



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

FAITH



LOVE



COMMUNITY



'You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.' Ps65:11

Parish Magazine

October 2025

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Parish office: **parishoffice@sthelensashby.net** // 01530 411607

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St Helen's Church is part of the **Ashby Churches**

Alliance Church	07753 679147
Ashby Baptist Church	01530 413721
Ashby Congregational	01530 563301
Ashby Methodist Church	01530 412298
Holy Trinity	01530 412339
Our Lady of Lourdes	01530 412237

Donations can be left in the boxes at the back of St Helen's Church, in the porch of Holy Trinity or the Congregational Church, or at any of Ashby's Co-ops. Thank you to everyone for the continued support.



FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this towards the end of one of those spectacularly sunny September days that we're often blessed with. Summer is roundly rebuffing Autumn's advance, encouraging our gardens into a final, frenzy of flower. But October is but a few days away and will bring a change of mood. As the welcome warmth of late Summer fades, the golden glow of Autumn leaves herald the passing of another season. Shortly,



changes to the clocks will confine us to short days and long nights. For many, these darker months hang heavily and can feel long and lonely at times. Yet, in the midst of this natural rhythm, we as Christians can hold fast to a simple, but wonderful truth: the light of Christ is never dimmed.

John's Gospel opens with these powerful words: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it". Sadly, there is a lot of darkness in our world at the moment. But darkness, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, is never the final word. The good news of Jesus Christ is that His light shines constantly – guiding, comforting, and giving hope.*

Think about how just a single candle can change a whole room. Even the smallest flame pushes back shadows. In the same way, Christ's presence – sometimes through prayer, sometimes through the kindness of a neighbour, sometimes through a shared word of Scripture – brings light into our daily lives. We may not always notice it immediately, but it is real, and it makes all the difference.

This month in our church calendar, many of us will mark Harvest, giving thanks for God's provision. We also look ahead towards All Saints' and Remembrance, moments when we remember those who have gone before us. Both occasions remind us that, though seasons change and lives come to an end, Christ's light remains. It is a light that brings gratitude, perspective, and hope.

And, as a church family, we are called not only to receive this light but also to share it. Jesus said, *“You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”*. In a world that often feels uncertain or unsettled, the simple acts of kindness, hospitality, prayer, and care that we extend to others are ways of shining His light.

So, as the nights draw in, let’s not lose heart. Instead, let’s be people who notice Christ’s light, welcome it into our own lives, and carry it into our homes, workplaces, and community. For the light that shines in the darkness still shines today – and the darkness has not, and will not, overcome it.

**Grace and Peace,
Andy Smith**

ASHBY FOOD BANK

Throughout Autumn, churches in Ashby and beyond will be supporting food banks with their collections. Here is a list from Ashby Foodbank of the items they are most in need of currently. Items can be left in the boxes at the back of St Helen’s Church, at Holy Trinity or the Congregational Church, Tesco or at any of Ashby’s Co-ops.

Rice pudding
Sponge puddings
Tinned fruit
Custard (instant or ready made)
Instant mash potato
Instant noodles
Tinned fish
Tinned hot meat (chilli, meatballs, beef stew, chicken in sauce)
Tinned carrots, peas, sweetcorn or other mixed vegetables
Tinned pulses
UHT long life milk in cartons
UHT long life fruit juices
Jars of jam
Shampoo
Bars of soap

PRIEST ROOM GANG

PRG has now recommenced after the summer holidays. Several of our young people have now turned 18(!) and two of them are off to university this term. Please do pray for Annabel, Aimie and Emily as they embark on new and varying adventures over the year ahead.

One of PRG's first meetings of September was a trip to Ashby Castle, as some of them had never visited before. Thanks to Caroline, Eileen and Liz for accompanying our young people on the day.



Here is their write up of the trip:

‘On Thursday 18th September we went to Ashby Castle for PRG. We looked around and explored the different rooms and it was very interesting. My favourite bit was being in the kitchen, and we also enjoyed going in the dark tunnel. We went up the tower and saw pigeons. Did you know that spiral stair cases were made the way they were so that invaders couldn't attack as easily as the defenders? This was because swords were held in the right hand, but the stairs spiralled to the right. Then we went to the giftshop and got postcards and an ice-cream.’

ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

If you would like to sign up for regular updates either follow this link <http://eepurl.com/dvVqrj> or email helen.davis@yfc.co.uk. Alternatively you can scan the QR code. Thank you for all your prayers and support.



Weekly Clubs

Sk8ers, Football and Rock Solid are now back in full swing after the summer break. We are continuing to see good numbers each week and new members have been welcomed with open arms with the beginning of a new school year. If you are in contact with any young people between the ages of 11 and 16, please do invite them along. Rock Solid have already been on their first outing of the year; they played a variation of Pokemon Go, hunting around the Willesley Woodside area for 'Greggemon' characters drawn by one of our young people. We continue to offer grateful thanks to Ashby Greggs for their generous donation of snacks each week.

Year 10

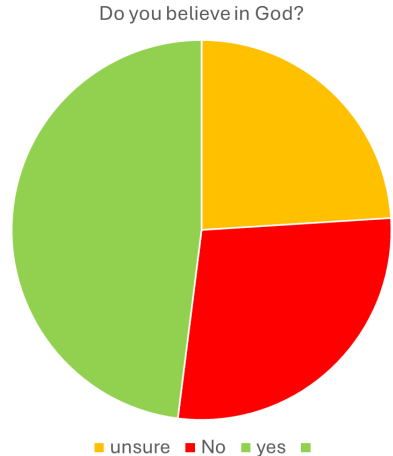
Over the last few years we have continued to work with, and mentor, our young people after they exceed the age range of Rock Solid. They keep on attending and serve their younger peers as young leaders (apprentices). This year we have a new cohort of eight year 10s who are embracing being apprentices at Rock Solid. The coming year will be an opportunity for them to explore, together, what it means to follow Jesus and to identify and grow the unique gifts they have been given. We are planning a weekend away with them during mid-November. Please pray for this weekend, and for their year ahead, that they would find joy in God as they enjoy fellowship with one another.

Vernon, Emily, Karen, Josiah, Warren

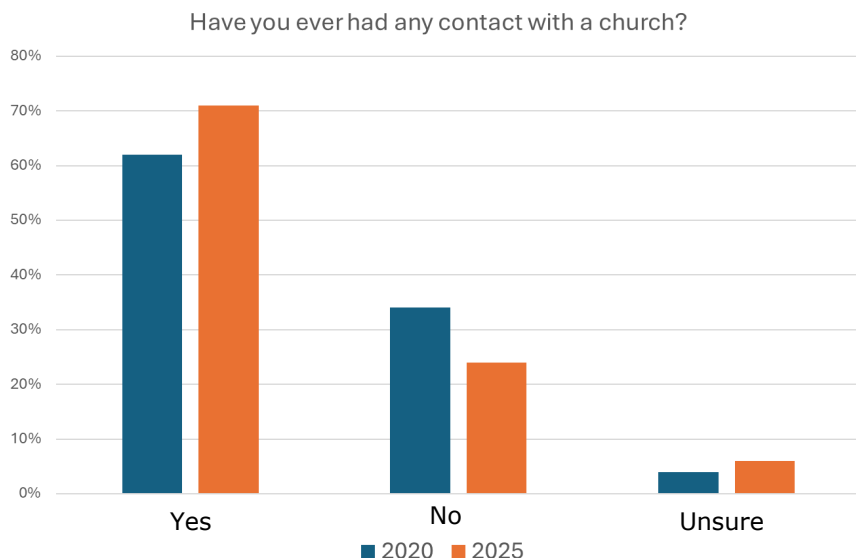
A LIGHT IN THE WORLD

Last month I had the opportunity to attend an equipping day run by British Youth For Christ for youth workers and volunteers. There were many highlights of the day and useful sessions to attend, including an in-depth seminar on safeguarding and time to join together for worship to celebrate all that God has been doing across the country.

