

Thurcaston with Cropston and Anstey

Heart & Soul

of our community

*Sandham Bridge
legacy lives on*

News from the Parishes

All Saints' Church
Thurcaston

May 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	07971 170 471
Pastoral Assistant	Helen Nightingale	ansteypastoralcare@gmail.com
Music	Harvey Nightingale	
Church Room bookings		Stmaryschurchrooms@gmail.com



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Greetings from the editor

Welcome once again to Heart and Soul magazine, your monthly update on what's happening in the Parishes of Anstey and Thurcaston with Cropston.



First off, apologies for omitting Dates for your Diaries and one or two other regular items in last month's issue - first-time editor wobbles and all that. Rest assured normal service has been resumed, and (hopefully) everything should be back in it's rightful place once again.

On the subject of calendars, a quick reminder we're always on the look out for new events and activities for inclusion in the Diary, or as feature items (if suitable) - simply email relevant information to heartandsoulnews@gmail.com.

Our cover story this month is the transfer of ownership of Sandham Bridge and the surrounding land to the Parish Council.

Your editor took a trip down to the bridge recently, enjoying a leisurely stroll in the early Spring sunshine with the dog.

Although we didn't venture much further than the bridge itself (both myself and the dog have tired old legs) we found the walk down to Rothley Brook both restful and peaceful - the area behind the church is particularly beautiful at this time of the year, and well worth a visit if you're down that way.

Anyway, enough of my ramblings, I hope you enjoy this month's issue. As always, please get in touch if you have any comments on the magazine (good or bad!).

Ed

USEFUL ADDRESSES

All Saints' Church / Harrison Room
Anstey Lane, Thurcaston LE7 7JA

Anstey Library
Paper Mill Close, Anstey LE7 AU

Cropston Evangelical Free Church (CEFC), Cropston Road, LE7 7GE

Jubilee Hall
Stadon Road, Anstey LE7 7AY

Methodist Church
Cropston Road, Anstey LE4 7BP

St Mary's Church / Church Rooms
Church Lane, Anstey LE7 7AF

Thurcaston Memorial Hall
Anstey Lane, Thurcaston LE7 7JA

Please send contributions, listings or ideas for the June issue of the magazine to: heartandsoulnews@gmail.com (deadline Friday 22 May)

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're 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).



Pause for thought...

Cultivating A Rest Culture

Notice in the Genesis creation account that God created humanity on the 6th day and then rested commanding all to rest. That means humanity also rested before it even began!

Life came from rest. This may be an important lesson, particularly for those of us who see rest as something we earn or that we use to recover from work. God's plan for Sabbath seems more to give life from rest. rather than the other way round.

Recently I enjoyed two short bursts of rest, navigating the waterways of the Oxford Canal on a narrow boat and then being with our eldest on the Welsh coast at Aberyswth.

I returned to parish life, especially resting from Sundays (ironic?) strong, rested and optimistic. Though I wonder if sometimes we have narratives which make too much a virtue of hard work, being tired, lots on being busy... Maybe going slow, sleeping more, taking time, rest is something to delight in and enjoy God more.

To know Sabbath rest is to subvert the busy value on productivity and see a value in our God given humanity - just being perhaps sometimes needs to be our lesson.

We are entering a season of church life in our parishes and Minster Community where more volunteering, lay ministry and service will be needed. Though this in itself if we get it right will be life giving as Jesus promised (Matt 11) 'Come to me all who are weary and burdened I will give you rest as my burden is light and my yoke easy'.

Let us affirm rest in one another more and the delight of the sabbath - our lives, churches and communities may well be lighter places because of it.

Rev Matthew

Trustees sought for Hinds Sisters' Alms Houses

You may be aware that we have Church of England Alms Houses in Cropston providing cottages to single female pensioners. After lengthy service, a couple of our much cherished trustees have retired leaving a couple of vacancies.

We are a friendly small group of dedicated trustees with representation from All Saints' Church and the local community, and we employ a warden who looks after the hands-on support and availability.

We are seeking a couple of people who are sympathetic to the parish church, and are interested in the welfare and care of older women.

If you have skills relating to, or understanding of, buildings, maintenance, grounds, finance, safeguarding, welfare or HR, then joining the oversight of your local alms house may be a rewarding voluntary experience for you.

We meet formally three times a year, as well as during social meet ups with residents. If you interested in the role of Trustee, please approach the Rector, Jane Westby or warden Jane Lacey.

Service change survey update

We are a faithful committed Benefice of two churches who have well supported the increase in service provision over the last three years by having separate weekly services at each parish.

The regularity has allowed newcomers to come through our doors and increased flexibility of our service offering with traditional choral eucharist alongside prayer book services, all age and contemporary bands.

Our Benefice worshipping community has grown. A downside is that it relies on more ministry leads that we can currently provide at the current set times.

Thanks to all those who contributed to the online survey online and with paper feedback. We had 50 responses which were made available to both PCC which discussed the challenges in full.

There was a consensus in both PCCs and the feedback to continue with weekly services. There was a recognition of inconvenience with the new times and a potential for losing Benefice service identity.

