

**St John the Baptist's Church  
Ault Hucknall  
Plough Sunday service 2005**

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.  
Let us rejoice and shout for joy,  
and give God the glory.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.  
Amen. Alleluia!**

**Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to  
pray, lift up our hearts to worship you  
in Spirit and in truth, through Jesus  
Christ. Amen.**

*Hymn 71 O & N*

Brightest and best of the suns of the  
morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine  
aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are  
shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the  
stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the  
ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the  
mine?

4. Vainly we offer each humble oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.  
*Reginald Heber (1783-1826)*

Let us call to mind our sins  
**Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness:  
I confess to you,  
I confess with my whole heart  
my neglect and forgetfulness of your  
commandments, my wrong doing,  
thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I have left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned  
against you;  
and raise me to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The priest gives absolution*

*Collect*

O God, who gives each of your children  
his work to do for your sake: prosper, we  
pray, throughout this year the work and  
workers of the fields and farms of this  
parish. Let the ploughman's hope be  
fulfilled in a plentiful harvest; let thy  
people be fed with the wholesome food of  
their countryside; and let town and  
country, united in gratitude to you, be  
drawn nearer to the understanding and true  
service of each other; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord, **AMEN**

*Reading: Deuteronomy 8.1-10*

Know then in your heart that as a parent  
disciplines a child so the LORD your God  
disciplines you. Therefore keep the  
commandments of the LORD your God, by  
walking in his ways and by fearing him.  
For the LORD your God is bringing you  
into a good land, a land with flowing  
streams, with springs and underground  
waters welling up in valleys and hills, a  
land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig  
trees and pomegranates, a land of olive

trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Thanks be to God**

#### *Hymn 73 O & N*

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.

*Rubard Gillard*

*Q 1977 Scripture in Song/CopyCaw Ltd*

#### *Reading: Luke 11.5-13*

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at

midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

This is the Word of the Lord

### **Thanks be to God.**

#### *The Sermon*

#### *Hymn*

We plough the fields with tractors  
With drills we sow the land.  
But growth is still a wondrous gift  
Of God's almighty hand.  
We add the fertilisers  
To help the growing grain.  
But for its full fruition  
It needs God's sun and rain.  
*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav'n above  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
For all his love*

With many new machines now  
We do the work each day.  
We reap the fields with combines  
We bale the new mown hay.  
But it is God who gives men incentives,  
skills and drives  
Which lighten labour's drudgery  
And gives men fuller lives.  
*All good gifts around us....*

We thank thee then, O Father  
For life so rich and good.  
For seed time and the harvest,  
The wealth of daily food.  
No gifts have we to offer.  
For all thy love imparts  
But what thou most desirest:  
Our humble thankful hearts.  
*All good gifts around us....*

Prayers  
(We pray for God's faithfulness to be  
known in our world, saying: faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**)

In a world of change and hope,  
of fear and adventure; faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**

In human rebellion and obedience, in our  
seeking and our finding; faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**

In the common life of our society,  
in prosperity and need; faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**

As your church proclaims your goodness  
in words and action; faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**

Among our friends  
and in our homes; faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**

In our times of joy,  
in our days of sorrow; faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**  
In our strengths and triumphs,  
in our weakness and at our death;  
faithful God:  
**glorify your name.**

In your saints in glory and on the day of  
Christ's coming; faithful God:  
glorify your name.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Hymn 511 during which the ploughmen  
assemble around the plough.*

*This world you have made is a beautiful  
place;  
it tells the pow'r of your love.  
We rejoice in the beauty of your world,  
from the seas to the heavens above.*

1. The morning whispers of purity;  
the evening of your peace;  
the thunder booms your exuberance  
in the awesome pow'r you release.
2. The tenderness of a new-born child;  
the gentleness of the rain;  
simplicity in a single cell;  
and complexity in a brain.
3. Your stillness rests in a silent pool;  
infinity drifts in space;  
your grandeur straddles the mountain tops;  
and we see your face in each face.  
*Susan Sayers (b.1946)*

Act of Dedication at the plough.

*Ploughmen*

**Reverend Sir, the plough symbolises all the machines on our farms and all the tools of the gardener: will you bless this plough to our use, and, in so doing, ask God's blessing on the cultivation of our soil.**

*Priest:*

Lord, bless this plough and the work of the hands of your servants gathered before you. Prosper all the workers of your world, labouring to feed your children. Grant that the plentiful fruits of the earth may not be hoarded by the selfish, or squandered by the foolish, but that the needs of all people may be supplied according to the new order of your Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord  
AMEN

*The Ploughmen say the Ault Hucknall and Scarcliffe Ploughman's Prayer*

**Lord God,  
In the power of your Holy Spirit,  
give me strength to work the land,  
skill to complete the task,  
patience to await its yield,  
and a heart to give thanks for your bounty,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

*(The ploughmen return to their seats)*

*Hymn 130 and Collection*

1. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
might and majesty divine!  
He who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine.  
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!

2. Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!  
Wounded souls his comfort know.  
Those who fear him find his mercies,  
peace for pain and joy for woe;  
humble hearts are high exalted,  
human pride and pow'r laid low.  
Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!  
Wounded souls his comfort know.

3. Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;  
spring to melt the snows of winter  
till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.  
Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain.

4. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days!  
Love his laws, declare his judgements,  
walk in all his words and ways;  
he the Lord and we his children,  
praise the Lord, all people, praise!  
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days!  
*Tim Dudley-Smith (b1926)*

*The Blessing,*

May God the Father give you grace to work with patience the tasks that are set before you, looking to Jesus the Creator's Son as the author and finisher of our faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and for evermore. **Amen**

*and dismissal.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the Name of Christ. AMEN**