

THURCASTON CROPSTON *PARISH MAGAZINE*

The magazine for your parish since 1951

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No 10

October 2025



**Near record exhibits at Annual
Show!**

See inside for the full story

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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...

Congratulations to the organisers of the Thurcaston & Cropston Village Show held on September 6th.

Another resounding success. See the full story on page 28.

What a difference a refurbishment makes! The folk behind St Mary's Church Rooms new toilets must be flushed with success as they are now open for business. Page 5

reveals (nearly) all!

A fantastic range of events are due to take place in both parishes during the month of October. To make sure you don't miss a thing turn to our Whats On pages beginning on page 17. See you there!

Richard, Barbara & Adam

Good weather for Ride and Stride.

Ride + Stride is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. Taking place on the 2nd Saturday of September the funds raised can be split between the nominated Trust and the participants chosen church or chapel.

Over £1,282,300 has been raised in Leicestershire since the first Ride+Stride in 1990. Even during Covid, the event raised £107,700 in 2020-2022 - an amazing achievement considering the difficult circumstances and Leicester's very long lockdown. In 2024, Ride+Stride raised



The first visitors to All Saints'.

£42,769 - 15% more than the previous year - a fantastic tribute to everyone who took part.

317 churches and chapels registered for this year's Ride+Stride which took place on Saturday 13 September. Fortunately much of the day was fine with some pleasant September sunshine.

While the majority of participants chose to walk or cycle from one church to the next, a team from Orton

on the Hill saw participants ride exercise bikes and collectively cycle 200 miles to Snowdon without ever leaving their church!

Learn about life in the Falklands

On 2nd April 1982, Argentine Forces invaded the Falkland Islands. 20 years later, Sylvia and John Cole arrived in the islands where Sylvia was about to take up her new post as Director of Education.

Sylvia's talk, (using real slides and a slide projector), focuses on many aspects of life in the Falkland Islands - from education and

wildlife, to shipwrecks and farming, with a bit of military history thrown in for good measure.

What was it like, living on a small island, 400 miles from its nearest neighbour, in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, and 8000 miles away from home? Why don't you come along on Saturday, November 8th and find out?

Autumn is here!

Autumn is upon us. Birds have started to migrate. Robins will not migrate. They will be ready to appear on people's Christmas cards. One year recently a family of robins nested in our Vent Axia, and they seemed to hold some kind of graduation ceremony on the neighbour's chimney, before all flying away.

As this magazine is published, the season of Creationtide is still with us. This is a fairly new season in the Christian calendar. We are called to acknowledge God as creator. (Yes, demonstrably there was evolution, but that was part of the way in which God did it.) We are called to acknowledge humanity's role in looking after creation, and the planet on which we live. This is not just for our sakes, but other creatures are important too, all within God's creation.

Although the earth will pass away, as Jesus taught and science seems to acknowledge, we should not neglect it meanwhile. One might compare this with the imperative to look after a house or a car, in spite of knowing that they have a finite life. There are several ways in which we need to look after our environment. Encouraging biodiversity is important, and for example a great variety of creatures take part in food chains or provide pollination services for plants. Limiting our emissions of gases such as methane and carbon dioxide is important for limiting climate change, and already there have unfortunately been many millions of climate refugees in the world. It is good that companies such as National Grid are investing heavily in adaptations that are necessary to achieve better energy strategy. The National Forest on our doorstep was initiated mainly for environmental reasons, and various professional institutions have taken a strong interest in the environment for many years.

St. Francis of Assisi is regarded as the patron saint of animals and ecology, and his



day is the 4th October. This month we also have amongst others, William Tyndale the Bible translator, together with Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer and Martin Luther all of whom were strongly influenced by the Bible, and we have Bible Sunday on 26th October. This year, in our three-year cycle of Bible readings, Luke's gospel has been prominent.

Luke is understood to have been a doctor and an artist as well as a gospel writer. He travelled widely and would have spoken to many witnesses, probably including Jesus' mother Mary and some of the twelve. His account of Mary with the angel shows great sensitivity. He includes a wealth of stories some of which are unique to his gospel. We have the canticles Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis uniquely in Luke. Importantly for chronologists, he anchors Jesus' ministry in relation to general history e.g. the fifteenth year of the emperor Tiberius (ch.3 v1). We would be the poorer without this gospel, and it is worth reading if you have never done so before.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Ian

'The best seats in the house.'

St Mary's Church Rooms toilets have a new look.



At long last we now have new toilets in the Church Rooms, which were refurbished during July/August when the nursery was on its summer break. The ladies, gents and accessible toilets have all been completely refurbished, and we are most grateful to anyone who donated or helped in any way. We are particularly

thankful for donations from the Edith Murphy Foundation, Charnwood Borough Council, Bernard Sunley Foundation, Anstey Town Charity and our own Friday coffee mornings - we could not have done it without you.

Mary Mitchell

Film

The newspapers report how a cinemagoer arose from his seat while watching a film and shot himself. I believe that I have also seen that picture.

Revd. Haydn Williams

1932-2025

Revd. Haydn Williams lived in Ashfield Drive, Anstey for many years. He served in many capacities. His genial, generous and outgoing personality will be remembered with affection. He was born in Glyncoed, a village in South Wales, and educated at Aberystwyth University. He went into teaching, and became the headteacher at a small primary school in North West Leicestershire. He was active in the trade union movement and in local politics, and for several years he was the chairman of Anstey Parish Council. He had links with the Bradgate Twinning Association, which twinned with villages to the east of Rouen in France.

He lost his faith for a time, when his father died painfully from cancer, and his health suffered. He went for a walk, and passing St. Mary's he tried the door, and it opened. At the altar he was surprised to receive the call of God to serve, with echoes from Matthew 9 vs 35-38:

Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." (ESV translation).