We would like to trial these new morning service times for the next two months from Sunday 7 June:

Every Sunday at All Saints' 9.30am

Every Sunday at St Mary's 11am (with coffee/ biscuit refreshments served from 10.30am - not after the service).

All Saints' Church, Thurcaston

week 1 Morning Praise (breakfast from 9am)

week 2 Holy Communion

week 3 Prayer Book (BCP) Communion

week 4 Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Anstey

week 1 Holy Communion

week 2 All Age

week 3 Holy Communion

week 4 Fresh Worship

(Joint services week 5)

Run a business?
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From the registers



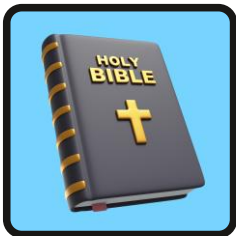
Funerals

Wednesday 8 April

Sandra Smith from Anstey

Funeral at St Mary's followed by Committal at Anstey Cemetery

May Readings



Sunday 3 May Easter 5

Acts 7.55-end

John 14, 1-14

Sunday 10 May Easter 6

Acts 17. 22-31

John 14. 15-21

Sunday 17 May Sunday after Ascension

Acts 1. 6-14

John 17.1-11

Sunday 24 May Pentecost

Acts 2. 1-21

John 20.19-23

Sunday 31 May Trinity Sunday

2 Corinthians 13.11-end

Matthew 28.16-end

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

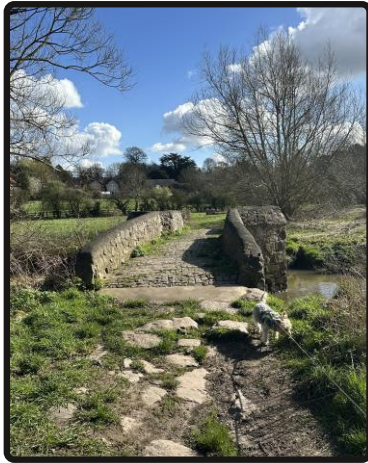
Easter flowers



Transfer of Sandham Bridge Paddock

Many of you will know the public footpath behind All Saints' Church in Thurcaston which leads from Anstey Lane down to the historic Sandham Bridge that spans Rothley Brook. The grassland areas to either side of the public footpath (formerly Brooky Lane) are known locally as Sandham Bridge Paddock.

In 2006, following the re-development of Manor Farm, the paddock and bridge were put up for auction. In order to protect the two from unsuitable development, a group of local people



made a bid for (and gained ownership of) the land and bridge.

For the past 20 years, the local Paddock Owners Group (POG) has managed, insured and cared for the land. In 2019

Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council took on responsibility for the bridge and funded substantial repairs to its structure.

Inevitably, private ownership has resulted in Group Members paying for maintenance and upkeep of the land. Sadly, the time has come to make changes to the ownership and stewardship of the land to ensure its future.

After prolonged discussion, and amidst much heart-searching, the POG agreed that the best way to safeguard the Paddock and ensure future access for all, would be to offer the land to the local

Parish Council, free of charge - a very generous offer, given members had invested heavily in the initial purchase of the land.

Transfer documents and all legal matters were finalised in January of this year, and (as of 28 February 2026) the Parish Council now owns and manages Sandham Bridge and Sandham Bridge Paddock which will both become Community Assets. Responsibility for the Public Footpath remains with Leicestershire County Council.

Sylvia Cole, Chair of the Paddock Owners Group, says: "This is the end of an era. I'd like to thank all 16 Consortium Members; who today live in Thurcaston, Cropston, Swithland, Newtown Linford, and Rothley; for their generosity and insistence that the land and the bridge should be protected, and for making a gift of these to the Parish after 20 years.

"Special thanks also to Chairman Mark Charles and members of Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council for their willingness and corporation in ensuring that this valuable area of land is secured, protected and managed in a way which benefits local people, ensures access, and prevents inappropriate development for the foreseeable future."



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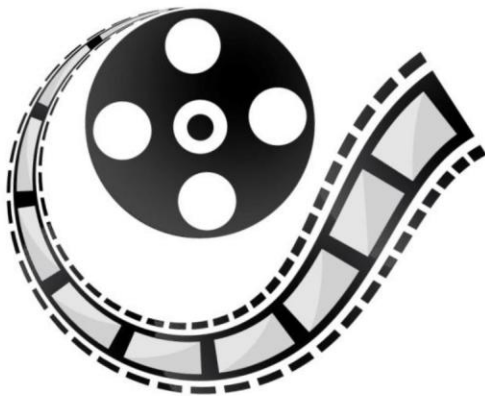
Loughborough Concert Band presents

Music from Stage & Screen

**at All Saints' Church,
Anstey Lane, Thurcaston**

Saturday 9th May 2026

6.30pm for 7pm



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

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0116 235 2226 mowestby@virginmedia.com

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH THURCASTON SUMMER FETE



£1 entry,
free entry
for
children
with a
teddy
bear



Live music with Titanic jazz band & Marydene Guitars,
Pop up Bar from Anstey's Kneaded Pint Micropub,
homemade cakes, preserves, refreshments, plantstall,
preloved, books, tombola , Zipwire teddys & more...

Saturday 6th June

1pm-4pm

Donations of quality items welcomed.

