

THURCASTON CROPSTON *PARISH MAGAZINE*

The magazine for your parish since 1951

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New Dining Out feature!
See 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...

Despite it being the holidays the parish is very busy laying the foundations for a busy Autumn.

As you can see in the article below, the annual Ride + Stride is scheduled for September again so if you can help Eleanor her contact details are listed. If you want to take part the details are on Page 31.

As you will know the 80th Anniversary of VE Day took place earlier in the year and VJ Day is celebrated on August 15th (see Page 18). Here at All Saints', Remembrance Day will see a display of knitted poppies. If you would like to get involved turn to Page 12.

In a new departure for this magazine we are launching an occasional Dining Out page, the first of which can be found on Page 24. We hope you enjoy both it and the food if



you follow our correspondent's recommendations.

As the fruit and vegetables ripen in our gardens it is a timely reminder to prepare your entries for the Annual Village Show on Sept 6th. Turn to Page 23 to find out more!

Richard, Barbara & Adam

Ride+Stride Saturday 13 September

This year's Leicestershire Ride+Stride for Churches event is taking place on **Saturday 13th September**. This is an annual event organised by Historic Churches Leicestershire to raise funds for repairs and improvements to historic churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout Leicester and Leicestershire. In 2024, Ride+Stride raised £42,769 - 15% more than the previous year - a fantastic tribute to everyone who took part.

Riders and Striders are sponsored to visit churches around the county travelling on foot, bike or horse back – and they plan



their own route around the churches that are open between 10am and 6pm on the day. In previous years we have opened up All Saints Church for visitors taking part in Ride+Stride and are planning to do so again this year. We'll need some representatives to be present in the church to welcome visitors, so if you can spare an hour on

the day to help out please contact Eleanor Lloyd Jones on eleanorlj@aol.com or 0116 236 2503.

And if you are interested in taking part in the Ride+Stride event yourself you can find out more at: www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

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Just a thought...

Three years and still much to discover.



This month marks the completion of three years for me as Rector in this Benefice. Three years in ministry terms is an important marker in the Church. We follow a three year lectionary cycle, A, B and C. Each year one of the synoptic gospels Matthew, Luke and Mark is the focus for the year with John featuring in the seasonal time of Lent and Easter across the three lectionary years. Three years is also the length of Jesus' earthly ministry.

Despite three years sounding like a reasonable time, I am still discovering much about our parishes. I invite you to do the same this month as we Beat the Bounds. Arguably beating the bounds would have been a great thing to do at the start of my

time here as it gives a sense of perspective and context. Beating the Bounds is a church parish tradition of understanding one's parish by walking its boundaries. I have been testing this out over the last few weeks and the fascinating hidden gems I have found have opened up a new lens to appreciate the geographical landscape. Please see page 15 for more details.

Exploring the parish boundaries is not just a geography field trip, it is also a time to reconnect with nature and God's creation. More and more is being understood about our mental wellness and peace for the soul emanating from connectedness with our roots, the earth we stand on. We have a beautiful landscape that I used to visit as a

tourist when I lived in the South of Leicester. Now living within it I consider myself more a pilgrim than a tourist. A pilgrim seeks meaning in a journey, a spiritual connection with God. Many of us can no longer manage long walks, but even the views from our windows whether they are of Old John looking down on us or the 24/7 steam from the Walker Crisps factory on the Beaumont Leys horizon - we may be inspired by the Psalms (Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

or, Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;

the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;

night after night they reveal knowledge

So I cannot turn back time but invite you to join with me to gain a refreshing of your love for God and your parishes. May we look up, or walk the routes as pilgrims on a curious journey of discovery or rediscover a new perspective.

Rev Matthew

Deanery Confirmations

Our local confirmations will take place August 31st Sunday 3pm St Peter's Glenfield, with people from our Benefice getting baptised and confirmed

with Bishop Rob.

If you are curious about being confirmed, please contact Matthew.

New data shows 'sheer scale' of child poverty – Bishop of Leicester

The End Child Poverty Coalition, together with the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University, has published data on the number of children living in poverty in each Westminster constituency and local authority across the UK.

The Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, who is the Church of England's lead bishop on poverty, has issued the following response:

"These statistics remind us of the sheer scale of child poverty. Churches are doing all they can to offer hope, but we know from the struggles of many people in our congregations, and the demand we see for

our projects every day, that there is much work to do to turn the tide on poverty.

"I pray that the Government's child poverty strategy will rise to the challenge we face, addressing the two-child limit and other policies which drive poverty and harm the health, wellbeing and life chances of our children."

The General Synod of the Church of England backed a call last year for an end to the two-child benefit limit. The limit means families can only claim child tax credit and universal credit for their first two children, if they were born after April 2017.

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From the registers...

Wedding



Sunday 20th July

Deborah and Paul Taylor of Anstey,
St Mary's, Anstey

Funerals

Wednesday 23rd July

Mark Clewes of Anstey,
Gilroes Crematorium



Friday 25th July

Garfield Henry of Anstey,
Gilroes Crematorium

Monday 28th July

William Henderson Rea of Anstey
St Mary's, Anstey

TAIZÉ EVENING
MUSIC & PRAYER

ST MARY'S
ANSTEY

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 7TH
6.30PM-7.15PM



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 August

Ordinary Time

August 3rd Trinity 7	Colossians 3, 1-11 Luke 12, 13-21
August 10th Trinity 8	Hebrews 11,1-3, 8-16 Luke 12, 32-40
August 17th Trinity 9	Hebrews 11.29-12.2 Luke 12.49-56
August 24th Trinity 10	Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:22-30
August 31st Trinity 11	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-1 Luke 14:1, 7-14

Goodbye, Good Neighbour!