Rather to its surprise, as Haydn had been known mainly as a parish councillor, the Church Council at St. Mary's was asked to



approve him for training as a Lay Reader. Approval was given and Haydn undertook theological training in 1989. He served in St. Mary's as a Lay Reader for several years, and then felt called to ordained ministry. He served in St. Mary's as Hon. Assistant Curate from 1995 until 2001, then ministering to Broom Leys in Coalville and elsewhere.

Haydn's funeral was in Christ Church Coalville, a lovely service attended by some people who knew him from St. Mary's and Anstey Parish Council. The reading was from Matthew 9 vs 35-38, and the service was led by Revd. Gill Pinnington. He was pre-deceased by his wife Dorothy, also a headteacher, and is survived by his second wife Jill, and his family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Ian Dutton

Growing up

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

Harvest donations and the local Food Bank

SOAR VALLEY COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECT



The All Saints Harvest Festival Service will be taking place on **Sunday 12 October**. All non-perishable Harvest donations will be given to the Soar Valley food bank, and perishable items (fruit & vegetables etc) will be given to a local care home.

The main needs for Harvest are as follows:-

- ☐ Tinned meals eg Chicken in sauce, or beef and onion.
- ☐ Tinned meat eg spam or corned beef
- ☐ Tinned custard
- ☐ Tinned rice pudding
- ☐ Tinned fruit, pineapple or fruit cocktail

The Food Bank has provided the following list of items that are needed at the moment so if you are planning to make a Harvest donation it would be much appreciated if you could use this list as a guideline for what to give.

Many thanks for your support.

- ☐ Tinned macaroni cheese, ravioli or hot dogs
- ☐ Tinned vegetables, carrots, peas or corn
- ☐ Tinned beans
- ☐ Jam
- ☐ Pasta sauce
- ☐ Cereal

Readings for October Creationtide

October 5, 2025	<i>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10
October 12, 2025	<i>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19
October 19, 2025	<i>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8
October 26, 2025	<i>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

From the registers...

Baptisms

Sunday 31st August

Sarah William Leicester (& Confirmation),

Deanery Confirmations, Glenfield.



Sunday 31st August

Brian Wright Anstey,

Deanery Confirmations, Glenfield.

Sunday 7th September

Ralphie Tilley from Anstey,

All Saints', Thurcaston.

Sunday 14th September

Ava Bray from Anstey,

St Mary's, Anstey.

Funerals

Monday 29th September

Lisa Laycock of Thurcaston,

Loughborough Crematorium and All Saints Church.



Friday 19th September

Christina Crewe of Anstey,

Loughborough Crematorium.

Thursday 25th September

Malcom Mobbs of Anstey,

Gilroes Cemetery.

Plastic carrier bags

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags

were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

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Late Summer Confirmations



Our Local Deanery Confirmations at St Peter's Glenfield with 3 members from St Mary's, Sarah, Brian and Kristine confirmed by Bishop Robert 31st August

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New neighbours?

Broadnook Garden Village is being built between Birstall and Rothley, and developers have asked the Council to consider establishing a parish council to represent the new community which will lie adjacent to Thurcaston & Cropston.

The Charnwood Borough Council is proposing to create a town council for Loughborough at the same time due to the Government's local government reorganisation plans which will see borough and county councils replaced with new unitary authorities.

Most areas in Charnwood already have town or parish councils, but Loughborough does not. The Council believes that creating a town council would help ensure local people, businesses and communities continue to have a say in how their town is

run.

Communities are encouraged to take part in consultations on proposals to create a town council for Loughborough and a parish council for Broadnook in the south of the borough.

Charnwood Borough Council has agreed to carry out two community governance reviews to make changes to electoral arrangements in those areas and is now seeking views.

The consultations run from 22 September 2025 to 30 November 2025.

If the reviews conclude new councils should be created, it is anticipated they would come into effect in 2027.

To have your say in the consultations and find out more, please visit www.charnwood.gov.uk/cgr

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: rhilcharitytrustees@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.



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Monday Club treated to a Demonstration of Indian Head Massage

A member of our Club explained the techniques of Indian Head Massage, a holistic therapy developed by Narendra Mehta, which she had studied for many years. He had been blind from childhood. The lady passed around a book he wrote, and then treated some willing volunteers. There are several elements which can help the "patient" such as using beneficial oils like coconut oil, which has anti-inflammatory properties. Many families perform this on other family members. You can also use different crystals, and herbs and spices. Each area of the body is referred to as a "chakra". Any chakra can get blocked, and this causes problems and pains which can be helped by deep relaxation.

The ancient Indian science of "Ayurveda" developed over many centuries. Celebrations of important life events like marriage and childbirth call for specific treatments, which could include meditation, yoga, and massage with oils.

The patient should think about any pain they may have, and visualise the rays of the sun healing the part that hurts. If the patient is alone and cannot massage the affected area, one solution is to lie down on the bed with a



Cropston Evangelical Free
Church

8th September 2025

tennis ball placed say under the neck. Moving the body around can then provide a massage using the ball.

Tension can be relieved by moving your hand in gentle circles on your temples, and someone can improve their circulation as well if they

suffer from conditions like cold hands or feet. Oils like lavender or vanilla can help a person to sleep better.

There is also a Swedish massage technique which can involve things like cupping, or different crystals, or hot stones.

After questions from the audience and refreshments, the meeting closed at around 4 p.m.

Meetings start at 2.15pm. Our Harvest Festival is on 13th October, with a talk about the Agony and Ecstasy of a Hotel Boater. On 10th November we shall enjoy a talk from Bishop Fox, a magical history tour. There is a pre-Christmas lunch for members and friends in early December. Visitors (£4) and new members are most welcome at the Church Room meetings – just turn up on the day.

Mrs Maja Tompkins

Contact mobile 07709 201881.