Drop at Church
Friday 5th June 5-7pm
or contact Jane Westby
0116 2352226
mowestby@virginmedia.com



Gotham City comes to St Mary's

A film company made a small donation to use the interior of St Mary's whilst interviewing the 1989 'Batman' (or at least his body double).

Local video production company Chrome Video sat down with Carl Newman to



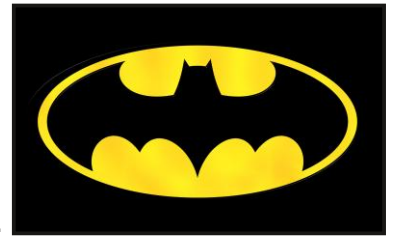
discuss his background and how he became the stunt and movement double for Michael Keaton in Tim Burton's Batman (1989).

Carl is local to Anstey, as

is Glenn, the owner of Chrome Video.

St Mary's was used as the backdrop of the interview for its gothic style arches and windows.

Further information about Carl's role as Batman's body double can be found on his website Ballet Bat (the nickname coined for him on set by Jack Nicholson, AKA The Joker) balletbat1989.com.



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Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club

More than 60 members heard Anthony Norman's fascinating talk on growing vegetables in small spaces at last month's Growing Club in Thurcaston.

During the talk, Anthony set out his reasons for growing your own vegetables, such as freshness, improved taste, the ability to harvest produce when you need it, and of course the undeniable health benefits.

He also posed the question of growing preferences: organic or non-organic, and whether to use peat-based or peat-free compost. Our preferences can also impact on wildlife and natural diversity of insects in our gardens.

Anthony talked about good practice tips to successful growing. These included creating the right growing conditions such as aspect, soil, and feeding.

If growing from seed directly into a veg bed, it's important to plant in straight lines. That way when young seedlings appear, you can see which plants are weeds!

He also suggested companion planting to attract beneficial insects. When growing from seed it is very important to create conditions so that seeds don't get too cold, otherwise they will stop growing.

He complimented his talk with lots of examples of growing in different conditions such as in raised beds, pots, and in larger spaces.

This September is the Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club 41st Annual Craft and Produce Show (Saturday 5 September) and Anthony got us to look forward and consider what we would like to grow in our gardens and then how we could show off our prized endeavours.

Anthony and his wife Susan run Conquest Plants Nursery. They have exhibited at several RHS Horticultural shows and are regulars at Plant Hunters Fairs.



Growing veg in raised beds / straight lines



Growing Radishes in very small spaces

The next Gardening Club meeting will be on Wednesday 13 May in the Thurcaston and Cropston Memorial Hall, when Andrew Mikolasjski will give advice on how to 'Contain Your Enthusiasm'.

Whether an experienced gardener or an enthusiastic beginner you're sure to find something of interest in this year's programme. New members are most welcome. Membership is £15 for the year (pro rota) or £3 per meeting. For further information, contact:

Dave Haddon 0116 235 9758

david.haddon22@gmail.com

Richard Elks 0116 236 8313

cropston161@hotmail.co.uk

A GREAT DAY OUT AT GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE!



Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club invite you to the NEC
on **Thursday 18 June 2026**

The event features show gardens, a floral marquee, and much more
+ celebrity gardeners Monty Don, Frances Tophill and Adam Frost

Tickets include entry to the BBC Good Food Show
The cost is just £40 (£20 coach & £20 ticket)

Pick-up points:

Thurcaston 9am (Wheatsheaf Inn)

Cropston 9.05am (Latimer Road & Bradgate Arms)

Anstey 9.15am (The Nook)

Thurcaston return 4.30pm approx

To book your place and for more details, contact:

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

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

Local Cinema

Anstey Film Club - Anstey Community Library

Wednesdays 2pm

Enjoy a friendly, relaxing hour or two with good company in the library every Wednesday afternoon. 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 we're unable to provide details in advance - visit the website ansteylibrary.com or pop into the library to discover what's on each week.

Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale - Thurcaston Memorial Hall

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

Julian Fellowes' lavish period drama brings the final chapter of the beloved 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 many societal changes.

Hugh Bonneville returns as Lord Grantham, and Michelle Dochery as Lady Mary, but..... there's a 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.



Save the Cinema - Thurcaston Memorial Hall

Friday 12 June, 7.30pm (duration 1 hour 49 minutes)

The scene is set in the 1990's in Carmarthen, south-west Wales, for this long-awaited British film. It's based on the true story of Liz Evans, a hairdresser who's leader of the Lyric Youth Theatre. She begins a campaign to save the theatre from closure.

With the help of the local politician, they get Steven Spielberg to come and show a premiere of Jurassic Park, in a bid to 'Save the Cinema'. Does the plan work? This story could almost be about our village film shows.



Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council will be showing these two films in Thurcaston Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets will be £6, which includes a lucky prize draw and wine or fruit juice during the interval. You can pay for your tickets at the door, if there are any left, or buy in advance from Diana (0116 2362 619), Sylvia (0116 2352 873) or the Parish Office (0116 2367 626).

