

Thurcaston with Cropston and Anstey

Heart & Soul

of our community

Happy Easter

everyone

All Saints' Church
Thurcaston

April 2026

St Mary's Church
Anstey

ANSTEY, CROPSTON, THURCASTON - KEY CONTACTS

Rector	Rev Matthew Gough	07754 961 997
		revgough@gmail.com
Associate Ministers	Ian Dutton	0116 221 3786
	Clare Gough	claregough@yahoo.co.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, THURCASTON WITH CROPSTON

Church Warden	Vacant	
Church Admin	Jane Westby	0116 235 2226
		mowestby@virginmedia.com
Organist & Choir Master	David Evans	07733 243 383
PCC Secretary	Douglas Gilmour	0116 236 2503
PCC Treasurer	Peter Yardley	0116 236 3485
Captain of Bellringers	Peter Hunt	0116 235 9601
Harrison Room bookings	Jane Lacey	harrisonroomsbookings@gmail.com

ST MARY'S CHURCH, ANSTEY

Church Warden	Marian Driver	0116 348 1587
PCC Secretary	Pat Henderson	0116 221 5981
PCC Treasurer & Stewardship Secretary	Janet Collins	07749 655 618 (<i>Txt messages only</i>)
Verger	Paula Hayward	0116 367 8563 or 07584 254 729
Bellringers	Marion Pegge	
Pastoral Assistant	Helen Nightingale	ansteypastoralcare@gmail.com
Music	Harvey Nightingale	
Church Room bookings		Stmaryschurchrooms@gmail.com



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Message from your (new) editor...

Welcome to the April issue of Heart and Soul, your locally-produced magazine for news and updates on what's



happening in the parishes of Thurcaston with Cropston and Anstey.

First off, a huge wave of gratitude to Richard, Margaret and Adam (former editor / general fixers of this fine publication) as they venture forth, enjoying adventures and leisure pursuits anew. I know they've put a lot of hard work and energy into producing the magazine over the past six years.

I'd especially like to thank Richard for effortlessly handing over the reins, providing me with invaluable contacts, explaining the intricacies of Scribus design software, and generally steering me in the right direction - much appreciated!

As your new editor, I'm looking forward to hearing from existing contributors, as well as others who know of events or

activities that may be of interest to local residents and visitors to the area.

I'm particularly keen to hear from anyone who has by-gone memories of Anstey, Cropston or Thurcaston, especially if you have any photos you'd like to share (guaranteed safe return).

The eagle-eyed among you may notice one or two minor tweaks to the magazine (in terms of design and style) though rest assured I won't be making any drastic changes - my motto has always been: *if it ain't broke, don't fix it!*

That said, feel free to get in touch if you have any ideas on how we can improve and enhance the magazine - fresh ideas always welcome.

That's enough from me for now, I hope you enjoy this month's magazine. I recommend you read all of the articles - you may be surprised by what's in there!

Paul



Please send contributions for the May issue of the newsletter to:
heartandsoulnews@gmail.com (deadline Monday 20 April)

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

All Saints' Church and St Mary's Church exists for the benefit of the whole community - not just 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 (contact details on left).



Worlds Ending, Worlds Beginning

By the time you read this, will the world have ended? Perhaps not, because if it had ended you would probablyn't be reading this!

But some people are asking if these are the end times, as there seems to be very serious conflicts of various kinds involving very powerful nations, with enough arsenal - and enough stupidity - to render our planet uninhabitable.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem," sang the psalmist (Psalm 122). There is good reason in our services to ask God earnestly for peace in all kinds of situations, from world peace to peace in families, even sometimes the family we call church.

It is quite wonderful that there is a 'family' called the Worldwide Anglican Communion. It consists of 42 provinces of member churches serving and proclaiming the gospel in more than 165 countries.

It came about because in the nineteenth century, accidentally to some extent, the Church of England became a great missionary church.

It has been said that if there had been a mission strategy, this would not have happened! People felt called by God to take the gospel to distant lands, sometimes with much personal sacrifice. We are enriched by insights coming back to us from those places. Important questions have been discussed every ten years or so, at the Lambeth Conference.

Thus far, the titular head of this worldwide communion has been the Archbishop of Canterbury, an important responsibility.

Unfortunately a handful of very conservative African churches have objected to Dame Sarah Mullally taking this on, adding to previous tensions.

Let us pray, amongst our other concerns, that this wonderful worldwide communion will continue and remain fruitful.

