your second choice?

Simmental. It's well boned and has great growth rates.

4. What is or was the name of your favourite beast (pedigree name or day-to-day name) and why were/are they your favourite?

There are many favourites, including Herbertsherd Isaac (pictured).



The Life and Times of Clifford and Enid Prince

I was born at Lower House Farm in Mackworth in 1935. My Father lost my mother when I was eight and I had a sister and brother, Margaret & Harold and I went to a local school until I was eight before moving to the Diocesan school in Derby where one wrong move and it was two strokes of the cane on the hand!



I was a choral singer in the choir with Tom Bond the organist and Choir Master of 78 years for Mackworth Church. My Father, John, was church warden for 42 years. I also played football for the local team. I left school at the age of 15 and joined Harold on the farm. A mixed farm with dairy and sheep, growing corn and potatoes on the land that is now built on in Radbourne Lane.

Here is a photo at the Brailsford Ploughing Match when I was 11 years old winning the judging of young stock in the under 25s.



Here is a photo of hay carting in 1945 with Arthur Gregory on the load, Harry Brown on the left who worked for dad for 51 years and Tom Pounds.



Here I am in the Derby Young Farmers competition with a black and white calf about 1952.

I was always having a go at competitions at Eric Foster's singling sugar beet in Melbourne and sheep shearing at Charlie Prince's from New Inns farm with Bill Yates from Cockshut Hill Farm in Quarndon, and I did my first stock judging with the Archers in Marston on Dove in 1949 with pedigree Friesian cattle.

Derby young farmers were very lucky to have many stock farmers in the area such as Ham Yates from Champion Farm in Quarndon with their award-winning shorthorns and Owen Taylor in Old Brainsley, Nottinghamshire, with Friesian and Aberdeen Angus. Their knowledge was outstanding.



Here I am at the Lancashire Show with the winning team in 1959. From left to right we have the President of the show, David Thorpe (sheep), Isabel Taylor (Dairy), Ian Wildgoose (Pigs) and myself (Beef).

In the same year I met Enid, my wife, at a Young Farmers dance in the old assembly rooms in Derby. Enid was the daughter of Ted and Mavis Lawton of Brook Farm in Bradley. If I took Enid out, her mum liked her to be back by 10.15pm! We were married in Bradley Church on the 14th June 1962. We have a son Stephen and three daughters - Caroline, Ellen, and Rachel.



We set up home at Dovecliffe Farm, Rocester in Staffordshire, buying 94 acres with two cottages on 11th April 1962. There was no electricity and the milking was done by station engine. We purchased 14 newly calved heifers for £39 per head from Frank Morley in Kedleston. Our local market was of course Uttoxeter.

Still being involved in Young Farmers to judge at many stocksman of the year events as I specialised in breeding ewes and butchers lambs, judging at the Atkins in Barrow on Trent Beef and Dairy calf competitions.



Here is a photo of myself winning the senior award and my son Stephen winning the junior award at the Ashbourne Farmers stock judging competition with Anne Ede in 1975.

I have been chairman of the Brailsford Ploughing Match in 2000 and 2001, and sheep steward at the Ashbourne Show until I retired last year in 2021, and president of the Blore Sheep Dog trials in 2011.

Here I am with Enid who is judging the best sheep dog.

I have been very fortunate and thankful for all the people that I have met over the years. I have made many lifelong friends. I have enjoyed my years in young farmers and have loved farming and being married to Enid now for over 60 happy years.



Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy Away Day at Tissington



The chaplaincy team, joined by a number of guests on a glorious summer's day at the end of July, spent a day at Tissington Methodist Chapel reflecting on the work of the DRC and looking to the future. The setting was wonderful, surrounded by the beautiful countryside with a variety of stock in the fields.



