Thurcaston with Cropston and Anstey

Heart & Soul

of our community

December 2026
(& January 2027)



All Saints' Church
Thurcaston

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	Felicity Wigg	fliss.wigg@hotmail.co.uk
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 (*Txt messages only)*
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

Find us on Facebook: **@asthurcastonwc @stmarysanstey**

January's Heart & Soul

Please note that there won't be an issue of Heart & Soul in January, as I'm taking a short break at the end of December. However, we'll be back in February as usual.

Wishing everyone a joyous, healthy, prosperous and, above all, relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Paul



Content deadline for February's Heart & Soul: Wednesday 20 January.
heartandsoulnews@gmail.com

All Saints' Church and St Mary's Church - here for you

Get in touch with the Rector or Church Wardens (contact details on left) if you'd like to discuss baptisms or weddings, or Holy Communion for anyone who's unable to attend church. Alternatively, visit our websites for further information about events, activities, services:

All Saints' Church (achurchnearyou.com/church/5502)

St Mary's Church (achurchnearyou.com/church/5482)

All Saints' & St Mary's (stmarysandallsaints.co.uk)

Useful Addresses

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

Anstey Library, Paper Mill Close, Anstey LE7 7AU.

Cropston Evangelical Free Church (**CEFC**),
Station Road, Cropston LE7 7HD.

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.

Just a thought...

My favourite hymn this time of year is ‘O Come Emmanuel’ especially if sung in a dimly candlelit church.

The carol will often break the silence with a chorister singing the first note of ‘O Come Emmanuel’ which then reaches a crescendo as the organist and congregation join in.

In our solidarity solitude is shattered. The symbolism cannot be missed. In our sadnesses, our loneliness, our disappointments Emmanuel (meaning God with us) is called upon and hoped for across generations.

The hymn takes us through the Old Testament prophecies and former glories and power looking back to the Kingdom of David and beyond to the Exodus with Moses.

Despite the ‘lonely exile’ of Babylonian captivity inferred there is a great yearning for the Messiah to appear.

It is heavy stuff and perhaps more potent as we often celebrate Christmas events in light against the surrounding night beyond.

For many Christians the cross and Jesus’ death is heralded as the most significant event in history as the sacrificial pathway to eternal life. Christmas gives us a different emphasis - the Incarnation - God



being with us in flesh form. Christmas tells us that God loves us.

The incarnation celebrated at Christmas reminds us that God is for us and sees us in our struggles, our pains and darkness and risks vulnerability despite our indifference and stubbornness - God comes to us anyway in weakness to share in our weaknesses.

Christmas shows a universe with meaning, our lives have purpose and that we all matter to God.

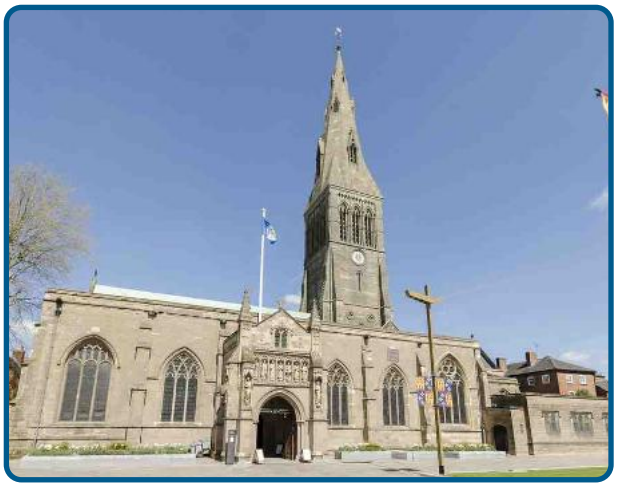
It is an invitation to respond afresh. Perhaps we have become jaded. Perhaps we have taken the gift of life for granted.

Christmas - a birth celebrated-and the nativity scenes will remind us to make room in the inn. Have we room in our hearts for a fresh rebirth of God being with us?

Rev Matthew

Special Evensong Services

Choral Evensong Service led by Leicester Cathedral & Choir



Join us for a special Choral Evensong Service led by Leicester Cathedral & Choir at All Saints' Church, Thurcaston **Sunday 17 January, 4pm**.

Candlemas with sung Compline

Candlemas is an ancient festival which marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. It commemorates the purification of Mary forty days after the birth of her son Jesus.

It is also the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple, based on the account in Luke 2:22-40. It was the Jewish custom forty days after birth of a boy, to take him to the temple to be presented to God by his thankful parents. It is also officially the end of the Christmas cycle.

A choral service with an augmented choir will be held on **Sunday 31 January, 6.30pm** to celebrate Candlemas. There will be readings and hymns and then the service will conclude with the singing of the ancient plainsong setting of Compline. Do join us for this contemplative service.

Light a candle

All Saints' Church will be open on Tuesday 8 December, 3pm to 7pm, to come and light a candle, have some quiet time in Church to remember those we have loved and lost recently or in the more distant past. There will also be the opportunity to talk to someone if you wish and have a hot drink. All welcome.