Closer to home, in common with other areas of the diocese, we continue with forming a Minster Community. There would be ten village churches, maintaining their separate identities but sharing some of their ministry and resources.

It may be easier to co-ordinate ministry to schools, which usually draw students from several villages. There might be only four stipendiary clergy compared with five or six at present.

There are also a similar number of self-supporting clergy, plus about 13 well-trained licensed lay ministers, and about 15 locally-licensed lay ministers.

Many others help magnificently in various ways. Jesus advised his disciples to pray for more people to help with the 'harvest' (Matthew 9, vs 36-38). It all costs money as well, and the generosity is much appreciated from those who can give.

The world came crashing in for Jesus' disciples, as he was taken away to be tried, cruelly flogged and disgracefully crucified. Yet even then, God's grace was at work, and evil was defeated.

Through these mysteries, sin is atoned for, and we can be reconciled with God. "Surely he has borne our griefs ... and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53, vs 4-5).

Then on the third day, we are told in no uncertain terms that God raised him from the dead, and the disciples witnessed this. Hope was restored.

Don't miss the next exciting episodes, with his ascension into heaven, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost which fired things into action!

With my prayers and best wishes
Ian Dutton, Associate Minister

Easter and Holy Week Special Services

St Mary's Church, Anstey and
All Saints' Church, Thurcaston with Cropston

Palm Sunday 29 March

9.30am Procession with donkey and palm crosses.
Start Latimer Primary School to St Mary's Anstey.
Refreshments and Praise from 10am

6.30pm Evening Eucharist. All Saints' Thurcaston

Maundy Thursday 2 April

7pm St Mary's Anstey

Good Friday 3 April

2pm St Mary's Anstey Contemplation at the Cross

3.15pm Gather St Mary's Anstey for Walk of
Witness to Thurcaston

5pm All Saints' Thurcaston Contemplation

Easter Sunday 5 April

6am Dawn Sunrise Service with Easter Fire,
St Mary's Anstey

10am Easter Holy Communion, All Saints'
Thurcaston

Bank Holiday Monday 6 April

3-4.30pm Easter Fun Day. St Mary's and Church
Rooms (Churches Together in Anstey)

Funerals



Saturday 21 March

Howard and Carole Hunt of Anstey

Interment of Ashes St Mary's Garden of Rest

Monday 23 March

Jessamine Collier of Anstey

St Mary's followed by Crematorium

Tuesday 31 March

Hazel Pegg of Leicester

All Saints followed by Cremation at Loughborough

April Readings



Easter Sunday 5 April

Acts 10, 34-43

John 20, 1-18

Sunday 12 April

Acts 2, 14, 22-32

John 20, 19-end

Sunday 19 April

Acts 2, 14, 36-41

Luke 24, 13-35

Sunday 26 April

Acts 2, 42-end

John 10, 1-10

Rev Matthew Gough, Rector St Mary's Anstey and All Saints'
Thurcaston with Cropston, Leicester Diocese

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Churches Together in Anstey

EASTER FUN DAY!

**For children
under 12**

St. Mary's Church

CHURCH LANE, ANSTEY

Monday 6th April

3.00pm - 4.30pm

**Games & Stories
Easter Eggs
& Easter Crafts
Refreshments**



No need to book - just turn up on the day
All children require parent/adult supervision
ansteychurches@gmail.com

Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Electoral Roll ...

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held after Sunday services on:

Sunday 10 May at 11.30am (All Saints')

Sunday 17 May at 11.30am (St Mary's)

Electoral Roll

The electoral rolls for St Mary's and All Saints' are being revised and anyone not already on the Roll can now apply for enrolment. Being on the electoral roll enables you to stand for election for the PCC as well as vote for wardens and other PCC members.

Our total numbers also influence our representation in the wider Diocese.

If you are already on the roll, you do not need to do anything (if you are unsure, please check with Pat Henderson or Jane Westby, ER Officer).

Application forms are available at the back of church or via emailed by request: electoralrollapcm@gmail.com. Completed forms should also be emailed to the same address, or handed in to Pat Henderson or Jane Westby. All completed forms must be returned no later than Sunday 26 April.

Birstal & District Art Society ...

Demonstration evenings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Palmer Tomkinson Centre at the Cedars Academy, starting at 6.45pm. Guests are welcome (cost £5 per person).