The day started and ended in prayer, giving thanks to God for all His goodness to us. Guests included some farmers and others who were interested to find out more about the work of DRC. Whilst we were based in the lovely chapel, we spent time outside in the sunshine for our breaks and lunch and we also enjoyed a very informative hour walking across some of the adjoining fields hosted by the farmers Chris and Barbara Carr. The group of around 25 of us stopped frequently to discuss a range of current farming issues, with the farmers in the group offering very helpful contributions, giving us all plenty to consider.

Overall, everyone agreed that it was a very enjoyable and helpful day, with the beautiful setting and good company giving us all plenty to be thankful for.



Energy - A Rocky Road Ahead **by Andrew Critchlow** **Derbyshire NFU County Adviser**



Spiralling energy costs are hitting everyone regardless of what forms are used and hitting both domestic and business users

including farms. Focusing on electricity, as that is the one energy everyone uses, quoted tariffs have risen around four-fold in the year, primarily driven by the hike in gas prices from around 37p/therm in early 2021 to a peak of nearly 540p/therm in March and has wildly fluctuated around the 400p/therm mark since then. A therm is 100 cubic feet of natural gas.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing and I'm old enough to remember the 'dash for gas' by the electricity generating companies in the 1990s. Gas was seen as cleaner and cheaper than coal and we had plenty of it in the North Sea and other offshore sites. It is true we are not dependant on Russia, unlike many EU countries, but we do now rely on imports from Norway by undersea pipes and ships of liquified natural gas (LNG) from various locations around the world. LNG now makes up 9% of UK gas needs. As Putin turns off the Russian gas tap, it is not hard to see why gas costs have rocketed as countries scramble for these LNG supplies.

Whether we will have enough gas for the winter for both domestic and industrial use will depend largely on how harsh the winter is. Storage is the issue. It was deemed a few years ago, more cost effective to pipe in supplies rather than upgrade the massive underground storage facilities on the east coast. Hindsight again!

What price people are actually paying now and in the short to medium term for electricity depends on the kind of contract: if it was fixed or not and if fixed, when that expires. For those who took out a 3 year fixed contract before the price hike and have a year or so left, are the lucky ones - or they had very good foresight! For those who have renewed or about to renew their contract the prices make grim reading. Of the main agricultural sectors in Derbyshire, dairy is the largest consumer of electricity followed by some pig and poultry units. Despite the rise in farmgate prices of milk, for some producers, this highest rate of increase of any input, steeper than fertilizer, will be the final straw and they will choose to exit the industry.

At the time of writing, the only Government help offered for electricity costs has been the Energy Bills Support Scheme, where domestic customers will receive £400 support via their electricity provider. The problem for many farms is that the house and farm share the same meter and are classed as business.

The NFU has been raising this with ministers and Government departments to try and seek a solution. Even if one is found, the support does not touch the sides for those such as dairy farmers who use a significant amount of electricity.

Solar panels are helping some farms to reduce their electricity bills, although on a dairy farm the maximum power is used at milking times and they don't coincide with maximum solar production. However, technology such as using ice builders to cool the milk and on a few farms, battery storage, further savings can be made.

For many livestock farms, the majority of energy is used in the farmhouse, often in keeping it warm. Old drafty farmhouses in which loft insulation makes little difference when the curtains flap and the carpets lift when the wind blows. There is a lot of talk for the need to retrofit insulation to old houses. Easier said than done, as it's very disruptive, costly and if a listed property getting permission to change windows and doors or insulate the inside of the external walls is not always easy.

Solutions will have to be found - and will be found - to these energy problems, but the road will be bumpy to say the least.



The energy sector is going through unprecedented uncertainty and volatility, making it extremely difficult to know what to do when contracts need renewing or find ways to reduce energy bills. You may well know about Farmers Energy Ltd, run by Edward Holland. Edward is regularly in Bakewell Livestock Market every Monday and is always on hand to talk to the farming and rural community and in normal times, Edward has been able to offer significant savings to farm businesses. However, with energy prices at 3 to 4 times more expensive compared to this time last year, there are no easy solutions to save money on bills. That said, Edward is very happy to offer a second opinion if you are exploring options, provide a comparative quote, or simply offer some helpful advice.