From the registers

Monday 2 November

Alison Jean McDonald of Thurcaston. Committal at Loughborough Crematorium and Funeral at All Saints' Church, Thurcaston

Monday 9 November

Mark Ford of Leicester. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Anstey followed by burial at Anstey Cemetery

Sunday Readings

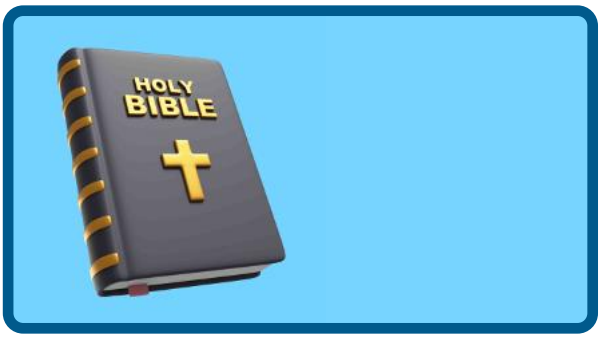
December

6th: Advent 2
Isaiah 40, 1-11
Mark 1, 1-8

13th: Advent 3
Isaiah 61, 1-4, 8-11
John 1, 6-8. 19-28

20th: Advent 4
2 Samuel 7, 1-11, 16
Luke 1, 26-38

27th: First Sunday of Christmas
Isaiah 61, 10- 62,3
Luke 2, 15-21



January

3rd: Second Sunday of Christmas
Jeremiah 31, 7-14
John 1, 1-18

10th: Epiphany
Genesis 1, 1-5
Mark 1, 4-11

17th: Epiphany 2
1 Samuel 3, 1-10
John 1, 43-51

24th: Epiphany 3
Genesis 14, 17-20
John 2, 1-11

31st: Epiphany 4 / Candlemas
Deuteronomy 18, 15-20
Mark 1, 21-28


ZERO WASTE
youth
ANSTEY
REFILLS
Save Money,
Save Plastic.
CROPSTON ROAD
REFILL
REDUCE
REUSE
RETHINK
youth
ANSTEY REFILLS
Bring your bottles to refill your cleaning products, hand wash, shampoo and more!
At the Methodist Church in Anstey
Every Saturday Morning
9.30 – 11.30
Refill • Reduce • Reuse

Wednesday Hub



Back in the autumn of 2022 we started having discussions about setting up a 'warm space' at All Saints Church. The first meeting of the Wednesday Hub took place that November and we opened with very little idea of who would attend and how many would come along.

Four years later and the Hub has grown into a friendly and welcoming community offering friendship, tea & cake, chat and Scrabble. We celebrated our fourth anniversary in style with an afternoon tea party which was attended by 40 people.

In the past year the Hub has celebrated birthdays ranging in age from 1 to 97 years – we've had our first baby born (when volunteer Jess welcomed baby Archie in March) – we've cheered on Sharne who ran the London Marathon for LOROS – and enjoyed our annual garden party in the heat of the summer.

Many thanks go to the team of volunteers from the Thurcaston & Cropston Good Neighbours and from All Saints who turn out every week and without whom the Hub would not be possible.

The Wednesday Hub is free to attend and all are welcome - to find out more about the Hub please do call the Thurcaston & Cropston Good Neighbours phone line on 07435 265 397.

All Saints' 200 Club - October winners

200
All Saints 200 Club
Thurcaston

1st Janice Kilgour

2nd Hazel Marshall

3rd Jane Westby

It's never too late to join. Call Jane Westby for details: 0116 235 2226 or email: mowestby@virginmedia.com

St Mary's building update

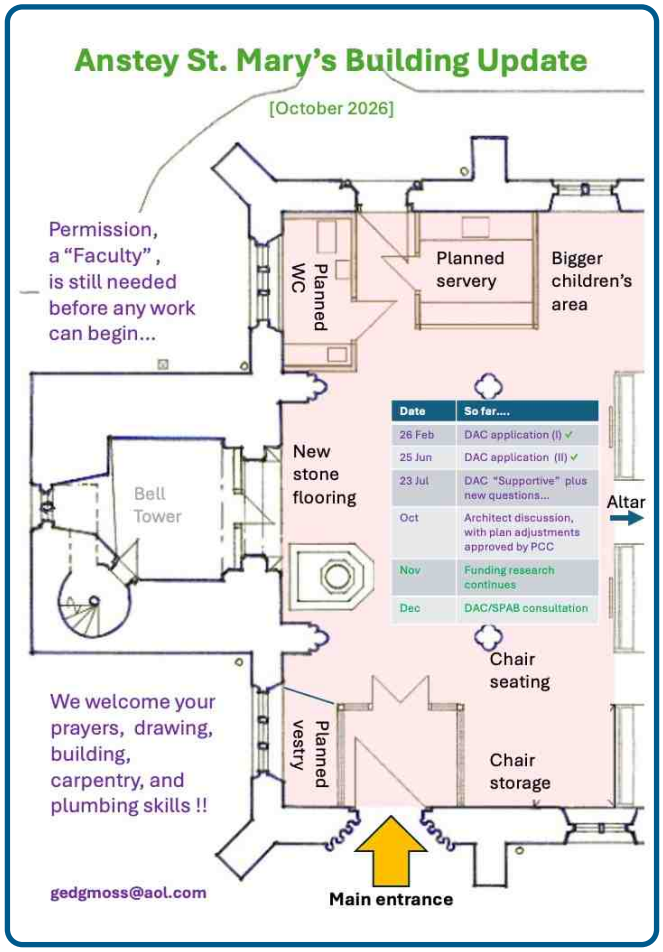
The community needs an accessible and flexible church building that preserves its heritage, while also being a useful, accessible, popular and sustainable building.