Not any more

Two young tourists went into a Quaker Guest house in Lakeland. As they were strangers, the warden approached them and asked, "Are you Friends?"

The answer came back politely, "Oh no, not now, we are married."

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Junior Corner...

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

Ruffie's walks - conkers, spiders and Airedales ...!

By Rachel Greaves

It was a warm Autumn morning and Ruffie had made his usual walk down to the station. Eric was nowhere to be seen but then Ruffie saw Ben, the engine driver of the green train, who was busy on the station platform tidying up the flowers in the concrete flower boxes.

'Hello Ruffie!' greeted Ben and stopped to give Ruffie a bit of fuss. 'No! I don't need any help, thank you!' he continued as Ruffie tried to pull one of the large plant leaves that was hanging tantalizingly over the edge of the flower bed.

Ruffie walked over to the station and trotted through the open door to find Eric. He wasn't gone long before he came running out and tossed something small into the air. He pounced on the small brown ball-like shape as it rolled across the platform over towards Ben.

'What have you found?' asked Ben as he once again stopped work and knelt down to see what was amusing Ruffie. 'A conker! Where on earth did you find that? Let's take that from you so you don't swallow it or else we'll all be in trouble!'

Ben took the conker and put it into the bin then returned to the flower bed. Ruffie watched, disappointed that his new found toy had gone. Very well - there were plenty more where that came from!

He trotted back into the station then soon reappeared with another small brown conker in his mouth. This time he didn't throw it in the air but took it under one of the green platform benches with the intention of



eating it. But Ben had noticed Ruffie coming out of the station again and suspected that Ruffie had found something else. He walked over to Ruffie and managed to retrieve the conker before any bits had been eaten.

'Ruffie! Where are you getting the conkers from?'

As he spoke, Eric appeared from the other side of the platform. Ben turned to show him Ruffie's find. 'Look Eric - a conker! Ruffie keeps going into the station and

Junior Corner...

bringing them out!'

Eric suddenly smiled and gave a laugh. 'Nothing gets past you does it Ruffle!' he said stroking Ruffle's ears. 'I had put a conker in each corner of the station to try and frighten the spiders away. The cleaner

has a real fear of them - I remembered an old country tale and decided to try it out!'

Ben laughed. 'Well, we had better go and remove them before Ruffle finds them all. They might work for spiders but they don't seem to keep the Airedales away!'

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'

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:36 - 7:8, 16-22

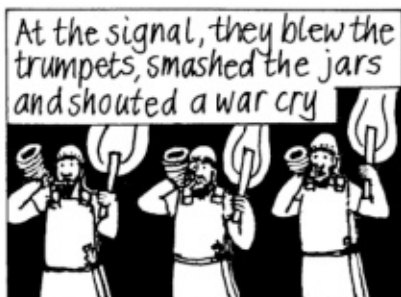
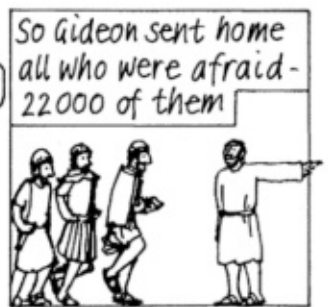
A short story from the Bible

God had told Gideon he would drive the Midianite invaders out of his country. 32000 men had come to fight with Gideon.

Gideon asked God for proof.



Part 2



Who is God?

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the King?"

Dine Out with Trevor...

Dine in style at the Priest House



I located The Priest House at Kings Mills, on the Derbyshire/Leicestershire border. This very well established hotel, bar and restaurant venue, which has extensive grounds, that include gardens and woodlands, is situated by the side of the River Trent, at this tranquil place. Renowned for the quality of all that The Priest House offers, countless visitors return often – a very good sign in itself, with weddings and civil partnerships being regular occurrences. This prestigious venue is regarded as being amongst the top wedding venues in the East Midlands. I visited to dine.

To begin, I favoured Thai Tempura King Prawns. This dish gained my confidence for the following courses, as it was flavoursome and had a most attractive presentation - An excellent commencement.

My main course choice was for Moroccan Spiced Chicken (Chicken breast, Middle-Eastern vegetable cous cous, sweet & spicy confit onion and raisin Tfaya). This popular dish arrived with aromas that enticed my taste buds. Perfectly cooked and presented, with complementing flavours in abundance, 'Compliments to Chef' were certainly dispatched. Head Chef is Robert Navarro. Other choices included Pulled Pork Bon Bon, Smoked Salmon, Rib-Eye and Sirloin Steaks, plus Fish options, Signature Burgers, Triple-decker Club and Salads.

Afternoon Teas are hugely popular too.

A selected dessert of Sticky Toffee Pudding brought the dining occasion towards its inevitable conclusion, perfectly.

Wines/drinks offer beverages for all and gift vouchers are available – perhaps a surprise for someone special? Parties/occasions, plus corporate functions (and weddings, of course), at The Priest House by the river, are extremely popular and booked well in advance.

The Priest House Hotel, located a few minutes from the M1 and East Midlands Airport, also offers Park & Fly arrangements and boasts 42 luxury bedrooms that include romantic suites, family and executive bedrooms, plus cottage rooms, providing great options for short breaks. A grade 2 listed water wheel adds to the delightful surroundings. Events take place throughout the year and include exceptional dining experiences.

Thank you for Jasmine's greeting and Andrew, for exemplary service throughout. Highly recommended.

The Priest House Hotel, Kings Mills, Castle Donington, Derby DE74 2RR. Tel: 01332 810649.

E-mail: reception@thepriesthouse.co.uk

Web: www.thepriesthouse.co.uk

As always, Enjoy!

Trevor Langley

Hidden demons, excellent acting talent!

Mr Burton will be shown on 10th October and lasts 124 minutes.