**You can contact him by calling: 01298 74917 or 07879 418372
or email: info@farmersenergy.co.uk**



FREE - The Farmart Magazine

As well as picking up a copy from the dispenser at Bakewell Market, did you know you can get a copy of The Farmart magazine posted direct to your farm?

It's a handy directory of agricultural suppliers & services, as well as being a source of information about what's occurring in the rural community.

Just contact The Farmart office on 01625 529900 or email@thefarmart.co.uk with your name & address and you'll be added to the free postal mailing list.

Contact DRC on 07710 088972

Interview with James Bunting - farmer, butcher & Chair of Bakewell Young Farmers Club by Alison Fletcher, Associate Agricultural Chaplain

Alison: *Tell us a little bit about yourself - how old you are, where you live and where you went to school / college*

James: I'm 21 and I live at Stanedger Grange in Newhaven with my family. I went to Lady Manners School in Bakewell. After leaving school, I started an apprenticeship in butchery managed by Crosby Management Training under the umbrella of Dudley College.

However, I received all my training, skills and knowledge under the close supervision of Master Butcher Michael Shirt who is a very respected member of the retail butchery industry, and who I share the privilege of working with on a daily basis.

Alison: *You are both a farmer and a butcher - how does that work out on a day to day basis?*

James: Each day starts the same with feeding and checking round the stock, but from 0800 on Wednesdays through to Saturday and throughout the day, I'm in the butchery preparing and also serving in the shop. On a Monday, I get to leave the site and I work at an abattoir about half an hour away as I am training to be a slaughterman.

Alison: *What livestock do you keep and are they all for your butchery business?*

James: Yes, everything will go through the butchery. So we have Belted Galloway cattle, also we have a flock of Suffolk mule that we cross to the Texel which provide lambs for the butchery, and for the past few years, all the lambs have gone through the shop. Then for Christmas we rear our own bronze turkeys which get sold through the shop.

Alison: *You are also chair of Bakewell Young Farmers Club. How long have you done that for? Tell us a bit about what it involves.*

James: I became the Chair back in 2020. Together with the Secretary, it's my job to arrange the programme and we use social media to keep in touch with the members and advertise what's going on and when. I also attend the County meetings to represent our group. There are about 30 members in our YFC. YFC's run from age 10-28 but in our Bakewell club there are many more younger members and only a couple older than me. That's just how it is right now. Lots of the members are pretty keen, and it's my job to make sure we get as many people involved as possible. Back in May, there was a one day County rally held in Earl Sterndale with a wide variety of activities, and everyone who wanted to, took part in one of the activities that day. Things like stock judging, cookery competition, flower arranging, various team games and lots more. It's social so people make new friends as well as learning new skills.



Alison: *If you ever get any time off to relax what's your favourite hobby ?*

James: Walking - I don't get to do that much but I'd like to do more. I enjoyed doing the Three Peaks a while ago so maybe I'll get chance to do some other mountains before too long!

Stanedge Grange Butchery

open Thursday, Friday and Saturday

10 am - 6 pm

01298 84811

stanedgegrangebutchery.co.uk



Order Cards in Support of the DRC

Our local artist, Lesley Griggs (Alan's mum) has produced some beautiful paintings from Derbyshire landscapes which have been made into cards and are available to buy in support of the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy.



Evening Walk



Bradbourne Brook



Poppy Meadow



Wildflower Meadow



Fields near Belper



Milldale

The cards are A6 in size (4" x 6"), produced on FSC card, blank inside, and come with envelopes made of 100% recycled paper. The cards are available for a suggested donation of £1.50 for a single card or a set of each design at £6.50. The costs include postage and all the proceeds goes towards supporting the DRC.