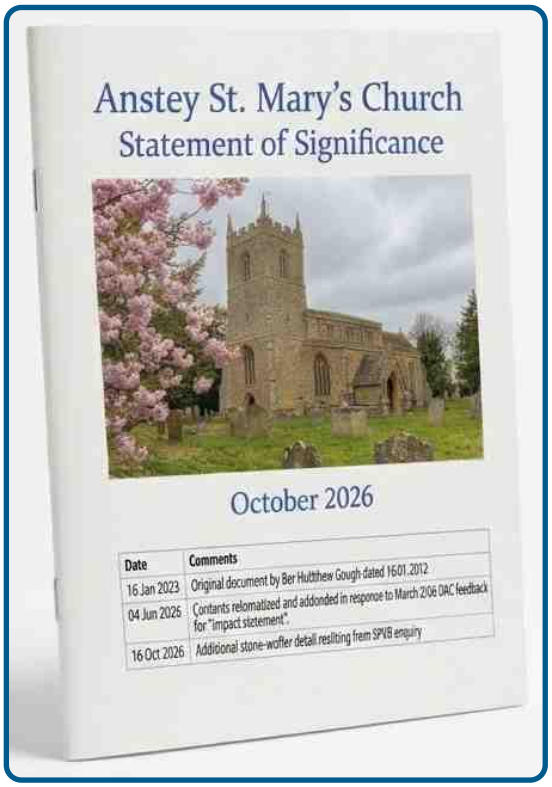
We need a Faculty (the Chancellor at the Diocese's permission to change things) and that begins with a Statement of Significance (what we are impacting which might need protecting).

Are you interested in history?

Demonstrating our understanding of things like the memorial stones in the south aisle will help our application.

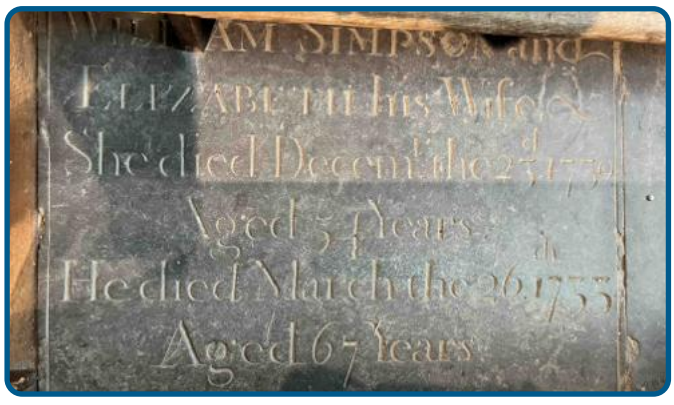
If you're interested in helping the project by researching things like the memorial stones above, then we need your help!





How you can help

If you have any experience of fund raising, carpentry, plumbing, building, drawing, illustration, history or any other aspect of church development projects, please contact Ged Moss on 07471 081 859, email: gedgmoss@aol.com



Local cinema

Anstey

Enjoy a friendly, relaxing hour or two with good company in Anstey Community Library every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm. 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 for further information.

Thurcaston

Friday 11 December: 'Scrooged' (101 minutes).

Our December film is a Christmas fantasy comedy starring Bill Murray. It's a modern adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic, 'A Christmas Carol'. Frank, as a cold-hearted TV producer, is entirely consumed with making an extravagant live broadcast, with the intention of spreading exaggerated information to scare people. This mean and ruthless TV executive is haunted three times by ghosts. Finally, we see Frank learn and understand many lessons on the true meaning of Christmas.

Friday 8 January: **Leicestershire Heritage at Risk** (27 minutes).

Our short first film of the new year was produced in 1970 by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. It portrays our traditional countryside and historic rural life. We will see many local people whom we may recognise.

Friday 8 January: **Black Bag** (94 minutes).

Our second new year film, on the same evening, is a gripping spy thriller, starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender. It is a story of intelligence gathering. Cate, playing Kathryn, is suspected of plotting to betray the nation. Will Michael, playing her husband George, be loyal to his marriage, or to his country?

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

Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club

The Gardening Club goes from strength to strength. In recent years members have enjoyed a very strong programme of events. Top-class speakers with a wide range of horticultural subjects, two excellent Club Outings (although a little too warm for some) and our 41st Annual Craft & Produce Show. Thanks to all those who took part in the competition and made it into another record-breaking year for entries. We now look forward to 2027.

Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club meetings take place at 7.45pm in Thurcaston and Cropston Memorial Hall. New members are made 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

2027 Programme of Events

January: My best 100 gardening tips

February: Pin me to the wall

March: Who's who in the wild garden

April: Down the garden path

May: The English and gardening

June: Outing to Burghley House Gardens

July: Why we need wildlife ponds

August: Winter interest plants

September: Annual craft & produce show

October: Gardening in a changing climate

November: In the bleak midwinter

December: Festive evening

Coffee Morning - St Mary's Church Rooms

Every Friday from 9.15 am

Everyone welcome



Thurcaston and Cropston Local History Society

At our November meeting, after a short AGM, we ended our programme for the year with a 'Magical History Tour' presented by Bishop Peter Fox – the only bishop who is also a member of the Inner Magic Circle! Peter ran through an illustrated history of stage magic while demonstrating several of the key tricks, all woven together with the patter of a skilled entertainer.

An Egyptian tomb from about 1800 BC depicts various kinds of performers, among which are two men sitting with domed objects between them. This may be the earliest known evidence of the 'cups and balls' trick, in which, as Peter demonstrated, balls placed on top of the cups mysteriously re-appear underneath them. This trick became the defining image of a magician for many centuries and was supplanted by the rabbit in a hat about 200 years ago. Having once been employed by kings and pharaohs, magicians fell in status by medieval times. Paintings of that era show them, with their cups and balls, conning unsuspecting members of the public or being hauled off to hell by demons!