During the day we heard about a body of research that YFC have produced about young people and their attitudes towards Christianity. This is titled '*Z-A Growing Spirituality*' and is available to read online. Earlier this year, over 1000 young people aged 11-18 were asked questions relating to what they believe, who they trust and how they view the church. Those who were asked had diverse backgrounds, including an equal split between male and female, half who identified as 'Christian', 40% no religion and 4% Muslim, and a fair split between those of white and BAME ethnicities. The findings of the report supported the general trend of increased church attendance in the UK, and a greater interest in spirituality.



I thought you might be interested to read some of the specific findings. One of the most encouraging statistics was to do with young people's opinions about the local church. 65% of people asked viewed the local church positively whilst the institution of the national church was only 6th down the list of most trusted influences for young people. 71% of young people who responded to the survey said that they had some form of contact with a church in their community, perhaps through youth clubs, work in schools, or attending for a family celebration. 70% of respondents said that they thought they would be made to feel welcome if they attended church for the first time.



The general picture is that local expressions of church are experiencing an increase in positive engagement, however for many young people there remains a perception that the church is a place only for those who already ‘fit’. Despite the positive associations, only 34% of young people said they would consider attending church to explore questions about God and spirituality; this increased to 53% if invited along by a trusted friend. Among the 8% who explicitly said they would *not* feel welcome at church, the top reasons were rooted in identity and belief, for example, 50% said they wouldn’t feel welcome because they do not believe in God. For the general perception of what/who the church is, the second most common answer was “a place where people with similar beliefs meet”.

“This raises a vital question for the Church today: How do we continue to engage our communities in a way which makes it unmistakably clear that everyone is welcome, regardless of where they are on their spiritual journey? If young people are open, curious, and spiritually hungry, our call is not simply to inform but to invite as we play our part in growing spirituality.”

Emily Darlington

PRAYER CHAIN NEWS

A message of thanks from Don and Melissa, members of our church family:

'After five long years I was discharged from Derby Royal Infirmary. I would like to send a big thank you for all your prayers and cards. It helped during my treatment and recovery.'

Thanks be to God, for Melissa's recovery. Many members of our church (and people far beyond) share their prayer needs together. If you have a prayer request, or would like to receive them from others, please email Adrienne, our prayer chain coordinator: **prayerchain@sthelensashby.net** (please note the recent change of email address).

Philippians 4:6 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.'

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at

**ST HELEN'S HERITAGE CENTRE
(OPPOSITE ST HELEN'S CHURCH)**



St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

Every
Friday

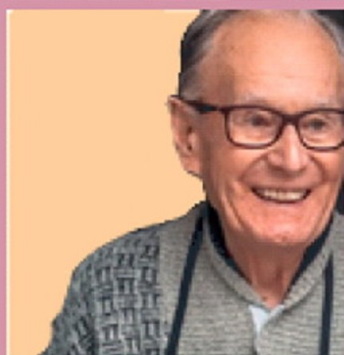
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to
4 pm



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GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

During October the garden is looking Autumnal and the weather is very variable. One day it's an Indian Summer and the next day Frosty. Ensure that you use the, "Good Weather", days to clear up the fallen leaves off of paths, patios and anywhere else that slugs and snails may hide. Also tidy up borders and pots by cutting back spent flowers and dead leaves. Compost any green waste but do not put Perennial Roots into the composter.

To support our wildlife over Winter put high energy fat balls and sunflower seeds out for the birds, as well as the usual source of nutrition, such as peanuts. Put hedgehog and bug houses in place if not already done. As we are approaching bonfire night, be sure to cover any potential bonfire with plastic to keep them dry but more importantly to keep hedgehogs away. As a matter of routine always check for Hedgehogs in any bonfires before lighting. Sadly, we have seen fewer Hedgehogs this year which is very concerning.