If you would like to order any of the cards, contact Louise on 07593 380311 or email: louise@derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk

White Peak Walls by Philip Holland

See the very miles and miles of them!

"Sithee at 'em, stretchin' away o'er th' bonks an' th' grairnd!"

Like strong veins on the back of old, work-hardened hands, stitching the fields and hills together in lengths of living sinew, delineating who farmed where, how far, what, and why.

The same blunt muscles of those who first crafted these stones into complicated bastions of enclosure had probably already dug their initial, constituent parts somewhere near.

Men who threw freshly-quarried, jumbled limestone lumps into carts, clicking their tongues at patient horses hauling on leather straps, spinning spokes and rims, creaking shafts and felloes.

Men and beasts still sweating from all the previous, sullen loads.

Then, where rack of eye had ascertained direction, a shallow trench marked out and lightly dug, tipped the piles of all-shaped sizes close by. They set about their skill; just eyes, touch and air to hold, defying gravity.

After sturdy '*footin' ston*' had been planted and aligned, then next came the '*face ston*' rising either side, and so on, in a stark vertical mosaic. Each stone trapping two below, and tight up against their neighbour. All making a reasoned, upright, linear sieve of naturally-blending masonry.

"Wunce tha's picked up a ston', th' on'y place tha iver puts eet dairn is on th' wo.Th' trick is eyein' 'em up fust, an' pickin' up th' raight ston!"

Each roughly-level outer courses then filled in with '*middlin's*'; those small, less-favoured, less-dynamic characters. Yet still vital;

"Tha con wo' wi'airt big ston, bu' tha conna wo' wi'airt little uns!"
So, to novices: "*O' stons fit on sumwheer! Anythin' left, tha's gyet t' eet!"*

Just like people, every stone fits somewhere in its life, all must play their part; with walls, there is no such thing as waste.

Occasionally, random '*throughs*' were built in; those that tie across courses, flat bulwarks bridging, like some crouched, tight-linking scrummage.

Never forgetting that very slight leaning towards the centre; on both sides. A planned '*batter*', narrowing with height, a calculated bracing for the whistling wind of seasons. Thence on and up to full and proper height.

(Contd.)

Next came the battlement of 'copers'; like the head of a wise man to the obedient body below; crowning all together in a level barrier. Like a line of domed helmets above stacked shields of defence, but not war.

There is a strange kind of music in the noise when stones are placed aright in those invisible plans passed down through generations; a single 'clack' of sound that only those who hear, and recognize it, knows.

"Awl stons fit gyether. Theeyn o' gyet thur place. Thee'll tell yer."

Sometimes, there's a faint, particular smell which often comes from limestone when it's being walled. A brief, musky smell, which only lasts a second or two, when two stones crack together and chip.

The scientist will probably know what it is, but he will hardly ever smell it. He only looks, and analyses, and meddles with minerals.

Walling isn't a science, it's an art.

A simple architecture painted slowly on the canvas of landscape.

"What is it you do?" comes the stranger's baffled question.

"A'm a wo'er."

"And...what does a... 'wo'er' do?"

"Well,.. a wo'er wo's wo's."

"But what do you use?"

"Jus' dry ston."

"What? No mortar? concrete? gravel? no trowel? no hammer?"

"Ee nay! A gud wo'er dusna neyd no 'ammer! On'y ston."

"What holds them up?"

"Sweat n' patience."

So no clumsy hammer, no man-made concrete, no ratioed mortar, no scaffolding, no plans; a good waller does not need such encumbrances.

"Wo'ston's natchrul, like a mon's 'ands. 'Ammers ruin wo's, jus' like mortar an' corncrate duz. Thurs no neyd for ayther!"

And so, finally, the very last few small stones, 'pinnin' th' copers', and 'closin' off' the odd small hole here and there. For noble artistry's sake.

Walls are made with time; time is made with walls.

They live. They settle a little.

Patiently waiting for sheltering livestock, the siege of sun and storm, and, eventually, some unborn hands to repair them,....or build their own.