Local History

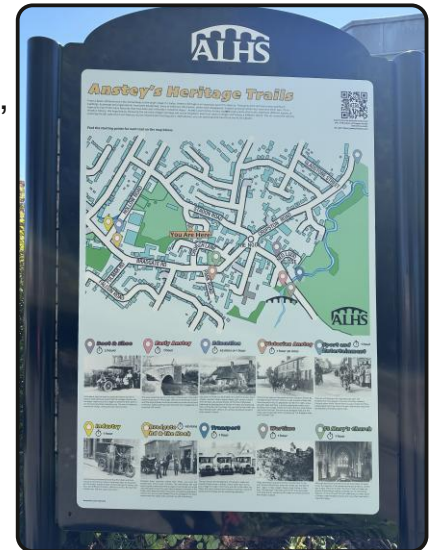
New Heritage Trails (and website) launched in Anstey

Anstey Local History Society launched ten new Heritage Trails in the village on Saturday 11 April, offering locals and visitors the chance to explore the Anstey's unique history and character.

The event was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood, and members of Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Borough Council and Anstey Parish Council.

Anstey Local History Society's Jane Cole takes up the story: "It was lovely to share the culmination of these projects with everyone who have helped to make them a reality, and it was a proud moment for us all when Lauren Downing, the trail boards designer, unveiled the Master Board.

"The trails are dedicated to Brian Kibble, a huge supporter of the project, who sadly passed away before it was completed. It was lovely to have Brian's three sons and other members of the Kibble family join us."



Five Heritage Trail boards have already been installed around the village, with another five due to go up once additional funding has been secured.

The trails can be accessed via a phone, tablet or computer via the QR codes on the boards, trails brochure or by visiting the Society's new website: ansteyhistory.com. Printed copies of the trails are also available by request via the website.

Jane says that Brian's legacy will continue, as The Millenium Collection which Brian started, has now been taken over by the history society.

"If you have any photos, business documents, or memories of the village you'd like to share please contact us, we'd love to hear from you."

Anstey Local History Society's next meeting:

Wednesday 20 May 20 (7.30pm) at Jubilee Hall, Anstey, when guest speaker Jane Smith from Thurcaston & Cropston History Society will talk about the village of Cropston. Entry is free for members, non-members: £3. Visit ansteyhistory.com or call 07870 197 958 for further information.

Thurcaston & Cropston Local History Society

The speaker at the next meeting of Thurcaston & Cropston History Society on 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

Dates for your diary: May

Friday 1

9.15am Coffee Morning
(St Mary's Church Room)

Saturday 2

11am Charity Coffee Morning (Cropston
Evangelical Free Church: CEFC)

Sunday 3

8.30am BCP Communion
(All Saints' Church)

9.15am Breakfast in the Church
(All Saints' Church)

10am Morning Praise
(All Saints' Church)

10am Holy Communion
(St Mary's Church)

10.30am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

6.30pm Taize Service
(St Mary's Church)

Monday 4 (Early May Bank Holiday)

11am Bible Study (CEFC)

Tuesday 5

10am Food Bank
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

1pm Anstey Art Club
(Methodist Church)

Wednesday 6

9.30am Prayer Book Communion
(St Mary's Church)

2-4pm Wednesday Hub Coffee/tea,
cake, chat (All Saints' Harrison Room)

2pm Wednesday Film Show
(Anstey Library)

Thursday 7

7pm Anstey Chess Club
(Methodist Church)

Friday 8

9.15am Coffee Morning
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

Sunday 10

10am Holy Communion
(All Saints' Church)

10am All Age (St Mary's Church)

10.30am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

Tuesday 12

10am Food Bank
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

10.30am Anstey Musical Memory Box
(Jubilee Hall)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

1pm Anstey Art Club
(Methodist Church)

6.45pm Birstall & District Arts Society
(Cedars Academy)

Wednesday 13

9.30am Prayer Book Communion
(St Mary's Church)

2-4pm Wednesday Hub
(All Saints' Harrison Room)

2pm Wednesday Film Show
(Anstey Library)

7.45pm Gardening Club
(Thurcaston Memorial Hall)

Thursday 14

7pm Anstey Chess Club
(Methodist Church)

Friday 15

9.15am Coffee Morning
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

Sunday 17

8.30am BCP Communion
(All Saints' Church)

10am Holy Communion
(St Mary's Church)

10.30am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

8pm Compline Night Prayer
(All Saints' Church)

Monday 18

11am Prayer Meeting (CEFC)

Tuesday 19

10am Food Bank
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

1pm Anstey Art Club
(Methodist Church)

7.30pm Thurstaston & Cropston Local
History Society (Thurstaston Memorial
Hall)

Wednesday 20

2-4pm Wednesday Hub
(All Saints' Harrison Room)

2pm Wednesday Film Show
(Anstey Library)

7.30pm Anstey Local History Society
(Jubilee Hall)

Thursday 21

7pm Anstey Chess Club
(Methodist Church)

Friday 22

9.15am Coffee Morning
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

Sunday 24

10am Fresh Praise Pentecost
(St Mary's Church)

10am Holy Communion
(All Saints' Church)

10.30am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

Monday 25 (Spring Bank Holiday)

Tuesday 26

10am Food Bank
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

10.30am Anstey Musical Memory Box
(Jubilee Hall)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

1pm Anstey Art Club
(Methodist Church)

2pm Just for Ladies - bring a craft, play
board games, chat (CEFC)

Wednesday 27

2-4pm Wednesday Hub
(All Saints' Harrison Room)

Thursday 28

7pm Anstey Chess Club
(Methodist Church)

Friday 29

9.15am Coffee Morning
(St Mary's Church Rooms)

Sunday 31

10am Bradgate Group Service
(All Saints' Church)

10.30am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

See page 3 for venue addresses.