Our audience choice for the October film is a touching true story about the early life of legendary actor, Sir Richard Burton, who had been a rebellious schoolboy. Welsh schoolmaster, played by BAFTA winner Toby Jones, takes the young Richard under his wing, encouraging his natural talent for drama. However, Richard has a difficult home life but Lesley Manville, Academy Award Nominee, stars as his kindly landlady and confidante. This is a tale of dreams. Will they come true?

The Greatest Showman will be shown on 14th November 2025 and lasts 105 mins.

Our November original musical is a big and bold rags to riches film, starring Hugh Jackman. He plays P. T. Barnum, a politician, a world-wide businessman and showman, who created the Barnum and Bailey Circus. His imagination and innovative ideas made him a visionary who rose from nothing, to create the "Greatest Show on Earth". The sweet songs of Jenny



Lind are enchanting. This film is touching at times and a pleasure to watch.

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.

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HARVEST LUNCH AND MAGICIAN ROD WILLIAMS

Saturday | 11 October 2025 | 1-3pm | Markfield Methodist Church

Markfield Methodist Church will host their annual Harvest Lunch on Saturday October 11 2025, but this time, with a difference!

Rod Williams, proud member of the Magic Circle will entertain, delight and astonish you with his skills. His brand of magic combines modern sleight of hand card tricks with mind blowing mind reading! Rod is a professional magician who customises each performance, tailoring his magic to ensure a memorable and enjoyable experience is had by all. Suitable for all ages, Rod does not set out to make anyone feel uncomfortable, he wants you all to enjoy his show. Rod will also provide a glimpse of his life journey so far, from growing up on Guernsey, to present day.

"Your satisfaction is my top priority. Your peace of mind is my promise!"

Rod Williams

Contact for tickets

Kate Scott | 0777 264 6842 | katescott9@me.com

Tickets £12 per person



Dates for your diary

Four pages of Events and Activities this month

Date	Time	Event
Wed Oct 1	2.00pm	Wednesday Hub - All Saints' Church (TWCASC) - coffee/tea, cake & chat
Fri Oct 3	9.15 am	Coffee Morning Anstey St Mary's Church Rooms (ASMCR)
Sat Oct 4	10:30 am	Charity Coffee Morning - The charity for 2025 is "Operation Smile" - Cropston Evangelical Free Church (CEFC)
Sun Oct 5	9.15am	Breakfast in the Church -(TWCASC)
	10:00	Pets Thanksgiving & Animal Welfare Service (TWCASC)
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship (CEFC)
		
Mon Oct 6	11:00am	Bible Study (CEFC)
Tue Oct 7	10.00am	Food Bank. (ASMCR)
	Noon	Leics MS Tuesday Group - ANSTEY JUBILEE HALL (AJH) Staddon Rd LE7 7AY - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat
Wed Oct 8	2.00pm	Wednesday Hub -(TWCASC)- coffee/tea, cake & chat
	7.34 pm	T & C Gardening Club Roses - All you Need to Know (TMH)
Fri Oct 10	9.15 am	Coffee Morning - (ASMCR)
	7.30pm	Thurcaston Film Night - showing Mr Burton Thurcaston Memorial Hall (TMH) -
Sat Oct 11	10.30am	Harvest Coffee Morning -(TWCASC)
	10 - 5pm	Harvest Arts Fair see p18
	7.30pm	Viva La Musica Chamber Choir All saints church , L'boro see p27
Sun Oct 12	10:00 am	Pets Thanksgiving & Animal Welfare Service (ASMCR)
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship (CEFC)
Mon Oct 13	2.15pm	Monday Club Harvest Festival
Tue Oct 14	10.00am	Food Bank. (ASMCR)
	NOON	Leics MS Tuesday Group - (AJH) - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat
Wed Oct 15	2.00pm	Wednesday Hub -(TWCASC) - coffee/tea, cake & chat
Fri Oct 17	9.15 am	Coffee Morning -(ASMCR)
Sun Oct 19	10:30 am	Sunday Worship (CEFC)



All Saints' October Worship

Sunday 5th

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

9.15 Breakfast

10am Morning Praise Pets

Thanksgiving/ Animal Welfare

Sunday 12th

10am Harvest Festival Communion

Sunday 19th

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

8.00pm Compline Night Prayer

Sunday 26th

10am Holy Communion



St Mary's October Services

Sunday 5th

10am Harvest Festival Communion

6.30pm Taizé Evening Service

Sunday 12th

10am All Age Animal Welfare &

Pets' Thanksgiving

Sunday 19th

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th

10am Fresh Morning Praise

Every Wednesday

9.30am BCP Holy Communion

Dates for your diary

Events and Activities this month continued

Date	Time	Event
Mon Oct 20	11.00am	<i>Prayer meeting (CEFC)</i>
Tue Oct 21	10.00am	<i>Food Bank. (ASMCR)</i>
	NOON	<i>Leics MS Tuesday Group - (AJH) - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat</i>
	7.30pm	<i>T & C Local History Society - From Hunters to Farmers Matt Morris (TMH)</i>
Wed Oct 22	2.00pm	<i>Wednesday Hub - (TWCASC) - coffee/tea, cake & chat</i>
Fri Oct 24	9.15 am	<i>Coffee Morning -(ASMCR)</i>
Tue Oct 28	10.00am	<i>Food Bank. (ASMCR)</i>
	NOON	<i>Leics MS Tuesday Group - (AJH) - coffee/tea, biscuits & chat</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 Oct 29	2.00pm	<i>Wednesday Hub - (TWCASC) - coffee/tea, cake & chat</i>
Fri Oct 31	9.15 am	<i>Coffee Morning (ASMCR)</i>
	3.30pm	<i>Tea & Crafts - (ASMCR)</i>
Sun Nov 2nd	6.30 pm	<i>Patronal Festival Choral Evensong</i>
Sat Nov 8th	7.30pm	<i>An evening with Sylvia Cole as she remembers the Falkland Islands</i>



Sun Nov 9th	10.00am	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
Thu Nov 27	7.30pm	<i>Latimer Players present The Ice Queen Panto</i>
Fri Nov 28	7.30pm	<i>Latimer Players present The Ice Queen Panto</i>
Sat Nov 29th	10am	<i>Winter Fair</i>
	2.00pm and 7.00pm	<i>Latimer Players present The Ice Queen Panto</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.