"Sithee at 'em! Gud wo's mek gud neybers."

'Cutting Edge' Vintage Farming Equipment!

We have found some old farming equipment hidden away in a dusty old shed that we would like to share with you. Many of the items may bring back memories of farming days gone by, or trigger some thoughts around the way farming is continually developing, changing and adapting. At the end of this article we have also included a short picture quiz of farming tools (new and old) too, and the answers can be found further on in the magazine.

See what you can identify.....



A pre 1934 18 gallon milk churn which changed to a 10 gallon churn with a mushroom lid

A kitchen flour maker by Bamford's machinery. Something that only wealthy households could have afforded at the time



A screw-down cheese press

A milk bottler



A milk bottle topper



A sack hoist (not a sack barrow) for elevating sacks to the correct height so that the men did not need to bend down



A fiddle



A grain cleaner
(turn of the 19th Century)



A tip cart able
to take some
muck out to
the field as
well as extend
for more
space for
carting hay



Field Marshall tractor

Can you guess what these 11 items are?



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

See how well you did by looking at the answers
further on in the magazine

The Highs and Lows of being a Farm Vet by Eleanor Tyler, Derbyshire Farm Vets



Currently one of the overriding topics of the veterinary community is the corporate takeover of the industry and how this has changed the service on offer. I am incredibly lucky to be working for an independent company who truly values both their staff and the farmers. This allows me and the other vets to provide a wonderfully personal and professional service to our farmers and build relationships with them. A definite bonus on a cold day when you are invited in for tea and a bacon sandwich!

Farming is, without a doubt, a lifestyle with extreme highs and lows thrown in just as you think you have everything under control! As the vet, we feel those ups and downs with you. I have had a few sobs once back in the safety of my car. The hardest of these visits are always those that involve the loss of animals, whether it is the dreaded bovine TB or your favourite cow that you have spent days nursing. This is closely followed by the frustration when advice isn't followed and an animal suffers as a consequence. We know we aren't always right (my husband might disagree) but we are trying our best.

Sadly, as a profession, the suicide rate is the highest by a considerable margin. We all care a huge amount about the animals (and people) under our care and sometimes the feeling of failure when outcomes aren't as expected, is too much for some. I know of several vets that have ended their own life, so please remember to BE KIND.

Thankfully the highs outweigh the lows. Lambing and calving season may leave us all exhausted with late nights and early mornings, but new life never fails to make me smile.

As a dairy focused farm vet, I see my clients on a very regular basis. This allows me to put into place disease prevention protocols which provide huge levels of satisfaction to me. To ensure the animals on that farm have the lowest level of risk of becoming sick, is why I do (and love) my job. I see a sick animal as a failure, but that just might be the perfectionist in me!

Happy healthy cows and sheep is truly what makes us happy, but the sense of pride when an animal you have treated goes on to do 100,000 litres, or one of your dairy farms wins Tesco dairy farmer of the year after years of incredibly hard work, is like nothing else!

**Common End Farm
Bradley, Ashbourne
DE6 1PL**



01335 368932

Contact DRC on 07710 088972

Setting up a Rural Chaplaincy in New Zealand by Rev'd Dr Anne Van Gend, Mission Enabler from the Diocese of Dunedin



About a year ago in Dunedin Diocese near the bottom of the world, a small group of us set out to discover how the church might be able to usefully serve and work with our rural population. As we pulled together feedback, one of us commented, "This looks like a kind of chaplaincy position might work best. I wonder if there's such a thing as Rural Chaplaincy?" We may have been in danger of reinventing the wheel, but fortunately we live in a time of Google. A little online exploring brought up Derbyshire and what looked like a well-established Rural Chaplaincy programme, and a few more types of the keys sent an email to someone called Alan Griggs who seemed to have something to do with it. As you all know, we struck gold in Alan! Emails, resources and a Zoom conversation followed, and eventually I convinced my Bishop that me visiting the Chaplaincy Team in Derbyshire would be a great step forward in our own quest to get Rural Chaplaincy established here.