May Services - All Saints' Thurcaston

Sunday 3rd

8.30am BCP Communion (9.15 Breakfast)

10am Morning Praise

Sunday 10th

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 17th

8.30am BCP Communion

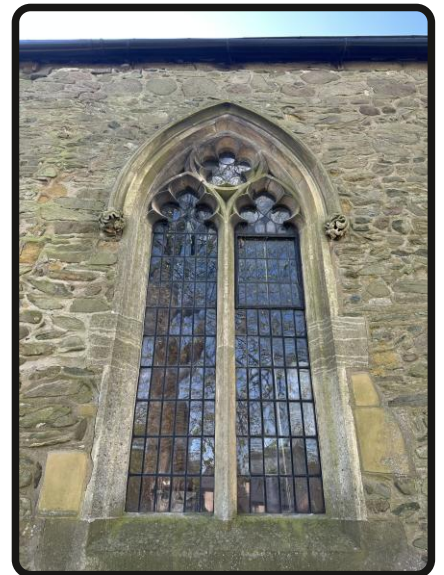
8pm Compline Night Prayer

Sunday (Pentecost) 24th

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 31st

10am Bradgate Group Service
at All Saints



May services - St Mary's Anstey

Sunday 3rd

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Taize Service

Sunday 10th

10am All Age

Sunday 17th

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th

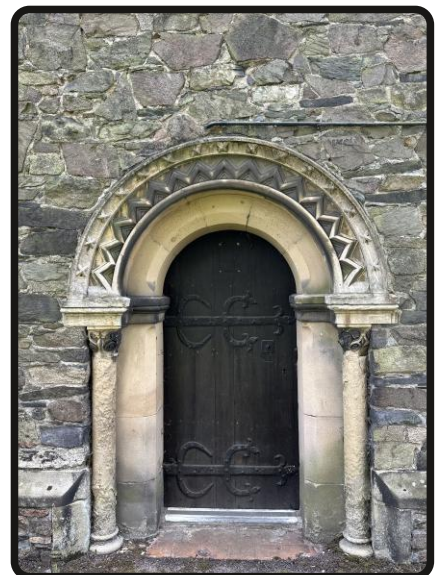
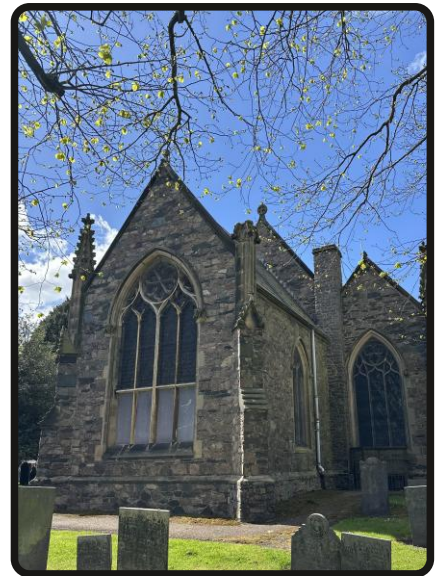
10am Fresh Praise Pentecost

Sunday 31st

10am Bradgate Group Service
at All Saints

Every Wednesday

9.30am Prayer Book Communion



Royal board game of Ur

Last month's Heart and Soul reported on a fascinating talk by Peter Liddle on the History of Board Games. He went backwards through time, ending in around 2400BC with the Royal Board Game of Ur in Babylon. As the illustration showed, the craftsmanship is quite exotic, and I understand that it or a replica may be viewed in the British Museum.

Such games were played at all levels of society, at a time and near the place where archaeology seems to indicate that Noah's flood(s) would have taken place. (Genesis chapter 6ff).

The rather sarcastic story involving the Tower of Babel also seems to have some kind of relationship with this era in Babylon, when cities competed to build the tallest ziggurat. (Genesis 11 vs1-9). Later Abraham was called by God to leave Ur with his wife and others, and eventually settle in Canaan (Genesis 12ff).

All these ancient people would seem to have been familiar with board games such as the one referred to, requiring skill.



The Royal Board Game of Ur appears to have coherent instructions in cuneiform on baked clay tablets, albeit from the second millennium BC. An expert curator at the British Museum tried them with various ancient board games, and this had the very best match.

The fairly detailed accounts of some of Abraham's exploits, early in the second millennium BC, would seem to confirm that language was well developed by then (e.g. in Genesis 14).

Such insights as these can help us to imagine what life might have been like for people that we read about in the Bible.

Ian Dutton, Associate Minister

All Saints' 200 Club winners

April 2026 Draw

1st Liz Walker-Smith

2nd Derek Farr

3rd Richard Rushin

Congratulations to the winners!

A logo for the All Saints' 200 Club, featuring the number 200 in a stylized, bold font. The number 2 is on the left, and the two zeros are on the right, all in white against a black background.

