

THURCASTON CROPSTON *PARISH MAGAZINE*

The magazine for your parish since 1951

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**All Saints' Garden Fete
a hit with villagers!**
See full story inside

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Never miss an issue of your monthly Parish Magazine (in-print and online) - 12 issues £10!

**Church details, events and services can be found at
www.stmarysandallsaints.co.uk**

All Saints Church exists for the benefit of the whole community, not simply those people who come to church on a Sunday!

We are always delighted to arrange baptisms and weddings, or to bring Holy Communion to anyone who is unable to come to church. If we can help in this, or any other way, please contact the Rector or Church Wardens.



Find us on Facebook - [asthurcastonwc](https://www.facebook.com/asthurcastonwc)



Inside this month's magazine...

All Saints' Garden Fete was very popular this year as you will see from our article on page 5. Helped by the fantastic weather this event is an annual staple of the community and is a highlight in the church's summer calendar. With the holiday season almost upon us things about the parish are quietening down a bit but both churches have events taking place in the near future.

St Mary's Summer Fair takes place on Saturday 5th July, starting at 10.00am and it promises to be full of interest and excitement. Find the full details in our Whats On section.

Meanwhile in Thurcaston, the Annual Skittles Challenge takes place on Wednesday 2nd July, 7 for 7.30pm start. We



are told places are still available and information can be found on page 5.

You may noticed that a local REMAP volunteer was mentioned in the in the recent King's Birthday Honours list. See his story on page 11

Richard, Barbara & Adam

All Saints' 200 Club – Thank you

The All Saints' 200 club has now been running for 15 years, and over those years has made a significant contribution towards the maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful village Church.

The Rector and the Church council would like to offer our grateful thanks to everyone who contributes,



and of course also has the surprise of winning. Jane loves to see the smile on people's faces when she hands over the winnings. The last twelve months raised £1,877.00.

It is never too late to join and details can be obtained from Jane Westby 0116 2352226 or mowestby@virginmedia.com

Preaching hazards

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. "When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation."

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Just a thought...

How should we give to the church (according to the bible)?



Short answer: Joyfully

Longer Answer:

Should we give regardless of whether the church needs funds? Money enables bills to be paid, buildings to be maintained, schools to be supported and ministers to be housed and receive a stipend. If all financial costs were met by sponsorship from a local quarry what would be the purpose of giving?

Sometimes it may seem like most organisations that church is another business running on transactions requiring funds. However, according to the bible, we give because it is an act of faith. It is part of what makes us human before God. We are called to give our first fruits (Proverbs 3:9) rather than calculate what we can spare only giving after spending on everything else first. Instead we can decide joyfully and faithfully to give. The (Genesis 14:20) first example of giving is tithing as Abraham gave away one tenth of his produce and wealth. The 1/10 tithe principle is well established though few manage to uphold it. Though it is a helpful ideal.

Giving changes our perspectives, makes us more dependent on God and less fearful of scarcity or investing in the false security of

material comfort. We are called to give with a cheerful heart, never to give anything out of guilt or begrudgingly (2 Corinthians 9:7). If so, can we trust that it will be productively used?

Giving remains an essential act of the heart. It is good for us, good for the health of church. It means we are invested and care about the church as well as leaving room for the grace of god to work through us and our financial giving.

Practical ways to give easily include standing order/ direct debit for Thurcaston via our treasurers email allsaintsthurc@gmail.com for details or Parish Giving Scheme for Anstey Parish Giving (<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/anstey-st-mary-leicester/>).

If you find this difficult or challenging, in faith, why not try just for a season giving with a joyful heart, secretly without expecting recognition or thanks from others (Matthew 6:2) however large or small (Luke 21: 3-4). I wonder if we notice a change in our attitude or hearts?

Reverend Matthew

All Saints' Garden Fete - a big thank you to everyone!



The Garden Fete was blessed with a hot sunny afternoon, so visitors were able to sit outside in the sunshine listening to Titanic playing a lovely range of jazz favourites, whilst partaking of a glass of locally brewed beer.

The teddies did their usual daring feat of zip wiring from the top of the Church tower, much to their owner's delight. Inside, the Marydene Guitar Society serenaded those having refreshments.

Stalls were very busy and it was a lovely community event and an opportunity to catch up with people we have not seen for a while and meet new friends. We raised £1,530.00 which assists in the maintenance of our lovely village Church.

Thank you everyone who worked so hard beforehand, on the day and afterwards to make this such a successful and enjoyable community event.

Our next event is our Annual Skittles

Challenge - **Wednesday July 2nd** 7 for 7.30pm at the Wheatsheaf. It's not too late to get a ticket from Eleanor Lloyd Jones 0116 2362503 or Jane Westby 0116 2352226.

Dates of future events for your diary

Saturday 13th September.

Monthly coffee mornings take a break in July and August returning in September.

This coincides with the Leicestershire Ride and Stride Day, when the Church is open for visitors, who are fund raising for the upkeep of our ancient buildings.

Saturday 27th September Gift Day

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October Harvest Festival weekend

We are also planning a social evening with a talk about Life on the Falkland Islands, date to be confirmed. It sounds fascinating.

Saturday 29th November Winter Fair

From the registers...

Baptism



Sunday 29th June

Arthur Barr,
St Mary's Anstey

Funerals

Friday 13th June

Diane Denton of Cropston,

All Saints' Church followed by Committal at Loughborough Crematorium



Tuesday 24th June

John Kirby of Anstey,

St Mary's Church followed by Committal at South Leicestershire Crematorium

Monday 30th June

Derek Walden of Anstey

St Mary's Church followed by burial at Anstey Cemetery

Κύριε ἐλέησόν – Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy and compassion on our human fragility.