It is with great sadness that volunteers and ‘clients’ of the Thurcaston and Cropston Good Neighbours Scheme learn of the death of Malcolm Otter, from Cropston.

Malcolm responded quickly when the scheme issued an appeal for more volunteers at the start of the Covid pandemic. He threw himself into the role, completing 80 tasks between September 2020 and February 2022.

During the various ‘lockdown’ periods Malcolm was mainly involved in collecting medicines and doing regular shopping trips.

He was so quick to respond to e-mails requesting help that other GNS volunteers often commented that they could not ‘beat Malcolm to it’ to offer to help. Malcolm would often undertake more than one task each day. His generosity with his time was matched by his friendliness. His regular

‘clients’ enjoyed meeting him when he handed over medicines or shopping at their doorsteps so much that he developed many genuine friendships outside of the Good Neighbours Scheme.

For most of that time he was volunteering with the Good Neighbours Scheme, Malcolm was also undertaking tasks with the Royal Voluntary Service.

GNS chairman Keith Pyne said: “Malcolm has been a wonderful example of a volunteer, giving selfless service. He has been an inspiration to our small team of Good Neighbours Scheme members who have now completed more than 1,000 tasks since the Good Neighbours Scheme started operating in the spring of 2016.

“On behalf of the friends he made as a member of the Good Neighbours Scheme, I thank him and express our sympathies to Malcolm’s supportive wife Mary.”

Miscellaneous observations on life

Once you’ve seen one shopping centre, you’ve seen a mall. – Anon

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis. – Anon



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Insights from Deborah Taylor, the County Councillor at Leicestershire County Council.

An interview by Connie Gough.

I had the privilege of talking with Deborah Taylor, a “champion” for young people, families and the community.

Deborah’s trajectory to becoming the County Councillor for Leicestershire was a natural one, driven first by a love for community alongside a developing, and now avid, interest in politics. Deborah began as a volunteer for the Parish council as a means to get to know the area since relocating to Leicester. From this, she got the bug for decision and policy making and helping the community. She then got asked to stand for the Borough council at Charnwood, loved it and progressed into the cabinet. From this position, the opportunity to stand for County Council arose.

The highlight of her job was being the lead member for Children and Families, although this is a role she no longer undertakes as a consequence of the recent local elections. It was working with children and improving their lives and being able to tangibly see the difference made because of her work which caused her love for the role.

There has been a shift in power within the council due to the rise of Reform. When the Conservatives were in power, Deborah was able to bring children services up from an Ofsted rating of improvement required to outstanding. The Conservatives are now in opposition meaning Deborah handed her position to someone she doesn’t have the greatest confidence in to effectively deliver the help families and young people need. This contributed to her decision to not

consider going into coalition with Reform despite being quite right of the Conservative party.

When questioned on advice to young people who are worried about the future, Deborah emphasised the importance of communication and openness about any anxiety a young person may be having. A keen supporter of the ban on phones in schools, Deborah and I discuss the harm of social media on adolescents’ development in terms of their mental health, wellbeing and social life.

We discussed what can be learnt from patterns seen in the local election, such as the demographic of who was coming out to vote and the views held by those voting for Reform. The success of Reform can be partly attributed to the influence of Andrew Tate on young men and Nigel Farage’s populist tactics. Additionally, there was a degree of misunderstanding about what local authority does and the role of candidates in representing and helping individuals in the local area.

On more personal matters, Deborah’s advice for her younger self would be allowing herself to risk failing. The lesson learnt from recovering from failure is one she wishes she learnt at an earlier stage of life. She also believes she should have become more involved in politics at a younger age.

Deborah and I share a love for Lego and I asked her if she has a favourite Lego set. She is a big fan of the Architecture series, with the Whitehouse set being her top one.

Monday Club enjoys afternoon tea at Lingdale Golf Club

Having afternoon tea in July has become an annual event, and once again our Club members and guests were hosted by Lingdale Golf Club. We were served with a very tasty array of sandwiches, cakes, meringues with raspberries and strawberries, scones with jam and cream, and a plentiful supply of cups of tea. As it was a warm afternoon, following a period of heatwaves, we also appreciated having jugs of iced water to help quench our thirsts. Two hours passed very quickly, with some lively conversations, as well as enjoying the delicious food.



Lingdale Golf Club
14th July 2025

Our next meeting at our usual venue of Cropston Evangelical Free Church (CEFC) will be on Monday 11th August at 2.15pm, when our speaker will be Bill Haley who will tell us about Life on Board the Royal Yacht Britannia – a glimpse of life during a royal tour. Visitors are most welcome at a charge of £4 per meeting, and we are always pleased to see potential new members. Refreshments are always served at the end of each meeting.

For further information, please contact:

**Mrs Maja Tompkins: 07709 201881 or
Mrs Jenny Kennington: 0116 2365402**

Knitted poppy appeal

As many of you will already know, we are creating a poppy display at All Saints' Church for this year's special 80th Anniversary Remembrance Day, commemorating and giving thanks to all who sacrificed their lives in the two World wars.

As the deadline for creating the display draws nearer we would like to ask anyone who has knitted or crocheted poppies, if they could hand them in to Jane Lacey or myself as soon as possible. We are also in need of 10p size black buttons, so if you or your friends and neighbours have some that can be spared they would be very welcome.