Clear out the pond and clean the water pump. Remove floating leaves and scrape out excess sludge from the bottom and sides. Cover the pond with netting. The lawn needs a little more attention this time of year. Make a last mowing this month and recut lawn edges if necessary. Use a garden fork to aerate the lawn to avoid compaction and waterlogging over the winter period. There is still enough time to repair dead patches and / or lay fresh turf.

October is a time to pick, store and use any fresh Sprouts, Leeks, Cauliflowers, Carrots, Parsnips and Winter Squashes. Protect Salad and late root crops with Horticultural Fleece to extend the growing season. Once the vegetable patch is cleared you should carry out Winter digging, forking over and mixing in Organic Matter such as manure as you go. Plant Spring Cabbage and over-wintering onion sets but leave out garlic until the end of the month, or any time in November. Tomatoes are slowing down in the greenhouse and, depending on the weather, it could be time to cut the vines and leave them to ripen indoors on a warm window sill, in the kitchen, porch or conservatory.

Tender herbs such as Basil, Coriander, Parsley and Mint cannot withstand Frost and so it is best to pot them up and keep undercover before the Autumn Chill.

If you have taken runners from your strawberry plants earlier, now is a good time to plant them out. It is a good time to clean and disinfect the greenhouse when it is fairly empty. Continue to plant Spring flowering bulbs and replace old Summer bedding with Winter and Spring bedding.

Alison has now replaced all our houseplants with Succulents as they need very little watering. You can leave them for up to 4 weeks without watering and you get such a wonderful variety of colours, shapes and sizes. From now until early Winter is the time to prune Roses reducing their size by about a third to prevent, Wind rock”.

We are having a re-think about our front garden as we have a number of shrubs which aren't particularly attractive, or are in the wrong place. The good news is that you can successfully move evergreen shrubs and October is the best time to do this.

There will now be many more wet and windy days so our plan is to visit some local attractions, or garden centres, so long as they have an inviting café.

Alan and Alison Cross



For news and views in North West Leicestershire read your local newspaper

Ashby Times

on sale every Thursday at your local newsagent

Telephone: **01530 813101** email: editor@ashbytimes.com
advertising@ashbytimes.com

OUR WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

	am	pm	Wednesday
1st Sunday 5th October		3.30pm Harvest Festival 6pm Evensong	1st Wednesday– 1st Holy Communion 10.30am In Church
2nd Sunday 12th October	10.30am Holy Communion		2nd Wednesday-8th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior Park Community centre
3rd Sunday 19th October	10.30 am Morning Worship		3rd Wednesday– 15th Morning prayer 10.30am In church
4th Sunday 26th October	10.30 am Holy Communion		4th Wednesday– 22nd Holy Communion 10.30am St Helen's In church

Regular activities:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Monday mornings | - Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am during term time |
| Mondays | - Pilgrim group |
| 1 st Wednesday | - We're in stitches – 2 till 4pm |
| Thursdays | - Choir practice – 6.30 till 8.30pm |
| Fridays | - Heart- warming Space 2-4pm |
| Saturdays | - Parish Prayers – 9.30am in the Hastings chapel |
| 1st Saturday | - Pause for Paws– 10.15-12.15 at the tower door. |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 5th October—

3.30pm— All Age Harvest Festival— Wellies For Harvest. Come in wellies, bring your gifts in wellies, decorate wellies and we will think about farmers across the world. We will be taking contributions to Ashby Foodbank.

6pm— Evensong + Soiree— Join us for choral evensong sung by St Helen's Choir, followed by refreshments and our final recital of the year. Loca, a wind quartet, will be playing items from Mozart, Arnold, Bizet and Lennon and McCartney. Admission free.

Friday 24th October— Street Pastors Quiz— 7-9pm

Gather a team of any size to support Ashby's team of street pastors for a quiz evening in St Helen's heritage centre. Hot dogs and veggie option available on the night.

Tuesday 28th October— heritage talk— 7.30pm

Susan Kilby speaks about 'The Landscapes of Charnwood Forest Through the Eyes of Those Who Named It' as our heritage series continues. Tickets are £4 on the door, including light refreshments.