Protect us from the unsettling of the heart through the deception of our intellect.

Guard us from fantasies, delusion, and the negative use of our God given human passions.

(Prayer written for Lost in Translation, May-June 2025).



Journey in Faith Course

What is the Journey in Faith Course?

A 3 term course that provides the time and space for people to:

- Grow in their knowledge of the Christian faith
- Deepen their relationship with God
- Explore how to live out faith in the whole of life

Who can join?

It is open to anyone—there is some reading to do between sessions but you don't need to have done any studying before.

What does a previous participant say?

"If you want to know more about yourself and your Christian faith, then JiF is the course for you. You'll be welcomed and challenged, affirmed and changed, and you'll definitely be glad you came."



Course Details Introductory Session

Saturday 13th September
9.30-12.30 at St Martin's House

Course Venues

Monday evening	Nanpantan
Tuesday evening	Frisby on the Wreake
Wednesday evening	Ellistown
Wednesday evening	Knighton, Leicester



Please consider a donation of £40 per term to cover course costs

How do I join a course?

For more information email:
liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org

To book a place:
visit the Hub or email
mmbookings@leicestercofe.org
stating your preferred venue

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Readings for July

Ordinary Time

July 6th	Galatians 6, 7-16 Luke 10, 1-11, 16-20
July 13th	Colossians 1, 1-11 Luke 10, 25-37
July 20th	Colossians 1, 15-28 Luke 10, 38-end
July 27th	Colossians 2, 6-15 Luke 11, 1-13

Lost in Translation

Four Reflections on early Christian Language and Spirituality, led by Glenn Fulcher.

We certainly weren't 'Lost in Translation' as Glenn Fulcher gently guided us through centuries of the Greek language, rooting it in history and put Christianity into context of place and culture.

Did you know Jesus spoke Greek, and Nazareth was a very short distance from a municipal town of 30,000 people? Greek would have been the common language of the day, particularly in civil governance and commerce.

We learnt how to identify letters and words, and their pronunciation. The number of everyday words in English that come from Greek is significant. Translating words and phrases from Greek to English gave some light bulb moments on Christian concepts and how they are so relevant today as they were over a thousand years ago.

This all sounds rather 'highbrow' and academic, but Glenn's presentation was lively, accessible and interactive, with pictures, music and handouts with texts to read at home to practice and understand our



Greek.

The four sessions have given participants a deeper understanding of their spiritual needs and an added wish for more learning. We hope Glenn will cover some more subjects and we would encourage you to join in. If you want to have a chat, Paul Dakin or Jane Westby who will be pleased to share their thoughts.

The reflections of the evening were completed as we finished with the quiet, contemplative service of Compline, which is normally once a month at 8pm on the third Sunday.

Paul Dakin and Jane Westby



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Thurcaston REMAP volunteer made an MBE!



We are thrilled to congratulate Graham Law, Engineer and Secretary of the Leicestershire & Rutland REMAP panel, on receiving an MBE in the recent King's Birthday Honours list – a truly well-earned recognition for his extraordinary contributions to the disabled community.

Graham was awarded an MBE for Services to the Design and Production of Bespoke Technological Solutions for the Disabled Community. As a dedicated REMAP Engineer and Secretary, as well as a Development Engineer at Celtic Magic, Graham has spent decades using his creativity, skills, and passion to make life easier, safer, and more fulfilling for disabled individuals.

Graham's journey with REMAP began over 30 years ago, sparked by a visit to a Model Engineering event. Since then, he has supported countless individuals by designing and building custom equipment tailored specifically to their needs.

Celtic Magic was born from his REMAP work 16 years ago, after he built a smile-operated e-reader and breath-controlled mouse for a paralysed young girl — a project that won a REMAP Heinz Wolf Award. Encouraged by fellow engineers, he

turned this into a commercial venture. Today, Celtic Magic provides assistive technology for people with extreme disabilities worldwide.

From the high-tech to the beautifully simple, Graham approaches every challenge with the same mission: to help people live more independent, empowered lives.

Graham embodies everything REMAP is about: ingenuity, generosity, and the unwavering belief that a custom solution can change a life. His MBE is not just a personal honour — it shines a spotlight on the vital, life-enhancing work that volunteers like Graham do across the country.

As Graham puts it:

“You meet such a variety of people and situations, and when you first come across what may seem like a very difficult position that a vulnerable adult or disabled child is in, you may well be in the best position to help. Not even just a bit, but maybe a lot.”

We are immensely proud of Graham and grateful for his continued commitment. His story is an inspiration — and a powerful reminder of the difference one person can make.

Article courtesy of Remap.org.uk

Monday Club gets Medical Detection Dogs charity update

Mrs Wendy Coley, who gave us a talk in 2017, returned to tell us of further developments in this worthwhile charity.

Dr Claire Guest began this charity after her Labrador kept pestering her. Claire's GP sent her for tests, which revealed the early stages of breast cancer, and she was able to start treatment. She has been free of cancer since 2008. She decided to try training dogs to detect illness using their fantastic sense of smell, but it has been a difficult uphill struggle to get support from the establishment. Dr Guest was awarded the OBE in 2023 for services to science. The charity's patron is Queen Camilla, who is always interested in developments.

All diseases seem to have an odour, and a dog can pick this up from a urine sample, for instance. The charity trains a dog to recognise the presence of only one illness. It can even tell whether some cancers are aggressive. Dogs can detect Parkinson's disease from a sweat sample, up to 10 years before signs which a doctor could recognise. If a diagnostic test can be developed, medication can be started more quickly.

Finding malaria has been trialled successfully, and detecting different strains of bacteria has also shown encouraging results.