Jane and I, along with many wonderful



residents of Thurcaston and Cropston will be assembling the poppy display from the end of September by which time we hope to have all your contributions gathered in.

Thank you so much

Lizzie Williams

NEXT STAY AND PLAY

**Tuesday 26 August -
Friday 29 August**

**10 am -12pm at St Mary's
Church, Anstey**



**SUNDAYS @CHURCH
FAMILY FRIENDLY ALL AGE
10AM 10TH AUGUST**

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR
RESPONSIBLE ADULT**

Ulverscroft Priory Open Air Service

(By Kind Permission of Mr & Mrs Trevor and Emma Wells)



Sunday 17th August 2025 at 3pm

Service led by the Revd Andrew Smith & Revd Ed Bampton

Guest Preacher: Revd Ed Bampton (Area Dean)

Organist: Mr David Seal

Opening Prayer: Adrian Whalley (Locally Authorised Minister, TBS)

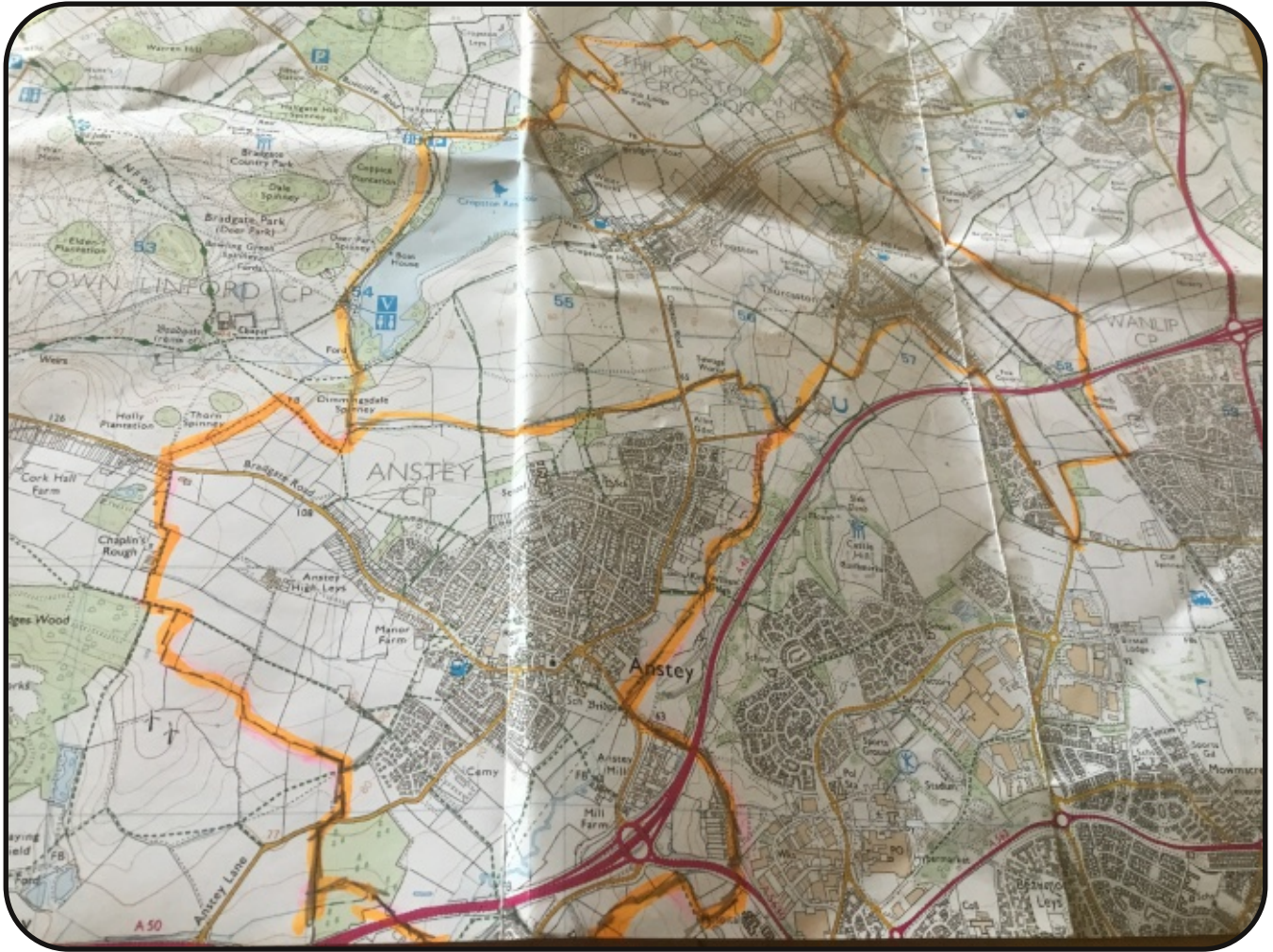
Collect: Terry Layton (Minister in Training, Markfield)

Readings by Peter Maynard (Associate Minister, TBS) &

Sue Gammon (PCC, Copt Oak)

Prayers led by Delia Geary (Associate Minister, Thornton)

Beating the Bounds



Come for a 3 hour walk around the parish boundaries, prayerfully mindful of the areas we inhabit and the beautiful hidden gems of the parish borders with Glenfield, Groby, Swithland, Rothley, City, Newtown Linford and

Birstall. Get to know the parishes like never before.

Beating the Bounds - the ancient tradition of walking and blessing the parish boundaries.