Friday 7th November— Messy Church— 4.15-5.30pm

All are welcome to join us in St Helen's heritage centre. Please note the change of day for Messy Church, which will now be taking place monthly on Fridays with lots of bible themed activities for children as well as opportunities for grown ups to connect.

MESSY CHURCH

We were delighted with the success of our 'trial run' of holding Messy Church at Friday teatime and have now decided to repeat our success on Friday 7th November, 4.15-5.30pm.

We welcomed seven new families and we're glad that this time still suited our loyal stalwarts !

We enjoyed the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 (in a rhyming format, as you do!) and families were positively queuing up to join each of the activities!

See you next time!!!



LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN OF SANCTUARY

Please contact the parish office if you would like a copy of the recent newsletter from LToS.

Here is a brief introduction: It was good to meet at our AGM recently to review our year's activity at Loughborough Town of Sanctuary and to hear an interesting talk from our parent organisation - Leicester City of Sanctuary. In the current climate, it would be easy to get discouraged, but as the attached newsletter shows, we do our best just to help the human beings in front of us - and there is much to be optimistic about.

It is particularly encouraging to see so many of our asylum seeker and refugee friends who are keen to 'give back' to the country which has given them shelter - and are now volunteering in the Loughborough community, including within our own organisation. I note that there are discussions in high places about making this mandatory for those given Leave to Remain. In my experience, they will need no encouragement to do so: they see volunteering as a means to say thank you , and also to integrate into and contribute to their new community.

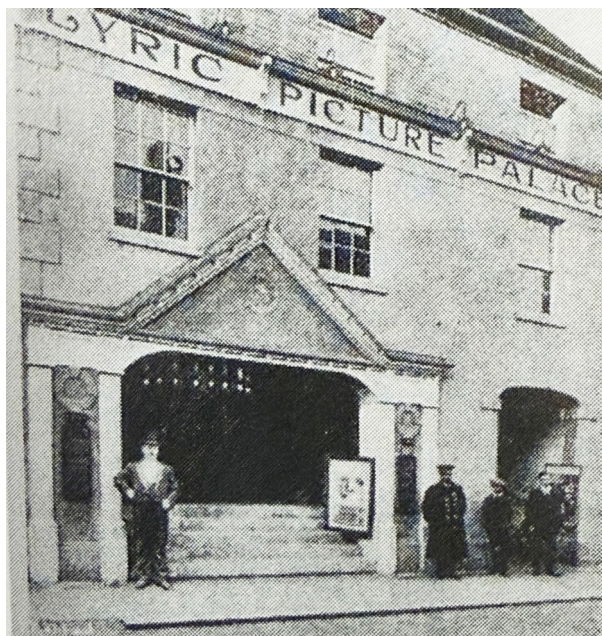
Pat Stafford

THE LYRIC PICTURE PALACE, LOWER CHURCH STREET

The building in Lower Church Street, now known as The Lyric Rooms, has had an interesting history. It began life in the 18th century as a public house called The Wagon and Horses, first licensed for liquor in 1774. Behind the pub was a very large malthouse, brew house and offices and behind that was, at one time, the Blue Coat School. Part of those buildings still stand at the top of the alley leading to the present-day Lyric Rooms entrance and are now the Masonic Lodge.

In 1909, the licence for the Wagon and Horses was not renewed. This was partly due to the new licensing laws but there had also been complaints about “lewd behaviour” in the side alley.

The building was converted into the Lyric Picture Palace in 1912 and was one of the earliest British cinemas. The Lumière brothers were the first to



show a motion picture in the UK at the Regent Street Theatre in 1896. By 1909 the government had felt it necessary to require all cinemas to be licenced. This was to ensure that cinemas were in a suitable physical state to screen films safely because highly unstable nitrate film stock had caused several serious fires.

With motion picture-making still in its infancy, I suppose there wasn't a very regular supply of films to show at The Lyric and so it was used for other things as well. On Tuesday 18th November 1913, the place was crowded when Dr Crowe, the tuberculosis officer for the county, gave a lecture entitled “The Fight Against Consumption.” The talk was illustrated

by pictures showing “How the disease known as “the white scourge” is fostered, and how it may be cured or arrested.”