Pet thanksgiving and animal
welfare service
Sunday 5th October @10am
All Saints' Church, Thurstaston



Bring your pet along for a joyful
celebration of all creatures great and
small. Breakfast from 9.15am for service
@10am.

All Saints' Church, Thurstaston,
Sunday 5th October

Christmas 'Crafternoons' at All Saints, Thurcaston

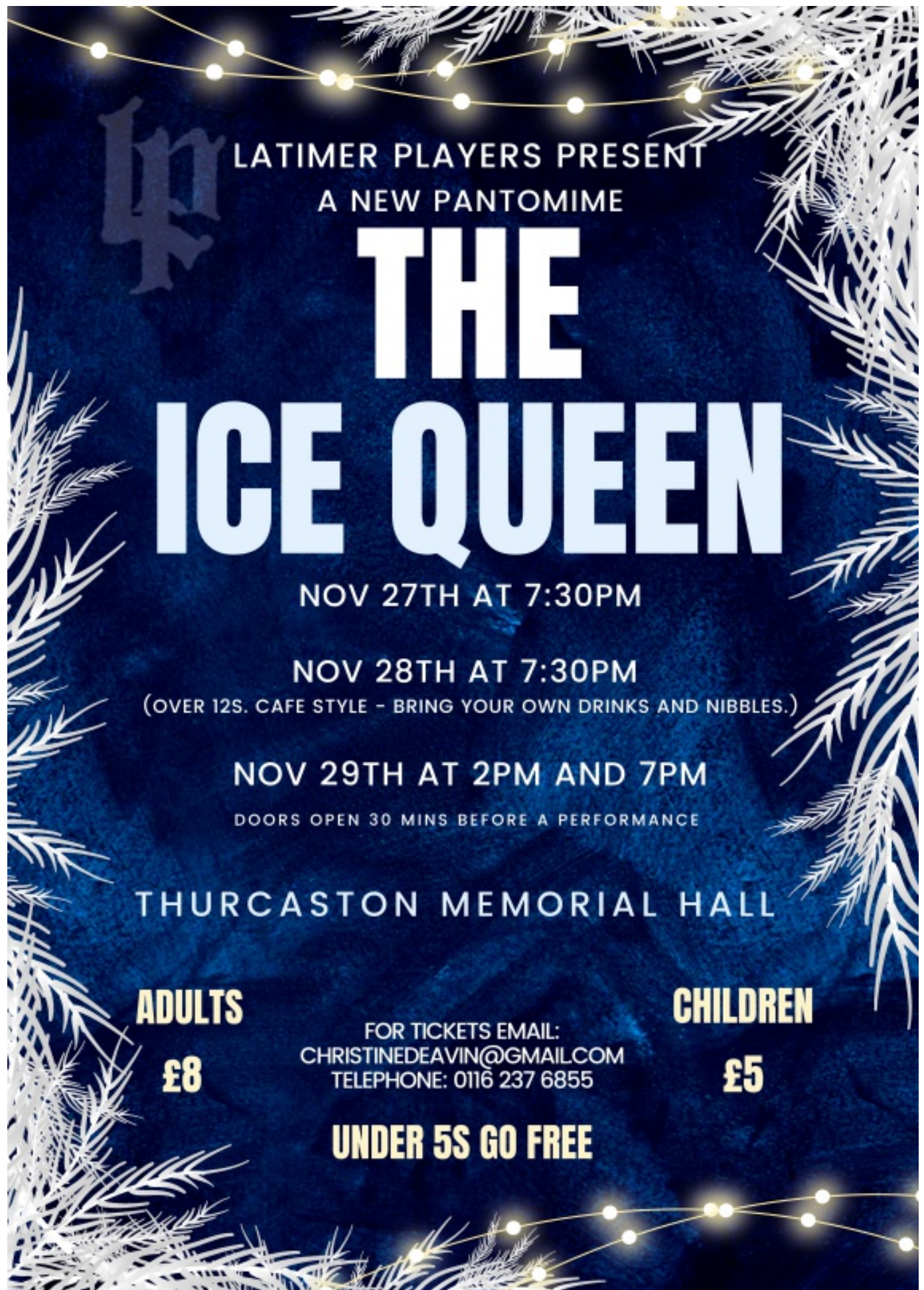
This year we are running a series of Christmas craft activities:

- **Lino printing gift tags** with Jane Lacey – **Saturday 1 November**, 2 to 4:30pm. Design & make your own lino cut print that can be used again at home. £20 per person, over 16s only.
- **Winter Watercolour** class with Liz Black Dowding – **Sunday 23 November**, 2 to 4:30pm. Produce a winter painting, £25 per person. Under 16s if accompanied.
- **Needle felting** with Meg Grant – **Saturday 13 December**, 2 to 5pm. Make a Christmas Robin. £20 per person, under 16s if accompanied.
- Prices include all materials and refreshments at the workshop. Places will be limited - so book now!

Book your place by contacting Eleanor on eleanorlj@aol.com or 07834 483850

These workshops are being run to support local Mental Health Charities and All Saints Church





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NOV 28TH AT 7:30PM

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All equipment provided Cost - £45.00

New group starting in October

Starts - Thursday October 2nd 2025, 2-4pm

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Anstey Lane, LE7 7JA**

**Please contact Liz with any questions on;
07885 729549**

lizdowding@hotmail.co.uk

Facebook - Liz Dowding Artist

Listening

While visiting a cathedral recently, I couldn't hear the service over the chatter of the two people sitting in front of me. Finally, I tapped one of them on the shoulder. "Excuse me," I said, "I can't hear."