Each parish walk is approximately (7 miles) 3 hours plus a break at a pub en-route

**St Mary's Parish Anstey -
meet Pollards Road/ Cropston Rd roundabout
August Tuesday 12th 2pm**

**All Saints Parish Thurcaston w Cropston -
meet All Saints Church
August Sunday 24th 2.30pm**

*More details and to secure a place text Rev Matthew 07754961997 or email
catbenefice@gmail.com*

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

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

Ruffle's walks - Ruffle under cover!

By Rachel Greaves

Eric's eldest two grandchildren, Alice and Jack, were staying for a few days with their Grandad. The weather had been warm and dry so they had asked Eric if they could camp out in the garden overnight. To their delight, Eric had agreed and had found a large two-man tent which now stood proudly in the garden.

The children had collected sleeping bags, torches, books and of course snacks and were busy arranging everything in the tent ready for the night adventure. Of course, if there was any hint of food, Ruffle was sure to be near at hand!

'Ruffle! Get your paws off the sleeping bag - I can't move it upbecause you're standing on it!'

'No Ruffle! Get your nose out of the bag of snacks! We're saving them until our midnight feast,

Ruffle was as excited as the children as they all squeezed into the tent. But it soon became very warm in the tent so they were forced out to the shade of the tree in the garden. They spent a lazy afternoon reading and talking, occasionally interrupted by the sound of Ruffle snoring as he lay beside them.

'Um,' thought Jack out loud. 'I'm not sure there's enough room in the tent for Ruffle as well tonight - especially if he's going to snore like that all night!'

'Perhaps he can stay indoors with Grandad instead?' suggested Alice, rubbing her toe gently against Ruffle's beard. Ruffle twitched and turned over, his snoring



stopping for a short while before beginning again.

Darkness finally arrived. Eric held tightly to Ruffle's collar as Alice and Jack made their way to the tent, their torches picking out the way.

'Goodnight!' called Eric with a laugh. 'Don't take any notice of the garden beasts!'

'What did Grandad mean?' asked Jack as they settled into the tent. 'What garden

beasts?'

'Oh he was just joking!' replied Alice, not very convincingly. They crawled into their sleeping bags then opened the bag of snacks. However, they hadn't sat for long when they heard a strange snuffling, grunting sound.

'What was that?' cried Jack, his eyes wide open in the torch light.

A scraping sound began outside the tent on the side next to Alice. Jack gave a shout and leapt up, his torch falling onto his sleeping bag. He dashed out of the tent, closely followed by Alice who decided she didn't want to stay in the tent on her own! They raced along the garden path towards the welcoming light of the kitchen and burst through the back door calling for Eric.

Ruffle had heard the shouting and had gone to the back door wondering what was wrong. In their haste, the children rushed past Ruffle, leaving the back door open.

Ruffle remembering the tasty snacks, decided he would take the opportunity to see if there was anything left. As he trotted down the garden path to the tent he caught the familiar scent of the hedgehogs that

usually appeared in the garden after dark. When he came to the tent, Ruffle pushed his way carefully through the opening and sat down on the sleeping bag next to the open bag of snacks.

Meanwhile Eric had followed the children to the back door to assure them that there were no 'garden beasts' that would hurt them. Alice and Jack suddenly stopped as they looked over to where the tent was.

There, bathed in the light of Jack's torch inside the tent was the shadow of a two homed creature with a wide open mouth!

Alice squealed with fear. Jack held Eric's hand tightly - even Eric was stunned. At least until the shadow stood up and shook itself forming into a body with fourlegs, a head and a long beard!

'Ruffle!' They all shouted Ruffle's name, partly out of relief!

A large hairy black and tan head appeared from the tent, followed by the rest of Ruffle's body. He walked slowly along the garden path and past the little group into the kitchen. Ruffle didn't look at any of them - but licked his lips as he passed. And was that the smallest movement of his tail...?

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'

Colour-in – Sandcastle at the beach



A classic and timeless summer love story!

There will be no film in August but.....

....**Dirty Dancing** (1987 film) will be shown on 12th September and lasts 100 mins.

Our September romantic drama dance film stars the unforgettable Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. While spending a 1960's summer with her family in the mountains, Francis falls in love with the resort's free-spirited dance instructor. It's one of the most memorable films that I have ever seen, with our most favourite line, "Nobody puts Baby in a corner".

Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council will be showing this film in Thurcaston Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets will cost the usual £5, which includes a lucky prize draw and refreshments during the interval. You can park free in Richard



Hill School.

You can pay for your tickets at the door, if there are any left, or buy in advance from Diana 0116 2362 619 or Sylvia 0116 2352 873 or the Parish Office 0116 2367 626.

National two-minute silence to mark VJ Day 80

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in a national two-minute silence at noon on **Friday 15 August** to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

A Service of Remembrance will honour and remember those who fought and died during

the Second World War in the Far East at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, which will be broadcast live on BBC1 from midday.

Government buildings and High Commissions across the globe will also be lit up on 15 August to commemorate VJ Day.

Spelling

Teacher: Donald, how do you spell crocodile?

Donald: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's incorrect.

Donald: Maybe it is, but you asked me how I spell it.