When Covid descended on us, the charity tried training dogs to find signs of the Covid virus, and checked employees at power stations, which have to keep running 24 hours a day.

The dogs involved can come from different backgrounds. Labradors and spaniels are easy to train for this work, but rescue centres have all kinds of dogs who may be suitable as well. The dogs live in a home environment with their owners. There are



Cropston Evangelical Free Church*

9th June 2025

many volunteers, but also some paid staff. The charity (along with many others) protested in vain against the recent increase in National Insurance contributions demanded by the Government, which now costs them an extra £70,000

per year which could have trained two more dogs.

The charity has two major projects running just now. They are doing some screening, but the uptake is quite low. There is a new treatment for bowel cancer through radiotherapy. There have to be at least 3,000 samples for testing (urine, in this case). Another area of research is urinary tract infections, which causes physical and mental problems. Falls are common, and people end up in hospital. Sniffer dogs could get the infection treated much sooner. When dogs are brought into a care home to meet the residents and do sniffer tests ... everyone wants to make a fuss of them and it takes ages!

Conventional tests may be less than 20% accurate, but dogs' noses are well over 90% accurate. Security dogs used at airports are worked in shifts of about half an hour, and then have a break to play and rest. They can find concealed drugs, or cash, or food. The handlers always trust their dogs.

The charity is working with a scientist in Massachusetts, who is developing an electronic equivalent to a dog nose. It is a small device, like a breathalyser.

Other dogs live with people with life-threatening conditions, such as diabetes. They can detect small changes in the person like a drop in blood sugar, or a change in the levels of adrenaline, and can warn them in time. One former soldier suffered from PTSD. A particular smell could trigger his fight-or-flight response and he would

disappear, with no recollection of what had happened afterwards. He lost his job, his marriage collapsed, and he became suicidal. One day he saw one of the Medical Detection Dogs, and eventually he got a suitable dog and his life improved. He can now go out, and works as a musician.

About 1,000 people applied for only 15 dogs last year! Sometimes their own pet dog can be used in the role of helper. There are only three or four trainers, and food is the best reward for motivating the dogs. They are taught to recognise a smell in one of many containers, and then they sit down to indicate "Found It!" and they get a treat or biscuit.

After refreshments, the meeting closed at around 4pm.

Our meetings start at 2.15pm. There is no meeting in July. The talk on 11th August will be about life aboard the Royal yacht "Britannia". Visitors (£4) and new members are most welcome at the Church Room meetings – just turn up on the day.

**Because of building work going on in the church at Cropston, we used the Harrison Room in Thurcaston for this particular meeting.*

Mrs Maja Tompkins

Contact mobile 07709 201881.

Church Notices that didn't quite 'make it'...

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL SKITTLES EVENING – tickets now on sale

WHEATSHEAF INN,
THURCASTON
Wednesday 2 July 2025
7 for 7.30pm
£13 per head including
Skittles supper

All welcome, come as a team of six
or join a team on the night

For further details please contact
Eleanor on 07834 483850 or
eleanorlj@aol.com



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We continue our series of short stories about Ruffle, a mischievous Airedale Terrier, and his adventures on a steam railway...

Ruffle's walks - Ruffle and the flower head thief!

By Rachel Greaves

'We have a flower head thief!' declared Eric as he entered the station hut. 'Look what I have found AGAIN on the grass in front of my lovely blooms!'

Eric held a handful of large bright orange and yellow petals to show Ben, the engine driver, who was sitting at the table.

'But who would want to pick off all the flower heads and leave the stalks?' wondered Ben.

Ruffle, who was lying on the rug in front of the station fire, even though it was not alight, lifted his head and looked over at Eric. Eric was obviously unhappy about something.

'How are you going to find out who, or what, is taking them? Whatever it is will see you watching and just wait until you've gone,' said Ben, thinking aloud.

'I've got it!' cried Eric. 'I will set up a hide - a camouflaged tent - and sit and wait for them to appear! There's one in the station garden shed - I'll use that.'

Ruffle was curious as to what Eric was holding in his hand so decided to get up and follow Eric as he went out of the door and over the tracks to the little station garden.

Ruffle lay down again opposite the garden shed doorway whilst Eric went inside. After a lot of noise Eric reappeared holding a large green and brown canvas bag. He took it over to the flower bed.

Ruffle looked on with interest as Ben joined them and helped Eric to put up the metal frame then pass the green and brown



material over to create a small square tent. They then made sure the ropes fastening it down to the grass were securely positioned. Once the hide was ready, Eric fetched two fold up chairs and a flask from the station then disappeared inside the hide to join Ben.

Ben had made sure that the material covering the mesh window was tied back to give them a perfect view of the flower beds opposite.