February: The Society welcomed David Johnson (known as DJ), who gave an exciting and informative demonstration on painting like a master, using acrylics and focussing on a work by Monet.

March: Amanda Jackson conducted an appraisal of members' paintings.

Tuesday 14 April: Using charcoal, artist Ian Cox will focus on creating dramatic cityscapes.

Tuesday 12 May: The Society welcomes back Danielle Vaughan, an artist specialising in ripped paper collage. This time she will be depicting water and its effects.

June: Steve Woodhams will experiment in cubism using various media.

July: No demonstration.

Members meet regularly on Friday mornings (9.30am-12noon) at the Co-op Sports & Social Club in Birstall and on Wednesday evenings (6.30-8.30pm) at Wanlip Village Hall.

Non-members are welcome to attend and try a few sessions before deciding if they wish to join. For more information, visit the Society's website: badas.uk

Dates for your diary ...

Social Events and Activities at All Saints' Thurcaston

- Saturday 4 April** Easter flowers from 10am
- Saturday 18 April** Coffee morning
- Saturday 9 May** The return of the Loughborough Concert Band who will provide an evening of high-quality music.
- Saturday 6 June** All Saints' Garden Fete in the Church, Churchyard and Harrison Room. 1-4pm. Please start saving items for the stalls, tombola, raffle and bric-a-brac. Also please consider planting a few extra seeds and pot up any spare plants when doing your garden.
- Sunday 28 June** Choral Evensong 6.30pm
- July** (date to be confirmed) Annual Skittles Challenge Match & Supper at The Wheatsheaf Inn, Thurcaston.
- 10 & 11 October** Harvest weekend with a mental health and poetry theme and coffee morning
- November Winter Fair** To be confirmed

Other events are being planned. Further details (including price and refreshments for each event) will be available nearer the time. As is usually the case at All Saints' most events will include food and drink, and possibly music, so watch this space!

Now that the Wednesday hub runs all year round, the coffee morning team have decided to step down. Please contact Jane Westby or Jane Lacey if you're interested in taking over the coffee morning.

Easter Flowers ...

We will be meeting in All Saints' Church, Thurcaston at 10.30am on Saturday 4 April, and will be pleased for anyone to join us to help decorate the Church ready for Easter Day.

You don't need to be a seasoned flower arranger, as new and aspiring flower arrangers are always welcome to join us and learn more about flower arranging.

Please let Jane Westby or Jane Lacey know if you would like to make a donation towards the Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one, or if you would like your loved one's name recording on the list.

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All Saints' 200 Club winners...

March 2026 Draw

1st Ann Christian

2nd Valerie Holyoake

3rd Pat Edhouse

Congratulations to the winners!

It's not too late to join the All Saint's 200 Club. Contact Jane Westby for an application form (email Jane on mowestby@virginmedia.com)



All Saints' Garden Fete...

All Saints' Garden Fete in the Church, Churchyard and Harrison Room will take place on Saturday 6 June, 1-4pm.

There will be zip wire teddies, various stalls including tombola, raffle, bric-a-brac, books, and plant stall with annuals, perennials, shrubs and vegetables. There'll also be homemade cakes and preserves. You'll be able to relax with tea and cake, or a glass of beer, whilst listening to The Titanic Jazz Band and the Marydene Guitar Society.

Items are needed for all the stalls so please put suitable things to one side ready to bring down to Church. If you are planting, please do a few extra flowers and vegetables to help out.

Looking forward to a sunny afternoon and lovely community event!

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Loughborough Concert Band presents

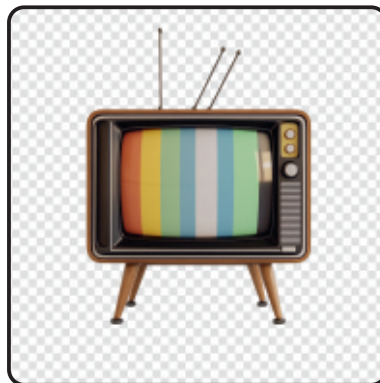
Music from Stage & Screen

at All Saints' Church, Anstey Lane, Thurcaston

Saturday 9 May 2026

6.30pm for 7pm

Performance includes music from Traitors,
Last of the Summer Wine,
Grease and many more!



Tickets £10 (under 16s free)
includes a glass of wine (or soft drink)
and light refreshments at the interval.

Please order your tickets from Jane Westby
0116 235 2226 | mowestby@virginmedia.com



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

Ruffle and the lost bone!