Last month then, I crossed the world and ended up in your beautiful county. It was so familiar, and yet so different. TB is reduced through the control of Possum's rather than Badgers and so far we do not have foot and mouth disease. In New Zealand, farming families consider themselves to have deep roots in the land if they've been there for 2 generations. I met people in Derbyshire whose family farms had been in the family for more generations than they could say. Most of our farms from which people can make a living are necessarily bigger than the ones I visited with you all, with the result that neighbours are further away and the isolation which is a danger for any farmer is perhaps even worse here. Apparently you have, on average, 405 people per square km, we have 3.29!

But the similarities are also strong. In both your country and mine I met farmers who – contrary to the popular belief of some city people - care deeply, thoughtfully and carefully for the land and their stock; who are (as farmers here say), the "real Greenies" in that they understand how the land works best and are invested in protecting it. In both countries farmers are struggling with the extra legislations being put on them by governments, with uncertain weather and uncertain markets, with rising electricity prices and many other pressures. In both countries farmers who may have little or no opportunity to 'get to church' still sense God through their connection to the land, the seasons, their family and community. And in both, I hope, Rural Chaplaincy has real value.

I am so grateful to those of you who let me visit and question you, and those (especially Alan) who took time out to organise and guide me. Thank you all.

Another new member of the DRC Team - Chris Morris

Retired farmer and Genus Breeding Adviser for the East Midlands, the chaplaincy welcomes Chris as a volunteer with their farmer support team.

Chris is currently Chair of the Farming Life Centre at Bakewell, and like the Chaplaincy, this serves the needs of the rural community in many ways and the two dovetail well together.

Chris says that "it is now a privilege to join the farmer support team of the Agricultural Chaplaincy, and I hope that I can give something back to the lovely people in an industry that has given me so much."



**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE DERBYSHIRE RURAL CHAPLAINCY TEAM
FOR A SHORT SERVICE OF READINGS AND PRAYERS**

STARTS AT 1000 HOURS ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY MARKET DAYS:

3rd October, 7th November, 5th December, 9th January, 6th February

**Main conference room at the ABC, Bakewell
Tea & Coffee**

Providing spiritual and pastoral support to the agricultural community

07710 088972

www.derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk

Contact DRC on 07710 088972



Derbyshire Farmers' Carol Service

2.30 pm Sunday 4th December 2022

at Bakewell Livestock Market

Agricultural Way, Bakewell, DE45 1AH

(free parking)

Derbyshire Poet Philip Holland

Youlgrave Silver Band

& Revd Alan Griggs (Lead Agricultural Chaplain)

will be sharing a reflection

Everyone is welcome

Parts of the service will also be recorded and can be
viewed after the event on the Derbyshire Rural
Chaplaincy YouTube Channel or via the
DRC's website:

www.derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk



**Contact Rev'd Alan Griggs on 07710 088972 for more details
or email alan@derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk**





Thank you to the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund for providing the funding for this issue of the DRC News



Order your own copy of the The DRC News

Autumn/Winter & Spring/Summer

If you don't already receive a copy of the DRC News directly to your farm or home, or you know someone else who would like to receive a copy, we would be delighted to send it out by post free of charge or via email. Just let Louise, the DRC administrator know.

Email: louise@derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk

Tel: 07593 380311

By post: Louise Latham, Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy,
Kiosk 10, The Agricultural Business Centre,
Agricultural Way, Bakewell, DE45 1AH

The DRC also produce reflections for Harvest, Christmas, Plough Sunday, Easter and Rogation Sunday

If you would like to receive a copy of these by email, let Louise know.