Reginald Scot was a local magistrate who became so fed up with eccentric elderly women being brought before him that in 1584 he wrote 'The Discoverie of Witchcraft' to give rational explanations of natural phenomena such as sickness in animals. He also explained how travelling magicians (jugglers) performed some of their tricks, making this effectively the first 'How To' book of magic.

Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin (b.1805) is known as the father of modern magic. For him, a magician was not only a conjuror but also an actor and this led to shows in which each trick was dressed up as part of an elaborate scenario. This music hall era was a 'golden age', when every magician needed a distinctive novelty. Their tricks such as sawing a lady in half, or making their assistant levitate or disappear, are still performed today. For Peter Fox, a favourite performer from this period is Chung Ling Soo, who appeared with a large oriental entourage and used an on-stage translator to converse in 'Chinese'. He was revealed as an Englishman only when he was killed on stage during a trick that involved catching bullets on a plate. Chung popularized the use of 'Chinese rings', which mysteriously link and unlink. He taught this trick to a young admirer and the line can be traced from master to pupil down to Peter, who performed it for us.

As a postscript, Peter held the audience spellbound with his thoughts on the psychology of magic, which he believes is enjoyed most by those who delight in finding wonder in the world.

More wonders await next year. Please join us on 19 January for a talk by our member Jane Smith about the history of Cropston. Fees remain £4 for visitors or £16 for a year's membership. Full details of our 2027 programme will be on the website soon.
thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk

Thurcaston Bellringers Report

A belated bells report from September which proved to be very busy for the handbell ringers...

We first rang at Swithland Church on a Saturday afternoon, then the next day at Loughborough Town Hall helping to promote the Christmas pantomime Dick Whittington. It was called Sunday Funday and there were many families enjoying all sorts of activities from drawing and colouring to fishing for plastic ducks! We rang eight pieces such as English Country Garden and Amazing Grace and gave people the opportunity to have a go. Members of the cast joined us and did rather well.



We also rang for the first time at Orchard View Care Home in Leicester and were thrilled to hear so many residents singing along with us. From these outings we were able to send £265 to LOROS.

The tower bell ringers enjoyed an Outing shared with Anstey bell tower, ringing in five churches in the Vale of Belvoir, Sproxton's 8 and Saltby's 10 in the morning, lunch at The Nag's Head , followed by Bottesford's 8 bells, Stathern's 5 and Harby's 6 in the afternoon. A great day out in the countryside beautifully organised by Anstey Tower Captain, Marion Pegge.



Two quarter peals have been rung, the first of Plain Bob Doubles, a first for Barnaby Davis on a bell other than the treble or tenor to achieve Level 4 of the ART scheme 'Learn the Ropes' and was in memory of Ian Roberts, who was Tower Captain at Thurcaston for many years; also to celebrate Tim and Wendy Holland's Ruby Wedding Anniversary. The second was of Plain Bob Minor for Jacob Peace leading towards Level 5 ART 'Learn the Ropes' and to celebrate the safe arrival of a second grandson for Tim Holland, Theo.

Christmas Handbell Engagements

3 December, 11am - Lonsdale Mews, Quorn.

5 December, 3pm - Griffin Inn, Swithland.

10 December, 10.30am - Amberwood Care Home, Wigston.

11 & 12 December 9.30am-12noon - Beaumont Leys Shopping Mall.

15 December, 10.30am - Cedar House Care Home, Rothley.

18 December, 7pm - Bradgate Arms, Cropston.

19 December, 12.45pm - outside the Town Hall Loughborough.

Please come along to support us. Alternatively, we would be very grateful to receive any donation to put towards our collection for LOROS.

Cropston verge update

The small verge on the corner of Leicester Road and Latimer Road has been left unmown through each summer since 2022 to encourage the growth of wild flowers and to provide food and habitat for other wildlife.

After a long, wet winter, 2026 brought another hot, dry summer, which was not helpful for the growth of most plants. However, the warm air did attract some migrating insects to venture north in larger numbers than usual and there were lots of Painted Lady butterflies about. While we did not spot one of the adults on the verge, a caterpillar made its nest among the prickly leaves of the Spear Thistle.

I previously mused on whether Spear Thistle was really what we want in a wild flower verge but this year it was definitely the star of the show! I estimate that this single plant had 300 flowerheads, each containing hundreds of individual flowers. Honey-bees, Red-tailed Bumblebees and Small Skipper butterflies all used them to fill up on nectar.

Other parts of the plant attract wildlife too: a Thistle Tortoise Beetle like a small, green armoured vehicle, and a colony of the weevils Rhinocyllus conicus, which seem happiest when their noses are pushed into the prickly rosette at the tip of a thistle shoot. Another specialist to arrive was the Spear Thistle Lacebug, which is small and flat with a perforated fringe.







Elsewhere on the verge, three more ladybirds joined our list this year, including the 14-spot and 16-spot, which are muted yellow with distinctive patterns of black spots and lines.

A Common Blue Damselfly stopped by and the well-named Long Hoverfly was seen feeding on Daisy pollen. Turning to the plant world, Sticky Mouse-ear arrived here on the verge for the first time and, putting in a late appearance, was Red Dead-nettle. It wouldn't stir the heart of any botanist, but a plant that is still flowering in mid-November should surely be welcomed!

The list of species recorded on the verge now comprises 77 plants and 69 animals. You can discover them all on the dedicated web page (shorturl.at/RXFRF).