The reply was swift and indignant. "I should hope not! This is a private conversation."

John Taverner 1490 - 1545

& John Tavener 1944 - 2013



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'Magnificat' in five parts

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Song for Athene | Love bade me welcome

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Annual Show attracts near record number of exhibits



The Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club's 40th Annual Show was held at the Richard Hill School on Saturday 6th September. It was a warm, sunny day and a steady flow of exhibitors throughout the morning soon filled the Show benches with a first-class array of exhibits, and by closing time for entries we had charted 292, the second highest number of exhibits ever recorded for our Show. The ever-popular Arts and Craft classes,

with a total of 62 entries, was the most successful category, each class being well represented. In fact, all 8 categories of the schedule showed an increase on the totals from last year's Show.

A big thank you to all those who entered the competition and what a wonderful display you gave us, and thanks to all those who came along in the afternoon and supported us. Our RHS judges were full of praise for the overall quality of the exhibits.

Congratulations to all those who won trophies and prizes.

Garden Club member Mrs. Lesley Day dominated the trophy chart, winning four trophies, including the two top awards. The Sedgewick Cup for the most overall points in the Show and the David Snartt Challenge Trophy for the most points gained by a Garden Club member.

Best Exhibit in Show was won by Tim Lacey, husband of Garden Club member





Tim Lacey with his 'best in show' entry

Anna, for his marvellous water colour painting – The Ranger's Cottage in Bradgate Park.

We welcomed two new names to the trophy winners list, Helen Wiseman; most points in the Arts & Crafts section and Adrian Spanswick winning the Irene Orton Bowl for his Vase of 5 Roses.



Our Novice trophy, awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most overall points who has never won a Thurcaston and Cropston Garden Club Trophy before, was won by Steve Budding with winning exhibits in three different categories, the vegetable, flower and fruit sections.

Our one disappointment over recent years has been the children's section and it was the same again this year. With no Brownies participation the under 16 classes were disappointingly sparse. 4 under 16's did enter the adult classes though (Asa & Zac

Foster and Freddie & Darcey Thompson) all were rewarded with a special prize for their efforts. Darcy gets a special mention for her five Pressed Flower heads on a Card, an excellent, artistic exhibit.

Thank you to all those who came along in the afternoon, we hope everyone enjoyed their visit.

Thanks also to those who kindly donated prizes for the raffle and to all those who bought raffle tickets.

Thank you to the Garden Club members and friends who helped to make our '40th' such a success. They wrote entry cards and put together the points chart, they were stewards, caterers, and bakers, they ran the end of Show 'market stall' and helped with setting up and with clearing away. And a final 'gracias' to the school janitor, Mr John Cooper for his invaluable help.

It all contributed to a very positive and successful day.

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 8 October

Roses – All You Need to Know – by Kerry Austen

Wed 12 November

Christmas Crackers – by Janette Merilion

Thurcaston & Cropston before the enclosures

For our return to indoor meetings in September, we heard from the Society's member Peter Smith with the second part of his talk on Thurcaston & Cropston Before the Enclosures. Having dealt with the settlement of the villages and the pattern of roads in his first talk, this time the focus was on fields and field names.

You might remember from school that during the medieval period much of central England was farmed in a system of open fields.

The system developed in about the 8th century, when the Saxons moved from Roman-style country estates to live in nucleated villages at the centre of each parish, and it continued with little change for 1000 years.

Most villages had three large fields, which were sown in rotation with peas or beans one year, wheat or barley the next year, then left fallow. Animals were grazed on the fallow field to fertilize it with their manure, as well as on the regrowth – the “aftermath” – in the other fields after they had been harvested, and on permanent meadows along the river valleys. Farmers' land was spread through the three fields so they would always have a balance of each crop. The parcels were in long strips because of the difficulty of turning a plough pulled by a team of bullocks or heavy horses. Blocks of adjacent, parallel strips were known as furlongs.

What evidence do we have for this system of farming in our two villages? There are still surviving areas of ridge and furrow, which resulted from the plough always turning soil towards the centre of the strip.



Image from Joseph Danvers tomb in Swithland

Landscape painters were more interested in Tuscany than Leicestershire so images of the countryside from that time are rare but the tomb of Joseph Danvers (1745) in Swithland churchyard includes a fine slate carving of a furlong being ploughed. There is also documentary evidence. The Record Office holds several “terriers”, which are surveys of the land belonging to the lord of the manor, the rector or private freeholders. Taking each open field and meadow in turn, they itemize all the strips belonging to the farm in question, naming the furlong in which each strip falls and often the occupiers on either side. We also have surviving agreements between the farmers of Thurcaston, which deal with matters such as how many animals each person is entitled put into the fields; the fine for recovering a stray animal from the pinfold; and the annual election of field reeves to oversee the process. References to the “wheatfield” and the “peasefield” confirm that crop rotation was being practised.

In 1600, Thurcaston's landowners agreed between themselves that they would enclose the common meadows for their private use.

Other cottagers, who had ancient rights to use the common land but were not parties to the agreement, were to be “satisfied” with the aftermath of Bybrook Meadow instead. Various grievances rumbled on, especially when a new Rector was appointed, and eventually, when Richard Grosvenor wanted to sell the lordship of the manor to William Palmer of Wanlip, some of the payment was withheld. It took a referral to the Court of Chancery in London, with all the local farmers appearing as witnesses, before the terms of the agreement were essentially confirmed in 1635. By the 18th century, parliament recognized the need for more widespread enclosure of open fields, which would allow landowners to invest in new agricultural processes that could feed the rapidly growing population of Britain’s cities. The Enclosure Acts for Cropston (1781) and Thurcaston (1798) appointed commissioners to re-allocate the land, resulting in the private fields divided by hedges that we are familiar with today.