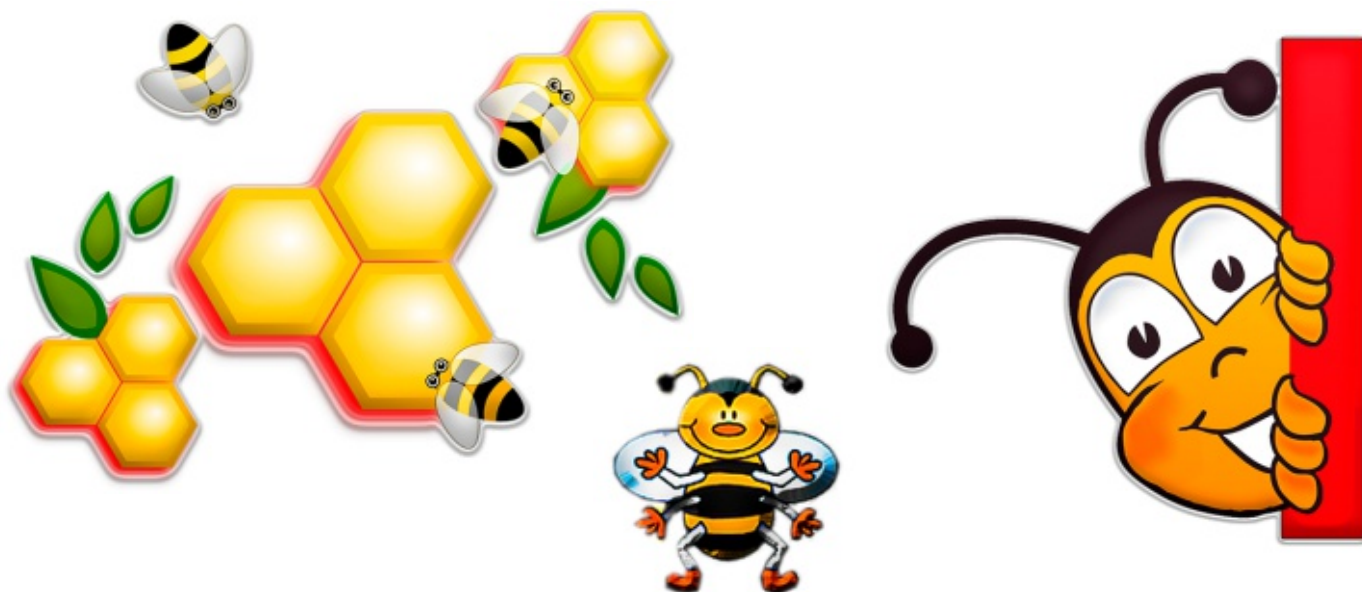
Once Eric and Ben had disappeared, Ruffle soon became bored. He got up and had a shake. Ah yes! He would play his favourite

game! With a sudden burst of energy, he raced across the garden and along by the side of the flower beds, grabbing a mouthful of bright orange and yellow blooms in his mouth as he dashed wildly past.

From somewhere in the depths of the camouflage hide Ruffle heard an astonished cry from Eric.
'RUFFLE!' ...

For further information about Ruffle's story books and other adventures visit www.ruffletheraildog.co.uk or watch the series of short films on YouTube under 'Ruffle's Walks'

Don't Step on a Bee Day – 10th July



Have you ever wanted to step on a bee? Hopefully most of us haven't – but the eye-catching name of this annual event aims to remind people of how important bees are in our ecosystem, and of the need to promote their protection.

Don't Step on a Bee Day highlights the crucial role bees play in pollination, and also that their populations are declining, because of habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change.

If you want to help the bees, here is what you can do:

Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers: Grow a variety of flowers in your garden that attract

and support bees, such as lavender, sunflowers, and marigolds.

Avoid Using Pesticides: Reduce or eliminate these in your garden, to create a safer environment for bees.

Support Local Beekeepers: Purchase honey from local beekeepers, to help support sustainable beekeeping practices.

Create a Bee Bath: Place a shallow dish of water with stones in your garden to provide bees with a safe place to drink.

Educate Others: Share information about the importance of bees and how you protect them with friends, family, and on social media.



Dates for your diary

Four pages of Events and Activities this month

Date	Time	Event
Tue Jul 1	10:00am	<i>Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
	Noon	<i>Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat ANSTEY JUBILEE HALL(AJH) Stadon Rd LE7 7AY (AJH) -</i>
Wed Jul 2	14:00	<i>Wednesday Hub - All Saints' Church - coffee/tea, cake & chat</i>
	19:00	<i>All Saints Annual Skittles Challenge Match -at the Wheatsheaf</i>
Fri Jul 4	9.15am	<i>Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
Sat Jul 5	10.30 am	<i>- Charity Coffee Morning (CEFC) - The charity for 2025 is "Operation Smile", All welcome.</i>
	10 - 1pm	<i>Sunmmmer Fair Anstey St Mary's Church Room</i>



Sun Jul 6	9.15am	<i>Breakfast in the Church -Thurcaston All Saints'</i>
	10.30am	<i>Sunday Worship (CEFC)</i>
Mon Jul 7	11:00am	<i>Bible Study (CEFC)</i>
Tue Jul 8	10:00 am	<i>Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
	Noon	<i>Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat ANSTEY JUBILEE HALL(AJH) Stadon Rd LE7 7AY (AJH) -</i>
Wed Jul 9	2:00pm	<i>Wednesday Hub - All Saints' Church - coffee/tea, cake & chat LAST meeting till Sept 3rd!</i>
Fri Jul 11	9.15 am	<i>Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
Sat Jul 12	3.00pm	<i>The Thurcaston Church Handbell Ringers at St Leonard's Swithland</i>
Sun Jul 13	10.30am	<i>Sunday Worship (CEFC)</i>



July Services All Saints'

Sunday 6th

8.30am Prayer Book Communion

10am Morning Praise

(9.15am Breakfast@Church)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 13th