Dates for your diary

Four pages of Events and Activities this month

Date	Time	Event
Fri Aug 1	9.15 am	Coffee Morning -Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms
Sat Aug 2	10:30 am	Cropston Evangelical Free Church (CEFC) - Charity Coffee Morning - The charity for 2053 is "Operation Smile"
Sun Aug 3	10.30am	(CEFC) Sunday Worship
Mon Aug 4	11.00am	(CEFC) Bible Study
Tue Aug 5	10:00am	Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms
	NOON	Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat ANSTEY JUBILEE HALL (AJH) Staddon Rd LE7 7AY -
Wed Aug 6		NO Wednesday Hub until September
Fri Aug 8	9.15 am	Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms
Sun Aug 10	10.30am	Sunday Worship (CEFC)
Mon Aug 11	2.15pm	Monday Club - Schoolroom, (CEFC) - Life aboard The Royal Yacht Britannia.
Tue Aug 12	10:00	Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms
	NOON	Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat (AJH)
Wed Aug 13		NO Wednesday Hub until September
	7.45pm	Gardening Club -Thurcaston Memorial Hall (TMH) - Joseph Paxton The Busiest Man in England
Fri Aug 15	9.15 am	Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms
	Noon	Two minute silence for VJ Day
Sat Aug 16		NO Coffee in Harrison Room in July or Aug
Sun Aug 17	10.30am	Sunday Worship (CEFC)
	3.00pm	Ulverscroft Priory Open Air Service see Page 14



Mon Aug 18 11.00am Prayer meeting CEFC



August Services All Saints'

Sunday 3rd

Morning Praise 10am
(No breakfast or 8.30 BCP)

Sunday 10th

Holy Communion 10am

Sunday 17th

Prayer Book Communion 8.30am
Compline Night Prayer 8pm

Sunday 24th

Holy Communion 10am

Sunday 31st

Benefice Service 10am



August Services St Mary's

Sunday 3rd

Holy Communion 10am

Sunday 10th

All Age Worship 10am

Sunday 17th

Holy Communion 10am

Sunday 24th

Fresh Worship 10am

Sunday 31st

(No Anstey Service)

Joint Service 10am All Saints' Thurstaston

Every Wednesday

9.30am Traditional Prayer Book

Communion

Dates for your diary

Events and Activities this month continued

Date	Time	Event
Tue Aug 19	10.00am	<i>Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
	Noon	<i>Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat (AJH) -</i>
	from 6.45	<i>History Society is visiting a Hindu Temple</i>
Wed Aug 20		<i>No Wednesday Hub until September</i>
Fri Aug 22	9.15 am	<i>Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
Sun Aug 24	10.30am	<i>Sunday Worship (CEFC)</i>
Tue Aug 26	10:00am	<i>Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
	NOON	<i>Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat (AJH)</i>
	2.00pm	<i>(CEFC) - Just for Ladies - Bring a craft, play board games or just have a chat. There will be a short Christian thought for the day.</i>
Wed Aug 27		<i>No Wednesday Hub until September</i>
Fri Aug 29	9.15 am	<i>Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
	15:00	<i>Tea & Crafts - St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
Sun Aug 31	10.00am	<i>Joint Service - All Saints' Church, Thurstaston</i>
	10.30am	<i>Sunday Worship (CEFC)</i>
Mon Sept 1	11.00am	<i>(CEFC) Bible Study</i>
Tue Sept 2	10:00am	<i>Food Bank. Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms</i>
	Noon	<i>Leics MS Tuesday Group - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat (AJH) -</i>
Wed Sep 3	14:00	<i>The Hub returns</i>

THURCASTON & CROPSTON GARDENING CLUB

40th ANNUAL CRAFT & PRODUCE SHOW

Sat Sep 6	2.30pm	<i>Thurcaston & Cropston Annual Craft & Produce Show at Richard Hill School</i>
Sun Sep 7	6.30pm	<i>Taize Evening - See Page 6</i>
Sat Sept 13	From 10.00am	<i>Ride and Stride see Page 31</i>

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.



Dine Out with Trevor...

Dining Out or Takeaway: My Delhi

The city of Leicester has a great amount of history. Along with the county of Leicestershire, many visitors to this area delight in the heritage, culture and customs. The reinterring of King Richard 111 aroused much interest globally and brought countless tourists in from the UK and overseas. The King Richard 111 Visitor Centre has a 'wealth' of information and is appreciated by many. Numerous other attractions for the area include arts, world-class entertainments and sports. The universities are (world) renowned and the National Space Centre is located here too. Eateries and restaurants are in abundance.

I located My Delhi in Leicester. My Delhi is a multi award-winning Indian restaurant group and is well known for their authentic, high quality dishes and admirable presentations.

To commence I opted for Gol Gappa. This made a very good introduction to the meal. We then chose a selection of their Street Plates which included their signature Aslam Smoked Tandoori Chicken (roasted tandoori chicken breast, served with a rich creamy sauce and finished with an ancient dhungaar smoke technique). The captivating aromas enticed to the complementing flavours of the



whole dish.

From their Roadside Curries, I selected South Indian Fish Curry (delicately spiced fish cooked gently in a creamy coconut sauce) – flavoursome and succulent, a really impressive main course option. I added sides of Keema Kulcha and Rice. Head Chef is

Nitin, who, with the extremely experienced and talented kitchen brigade, produce the outstanding dishes. Other Roadside Curry options include Classic Curries, North Indian-Inspired Signature Dishes and more.

Gajar Halwa Sundae – for a favourite dessert delectation. Quality wines/drinks offer beverages for all. Collections, deliveries and outside catering are available and gift vouchers

are very popular (perhaps a surprise for someone special?). The Bottomless Brunch times continue in popularity also. Celebratory



occasions occur regularly. Thank you to Aravindhan for his welcome and Josh for excellent service throughout. Booking is very much advised, particularly for popular dates and times. Other My Delhi 'sister' restaurants are located at Newcastle and Sunderland.