*All Saints 200 Club
Thurcaston*

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)

Bellringing at St Mary's

St Mary's Bellringers would like to hear from anyone who fancies a challenge and would like to learn the unique pastime of bellringing. There's no doubt that bellringing is a fantastically rewarding activity in itself, but it's worth noting that there's more to it than just practice and performance - there's also the social side to consider.

Tower Captain Marion Pegge explains: "Our small but dedicated group have developed a lovely relationship with our bellringing neighbours in Thurcaston and other towers in surrounding area, and we ring with them regularly as well as sharing a great social life. For example, we regularly go on outings, play skittles and enjoy meals out together."

Marion says that the group has regular practice nights at St Mary's Church, Anstey every Monday evening - followed by drinks in the Old Hare and Hounds, which is conveniently located just across the road.

"We also ring on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month for the morning service,"

says Marion, who explains that her interest in ringing started at an early age. "I started ringing when I was nine, and have been at it ever since. My dad, Barry, was Tower Captain of Anstey for many years and I kind of inherited the role from him. It's quite addictive, in fact my whole family rings in some capacity or another."

Marion adds that she shares responsibility for the Tower with Cathy McNally and Chris Newman who maintain the bells, wind the clock and help with teaching new ringers.

"Cathy and I are both qualified to teach bell ringing. We currently have two learners ringing on their own, and two new people learning the ropes, so to speak. We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to find out more about Anstey bells - it really is open to anyone aged 9-99!"

To find out more about bell ringing in Anstey, call Marion on 07548 837 947 for a chat (please call in advance of attending to ensure Marion can plan an induction session for you).

Don't miss the CHRISTIAN AID SOUP - er- LUNCH

**St Mary's Church Rooms, Anstey
Saturday 16 May**

11.45am - until the Soup runs out. (Don't worry we'll have lots!)

Delicious home made soups and tasty cobs. Tea and coffee

Help raise funds for this year's Christian Aid Appeal

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Thurcaston Brownies Spring Term Report

We spent the Spring term carrying out tasks to earn the Celebrations and Imagination badges interspersed with activities for Thinking Day and Mothers Day.

We have a returning Brownie, Evie, who is now old enough to be volunteering as part of her Duke of Edinburgh qualification. She has introduced a new favourite game based on the TV Traitors.

Celebrations can be for many reasons and first of all we looked at birthday celebrations from twelve different countries, rich and poor, to include the foods that are eaten, games played and what traditional ceremony happens to the birthday girl.

The date of birth determines the zodiac star sign and the following week we looked at everyone's horoscope for that day taken from a newspaper. Love life predictions produced embarrassing giggles.

Next we learned about Lady Jane Grey, the nine day queen, as it was 472 years since she was executed. She is associated with the Greys of Groby and Bradgate Park. She was only 16 and was persuaded to proclaim her right to the throne by her father and others who wanted a queen of the Protestant and not Catholic faith.

Snowy Owl and Barn Owl had photos of the white horse adorned with white tulips and people carrying white tulips in a procession to the ruins in Bradgate Park. The white tulips signified remorse that such a young girl was used as pawn in the ambitions of her relatives and paid with her life.

We learned more about the meanings of the variety and colour of flowers; a gift of a dozen red roses means 'I will love you for ever,' but ladies beware: only six red roses means 'I will love you for six months'.

Thinking Day was 22 February, the joint birthday of our founders Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. We held our own ceremony by lighting candles and remembering our

Promise. Barn Owl and Snowy Owl enjoyed a Thinking Day ceremony at Ullesthorpe Scout Camp organised by Birstall Guides.

Another reason to celebrate is the imminent birth of a baby with a Baby Shower. Brown Owl had organised games such as trying baby food and guessing the main ingredients, fabric painting a bib, and dressing a 'baby' doll in a nappy and babygro. Some 'babies' did not get treated very gently in this timed activity!

We wish Pat 'Get well soon' and are grateful she had prepared the basic materials for the Mother's Day gift before her fall. The girls put together paper flowers with button centres to make a plaque that said 'Mums are like buttons. They hold everything together'.

For the Imagination badge we gave each group four props such as a hat, a soft toy, a household and a handheld item. The Brownies devised and practised a drama and the following week performed their mini plays to much praise from our visitor, Evie's Grandpa. Thank you.

The end of term sadly meant saying 'Goodbye and good luck' to our oldest Brownies who are moving on.

Snowy Owl

Thurcaston Brownies meet Wednesday evenings a All Saints Church, Thurcaston. Suitable for girls aged 7-10 years. Call for details: 07711 422 350 (please avoid work hours).



Cedar House update

A residential care home should be a community you can fall in love with – somewhere that cares for your physical, emotional, and intellectual wellbeing.

At Cedar House, you can be the person you want to be – discussing the day's news with friends, trying your hand at new activities, or relaxing in a quiet corner with a book and your own thoughts.

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

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

We had our monthly church service with lots of song, pray and fabulous conversation.

Easter celebrations consisted of... an Easter egg hunt, we had festive drinks and hot cross buns in the coffee shop, we designed and coloured lots of Easter eggs and pictures.

Some of the residents also made their own Easter bonnets.