Peter Smith

Celebrating #ChristmasinAnstey with local schools, groups & businesses showing off their best designs



Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday December 5th 10am-6pm

St Mary's Anstey Parish Church

Singing in the Trees with Latimer School Choir 4pm

All Welcome Free Admission

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 1

10am Food Bank (Church Rooms)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

1pm Anstey Art Club (Methodist Church)

Wednesday 2

9.30am Communions (St Mary's Church)

2pm Wednesday Film Show (Anstey Library)

2pm Wednesday Hub (Harrison Room)

Thursday 3

7pm Anstey Chess Club (Methodist Church)

Friday 4

9.15am Coffee Morning (Church Rooms)

11.30am RVS Lunch Club (Jubilee Hall)

Saturday 5

9.30-11.30am Anstey Refills (Methodist Church)

1**0am-2pm** Advent Fair (St Mary's Church)

10am-6pm Christmas Tree Festival (St Mary's Church)

4pm Singing in the Trees with Latimer School Choir (St Mary's Church)

Sunday 6

See centre pages for All Saint's and St Mary's Services

11am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

Monday 7

11am Bible Study (CEFC)

2.15pm Monday Club (CEFC)

Tuesday 8

10am Food Bank (Church Rooms)

10.30am Anstey Musical Memory Box (Jubilee Hall)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

1pm Anstey Art Club (Methodist Church)

3-7pm Light a Candle, (All Saints' Church)

Wednesday 9

9.30am Communions (St Mary's Church)

2pm Wednesday Film Show (Anstey Library)

2pm Wednesday Hub (Harrison Room)

7.45pm Thurcaston and Cropston Gardening Club (Memorial Hall)

Thursday 10

7pm Anstey Chess Club (Methodist Church)

Friday 11

9.15am Coffee Morning (Church Room)

11.30am RVS Lunch Club (Jubilee Hall)

7.30pm 'Scrooged' film, (Memorial Hall)

Sunday 13

See centre pages for All Saint's and St Mary's Services

11am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

12noon Deadline for Food Bank donations (All Saints' Church)

Monday 14

1.15pm RVS Dementia Cafe (Jubilee Hall)

Tuesday 15

10am Food Bank (Church Rooms)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

1pm Anstey Art Club (Methodist Church)

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

Wednesday 16

9.30am Communions (St Mary's Church)

12.30pm Newtown Linford Ladies' Lunch Club

2pm Wednesday Film Show (Anstey Library)

2pm Wednesday Hub (Harrison Room)

7pm Anstey Local History Society (Jubilee Hall)

Thursday 17

7pm Anstey Chess Club (Methodist Church)

7pm Anstey Local History Society (Jubilee Hall)

Friday 18

9.15am Coffee Morning (Church Room)

11.30am RVS Lunch Club (Jubilee Hall)

Sunday 20

See centre pages for Services

11am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

Monday 21

11am Prayer Meeting (CEFC)

Tuesday 22

10am Food Bank (Church Rooms)

10.30am Anstey Musical Memory Box (Jubilee)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

Wednesday 23

9.30am Communions (St Mary's Church)

2pm Wednesday Film Show (Anstey Library)

2pm Wednesday Hub (Harrison Room)

Christmas Eve

See centre pages for All Saints' and St Mary's Services

7pm Anstey Chess Club (Methodist Church)

Christmas Day

See centre pages for All Saint's and St Mary's Services

Sunday 27

See centre pages for All Saint's and St Mary's Services

11am Sunday Worship (CEFC)

Monday 28

1.15pm RVS Dementia Cafe (Jubilee Hall)

Tuesday 29

10am Food Bank (Church Rooms)

12noon Leics MS Group (Jubilee Hall)

Wednesday 30

9.30am Communions (St Mary's Church)

2pm Wednesday Film Show (Anstey Library)

2pm Wednesday Hub (Harrison Room)

New Year's Eve

7pm Anstey Chess Club (Methodist Church)

All Saints' Church Services



Sunday 6 December

9.30am Morning Praise (with breakfast from 9am)

Tuesday 8 December

3-7pm Light a candle for a loved one

Sunday 13 December

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 20 December

9.30am Prayer Book Holy Communion

6.30pm 'Lessons & Carols' by candlelight, then mince pies & wine

Christmas Eve

4pm Family Christingle & Crib service

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Morning Celebration with Communion

Sunday 27 December

10am Ratby Deanery Service (no service at All Saints')

Sunday 3 January

9.30am Morning Praise (no breakfast)

Sunday 10 January

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 17 January

9.30am Prayer Book Holy Communion

4pm Evensong Together with Cathedral

Sunday 24 January

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 31 January

6.30pm Candlemas Evensong

St Mary's Church Services

Sunday 6 December
11am Holy Communion
6.30pm Taize in the Trees

Thursday 10 December
3-7pm Light a Candle for a Loved One

Sunday 13 December
11am All Age Scratch Dress Up Nativity
6.30pm Carol Service By Candlelight with 9 Lessons

Sunday 20 December
11am Holy Communion
4pm Family Christingle & Crib service

Christmas Eve
11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
10am Anstey Methodist Church (no service at St Mary's)

Sunday 27th December
10am
Ratby Deanery Service
(no service at St Mary's)

Sunday 3 January
11am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 January
11am All Age Worship

Sunday 17 January
11 am Holy Communion

Sunday 24 January
11am Fresh Praise

Sunday 31 January
6.30pm Candlemas Evensong at All Saints' Thurcaston (no Anstey service)



