

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DEANERY NEWS



Issue Number 11 : September 2026



WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF THE DEANERY NEWS

After the hottest summer in a long time, what does the autumn hold for us?

Of course, we have Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas. Many of us might take time to remember loved ones in a special service.

For us at the churches of this Deanery, many things might weigh on our minds, but might I encourage you to let those worries become a prompt for prayer? Let's pray for our Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council Secretaries, Treasurers, and Ministers. And where those posts are vacant, let's take up Jesus' own prayer request and ask the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into his harvest field.

Paul's words to the Colossians are a great place to start praying for those who already serve our churches and communities:

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Colossians 1:9-12 (ESV)

May you know the joys of autumn, as we look forward to celebrating together the light of the world, born in Bethlehem.

Tim Phillips
Team Vicar in the Flagstaff Family of Churches

NOTICES

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Could all churches please email a copy of your Parish Contribution Offer to the Deanery Lay Chair, Noreen Mewies. Thank you.

DEANERY SYNOD

A reminder that synod meetings have been opened up to all and anyone who is interested will be welcome to attend.

SYNOD DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 7:30pm start

Tuesday 15th September - St Michael & All Angels Church Hall Appleby Magna - with guest speaker Paul Gask from Christian Vision for Men.

Thursday 3rd December - venue to be arranged

LAITY MEETINGS

Our grateful thanks to Holy Trinity Ashby, St David's Broom Leys and St John's Donisthorpe for hosting the last three meetings.

All church lay members are welcome to come along to discuss any issues, ask questions, or simply just to chat about what is happening in your parishes. There is no agenda and the meetings are informal with no minutes taken.

The next meeting is on

**Tuesday 13th October from 2pm at
St Davids Broom Leys**

We are in need of future venues to continue with these gatherings, if your church would like to host a meeting then please let us know.

Noreen & Avril

Congratulations!

To Revd Rhi O'Rourke on her appointment as Associate Priest in the Benefice of Coalville with Bardon Hill and Ravenstone and Growing Faith Minister in the Beacon in the Forest Minster Community. A service of Licensing and Welcoming was held at Christ Church Coalville earlier this month.

CONFIRMATIONS IN THE DEANERY

Services of Confirmation will take place on

Sunday, 20th September at St John the Baptist Church Whitwick
and

Sunday, 22nd November at Holy Rood Church Packington

Please pray for the candidates as they take this important step on
their faith journey.



Ashby
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**



AYFC would like to express their thanks to Helen Davis for her years of service as Centre Director. Helen will be stepping down from this position with effect from January 2027.

Please pray for the team as they begin the new term and restart activities, particularly focusing on God transforming young people's lives in this upcoming school year.

Trustees are currently discerning some next steps for the centre and will be advertising the vacancy in due course. Please do pray for Helen as she takes on a full-time position for Swadlincote and District Youth For Christ.



Over the last couple of years Rock Solid youth club has really flourished. There are now between 20 and 25 young people in attendance each week and our older members are growing in confidence leading their younger peers.

We have a need for a few more regular volunteers to help supervise our Friday evening meetings. Those interested would not need to be available every single week, but if you think you could help us a couple of times a month, this would be very helpful. Leaders gather at 6.30pm on Fridays and are generally free to leave at around 8.45pm.

Please contact helen.davis@yfc.co.uk if you would like to come along to see what is involved.



THE BENEFICE OF IBSTOCK ST. DENYS CHURCH AND HEATHER ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

We are still working well together as individual churches and as a Benefice. It requires a lot of commitment! It's called 'pulling together in times of adversity!'

Carole Oswin and Judith Coleman organise the services and encourage other members to lead a service and give the talk. Marion Simpson, our organist and PCC Secretary chooses the hymns and produces a monthly reading rota and weekly pew sheet. Carole Oswin, as Church Warden, bears the brunt of the work Church Wardens have to do but with back-up from the PCC!

Benefice Holy Communion Services are held on the first Sunday of each month (either at Ibstock or Heather) plus a BCP Communion at 9.00am at St. Denys on the first Sunday. So far we've been very fortunate getting a willing minister to officiate. On September 20th we will welcome The Reverend Ossie Post of African Enterprise who will lead us in a Service of Holy Communion.