By Rachel Greaves

The station was baking in the warm afternoon
Ruffle was curious - a digging game so soon?

Eric had decided to dig a flowerbed
"To plant bulbs for summer blooms", he said

"Had Eric dug up his bone?" Ruffle feared
So, as soon as Eric had disappeared

Ruffle went over to the beds of turned mud
And right in the middle there he stood

Last year he'd buried a bone somewhere
Now, where had he buried it - there, there... or there?

Mud did fly as he dug to check
Eric's hard work and beds were a wreck!

Then Eric appeared, gave a cry of dismay
Ruffle stopped digging and looked Eric's way

"What are you doing? Ruffle get away
Find somewhere else to play!"

Ruffle jumped out hoping Eric wouldn't guess
Just who had made all the mess

"There's no use denying it. There's mud on your toes
And what gives you away is the mud on your nose!"



Visit ruffletheraildog.co.uk for more of Ruffle's adventures.

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**Contact Vikki – 07519 316461
vikki@ruralcc.org.uk**



Watercolour Classes

with Liz Dowding Artist

New classes for April

Thursdays April 16th, 23rd, 30th 2-4pm

Cost - £34.00

**Do you have a picture or photo
that you really want to try and paint for yourself?**

**This April you can bring along your own reference
and receive full tuition as to how to recreate it
from sketch to painting.**

Places limited to 12, ensuring tuition time for all

**All Saints' Church, Thurcaston with Cropston,
Anstey Lane, LE7 7JA**

Please contact Liz with any questions on;

07885 729549

lizdowdingartist@gmail.com

Facebook - Liz Dowding Artist

Instagram liz_dowding_artist

Latimer Players ...

The Latimer Players on 'The Park Bench'

The Latimer Players' next production will be the comedy 'The Park Bench' by Ashley Burgoyne. As the title suggests, the action takes place in a local park.

Charles always shared the same bench in the park with his wife Rose. Now Charles is alone, with only memories of Rose sitting at the other end of the bench.

That is until various people start to share the bench with him. These people may, or may not, be the cause of Charles misplacing something important.

Discover if the missing item was misplaced, or was it stolen? And who are the two mysterious people furtively checking their mobile phones? All will be revealed.

Performances take place on Thursday 23, Friday 24, and Saturday 25 April in the Memorial Hall, Thurstaston, starting at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

There will be café-style seating and you're invited to bring along drinks and nibbles.

Tickets cost £8 each - Call 07740 477 746 or email: christinedeavin@gmail.com.



The Latimer Players are recruiting!

The Latimer Players have been putting on performances in Thurstaston since 1952 and have a thriving membership - but they're always on the lookout for new members - actors, set builders, back-stage people, and lighting and sound managers. Even if you have no experience - but just feel the urge to do something different - why not pop along and give it a try?

Auditions will be taking place for November's pantomime in August, so if you think you might be interested get in touch with the secretary Christine Deavin now (phone 07740 477 746 or email: christinedeavin@gmail.com)

As well as putting on two productions a year, Latimer Players also hold monthly members' meetings where they host various events such as theatre trips, visits to local places of interest, skittles matches and social events arranged by members.

As Christine says: "You're never too old or too young to join us and it's never too late to start, we would love to meet you".

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April Services (and future changes) ...

April 5 Easter Sunday

**6am Dawn Firepit Vigil
and Sunrise Communion**

St Mary's Church, Anstey

10am Holy Communion

All Saints' Church, Thurcaston

Sunday 12 April

10am Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Anstey

Sunday 19 April

10am Holy Communion

8pm Compline Prayer

All Saints' Church, Thurcaston

Sunday 26 April

8.30am Prayer Book Communion

All Saints' Church, Thurcaston

10am Fresh Praise

St Mary's Church, Anstey

Every Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Anstey

Rev Matthew Gough would like your views on changes to regular Sunday worship times...

We have had a settled Sunday service time for All Saints' and St Mary's Churches for the past three years.

Unfortunately, we also have less access to priests and ministers to support services, so are unable to sustain the current practice of having 10am services at both churches at the same time.

This means we are having to consider alternative arrangements for our weekly services.

One option is to have alternating fortnightly services at each church.

Another option is to keep weekly services at both churches - but changing the times of services (9am and 10.30am for example).

A third option is a mix the above, or perhaps an evening service.