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th

8.30am Prayer Book Communion

8pm Compline Night Prayer

Sunday 27th

10am Holy Communion



July Services St Mary's

Sunday 6th

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th

10am All Age Worship

Sunday 20th

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th

10am Fresh Worship

Every Wednesday

9.30am Traditional
Prayer Book Communion

Dates for your diary

Events and Activities this month continued

Date	Time	Event
Tue Jul 15	10:00	Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms
	Noon	Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat (AJH) Stadon Rd LE7 7AY
	Outing	History Society -Tour of Welford Road Cemetry - see article for details
Wed Jul 16	NB	NO Wednesday Hub until September 3rd
Thu Jul 17	Outing	Gardening Club at RHS show Wentworth Woodhouse
Fri Jul 18	9.15am	Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms
Sat Jul 19	NB	NO Coffee in Harrison Room July or Aug
Sun Jul 20	10.30am	Sunday Worship (CEFC)
Tue Jul 22	10:00	Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms
	Noon	Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat ANSTEY JUBILEE HALL(AJH) Stadon Rd LE7 7AY (AJH) -
	14:00	Just for Ladies - (CEFC) Bring a craft, play board games or just have a chat. There will be a short Christian thought for the day.
Wed Jul 23	NB	NO Wednesday Hub until September
Fri Jul 25	9.15am	Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms
	3.30 - 5pm	Tea & Crafts - St Mary's Church Rooms
Sun Jul 27	10.30am	Sunday Worship (CEFC)
Tue Jul 29	10:00	Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms
	Noon	Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat (AJH) Stadon Rd LE7 7AY (AJH) -

*To place your event in our Diary next month, email Barbara at
TCAdiary7@gmail.com*

The times for services at St Mary's and All Saints' can be found on the centre pages.

Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect she's studying for her final exams," came the reply.

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."



Thurcaston & Cropston Local History Society discover historic Anstey!

We began our programme of summer events on a beautiful midsummer evening, with a guided tour of Anstey. We were led by Jane Cole of Anstey Local History Society, who had been our speaker in March, so this was a chance to explore the village for ourselves and see its historical locations in context. Even those of us who have lived in the area for many years found new corners of Anstey to discover. What follows are just a few snippets from a very interesting walk.

The main Anstey car park is on the site of the former Nook Yard. Next time you're there, look out for a surviving timber post from one of its cruck cottages, which is embedded in a wall behind the vehicle charging points. Old maps show a building in the middle of the Nook itself, where the roundabout now stands, which was probably the village lock-up.

It's always worth looking above street level! Opposite the QD store on Cropston Road is a plaque reading "Amphora Cottages 1899". Why? Apparently, this terrace was built with the winnings from a bet on a horse by that name.

Our route took us from the Lower Green and the famous Packhorse Bridge, along the jitty to Latimer Road, where the 1896



primary school building is a fine example, with separate Girls' and Boys' entrances and a turret still containing its bell. Outside the church, we saw the stump of an ancient cross and some affecting inscriptions on the slate headstones. The churchyard is overlooked by the Curate's House, which was needed because St. Mary's was the responsibility of the Rector of All Saints', who lived at Thurcaston.

If you only ever travel along Bradgate Road by car, you've probably never noticed what

a variety of old buildings it contains, from Georgian farmhouses to Victorian shopfronts. One of them – Till's – has been in continuous use as a butcher's since at least 1841. The road also once had four pubs, along with Pettifor's Brewery which supplied all of them.

Our return route from Top Green was via Hollow Road, where several of the owners of Anstey's many shoe factories lived. The former factories have now been repurposed in diverse ways, from Bradgate Brides to the Saponi restaurant, new apartments and an undertaker's. Recent months have seen the closure of box manufacturer Bosworth Wright, bringing to an end the village's long

association with the footwear industry.

Anstey Local History Society has developed a set of historically-themed walking routes around the village. Based on our experience, they will be well worth looking out for when the new website (www.ansteyhistory.com) goes live later this year.

Our own next outing will be a guided tour of Welford Road Cemetery on the evening of Tuesday 15th July. Please contact us through the website if you would like to join us.

www.thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk

Complete Beginners Art Course with Liz Dowding

4 week course learning the basics in drawing & watercolour painting.

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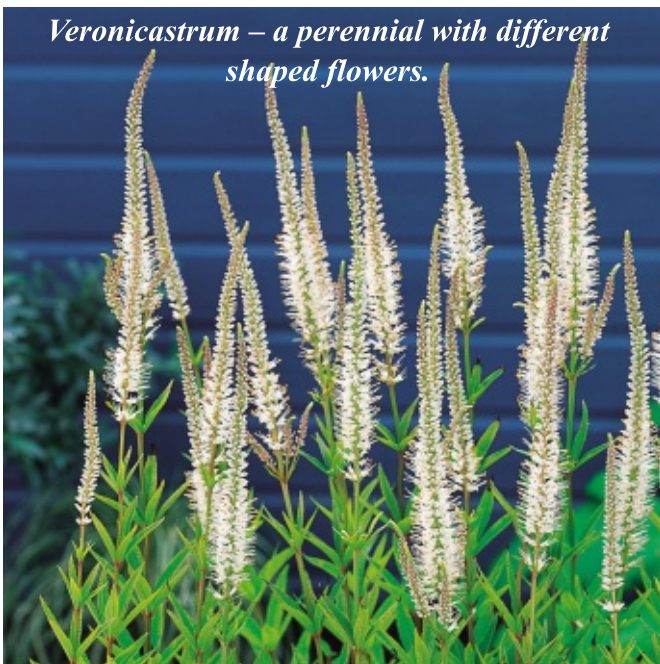
'Perennials for Every Season'



The June meeting of the Thurcaston and Cropston Gardening Club was an illustrated talk by Steve Lovell. Steve is a professionally qualified garden designer and soft landscaper with 30 years' experience. He specialises in gardening for wildlife.

In this talk, Steve's focus was on perennials

Veronicastrum – a perennial with different shaped flowers.



- a plant that continues to grow throughout its life. From January through to December a perennial plant will be in bloom. They are hardy, long-living, easy maintenance plants that come in all shapes and sizes, returning year after year - guaranteeing colour with minimum effort.

And thanks to the early plant hunters, we can now have plants in our gardens from all over the world – we may have a plant from China growing next to a plant from Mexico.

Steve talked about a wide range of perennials. He also gave lots of tips about the best way to grow them. Many perennial plants will need support. Steve talked about different methods for this – but the trick is to get supports in before the plant needs it.