Subsequent newspaper reports refer to “performances”, but without ever specifying what the film was, if indeed it was a film or something else. For example, in April 1914, some inmates from the Ashby Workhouse enjoyed a matinee at the Lyric but no details are given as to what it was about. It was the same in May when an unspecified performance was held to raise funds for the Ashby Cottage Hospital.

By October, just after the outbreak of the First World War, The Lyric was being used as the venue for a recruitment meeting. The event began with patriotic songs, followed by a rousing speech by Colonel German who told the audience that the need for volunteers to fight would be greater than ever in the coming winter. He proclaimed that *“We would never rest whatever happened, until we had for ever laid in the dust the military aggression and arrogant pride of Germany”*. Three other army officers also spoke, and Captain Jesson said that such a large meeting was evidence that Ashby realised the gravity of the situation. At the end of the meeting, several men came forward to sign up.

In November 1915, the proprietor of The Lyric Picture Palace, Mr Rollinson, gave a special performance on behalf of a subscription fund which had been opened to support the formation of the Citizens’ Corps, a forerunner of the WWII Home Guard. Unfortunately, the report doesn’t say what his performance actually was, but the house was full and the audience included most of the members of the corps itself.

Ashby Museum holds a programme from April 1914 for a performance of “The Life and Reign of Victoria the Good” although the photograph makes it look like a live performance rather than a film. An undated advertisement for the Lyric proclaims “continuous show each evening 6.15 to 10.30 and a start time of 3.30 on Saturdays. Seats at various prices: 1 shilling, 9d, 6d, 3d.

By May 1924, the Lyric Picture Palace was being offered for sale by auction. The sales inventory read:

Two lavatories, an operating room, film repairing and winding room, a private office, a storeroom and detached engine house with tiled floor, ample emergency exits, adequate ventilation and heating provided electrically throughout. Gas light also fitted. Furnishing and Equipment includes: two projectors. (Ruffles Vutean, and Gaumont), 16 h.p. Crossley Gas Engine with petrol attachment, 9 hp. Phoenix Dynamo, tip-up chairs, Jacobean piano, and other cinema equipment.

Whether the sale went through is not reported, but the Lyric did not close until 1927. By that time a new cinema had opened in Derby Road. The Lyric building remained virtually derelict until the Freemasons bought it and renovated it. The main cinema auditorium was later used as a warehouse. The elaborate entrance façade was demolished in 1984.

Although by the 1990s the building had become a function room known as The Lyric Rooms, for a few years in the 21st century it did partly resume its former role as a cinema. A group of local volunteers started to hire the building once a month to show films. At first a travelling mobile cinema would be hired but eventually the volunteers were able to buy their own projection equipment and screen through a National Lottery Grant. A change of management at The Lyric Rooms saw the end of film shows there, but Ashby Film Nights still continue on a monthly basis (July and August excepted) and take place at the Ashby School Theatre Nottingham Road.

Wendy Freer



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ROAD SAFETY

This is not what you expect to find in a church magazine - a note about road safety. So why include it? Because a friend was killed recently in a road accident. Don't know the details, but probably it was not his fault.

There is also John, killed recently in a hit-and-run accident in Ashby. He was the husband of my wife's friend, and well known to many in Ashby. I don't want these people to die in vain, and would prefer there to be a change towards better road safety. What can we do?

Firstly, as a pedestrian, be aware. If you are wearing dark clothes, be aware it's extremely difficult for a driver to see you at night. That's because your outfit is made up of dark greys and blacks. At night the roadside is patches of dark greys and blacks, so you are mostly invisible. You blend so well into the background. Add to that, the driver is looking out for other vehicles, as they are the threat, not pedestrians.

To help get round this problem, we can put on a hi-viz jacket. I have one. I look like the police, but it doesn't have the word 'police' on front and back. I felt a right wally when I first wore it, but now it doesn't bother me. When someone asked me, 'Why are you wearing that!' I replied, 'To stay alive.' I also have a hi-viz cycle vest. The advantage is you can take it off at your destination, put it in a pocket, and no-one is any the wiser.