I'd like to hear your views and comments on our proposals, as your feedback and input is invaluable for the PCCs and myself as Rector in deciding what we should do.

Please base your response on what is best for the mission of the church (rather than what is best for you or your primary place of worship), so we can develop a sustainable approach that is clear and helpful to all.

I recently met with our worship service leads and we had a candid and practically focused session, during which we built a consensus around a few key points which may help guide you in your survey response - details of which can be found in the page opposite.

Have your say...

Please consider the following points when submitting your views on the proposed changes to regular Church Services:

We do not need to have a weekly Eucharist - this is a relatively modern expectation.

We must continue to ensure that our worship is accessible to people of all ages, including families and children.

We must pray more and discern where God is taking us, as well as praying for more workers.

We can be creative with new people getting involved and new ways of doing services.

There was a recognition that services alternating between parishes can give a stronger Benefice feel, though that it may also weaken community cohesion in individual parishes (the majority of worshippers don't usually attend services beyond their primary place of worship).

You can fill in the survey online by scanning the QR code below, or by filling in the questionnaire on the right and returning it to 1 Hurds Close, Anstey LE7 7GH or via the church collection plate.



Please note that the closing date for responses is Sunday 12 April.

YOUR VIEWS

Service time change options (please mark cross against your preference and add any comments you may have).

Option 1

Fortnightly 10am services at both churches, alternating each week.

Option 2

Time changes for weekly early service at one church 9am and later at other 10.30am

Option 3

Neither - please enter comment below

Comments

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Local Cinema ...

Friday Night (and Wednesday Afternoons) at the Movies

The Ballad of Wallis Island - Thurcaston Memorial Hall.

Friday 10 April, 7.30pm (duration 1 hour, 40 minutes)

Nominated for the 2026 British Academy Film and Television Awards, *The Ballad of Wallis Island* is a beautifully told story of an eccentric Lottery winner who lives on a remote Welsh island.

Played by comedian Tim Key, Charles dreams of getting his favourite folk duo *McGwyer Mortimer* back together, so he contracts Herb McGwyer to play a private gig on the island.

Unbeknown to Herb, Charles has also invited his former musical and romantic partner Nell Mortimier (Carey Mulligan) along for the one-off gig. Tim Key gives a stunning performance in this wonderful comedy drama with superb cinematography.



Downton Abbey, The Grande Finale - Thurcaston Memorial Hall.

Friday 8 May, 7.30pm (duration 2 hours, 3 minutes)

Julian Fellowes' lavish period drama brings the final chapter of the *Downton Abbey* saga to a heartfelt conclusion. The Crawleys step into the 1930's with trepidation, following the passing of the Dowager Countess, the semi-retirement of Mr Carson and numerous societal changes.

Hugh Bonneville returns as Lord Grantham and Michelle Dockery as Lady Mary but there is betrayal within the family ranks and they face financial trouble. This is a hearty film, showing that the Crawleys must embrace change, with the next generation leading into the future.



Both of these films are hosted by Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council. Tickets cost £6 (includes lucky prize draw and wine/fruit juice during the interval) and are available from the Parish Office (0116 2367 626), Diana (0116 2362 619), or Sylvia (0116 2352 873). Some tickets may be available on the door, unless sold out in advance.

Anstey Film Club - Anstey Community Library

Wednesdays 2pm

Enjoy a friendly, relaxing afternoon with good company in the library. Films are shown on a new large screen TV with surround sound. Entrance price is just £3, which includes cake and a drink. Films are chosen on a weekly basis, so no advance information is available - visit the website ansteylibrary.com or pop into the library to discover what's on.

Thurcaston & Cropston Local History Society...

Game on in Thurcaston

Peter Liddle's talk on the History of Board Games began with a wall painting from Pompeii circa 79 AD. The image appeared to be showing young men playing a game at a table, or perhaps arguing over the score?

We can't tell which game they were playing but dice have been found dating back to the Iron Age so it's safe to assume we've been playing them throughout history.

Gaming pieces of stone, metal or glass have been found in graves and cremation urns, Viking longboats, the Mary Rose and Ur in Mesopotamia, but very few boards (wood doesn't usually survive). Neither would the box or leaflets with the rules!