Conclusion: My Delhi exceeded the praises, which I had received by a recommendation.

Highly recommended.

My Delhi, 26 Belvoir Street, Leicester LE1 6QH. Tel: 0116 321 4960.

E-mail: hello@mydelhistreetfood.com Web: www.mydelhistreetfood.com

As always, Enjoy!

Trevor Langley

What is it like to welcome strangers into your garden as part of an open garden weekend?

We heard all the warnings! "Villains will be casing your joint." "Things will get nicked" etc, but when questioned the statements generally came from hearsay and not from people who had actually opened their own gardens and so were not usually speaking from personal experience.

That is not to say we did not take precautions, after all there is no smoke without fire! Items likely to be attractive to the light-fingered were stored safely away. Also doors were locked and curtains closed.

The first year we opened – before Covid - our garden was a lawn with a border or two and a few interesting plants. It had been tidied up, more than we had ever done before, and the entrance to the back garden had been levelled with recycled paving slabs. The garden shed was beginning to lean at an alarming angle – perhaps that would be seen as an interesting talking point!

We had lunch early on the Saturday and when we stepped outside were surprised to find a queue had already formed ready to enter. The enthusiasm of our visitors for gardening and gardens was infectious. Comments, usually very complimentary, astounded us as we got to chat with so many people who were passionate about gardening or just interested. The outstanding highlight of our first year was some self-seeded peony poppies blooming on the very weekend of the Open Gardens. We fielded a lot of questions about them and had a

number of requests for seeds.

During Covid, like many people, we had little to do other than invest time in the garden. New areas have been created and a larger, more robust garden shed, has replaced the leaning hut of Thurstaston.

This year we met many new visitors to our garden. They showed the same enthusiasm for gardening or curiosity as before, but noticeably, more people than ever before thanked us for opening our gates. Questions asked were mostly about the plants but interest varied from queries about the material used to make the shed roof to where we got our trellis from. Once again we had some decent weather which helped make the weekend one to remember.

Would we recommend the experience to others? Certainly! It is always a heart-warming experience when a visitor compliments something we had not really noticed before.

No garden is the same so visitors are always curious to see what lies behind the hedge and who knows what ideas they can adapt to suit their garden. Here's to next year's Open Gardens and perhaps we have convinced you to join the growing number of local gardens open that June weekend and raise some much needed funds for the Local Air Ambulance and other charities with stalls of plants, cakes and books.

Richard, Barbara & Adam

Guided tour brings Welford Road Cemetery to life!

The rain held off as 10 members of the Thurstaston & Cropston Local History Society were treated to a very interesting tour and talk about the cemetery, its history and the many famous people whose graves and memorials are to be found there.

Welford Road, Leicester's first municipal cemetery, opened in 1849, is the 3rd oldest in the country and is still in use. It is spread across 31 acres of land, on the edge of what was the old town of Leicester, and it is Grade 2 listed in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens.

The Cemetery is a beautiful, calm, peaceful place with easy walkways and something of interest at every turn. Many of Leicester's oldest and unusual trees can be found there. Our group visited the very informative Visitor Centre where we found maps, leaflets, grave layout plans and lots of helpful literature. In addition, knowledgeable and committed members of the Friends of Welford Road Cemetery were

present to help visitors to locate family graves.

Many of Leicester's wealthy, famous and notorious Victorian and Edwardian men and women were buried there and we were shown the graves of Thomas Cook, Fielding Johnson and John Ellis, among others.

There are over 213,000 people buried in the cemetery with 30,000 graves and 10,000 headstones. There are many military graves. On the site of the original chapels (now demolished) there are plaques that remind us of many ordinary people from Leicestershire. These plaques are numbered and have biographical information on them plus the grave location. The amount of information and sign-posting in such a large area is exceptional.

For any group looking for an interesting and unusual activity, a visit to Welford Road Cemetery is certainly educational and very worthwhile.

Sylvia Cole.

Delivery Help Needed

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All Saints' Annual Skittles Challenge 2025



The teams assembled at the Wheatsheaf, eight in all, so lots of competition and rivalry. It was a nice warm evening so we could spread outside. The challenge of the evening was not only winning the skittles match, but also

cracking the quiz, so engaging the brain. Supper was enjoyed before the final showdown with Eleanor and Izzy's team winning the quiz and the Dingers coming out top of the scoring in the skittles. A wooden spoon was presented to the losing team, who accepted gracefully.

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Gardening Club outing to RHS Flower Show



*Flower bed created for the Show
in front of Wentworth Woodhouse*

It was a full coach load of Thurcaston and Cropston Gardening Club members and guests that made the trip northwards to the new RHS Flower Show at Wentworth Woodhouse in July 2025.

The weather was uncharacteristically cool and misty, but the sun broke through at lunchtime and the consumption of water and ice cream rose accordingly.

The setting for this new RHS Flower Show was the beautiful Wentworth Woodhouse stately home. Its glorious wide frontage made a beautiful setting with show exhibits, stalls and show gardens.

As well as the stunning show gardens and fantastic floral marquee; there was a real focus on local community gardening projects, with 'community cubes' displays designed and created by local Wildlife groups, Girl Guides and other youth groups. The entrance way from the car park was lined with beautiful quirky exhibits from local schools and other small groups. Who knew that a pile of pallets and some tin cans could become a beautiful bee focused garden brimming with yellow and orange flowers.

The range of official 'Show Gardens' included a miners cottage garden; a garden with a BMX track designed with the help of local teenagers, and a garden featuring a curved dry-stone wall created for the show in four days.