Our Harvest Festivals will be held on the 4th October – 9.30am at Heather Church and 11.00am at Ibstock Church. There won't be any Communion Services that day.

A Benefice Midnight Holy Communion Service this year will be held at St. John's Church, Heather on the 24th December - 11.30am

At St. Denys we've held another Songs of Praise and Café/Lego Church which have been well received as well as having a presence at Ibstock Country Fair, holding a Plant Sale, Cheese and Wine Evening, Brass Band Concert.

Planned Future Events

Saturday 12 th September	Ride and Stride – Church open	9.00am – 5.00pm
	Autumn Fayre -	11.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday 23 rd September	MacMillan Coffee Morning -	10.00am – 12.00
Saturday 3 rd October	Fish & Chip Night -	5.00pm onwards
Saturday 21 st November	Christmas Fayre -	11.00am – 2.00pm
Saturday 28 th November	Ibstock Brick Brass Band Christmas Concert –	7.00pm

Welcome Time meetings are open to anyone and everyone in the community and are held 2.00pm – 4.00pm at The Palace, Ibstock (3rd Wednesday of the month), and Heather Village Hall (1st Monday in the month for anyone to drop in for a cuppa and a friendly chat.

Ladies Friendly Group – meet on alternate Mondays where they chat and enjoy crafts of all sorts. Trips away are also organised for this group.

Marion R K Simpson - PCC Secretary



Written by Ruth Fryer, MU Diocesan President (Leicester)

The Mothers Union (MU) was founded 150 years ago by Mary Sumner whose husband was a vicar in Hampshire.

When she became a grandmother in 1876 she realised how little support there was for new mothers to help them bring children up. After prayer & discussion MU was born. The question Mary asked was how women engaged in one of the MOST important roles (raising children) could be better supported.

The organisation was a success & quickly spread within the UK & overseas; New Zealand & Canada quickly embracing the concept.

From very early days MU had some influence on government policy too. Campaigning for maternity care before the NHS. Child benefit being paid to MOTHERS when it was first introduced. More recently influencing policy on sexualising of childhood & on policies around domestic abuse.

The world has changed alot since Mary Sumner but sadly the need for MU work has not gone away. All too often we as MU members have been too quiet about all that MU does & the organisations it works alongside.

So 150 years is very well worth celebrating & one event was the Teddy bears picnic held at Christ Church Coalville on 28th June. Everyone who attended enjoyed a relaxed afternoon with games; tea; cake & teddies too. Sadly turnout was disappointing but the team at Christ Church & Deanery were wonderful in giving their help & support. They made us feel SO welcome.

Since then we have also held a service at Leicester Cathedral on 9th August at which Bishop Martyn spoke & more cake consumed!

Leicester MU took 10 families to Mablethorpe for a holiday this year (those unable to get one otherwise). We work with PACT in prisons; Women's Aid; and with Baby Basics to help those struggling with family life. We work to End violence; End poverty; End injustice. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, or re-joining if previously a member then please do get in touch.

Ruth Fryer
MU Diocesan President (Leicester)
ruthmfryer94@gmail.com

Kate Cooper
Administrator
Kate.Cooper@leicestercofe.org



ST MATTHEW'S WORTHINGTON

HERITAGE WEEKEND. COME AND VISIT WORTHINGTON AND LEARN ABOUT ITS HISTORY.

Worthington was a settlement in the Domesday Book, in the hundred of Goscote and the county of Leicestershire. It had a recorded population of 12 households in 1086.

Coal mining in Worthington, Leicestershire, began around 1275 at Gelsmoor, making it the earliest documented area for coal extraction in the county. At that time Worthington was a township in the southern part of the ancient parish of Breedon on the Hill. It was about this time that the monks at Breedon built a dormitory in Worthington, that same building became the Parish Church.