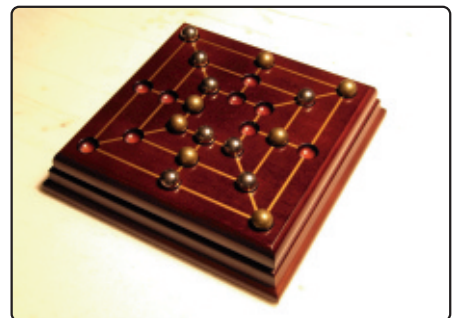
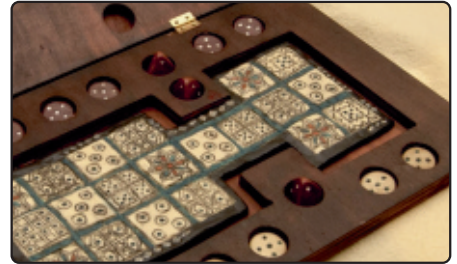
A few medieval manuscripts mention games - mainly chess.

King Alphonso X of Castille published an illustrated Book of Games in 1283 which included all the Rules! However, few would have access to it at the time.

Most games involve 2 to 4 players, with each player trying to win; from the simple noughts and crosses through nine men's morris, backgammon, draughts, Monopoly and chess. But Pandemic pits all the players against the Disease!

A few interesting facts:

- The Royal Game of Ur was played in Mesopotamia c2400 BC. One set of The Royal game of Ur is in the British Museum.
- Hnefatafl is a Viking battle game which a member of the audience claimed to play in the village!
- Nine men's morris is mentioned in A Midsummer Night's Dream and has its world championship in Ryedale, Yorkshire.



Please note that Thurcaston & Cropston History Society won't be holding a meeting in April.

The speaker at the next meeting (Tuesday 19 May) will be Claire Strachen, who will present a talk on 'Small Things Forgotten' – a different way of looking at our church buildings, finding how they were used (officially and unofficially!).

The Society invites you to the next meeting, when you can attend as a visitor for £4) or as a member (£16 for the whole year).

Visit the Thurcaston & Cropston History Society website for further information:
thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk



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Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club ...

How to Enjoy Your Houseplants - a talk by Susie Lickman

Susie has a passion for houseplants and her talk focused on easy care tips to help our houseplants become a source of joy, rather than a chore or worry.

Her passion for houseplants encouraged her to resign from her job and establish a specialised houseplant business in Market Harborough called 'Windowsill Plants'.

This was an informal talk - just Susie and her plants, ready to inspire us.

Some time ago house plants were not popular, but in the last few years they have become fashionable again – even featuring on 'Gardeners World'.

Susie gave two main tips to help us look after house plants and to be able to enjoy them – positioning and watering.

All plants need light to thrive – and this rule also applies to houseplants. Some will benefit from direct sunlight and some won't.

Houseplants that have thick leaves originate from hot countries. The thick leaves retain moisture and are happy in direct sun.

Plants with thin leaves tend to grow in rainforest conditions and are happiest in a position with indirect sun. Susie showed examples of both.

There is a tendency for people to over water house plants. When this happens, roots become 'bloated' and can't move water to other parts of the plant. Roots then die and the plant will die.

Susie suggested watering every two to three weeks in the summer and three to four weeks in winter. It's ok to give a plant a lot of water as long as you let excess water run away.

Susie is a fan of bottom watering. Some house plants will let you know if they need watering!

She bought a variety of plants from her shop both to demonstrate and to sell.

Susie is a confident and entertaining speaker. She was also humorous and had a very relaxed style.



Susie with one of her favourite plants Monstera (Swiss Cheese plant) in variegated form.

The Gardening Club meets in the Thurcaston and Cropston Memorial Hall.

Wednesday 8 April – Growing Vegetables in Small Space (Anthony Norman).

Wednesday 13 May – Contain Your Enthusiasm (Andrew Mikolasjski).

Whether an experienced gardener or an enthusiastic beginner you're sure to find something of interest in this year's programme.