Floral Marquee – an exhibit of Hostas

We were treated to a wide range of top-quality plants and plant combinations. A real feature of all the show gardens and exhibits was planting that supported pollinating insects and diverse eco-systems, which is increasingly important to gardeners young and old.

Weary gardening club members made their



Garden Club members relaxing at the Show

way back to the coach loaded with purchases, including plants, garden ornaments, and equipment.

An exhausting but very enjoyable outing.

The Gardening Club meets in the Thurstaston 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:

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, Thurstaston

Wed 8 October

Roses – All You Need to Know – by Kerry Austen

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,

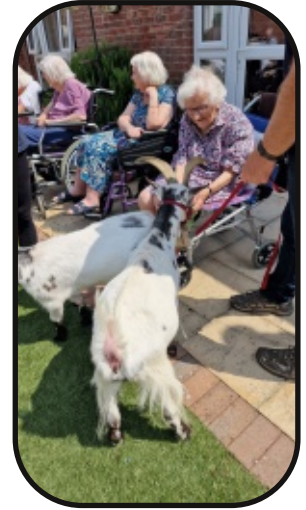
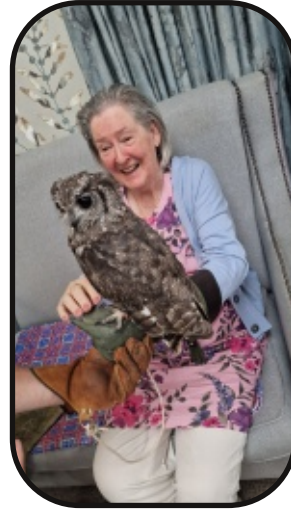
Email: **rhillcharitytrustees@hotmail.com** or Telephone: **0116 234 0625**

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!



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

Our monthly church service was in full flow this month... From song, conversation and pray.

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

On Friday 4th July 2025 the residents enjoyed being entertained by guest singer Nick Golden. During the performance there was also a guest appearance by our volunteer Will as the laughing policeman... Well done Will!

On Saturday 5th July 2025 we re-potted some tomato plants. With a lot of water and sunshine hopefully we will have some lovely tomatoes for the residents to have with some summer salads.

The residents also enjoyed making glass flower stakes for the garden. The garden is going to sparkle!

On Thursday 10th July 2025 some of the residents enjoyed a trip to the railway. We also enjoyed some ice lollies.

The residents enjoyed meeting Arthur and Archie the pygmy goats on Monday 14th July 2025. They were very chatty and

playful!

On Wednesday 16th July 2025 the residents enjoyed listening to Cantare music group.

There was lots of singing and joining in.

On Thursday 17th July 2025 the residents took part in a guitar jam. Once again there was lots of singing and grooving!

On Friday 18th July 2025 the residents enjoyed seeing and handling the birds of prey from Birds On A Hand – Bingo, Ophelia and Elvis. They also demonstrated their flying skills.

On Saturday 19th July 2025 the residents enjoyed making jam tarts in the coffee shop. Plus some jam pastries. One word... delicious!

On Monday 21st July 2025 some of the residents, and children from the nursery group, enjoyed playing Bull's Eye with Waley's Dart Days. It tested them both physical and mentally. Dick, Eddie and Jenny became reigning champions! Congratulations!

The residents love their game sessions. From large group games (e.g. skittles, netball) to small group games (e.g. connect 4, kerplunk).

Life is one big adventure at Cedar House!

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SATURDAY
13 **SEPT**
2025



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Ride+Stride event find
out more at:**
www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

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On the annual war of pumpkin-growing

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin growing competition. Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence.