The Church began a new and active life as from June 30th, 1755, when the Rev. John Dalby was admitted and licensed to the cure of the donative Chapel of Worthington. On his death the Rev. Francis Harris was licensed to the free Chapel or Curacy of Worthington on the nomination of John, Lord Scarsdale, and again on his death the Rev. James Dean was licensed to the perpetual Curacy of Worthington on the nomination of Nathaniel, Lord Scarsdale, so he was the first to be called Vicar. Note the progression : donative, free Chapel, perpetual Curacy. Since 1755 there has been a continuous ministry here. In 1978 Worthington was re-united with Breedon when the Vicar there became also the Vicar of Worthington. In 2016 the Flagstaff family of Churches was created, Worthington Parish is part of this family of seven local churches.

The Church of England School in Newbold opened in 1872 serving local parish children, by the early 1920's the school was full to capacity and overflowing so a new school was built in Worthington. 2026 marks the centenary of the opening of Worthington School.

Worthington School held an open day early in September. Part of the display was a model village of the properties in Worthington that existed in 1926. These were prepared by a hobbyist assisted by the pupils currently in school.



This display is now in Worthington Church which will be open on 12th September between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to see our village church, read about its history then stay and enjoy some light refreshments. (Donations invited).

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Friday, 2nd October Newbold C of E School will be holding their school harvest service in St Matthew's Church.

Sunday, 4th October 10:30am Harvest Service at St Matthew's Church. Donations will be taken to Ashby Foodbank from both services.

Sunday 8th November 10:30am Remembrance Service in church. Members of the Worthington Guide movement (all ages) plus their family and friends will be parading from the Malt Shovel at 10:10am to St Matthew's in time for the service. The Brownies will bring our service to a close around 11:30am by reciting poems and playing music to the assembled congregation in church.

PACKINGTON VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS DAY BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Certainly, some nail-biting in the morning, waking up to showery weather! However, it cleared up after lunchtime, and from time to time the sun even shone upon us. Our nine host gardeners, hampered by the exceptionally hot and dry summer, had worked extremely hard to ensure that their very varied gardens, which they opened to visitors, were all in amazingly good condition. They varied from the very small, but cleverly designed and planted and full of colour, to far larger ones impressing with their sweeping lawns leading to secret bridges over the Gilwiskaw Brook, with others in-between beautifully landscaped and constantly revealing hidden gems around each corner. One magnificent garden had revealed its splendours a few weeks previously, when it was opened under the National Gardens Scheme, but all were lovely, each in their own unique way.

It goes without saying that cream teas were available at various locations, with plenty of cake as well – and a glass of Pimms at one stop! The bellringers rang; Packington Community Choir sang to great acclaim in one garden. There was a book stall and plant stalls, displays by the Country Colours Art Group and Packington Village History Group and one of treasured children's books, taking the viewer on a trip down memory lane, whilst the children enjoyed hunting for a princess in each garden.

David Granger Architectural Design has strong and longstanding connections with the village, and their sponsorship of the event was a great help towards our reaching a total of just under £3,000 for the church fabric fund on the day – a welcome boost to our fund-raising efforts for our (very expensive) forthcoming tower repairs.

Anne Wathes and Lesley Birtwistle



REGULAR MEETINGS

- **Saturday Foodbank** - every Saturday 10-12 noon at St Stephens Woodville
- **St Helens Church & Heritage Centre Ashby** - Fridays 2pm - 4pm - Warm Hearted Space - tea and cakes, soup, games and play area for young children
- **St Andrews Thringstone** - Thursdays 10am - 12 noon - Open Church - coffee, cake and chat.
- **St Matthews Worthington** - Thursdays 10am - 11.15am - Cafe Church
- **St Davids Broom Leys** Every 4th Sunday The 6pm Gathering - Worship with contemporary songs, prayer and teaching
- **Holy Rood Packington Breakfast Church** - 1st Sunday of every month at 10am
- **Ibstock & Heather** Welcome Time at Heather Village Hall for a cuppa and friendly chat - 1st Monday of the month 2pm - 4pm and at The Palace Ibstock on 3rd Wednesday 2pm - 4pm
- **Ladies Friendly Group at St Denys Ibstock** - alternate Mondays 1pm - 3pm in church for chat and crafts
- **Holy Rood Packington** Coffee Morning - 4th Wednesday of every month 10am to 12noon
- **Hastings Hall, The Heritage Centre at St Helen's Ashby** We're In Stitches Drop In & Chat - The first and third Wednesday of every month 2pm - 4pm



If you have a regular meeting that you would like featured here please let us know.