In the course of his research, Peter has compiled a list of about 500 old names of fields, furlongs and other features of the local landscape – but is it possible to locate them on the map? Sometimes there are enough clues in the documents themselves. For example, we know that Rye Leys was opposite David North’s because the Thurcaston Enclosure Award set aside land there to quarry materials for maintaining the parish’s roads. Rye prefers to grow on well drained land so the presence of a gravel quarry and the name of nearby Sandhills Farm provide confirmation.

The Cropston Enclosure Award enables us to locate the village’s three open fields: Bybrook or Holgate Field to the west, Open Dale or Anstey Field to the south and Bashpool Field to the east. From the terriers mentioned earlier, we know that Thurcaston’s open fields were Bybrook or Mill Field to the north, Beaumont Leys or Park Field to the south and Alitha or Littleland Hill Field to the east, though their exact boundaries are less certain. The name “Alitha” has not been satisfactorily

explained and, as an unrecognizable word, it has appeared in all sorts of variations over the years, from Albethough to Hollythorn.

A different approach is to see whether any of the old furlong names have survived in current field names. The W.I. carried out a field-name survey in 1971 and Peter has identified 15 of them that can also be found in pre-enclosure documents. Some are unchanged, like Mill Meadow and Lady Willows, but unfamiliar words are more likely to have altered over time. For example, Thistle Bridge was originally Thistle Breach – “breach” meaning ground that was broken up for cultivation. The strange name Monigo was originally Many Goars; when a furlong that was not square was divided into strips, a “goar” was one of the awkward tapering pieces left at the edge. Incidentally, the W.I. survey names two fields along Anstey Lane as Miller’s Field and Millea. Peter has not found those names in early documents but, as the fields are on top of a hill, quite far from the watermill, could they suggest that Thurcaston once had a windmill on this site?

Some of the terriers contain enough information about neighbouring plots that it appears it should be possible to fit the furlong names together like a jigsaw. Peter felt he had had some success doing that with a 1759 survey of Thornton’s farm in Cropston but then found little overlap with another Cropston terrier dated only 8 years earlier. Overall, he has to sympathize with a poor land agent, John Andrew, who was faced with the same task in 1596 and wrote, “Nether can I doe yt without the help of the tenants ... because one furlong hath some two or three names and yt taketh such a long tyme.”

On 21st October we welcome back the excellent speaker Matt Morris, whose subject is “From Hunters to Farmers: The Story of Prehistoric Leicestershire & Rutland”. Please do come along – the visitors’ fee is £4 and all the details are on our website:

www.thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk

Residential care that keeps the spring in your step.

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

On Monday 1st September 2025 we had our monthly church service full of song, prayer and conversation. A BIG thank you to the church and all its supporters for making it happen. It means a lot to all involved.

On Wednesday 3rd September 2025 we met some amazing animals from Zoo Lab. From a large snail called Speedy to a frog called Splat.



The residents enjoyed doing a variety of activities with the nursery group children. From puzzles to arts and crafts.

This month we said a fond farewell to Courtney. You will be greatly missed. All the best for the future! Stay in touch and come back and see us all soon!

On Saturday 6th September 2025, one of our residents, Gay, took part in a local show exhibiting a variety of her work. Gay was so excited. She came back with a second and



two third places. Congratulations Gay!

The residents also had a go at the ping pong ball in a cup game. Well done to everyone that joined in, acted out the animal noises and did their best to win the prizes. There was lots of fun and laughter had by all.

On Monday 8th September 2025 the residents enjoyed meeting miniature donkey's Fern and Pepper. There were lots of snuggles.

On Wednesday 10th September 2025, during the glass workshop, the residents enjoyed making hedgehogs.



On Thursday 11th September 2025 Ian and Paul got artistic in the coffee shop!

It was also lovely to see some of their previous work and them sharing their experiences and tips. Keep up the good work.

On Saturday 13th September 2025 the residents took part in a sing for fun session. It was lovely to hear everyone's singing voices and there was a lot of merriment and laughter.

History Society visits a Hindu temple

As our third and final evening visit of the year, a group of our members travelled to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir on Catherine Street in Leicester. This Hindu temple, one of the largest and most beautiful temples in the country, was opened in 2011 and funded by the local community. A large proportion of the congregation are Kenyan and Ugandan Asians. It is an imposing, huge building of white limestone with a beautifully and intricately decorated exterior. The “shikar” towers on the roof represent the mountain peaks of the Himalayas. Inside we were welcomed by Dipak Kalyan, who introduced us to our guide. That young lady was “in training”. We would never have known. She efficiently gave us the history of the temple and told us of the travels of Swaminarayan, the god after whom the temple is named and who is worshipped daily by his followers. She led us through the vast temple, explaining that lotus flowers and peacocks symbolise peace and beauty and showing us the huge hall where many celebrations take place, including weddings which attracted guests from

around the world. Training sessions were also held here regularly, for adults and for youngsters, teaching them about their gods, how to live their lives and how to help others.

We then entered the beautifully decorated room in which the Hindu gods ate and slept. These gods, beautifully dressed and decorated were fed at specific times each day. Around them, ordinary people sat, kneeled or prostrated themselves on a richly patterned carpet. Other worshippers walked around the gods paying homage in their preferred way. At the end of the evening our group were privileged to be invited to share “Arti”, the service at the end of the day. People prayed or sang around us, whilst religious music was played, accompanied by bells. The atmosphere was amazing, as the gods were put to bed. The service generated a feeling of peace and well-being. This visit was very informative in relation to just one of the many aspects of multi-cultural worship in the city of Leicester.