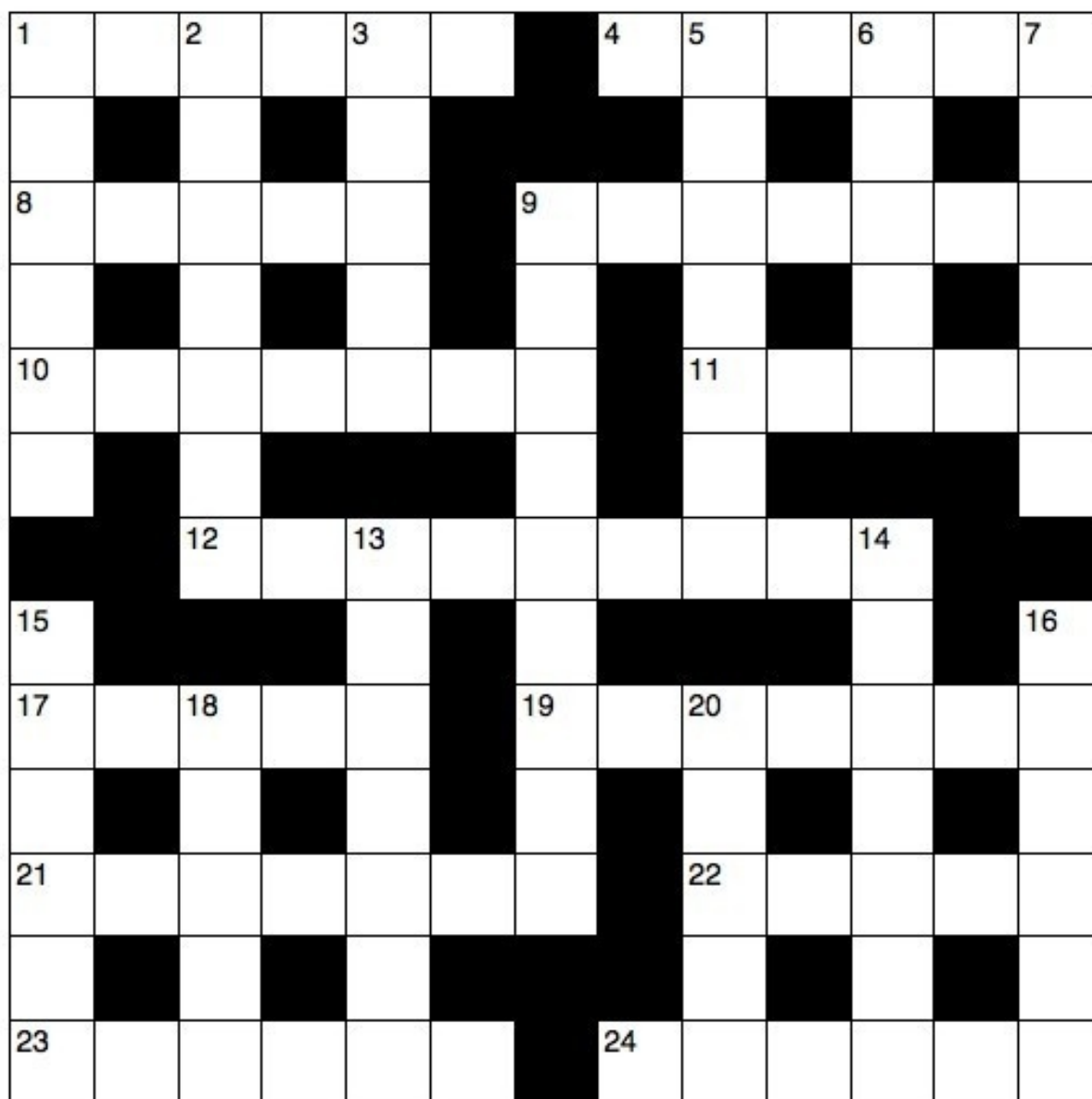
On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters' rights to that place, and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation.

I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence. That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick and accompanied by a golden Labrador does, however, raise doubts.

To award the Earl any prize at all does seem a little unfair, when the only time he ever gets mud on his boots is when he falls off his horse while hunting. I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate. But to give any credit to his gardening staff would be seen as bad form, so we all keep quiet.

It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but they would also have to face a 12 month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Letters would be strangely mis-delivered, and the butcher's boy would suddenly deliver lamb when pork had been ordered. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Crossword**Across**

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
 11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)

Crossword

17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)

19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)

21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)

22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)

23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)

24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)

2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)

3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)

5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)

6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)

7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)

9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)

13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)

14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)

15 See **12** Across

16 Rioted (anag.) (6)

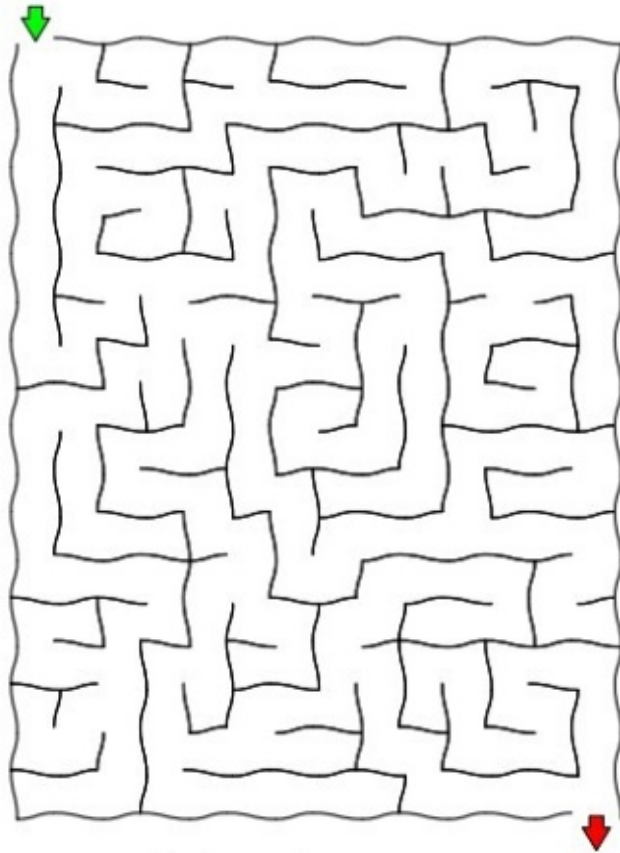
18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found **8** Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)

20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

Sudoku

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

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Maze**Crossword solution**

A	M	A	Z	E	D		O	T	H	E	R	S	
P		T		A				A		N		H	
P	E	T	E	R		Z	E	B	E	D	E	E	
E		A		N		A		L		E		K	
A	C	C	U	S	E	R		E	N	D	U	E	
L		K				E		A				L	
		S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E			
U				U		H				P		E	
S	H	R	U	B		A	B	A	S	H	E	D	
E		H		B		T		B		E		I	
F	O	O	L	I	S	H		U	P	S	E	T	
U		D		S				S		U		O	
L	O	A	T	H	E			L	E	S	S	E	R

Sudoku Solution

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

*All Saints 200 Club winners...***JULY 2025 Draw****1st** *WENDY MURPHY***2nd** *SARAH HOPWOOD***3rd** *PAM MASON****Congratulations to July's winners!***

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