New members are always welcome. Membership is £15 for the year (pro rota) or £3 per meeting. So, if you're interested in gardening - give the Club a try. For further information, contact:

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

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

Thurcaston & Cropston — Gardening Club —

2026 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS VISITING SPEAKERS AND OUTINGS

Wednesday 14th January
My Favourite Gardening Blunders

Wednesday 11th February
Weeds and how to love them

Wednesday 11th March
How to enjoy your Houseplants

Wednesday 8th April
Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces

Wednesday 13th May
Contain your Enthusiasm

Thursday 18th June
Club Outing – Gardeners World Live

Wednesday 8th July
Flower Farmer – Sweet Peas

Wednesday 12th August
Club Outing – Arley Hall and Gardens

Saturday 5th September
Annual Craft and Produce Show (Open to All)
To be held at the Richard Hill Primary School, Thurcaston

Wednesday 16th September
Meadowmakers – Bringing Wild Flowers into your Garden

Wednesday 14th October
Plants with a Story

Wednesday 11th November
Colour in the Winter Garden

Wednesday 16th December
Festive Evening

- New members and visitors are always welcome
- Great value
- Only £15 annual membership
- £3 for visitors
- Meetings are held at the Thurcaston Memorial Hall 7.45pm
- For further details please contact:

Dave Haddon
0116 235 9758
david.haddon22@gmail.com

Richard Elks
0116 236 8313
cropston161@hotmail.co.uk

Bellringing ...

Handbells - We are now practising a new programme of 'animal' themed music, have been asked to ring at Swithland in September, and already have a Christmas engagement. Vanessa Wood has joined our group and is fitting in well.

Tower - Our recruitment drive was successful and we have three young ladies beginning to learn to handle the bells. It's important to make good progress at this early stage, so we try to meet on 2 or 3 occasions each week. We silence the bells except on practice night.

Congratulations to George Davis, who was recruited in the 2018 'Ringing Remembers' drive. He has just attained Level 4 in the Learn the Ropes Scheme by ringing a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell.

He rang number 4 of 6 bells meaning that he did not ring the treble or the tenor and therefore had to follow a pattern of bells ringing for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour ringing 1,260 changes without going wrong – a definite milestone in his ringing career! His brother, Barnaby, is at the same stage and should be ready to ring a similar quarter in the next few weeks.



Our annual Bells Dinner at Lingdale Golf Club is on Wednesday 29 April.

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Monday Club ...

Notes from last month's Monday Club:
Cropston Evangelical Free Church
9 March 2026

The Origin and Meanings of Surnames

Mrs Sandy Leong delivered a talk on the meaning of surnames. Some have changed so much that their origin has been lost. This has developed over centuries in Britain, influenced by Romans, Angles, Saxons, Vikings and Normans.

Surnames might refer to an occupation, like Smith or Baker. A Cooper, for example, made barrels. Chapman could refer to a merchant or trader in goods.

Fisher could be a person who looked after an enclosure like a fish farm. Leech could mean a doctor or herbalist, and Farmer originally referred to tax collectors!

Names often linked fathers and sons together, like Johnson and Richardson. Some names referred to a physical attribute of the person - such as red hair.

Others might refer to a feature where the person lived - a mountain, river, or forest. Names often related to where somebody had come from. Shell published a book explaining place names.

Mrs Leong explained that surnames became necessary when the Normans introduced personal taxation. King William ordered a survey of all properties in his new realm, which was published in 1086 as the Domesday Book.

All landowners had to list their assets, including servants and animals. Spelling was phonetic and needless to say could vary a lot.

There are a number of online resources available for anyone who wants to trace their ancestry or family tree, including [surnameDB.com](https://www.surnameDB.com) which hosts summaries of almost 50,000 surnames. However, be warned - you may end up with more questions than answers!

Monday Club meetings start at 2.15pm, on the second Monday of each month. Annual membership is £15, plus an entrance fee of £2 (£4 for visitors) which includes tea and biscuits. New members and visitors are always welcome at the Church Room – just turn up.

The next Monday Club meeting will be Monday 13 April, when there will be a talk about 'Folklore, Folk Tales & Funny Folk'. The May meeting will be a Club outing.