Another thing I do is to find the safest place to cross the road. Junctions are a pain, like Marlborough Way. It's to your left when walking along Burton Road into Ashby. So here I walk 30 yards down the junction road as it's easier to avoid the traffic. Plus I can see the cars better. Yes it's further, but I stay alive.

Narrow footpaths are to be avoided if possible. For example the path on Burton Road on the downhill section well before you get to the primary school, with the Methodist church opposite. This path is narrowed by overhanging bushes. My instinct is to hate this section of footpath, so I often use the small side road opposite Hill Street when walking to Ashby. Yes it's further, but I stay alive.

Another narrow footpath is farther out on Burton Road towards Ingles Hill farm, and also from the farm to the Tap House. A man was killed here a

couple of years ago. If the footpath had been maintained at its original width, that may not have happened.

Dangerous driving. This is the main problem. The stretch of Burton Road I use most is between Marlborough Way and Bishop Hall Road, and it's a 30 mph zone. However 40mph and even 50 and 60 are common here. Who are these drivers? They are anonymous, but I wish the police would arrest them all. What can I do?



What I can do is flag up the problem to the police and to the Council and ask for 24-7 cameras to be put up, using AI to log the frequent speeders. If you have some additional tips on road safety, please let me know, as I'm fed up with people dying unnecessarily on our streets. You gathered that.

Another problem is the 30 mph speed limit down Market Street, Ashby. It's never wise to do 30, day or night. 20 mph is sensible, so long as the driver is ready to slow or stop when necessary. Because what about pedestrians who are slow and old, or with poor eyesight, or hard of hearing? Add children, who are not so aware of the dangers of the road, and may try to cross the road at the wrong time.

Also consider this. Today's cars are a lot faster than they used to be. 0-60 mph in 8 seconds is now normal, and 0-60 in 5 seconds is easily possible for sporty cars. What's that like? Well, if the car starts 80 yards away and accelerates past you, it will be going at 60 mph! So is there a clear stretch of road that's at least 80 yards long near where you live? If yes, then beware. Note also that few people can cross a road in 5 seconds.

To conclude, look out for any of the following things as you walk about around Ashby. Anyone wearing dark clothes? Any pedestrians wearing hi-viz? Any hazards on the road, like a blocked line of sight? Any cars doing more than 80mph on the A511 Ashby bypass? Yes, and I've seen them too.

Richard Vann

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A photograph of the lower legs and feet of several people dancing on a wooden floor. The text 'The Ranter's Barn Dance Band' is overlaid in a large, stylized, blue font with a white outline.

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Tel: 01530 414111
Fax: 01530 417022

Coalville Office
21-25 London Road Coalville
Leicestershire LE67 3JB
Tel: 01530 834466
Fax: 01530 810886

Leicester Office
113-117 London Road
Leicester LE2 0RG
Tel: 0116 2551901
Fax: 0116 2555864

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JP SPRINGTHORPE & C^o

Funeral Directors

**Castle Lodge
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LE65 1BR**

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both in Leicestershire and Derbyshire

Under the personal supervision of John Springthorpe

Quotations given

Telephone: 01530 417310 anytime

FROM THE ALBUMS



We enjoyed an evening of beautiful music, performed by Rev. Sue and Jeremy Kimber for our September Soiree.



Lumos returned for another evening of candlelit concerts

Some of our congregation joined with members of Ashby's churches for the annual bumper car service.



Pause for Paws

10:15am to 12:15pm
First Saturday of the month



St Helen's
Church (west
door)

Refreshments
will be
provided

*7th June,
5th July,
2nd August,
6th September,
4th October,
1st November,
6th December.*

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AA



Facebook.com/sthelensheritage



instagram.com/sthelensheritage



www.sthelensashby.net



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint
Helen, Ashby de-la Zouch. Charity Number 1200922**