Advent / Christmas events

DECEMBER

Saturday 5th 10am-2pm. St Mary's Advent Fair (St Mary's)
Saturday 5th 10am-6pm. Christmas Tree Festival (St Mary's)

Sunday 6th 9.30am. Morning Praise (All Saints')
Sunday 6th 11am. Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Sunday 6th 2pm. Simply Singing in the Trees (St Mary's)

Tuesday 8th 3-7pm. Light A Candle (All Saints')

Thursday 10th 3-8pm. Light A Candle (St Mary's)

Sunday 13th 9.30am Holy Communion (All Saints')
Sunday 13th 11am. All Age Dress Up Nativity (St Mary's)
Sunday 13th 6.30pm. Carol Service (St Mary's)

Wednesday 16th 2-4pm. Hub Christmas Celebration with School Choir
Wednesday 16th 6pm. Anstey Residential Homes Carol Singing

Saturday 19th 10am. Carol Singing (Nook Anstey)

Sunday 20th 9.30. Prayer Book Communion (All Saints')
Sunday 20th 11am. Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Sunday 20th 4pm. Christingle & Crib (St Mary's)
Sunday 20th 6.30pm. Lessons & Carols (All Saints')

Christmas Eve 4pm. Crib & Christingle (All Saints')
Christmas Eve,11pm. Midnight Mass (St Mary's)

Christmas Day 10am. All Saints' Church
Christmas Day 10am. Anstey Methodist Church

Sunday 27th 10am. Ratby Deanery Service

NEWTOWN LINFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

Mozart's Requiem

An evening of wonderful Choral Music

Mozart, Haydn, Bruckner

Ella McNamee-Soprano
Lisa Bate-Mezzo
Rob Sotillo-Tenor
Matthew NcNamee-Baritone

4tissimo String Quartet

Chamber Orchestra

Musical Director: Sue Ford

7.30pm, Saturday, 30th January 2027

Emmanuel Church, Forest Rd, Loughborough

LE11 3NW

Tickets:£17 (£7 U/18 & Students)

01530 243822 or ticketsource.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1079843

ST MARY'S, ANSTEY

Advent Fair









Saturday 5th December
10am-2pm
Church Rooms
Church Lane, Anstey, LE7 7AF

Stalls Games Crafts Gifts
Refreshments







Newtown Linford Ladies' Lunch Club

We want to invite you to join us for lunch. Perhaps you are new to the area, or have recently lost your husband, partner or close friend. Or maybe you have been unwell, housebound or lost confidence following an accident or a fall. Or perhaps, you are just looking for a new interest.

Our Lunch Club members meet on the third Wednesday of the month at Lingdale Golf Club (12.30pm) on Joe Moores Lane, near Woodhouse Eaves (LE12 8TF). Members come from many of the surrounding villages

The meal is always excellent; our members are welcoming and friendly; there's free parking outside and there's a bar! After lunch, we invite interesting people to speak on various topics to entertain us. You can visit us three times as a guest, before deciding if you want to become a permanent member. Call Sylvia on 0116 235 2873 or Pauline on 07480 628 418 for more information.

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Cedar House update

Well, what a month November has been. Our calendar has been bursting with creativity, music, celebrations, special visitors and plenty of laughter.

We came together for our monthly church service, taking time to reflect on the theme of Remembrance. It was a lovely opportunity to pause, remember and share some meaningful moments together. We also marked Remembrance Day with a variety of special activities that included designing our own poppies.

We welcomed children from our local nursery for a lovely intergenerational activity - creating beautiful Remembrance wreaths. It was wonderful to see different generations sharing time, creativity and special moments together.

We read some moving war poems, and enjoyed a Remembrance-themed quiz. It was a thoughtful and meaningful time for everyone to come together and pay their respects.

Also this month, guest saxophonist, Charlotte, treated us to a beautiful Remembrance-themed musical performance.

We also had a very special visitor this month – our lovely PAT dog, Lexie. There were plenty of smiles, cuddles and tail-wagging excitement.

We celebrated Diwali, sharing in the beautiful colours, traditions and spirit of this special occasion. There was plenty of delicious food, friendship and celebration to go around.

Some of our residents also joined forces with local nursery children for a wonderfully colourful firework art session.

Residents, staff, families and visitors came together for a spooktacular Halloween and Bonfire Night celebration. There were delicious hamburgers, tasty hot dogs, lots of laughter and a spectacular fireworks display.

We also enjoyed a spellbinding Witches and Wizards music and movement session with Sidney Shakers.

Residents wrapped up warm on Friday 6th and headed outdoors to lend our gardeners a helping hand with the garden. It was a lovely opportunity to enjoy some fresh air, get involved and take pride in our outdoor space. A little fresh air and gardening fun can brighten up even the chilliest of days!

So much more to mention, and so little space - suffice to say, we also enjoyed a fantastic Rock and Roller-Skating Singing Show from BFD Entertainment, a fantastic game of darts with Waley's Dart Days, a lovely creative afternoon making our very own glass snowmen, and the fantastic Singing Divas Lesley Ann and Katie Rose.

Sally

Notes from the Monday Club

Bishop Peter Fox paid us a welcome return visit in November, to tell us about the Golden Age of Magic, 1805-1926, and some of the gifted people who were household names in their day. He dropped a large coin into a small metal container, then found coins behind people's ears, until he had quite a collection.

One very influential magician was Frenchman Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin, the father of modern magic. The young Erik Weisz was inspired by his book, and changed his name to Harry Houdini. Many famous people were interested in magic, like King George V. King Charles is a Member of the Magic Circle.