We also enjoyed an Easter party with Sidney Shakers including an Easter bonnet parade.

The children selected Pat as the winner due to its

bright colour and design. Well done Pat!

On Wednesday 8 April the residents, staff and visitors were entertained by guest singer Chris Hyde. There was lots of singing and dancing.

We also hosted Jodie's baby shower. We can't wait to meet the little bundle of joy!

On Friday 10 April the residents and staff enjoyed a pet therapy session with alpacas Imogen and Coco from Anstey Alpacas.

On Saturday 11 April the residents enjoyed doing some plant pot decorating with Clarissa. A brush stroke here, a brush stroke there... There now ready for planting up.

On Monday 13 April the residents enjoyed doing chair exercises with Adele with a musical twist.

We also had a visit from PAT dog Lexie. There was lots of snuggles and cuddles.

On Wednesday 15 April some residents from Radfield Home Care visited us at the home and joined in with a friendly game of golf. Team B won - congratulations everyone.

The visitors from Radfield Home Care also stayed for lunch and enjoyed some walks around our gardens.

Thank you for visiting us. We would love to see you again.

Some of the residents also enjoyed carrying on with their hand knitting projects. We also had some new beginners joining the group. The more the merrier.

On Thursday 16 April some of the residents, staff and visitors enjoyed tasting a selection of cheeses and wine from around the world. Yum and cheers everyone... until next time!



Monday Club

Nowt as funny as Folk

April's Monday Club featured a talk about Folklore, Folk Tales and Funny Folk, when guest speaker Geoff Harris revealed the following fun facts about strange laws from England's past:

- It was illegal to die in the Houses of Parliament.
- Suicide was a capital offence.
- Laws were in place that decreed you must not disturb your neighbours by letting off guns near their house.
- Cracking an egg at the sharp end was once illegal.
- It was unlawful to sell goods on Sundays (except carrots).
- Setting a fire in the royal shipyards was a capital offence, as was impersonating a Chelsea Pensioner.
- Putting a stamp upside down on an envelope could be considered to be treason.
- It was illegal to carry a plank on the pavement, import potatoes from Poland, or cause a nuclear explosion (we think that last one might still be valid).

May's Monday Club will be an outing for Club members.

June's Monday Club will be on Monday 8 June, when the subject discussed will be the History of Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. Call 07709 201881 for further information.

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.

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Hail Holy Queen
You Raise Me Up
Penny Lane
Oliver & more...

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Accompanist: Sam Giles

7.30pm Friday 12th & Saturday 13th June

Optional: Bring a picnic/nibbles for 7pm (no drinks).

Matinee: 3pm Sunday 14th June

Picnic/nibbles & drinks (own glasses) for 2.30pm

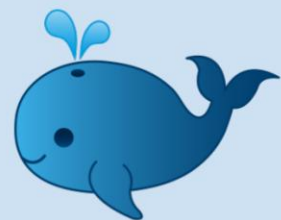
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Junior Corner

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

Ruffle and the moving stone *By Rachel Greaves*

Ruffle was lying dozing on the warm garden grass
Keeping one rear open for anything that should pass

Suddenly he heard something, a faint shuffling sound
Curious what it was, Ruffle sat up and looked around

There was nothing on the grass but a small mottled stone
Sitting right in the middle of the lawn, all alone

“Mmm”, though Ruffle, “I’m sure it wasn’t there before”
“Perhaps I’ll keep an eye on it just to be sure!”

Ruffle sat down then looked on in surprise
As very slowly the stone began to rise

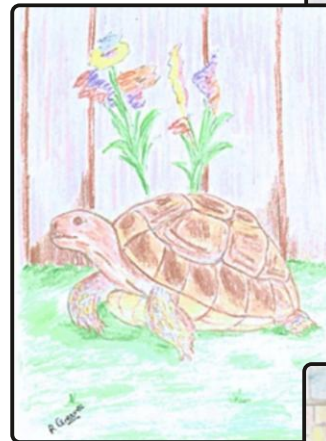
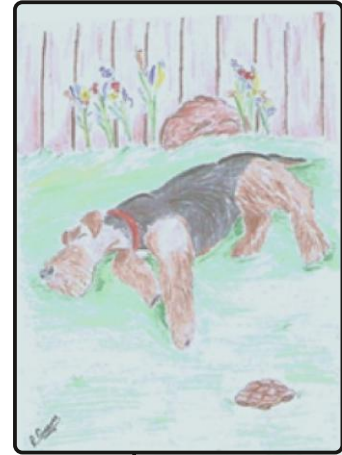
First from the front appeared a timid head
Then from each side a small, wrinkly leg!

A stone with legs? That can’t be right!
Ruffle decided to pick it up, hold it quite tight

He took it carefully over to Eric’s station door
And placed it very gently upon the stony floor

Ruffle began to bark to give Eric a shout
Finally the door opened and Eric came out

He looked down and smiled at the stone on the ground
“My Tortoise, Shelley! Ruffle, that’s what you’ve found!”