Please note that all views expressed in the DRC News and Reflections are held solely by each contributor

Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy Privacy Notice



We store your personal data to:

- Contact you with news and information about our rural chaplaincy work
- Contact you and provide help where you have requested assistance from the Rural Chaplaincy or where you have agreed to be referred to us from another agency or service.
- Process any application made by you, or on your behalf, to the Chaplaincy Welfare Fund.

The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy is hosted by 'Chaplaincy Derbyshire' an independent organisation and registered charity. Charity Number 1172198.

'Chaplaincy Derbyshire' takes your privacy seriously.

If you would like to be removed from the Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy mailing list or you would like to read our privacy policy, please contact us by:

Telephone on: 07710 088972

Email: alan@derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk

Website: www.derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk

Writing to: Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy, Kiosk 10, The Agricultural Business Centre,
Agricultural Way, Bakewell, DE45 1AH.

Contact DRC on 07710 088972

How well did you do in the quiz?



1: A post knocker (also known as a 'person killer' or killer of many persons!)



2: Wire tensioner (or castrator!)



3: Grease lightning gun!



4: Skovern (spud or root crop fork). The bobbles on the end of the tines are to stop the fork spiking the spuds.



5: Hole bore for fixing hinges in gate posts



6: Vacuum pump for an old-style cow shed airline milking system using milk units



7: Saw horse for use with a chainsaw



8: 20 egg incubator (and bonus point for humidity unit on the right!)



9: A pulsator for an Alfa Laval Milk Unit



10: Burdizzo bloodless castrator



11: Filter dish for the top of a churn

Helpful Contact Numbers for Advice & Support

Struggling and not sure where to turn?



- We understand the pressures you face
- Don't face them alone
- **Freephone Helpline:**
- **0808 281 9490**



Through just one phone call, farmers in need can access free, impartial and confidential support from all four charities:

RABI, Addington Fund, FCN, and Forage Aid.

Call 03000 111 999

Helpline (operated by FCN) open 7am-11pm every day of the year



Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. We're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call FREE from any phone on 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org



Suicide Bereavement Care offering support to those in suicide crisis.

tomorrow@harmless.org.uk

01246 541935

www.tomorrowproject.org.uk



Derwent Rural Counselling Service

0800 047 6861

email: admin@dracs.org.uk

or visit www.dracs.org.uk

Rural Safety & Crime Prevention

Derbyshire Constabulary takes the approach that a rural crime is a crime that takes place in a rural location and includes:

- Farm and agricultural related crime: theft of, or damage to plant vehicles, equipment or livestock
- Wildlife and environmental related crime: animal cruelty, poaching, badger baiting, killing or taking of wild birds or damage of protected habitats
- Heritage related crime: theft, damage or removal of articles from historic sites.

The direct contact for the Rural Crime Team is:

DRCT@Derbyshire.Police.UK or

via the Derbyshire Rural Crime Team Facebook page or Messenger

www.derbyshire.police.uk/ContactUs

Please note the email address and Facebook page are not monitored 24/7 and therefore should not be used for crime reporting

Emergency: 999 Non-emergency: 101

Contact DRC on 07710 088972

A cut-out-and-keep tractor prayer



A Weather Prayer by Rev'd Stephen F Caddy

Lord God, Creator and Governor of all that you have made,
I am very clear about the weather that would be best for my
work at this time.

I am thankful every time the needs of the farm and the weather
are in harmony.

Sometimes my desires are in harmony with those of the
community around me and we are all praying for the same
sunshine or rain.

Sometimes we want different weather. I am used to getting on
with things whatever the weather with varying degrees of
success.

I watch the forecasts and the signs around me because the
weather makes easier or harder the things that I do.

I don't know how to pray, however strong my desire and
sometimes my need, because a continuation or change in the
weather is not as simple as making a request.

However, you know me and the needs of fields and flocks and it
comforts me to know that you hear me.

Make me thankful when the weather works with me and
strengthen me in those times when it seems against me that I
may do my best for the beasts and fields in my care, knowing
that I am in your care.

Amen.