He has a passion for wildlife and suggested growing perennials that flower at different times of the year to support wildlife. It is also helpful to wildlife to grow plants with different flower shapes. Steve gave many examples of these such as Echinops, Phlox,

Veronicastrum, Nepeta, among many others. Some perennials will turn 'soggy' over winter and need cutting back, such as Iris. But some perennials will stand tall over winter. Steve recommended leaving these to provide food for birds and habitat and shelter for insects.

As well as talking about individual perennials, Steve showed many photos of perennial beds in some excellent gardens. Indeed, the talk was illustrated throughout with photos of all the plants Steve referred to.

This was an informative and entertaining talk, attended by a lively audience of Club members.

The Gardening Club meets in the Thurcaston and Cropston Memorial Hall. Whether an experienced gardener or an enthusiastic beginner we are sure you will find something of interest in this year's programme. New members are made most welcome. What's more, it's excellent value!! The membership fee is only £15 for the year

(pro rata) or £3.00 per meeting. So, if you are interested in gardening - come and give the Club a try.

For more information about the Club, please contact

Dave Haddon (0116) 235 9758:
david.haddon22@gmail.com

Or Richard Elks (0116) 236 8313:
cropston161@hotmail.co.uk

The next Club events are: -

Thurs 17th July 2025

RHS Flower Show at Wentworth Woodhouse

(Sorry, this outing is now full)

Wed 13 August 2025

Joseph Paxton 'The Busiest Man in England' – by Danny Wells

Saturday 6 September 2025

Annual Craft and Produce Show

(open to all)

At Richard Hill Primary School, Thurcaston

GRANTS TO ASSIST WITH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Richard Hill's Church of England School Charity

The Trustees of the Charity invite those under the age of 25 years who are attending, or have attended the Richard Hill School to apply for a grant to assist with educational activities (including social & physical training) not otherwise provided by the Local Authority.

Successful applicants have received assistance with funding for various activities including -

Training course expenses: fees, accommodation, travel, equipment etc.,

- School trip to Gambia • Diploma in Legal Practice
- University Expenses • Further Education Drama Course
- Masters Degree in Civil Engineering • Music Lessons • Computer and Software

We look forward to hearing from you!

Applications should be made to the Clerk, Mrs Anne Stringer,

Email: **rhillcharitytrustees@hotmail.com** or Telephone: **0116 234 0625**

The Trustees meet twice a year and closing dates for applications are 30th June and 31st December.

Grants ranging from £100 to £1,000

will be awarded to applicants who meet the necessary criteria.

Cedar House... residential care that keeps the spring in your step!



June was another busy month for us at Cedar House... We continue to try old and new things!

We received lots of visitors and had special visits from Lilliput Nursery Group and Sidney Shakers.

On Tuesday 3rd June 2025 the residents met miniature donkeys, Fern and Pepper, from Magical Mini Donkeys. They were amazing! There was lots of strokes and cuddles.

In addition, it was a great reminiscence tool for one of our residents, Vincent, who told the group about his own donkey when he was a young boy. It brought back lots of happy memories.



On Wednesday 4th June 2025 the residents and staff enjoyed being entertained by magician - Duncan Williams. Magic was in the air! He was amazing! He had a few tricks up his sleeve and memorised residents and staff with his skill.

We also had our monthly church service. There was lots of song, pray and conversation.

This month we also took part in a Summer



Show by the Entertainment Providers. What an adventure! We travelled the world with music, song, dance and costume!

We were also entertained by Chris Hyde with his vocals and guitar. Plus, other performers, such as,



Maureen



Freda



Jean

Mark and Freia and the Singing Divas plus a local ukulele band.

We had a pet therapy session with Lion Learners, from the familiar (e.g. rabbits) to the exotic (e.g. snakes and spiders).

We also had a fun dart session with Waley's Dart Days. Ready, aim, fire! Everyone was

very competitive. Congratulations to Margaret who won the residents match and Zoe who won the staff match.

Mick Wright, a caricaturist, also visited the home and did some portraits of the residents.