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

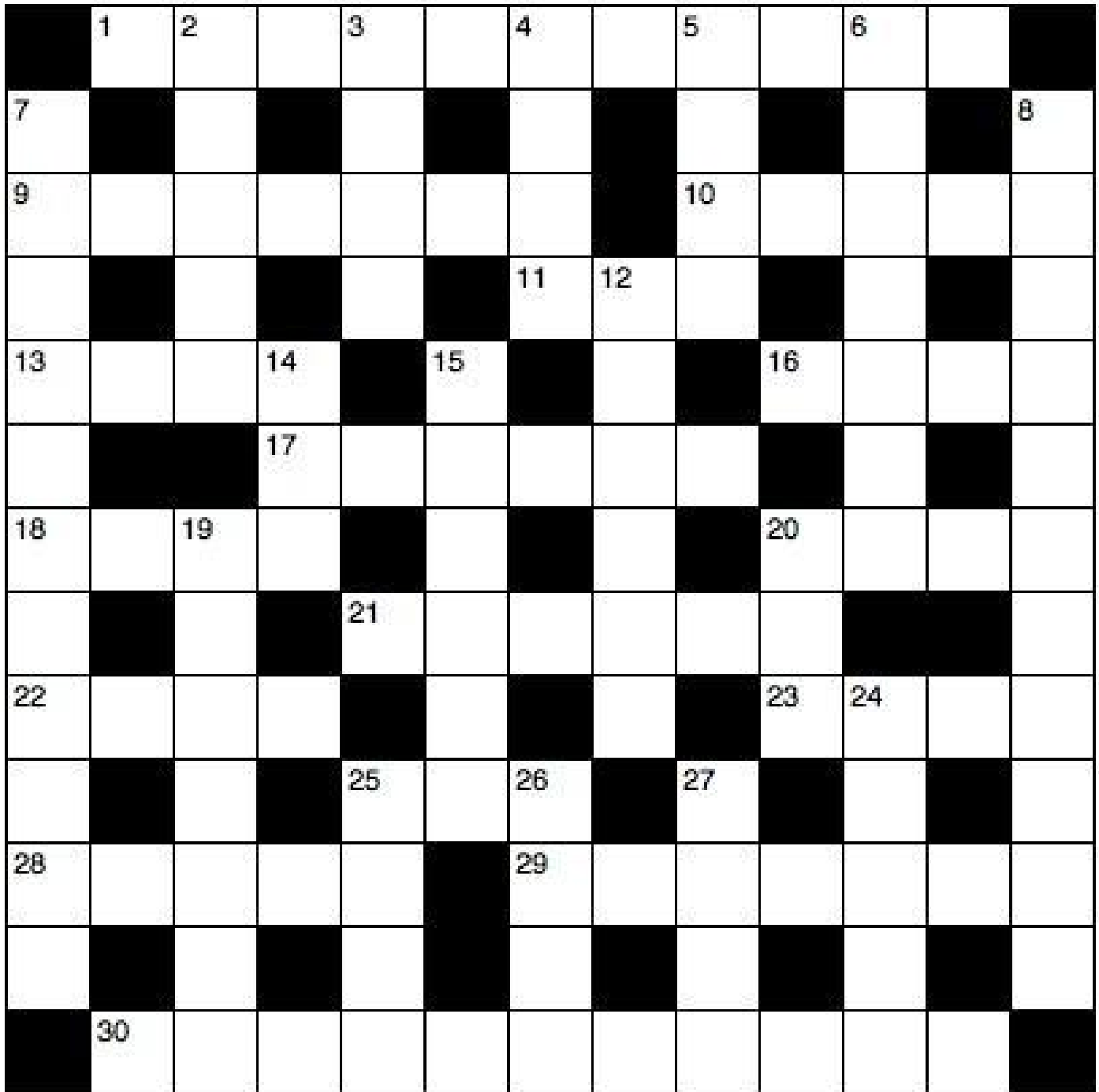
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Puzzle Corner (Sudoku)

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

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Puzzle Corner (Crossword)



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Puzzle Corner (Crossword clues)

Across

- 1 Overpowered [Deuteronomy 11:4] (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' [Psalm 65:13] (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side' [Exodus 32:27] (5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom [Matthew 27:51] (3)
- 13 Stagger [Isaiah 28:7] (4)
- 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' [James 4:17] (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke [Acts 13:50] (6)
- 18 Burden [Luke 11:46] (4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' [Psalm 103:12] (4)
- 21 Sign [Luke 23:38] (6)
- 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' [John 13:5] (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream [Genesis 41:23] (4)
- 25 Has (anag.) (3)
- 28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' [Genesis 10:1] (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' [Jeremiah 51:39] (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' [2 Timothy 1:16] (11)

Down

- 2 Worth [Matthew 13:46] (5)
- 3 'A bruised — He will not break' [Matthew 12:20] (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' [Luke 2:13] (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' [Deuteronomy 15:17] (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful [2 Corinthians 8:2] (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' [Galatians 6:10] (11)
- 12 Acquire [2 Timothy 2:10] (6)
- 14 Container cover [Numbers 19:15] (3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on——!' [Philippians 2:8] (1,5)
- 19 Refrain [1 Peter 2:11] (7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' [Luke 7:38] (3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who—you' [Luke 6:30] (4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' [Psalm 121:1] (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them [Isaiah 3:2] (4)

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Puzzle Corner (Solutions)

Crossword

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

Sudoku

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

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