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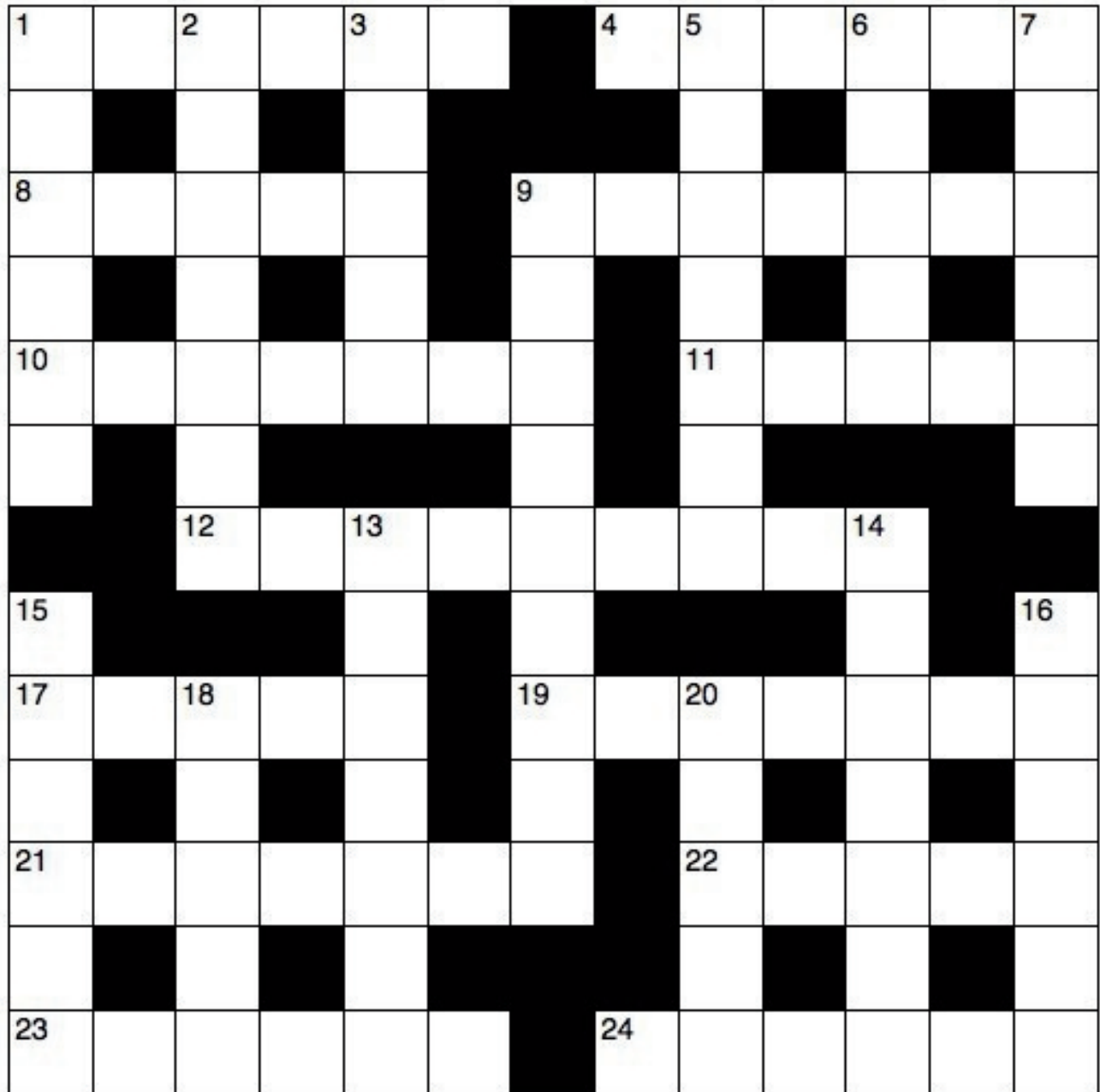
Sudoku

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

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Crossword



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Crossword clues

Across

- 1** Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4** The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across [John 20:24] (6)
- 8** 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' [John 20:25] (2,3)
- 9** He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message [Jeremiah 36:25] (7)
- 10** Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11** 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' [Acts 8:36] (5)
- 12** Repossessed [Genesis 14:16] (9)
- 17** Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome [Acts 27:3–4] (5)
- 19** 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' [Exodus 34:29] (7)
- 21** Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22** Grill [Luke 24:42] (5)
- 23** 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' [Acts 1:26] (6)
- 24** 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' [Matthew 25:36] (6)

Down

- 1** Coastal rockfaces [Psalm 141:6] (6)
- 2** Academic [1 Corinthians 1:20] (7)
- 3** Publish [Daniel 6:26] (5)
- 5** For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6** 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7** He reps [anag.] (6)
- 9** Liberator [Psalm 18:2] (9)
- 13** Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury [Acts 8:27] (7)
- 14** They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' [1 Timothy 3:8] (7)
- 15** The human mind or soul (6)
- 16** 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' [Graham Kendrick] (6)
- 18** 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' [Matthew 11:17] (5)
- 20** Bared [anag.] (5)

Puzzle Corner solutions...

Crossword

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

Sudoku

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

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