In 1843 the Theatre Regulation Act came into force. Performances now took place in front of a sober audience seated quietly in rows and paying attention to the lit stage. Magic could grow with the addition of curtains, a backstage, colourful costumes and attractive scenery. A night at a music-hall became respectable.

New illusions were invented, such as "cutting a lady in half'. Queen Victoria was very amused by some entertainment. Robert-Houdin did three Royal Command Performances for her.

Bishop Fox put scraps of tissue paper into a clear wine glass, and asked someone to choose one piece.



He added liquid and twirled the glass. It got bigger as it rolled around, then he cracked it and it was a raw egg! He lit a fire inside his black top hat, put in a saucepan, poured the raw egg inside it and created coloured handkerchiefs!

A well-known creator of illusions, David Devant, known as 'The Great Lafayette'. One act involved a prince, a damsel in distress and a (caged) lion. He travelled throughout Europe, and became the highest paid magician in the country. The rising popularity of films reduced the influence of the theatrical performances.

Monday Club meetings take place on the second Monday of each month at Cropston Evangelical Free Church (2.15pm). Annual membership is £15, plus £2 entrance; or £4 for visitors. New members and visitors are always welcome. Call 07709 201881 for further information.

There is a pre-Christmas meal for members this month. However, unless we can get more people to join the Committee, the Club will be unable to continue.

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Thurcaston Brownies Autumn Report

We began the term by awarding prizes for craftwork won by the Brownies in the summer Garden Shows at Thurcaston and at Glenfield.

We learned about the September Chinese Moon Festival and traditional Moon Cakes. We made Chines lanterns and tried Snowy Owl's Sesame crunch.

October 14th was the centenary of the publication of Winnie the Pooh, and the Brownies were reminded not to be sad on bad days, but to look for opportunities. As Winnie the Pooh says "when life throws a rainy day, go play in the puddles".

After extra input from Brown Owl, and several weeks of trying, the Brownies learned French Knitting, and produced a ‘worm ‘of sufficient length to make into flowers or to insert wire and create headbands or coiled bracelets (see photo). Craft badges were earned.

The knitting was interrupted to celebrate World Animal Day with games and a QA session on endangered species; and by Diwali, when we heard why Diwali means a row of lights to shine in the darkness. We played a game called Pass the Diya, (a Diwali light) which involved finding out such things as who has the biggest feet or longest hair.

Several Brownies practised Bible readings, laying a wreath and carrying flags for Remembrance Day while the rest of the pack made two bonfire guys and coloured Halloween pictures to be displayed in the Anstey Co Op store.



Thankfully it did not rain on the bonfire in Barn Owl’s back garden. Vidi and Evie, our volunteers, led the singing and we celebrated with hot dogs, hot chocolate, toasted marshmallows, sparklers and fireworks (thank you Mrs Crisswell). Thanks also to Chris and Dan for firework duty and to Pat for serving food and drink.

Just a few days later, our 7-10 year olds took on tasks at the heart of the Remembrance Service. These are usually carried out by teenage Scouts or Guides but there are no other uniformed organisations in Thurcaston and Cropston. The girls earned a badge and went home with sweets and a little money.

We will finish the term making Christmas crafts, attending All Saints' Christmas Fair, visiting the panto at Mountsorrel, and holding a Christmas party.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Snowy Owl

Anstey Food Bank

The Soar Valley Food Project would like to give grateful thanks for all the generous donation of food and money given by schools, churches and other organistions at harvest time. The foodbank is continuing to support families across the Soar Valley area and is currently give out approximately 50 food parcels per week, which is about the same number as last year.



If you would like to make a donation to the Christmas food parcels please could you collect some (or all) of the items on the Reverse Advent calendar shown. As usual donations can be dropped off in the food project box outside 27 Rectory Lane, Thurcaston, or in the box at the back of All Saints' Church. We'll need donations by Sunday 13 December please, so that the food parcels can be prepared and distributed before Christmas. Many thanks for your help and support.

Eleanor Lloyd Jones

Thurcaston and Cropston Good Neighbours Scheme

We are a small team of local volunteers who provide support for anyone in Thurcaston or Cropston who needs help – this could be a lift to a medical appointment, a basic DIY job or someone to drop-in for an occasional cup of tea & chat. Please do call us with your requests for help. **Tel: 07435 265 397**

Calls from any potential volunteers (particularly drivers) also most welcome!

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Puzzle Corner (Sudoku)