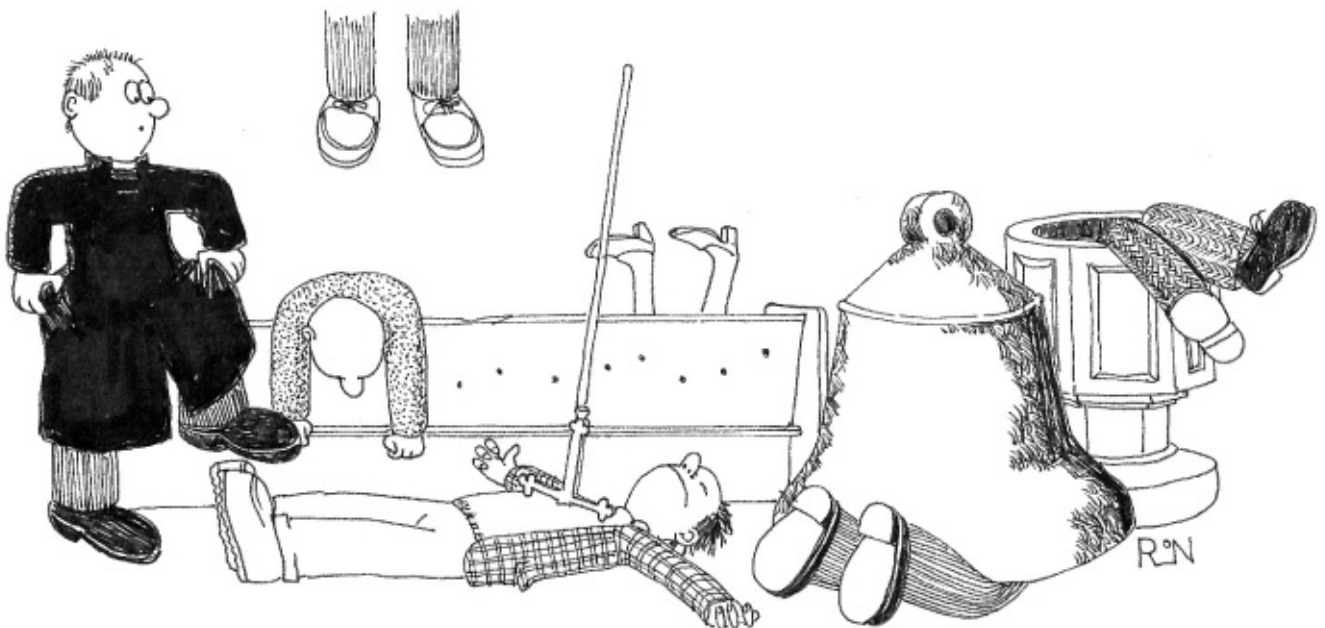
In the month of July

90 years ago, on 6th July 1935 that the Yangtze River flooded in China. 145,000 people died, while millions were displaced and suffered food shortages and famine.

80 years ago, on 5th July 1945 that WW2 leader Winston Churchill lost the General Election to Clement Attlee's Labour Party.

75 years ago, on 11th July 1950 that the first episode of the BBC children's TV show Andy Pandy was broadcast in the UK.

65 years ago, on 9th July 1960 that US President Dwight D Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev traded threats over the future of Cuba.



It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church

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On why people complain to the vicar – and how to ignore them



The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you have received your first letter of complaint. I am not wholly unsympathetic with your complainant, as attempting to marry the bride to the best man would have created havoc with the seating arrangements at the reception. However, you must learn that receiving letters of complaint is an integral part of the ordained ministry. After 50 years of parish life, the number of such letters I have received are now held in bound volumes.

The anonymous ones you will receive, invariably written in green ink on lined notepaper, can be safely consigned to your wastepaper basket, along with all mail, from whatever source, labelled 'Urgent'. You will receive letters complaining that you did not pray for someone who was in hospital, regardless of the fact that you knew nothing of it. Probably by the next post, you will receive a letter complaining that you did pray for someone in hospital – when they had wanted to keep their cosmetic surgery secret.

Those who regard themselves as guardians of doctrinal purity will write complaining of the heresies contained in the previous Sunday's sermon. These can be filed with those letters that complain that your sermons are too short, along with those who complain that they are too long.

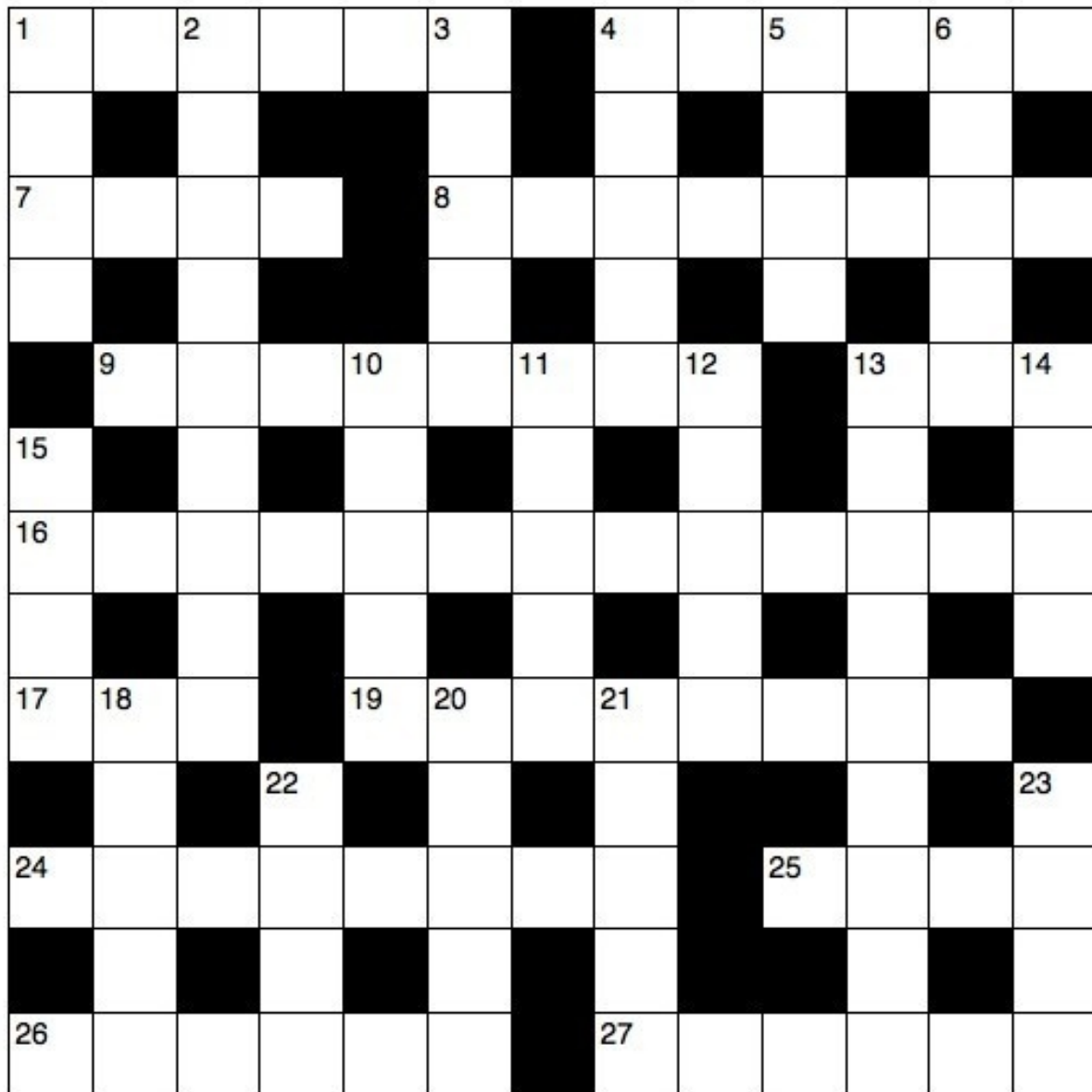
The hourly striking of the church clock is a perennial favourite for complaints. I usually reply by saying that we are currently exploring the possibility of getting it to strike the quarters too.