Sylvia Cole.

Fish

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

Lend

If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Judge

Good judgement comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.

Mouth

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

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On what those adverts from parishes wanting clergy **REALLY** mean...

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are being encouraged to look at adverts for parishes for that happy day when you will have charge of your own church. You wonder if you should look to moving to another part of the country; I suspect it may be better if you look to moving to another planet, as your reputation may not yet have travelled that far.

Reading the specifications that parishes provide, giving a picture of life in their community, need to be read in the same way as estate agents' specifications for houses for sale. Both demonstrate a triumph of optimism over reality. Let me help you decode some of the statements you will find:

"We look to grow our Sunday School" – We do not have a Sunday School.

"We have an enthusiastic choir" – We have a choir totally out of control.

"Our youth group is always eager to learn" – Our youth group experiments with some strange substances.

"The new incumbent should be sympathetic to our musical tradition" – The new incumbent must be able to play the organ as well as lead the Services.

"While cherishing our traditions, we see the need for change" – We always see the need for change, but alter anything at your peril.

"Plans for church renovations are in hand" – The building is in imminent danger of collapse.

"We have a large range of church groups" – You will have to run a large range of church groups singlehandedly.

"The vicarage is being refurbished" – The vicarage is a death trap. Its rising damp and dangerous electrics will not be fixed for many months yet.

"There is opportunity for developing ecumenical relations" – No one in living memory has ever spoken to clergy of other denominations in our town.

"The new incumbent should have a sense of humour" – He or she will need it when reading this specification.

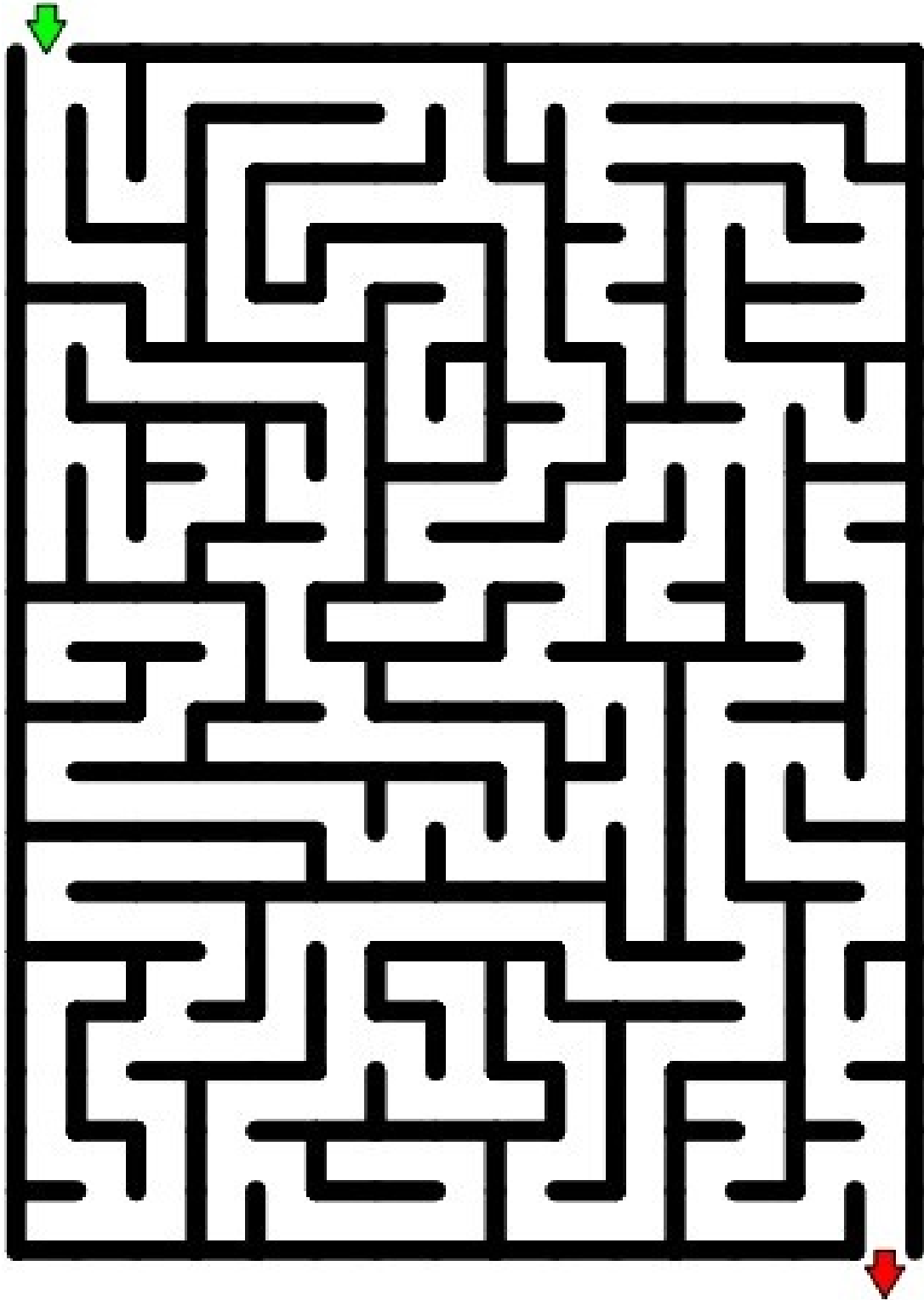
My dear nephew, caveat emptor. Let the buyer beware!

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Sudoku

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Maze

Sudoku Solution

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

*All Saints 200 Club winners...***SEPTEMBER 2025 Draw****1st** *ROSE LANGTON***2nd** *JOYCE GREEN***3rd** *CAROL AUSTIN****Congratulations to September's winners!***

Make next month one to remember and join today.
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