6	1			7				
					4	5		2
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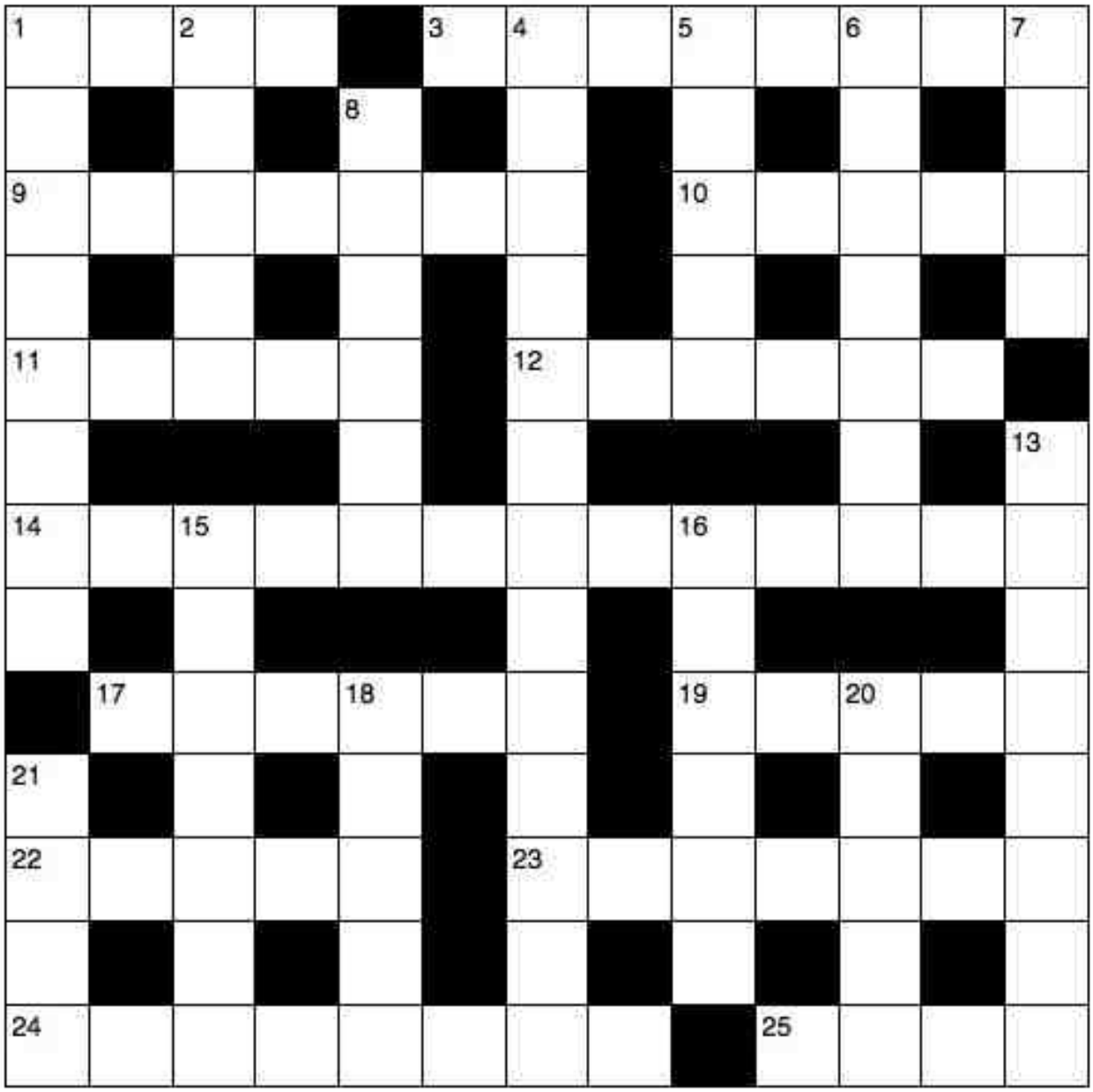
Puzzle Corner (Crossword)



Across

1 ‘How long will you — your face from me?’ [Psalm 13:1] (4)

3 ‘Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore’ [Hebrews 13:13] (8)

9 Posh sin (anag) [Romans 8:15] (7)

10 Solemn pledges [Matthew 5:33] (5)

11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)

12 ‘For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted’ [Psalm 9:12] (6)

14 Prescience [1 Peter 1:2] (13)

17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)

19 ‘If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners’ [Acts 9:3] (3,2)

22 Fragrance [2 Corinthians 2:15] (5)

23 Vine hen (anag) [Jonah 1:2] (7)

24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem [Revelation 21:20] (8)

25 ‘Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?’ [Job 22:15] (4)

Down

1 ‘Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ’ [Numbers 20:11] (3,5)

2 ‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “ — — murder”’ [Matthew 5:21] (2,3)

4 One of Paul’s many hardships endured as a servant of God [2 Corinthians 6:5] (13)

5 ‘We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly’ [Romans 8:23] (5)

6 Changed [Daniel 6:8] (7)

7 ‘My yoke is — and my burden is light’ [Matthew 11:30] (4)

8 Recoil [Revelation 12:11] (6)

13 ‘O Lord, you have — me and you know me’ [Psalm 139:1] (8)

15 ‘ — to me the joy of your salvation’ [Psalm 51:12] (7)

16 Express sorrow [Isaiah 16:7] (6)

18 ‘Then he said to Thomas, “ — out your hand and put it into my side”’ [John 20:27] (5)

20 ‘God has said, “ — will I leave you; — will I forsake you”’ [Hebrews 13:5] (5)

21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai [1 Chronicles 2:28] (4)

Puzzle Corner Solutions

H	I	D	E	■	D	I	S	G	R	A	C	E
I	■	O	■	S	■	M	■	R	■	L	■	A
S	O	N	S	H	I	P	■	O	A	T	H	S
S	■	O	■	R	■	R	■	A	■	E	■	Y
T	U	T	T	I	■	I	G	N	O	R	E	■
A	■	■	■	N	■	S	■	■	■	E	■	S
F	O	R	E	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E
F	■	E	■	■	■	N	■	A	■	■	■	A
■	A	S	H	R	A	M	■	M	E	N	O	R
J	■	T	■	E	■	E	■	E	■	E	■	C
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8	4	2	7	9	5	6	3	1
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4	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7



The Wednesday Hub for tea, coffee, cake and chat.

Harrison Room, All Saints' Church, Thurcaston every Wednesday, 2-4pm.

It's free to attend and all are welcome!





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