Letters of complaint will arrive in November, complaining that the church is too cold, so making prayer impossible. Others will drop on the doormat in April saying that it is too hot, so making prayer impossible. In Spring, some will write that the churchyard should be mown more often, while others will complain that it is mown too often and ruins it as a habitat for wildlife. The annual Summer 'Procession of Witness' generates complaints that the brass band ruined the slumbers of parishioners having a Sunday lie-in. Then come Harvest, there will be the letters complaining that they did not receive a Harvest gift, which was particularly unforgivable, as their grandmother had once sung in the choir. Thus, the annual round is accompanied by reams of notepaper.

The only letter of complaint I have really treasured came from the bishop, rebuking me for never having attended any meeting when he was present. I have had it framed and hung on the study wall.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Crossword



Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)

Crossword

17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)

19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)

24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)

25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)

26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)

27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)

2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)

3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)

4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)

5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)

6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)

10 Trout (anag.) (5)

11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)

12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)

13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)

14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)

15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)

18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)

20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)

21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)

22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)

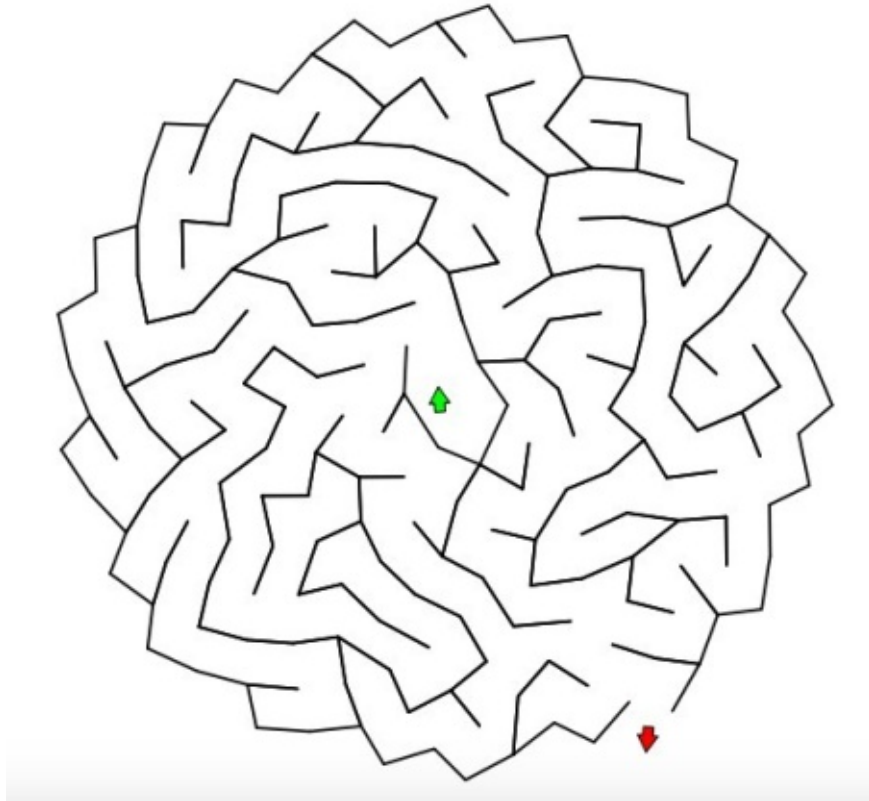
23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

Sudoku

						3		
4					9			1
7			2				5	
				2		8	4	
	4		3		6		1	
	7	6		5				
	6				7			3
3			5					2
		5						

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Maze



Crossword solution

R	I	C	H	E	S		A	B	N	E	R	S
E		O			A		R		O		O	
S	O	U	L		D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S
T		R			H		H		E		N	
	S	T	A	T	U	T	E	S		A	D	D
E		Y		U		I		E		S		I
C	R	A	F	T	S	M	A	N	S	H	I	P
H		R		O		I		S		B		S
O	L	D			R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R
	H		F		X		R			L		M
W	A	L	L	S	A	R	E		W	I	S	E
	S		O		C		C			T		D
T	A	R	G	E	T		T	H	I	E	V	E

Sudoku Solution

6	2	8	1	4	5	3	9	7
4	5	3	8	7	9	6	2	1
7	9	1	2	6	3	4	5	8
5	3	9	7	2	1	8	4	6
8	4	2	3	9	6	7	1	5
1	7	6	4	5	8	2	3	9
2	6	4	9	1	7	5	8	3
3	1	7	5	8	4	9	6	2
9	8	5	6	3	2	1	7	4

*All Saints 200 Club winners...***JUNE 2025 Draw****1st** *BRENDA HOOPER***2nd** *DOREEN WALKERDINE***3rd** *JO & RICHARD ELKS****Congratulations to June's winners!***

Make next month one to remember and join today.
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