QUICK GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DEANERY THIS AUTUMN (SEE FLYERS PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS)

Saturday 12th September Ride & Stride events in churches around the Deanery
Saturday 12th September "Hello Heritage" Open Day 10am - 3pm St Helen's Ashby
Saturday 12th September 11am - 3pm Autumn Fayre at St Denys Church Ibstock
Saturday 12th September 10am - 3pm St Matthew's Church Worthington Open Day
Sunday 20th September 1pm - 3pm Baby & Children's Pre Loved Swap at Christ Church Coalville
Sunday 20th September 4:30pm Staunton Harold Church Harvest Festival
Tuesday 29th September Heritage Talk 7:30pm St Helen's Ashby Heritage Centre

Please see Marion's report on Ibstock & Heather events

(Starting) Thursday 1st October 7pm - 9pm Christ Church Christmas Community Choir Rehearsals
Sunday 4th October 10:30am Harvest Service in St Matthew's Worthington
Sunday 4th October 6pm - 8pm Sunday Soiree at St Helen's Ashby
Saturday 10th October 7pm Gresley Male Voice Choir & Packington Community Choir at Holy Trinity Church Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Tuesday 27th October Heritage Talk 7:30pm St Helen's Ashby Heritage Centre
Thursday 22nd October 12 noon - 2pm Toastie Thursday at Holy Rood Church Packington
Saturday 31st October 10:00am - 12:30pm Christmas Fayre & Coffee Morning at Holy Rood Church Packington
Saturday 31st October 3pm Lights of Love Service at Holy Rood Church Packington
Sunday 8th November 10:30am Remembrance Service in St Matthew's Worthington
Tuesday 24th November Heritage Talk 7:30pm St Helen's Ashby Heritage Centre

A Prayer for the Autumn Season

Creator God, as the leaves turn gold and the days grow cooler, help us to notice the quiet beauty of this season. Teach us to give thanks for harvests gathered, for shelter and warmth, and for the changing rhythms of the earth. Open our eyes to the colours around us, the crispness in the air, and the small signs of your goodness in ordinary days.

We thank you for the work of many hands that brings food to our tables, for fields and gardens, for rain and sunshine, and for the gifts of creation that sustain us. May our gratitude lead us not only to words of thanks, but also to acts of kindness, care, and generosity.

In autumn's falling leaves, remind us that letting go can make room for new life. Where we are weary, renew our strength; where we are anxious, settle our hearts; where we are hurried, slow us into peace. Help us to trust that even in change, you are steady, faithful, and near.

As the evenings draw in, bring light to all who feel lonely, comfort to all who are grieving, and courage to all who face uncertain days. May our homes become places of welcome, and may our hearts remain open to those in need.

Bless our homes, our families, our neighbours, and all who long for comfort as the nights draw in. May we share generously from what we have received, and may gratitude shape our words and actions. Teach us to walk gently on the earth and to honour the beauty and fragility of your creation.

Walk with us through this season, Lord, and guide us towards hope, wisdom, and quiet joy. As autumn prepares the world for rest, prepare our hearts for deeper trust in you, today and in the days to come.

Amen.



CONTACT US

The Revd Darren Walker, Area Dean :
revdarrenwalker@gmail.com

Noreen Mewies, Lay Chair :
laychair@nwldeanery.org.uk

Avril Roberts, Deanery Secretary :
secretary@nwldeanery.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who has sent in content this time.

The next newsletter, the Christmas/Winter edition, will be coming out in November.



Baby & Children's PRE-LOVED SWAP

A chance to swap, reuse and refresh!

Bring along things your children have outgrown and swap them for something they can use.

£5 per household
One ticket covers parents/carers and their children in the same household.

Bring what you no longer need and leave with whatever you can carry!

Expectant mums and new mummies are welcomed to attend!
You don't need to bring anything to swap.

Please bring clean, good-quality items that are ready to be loved again.

All proceeds go towards repairing and replacing the church's beautiful stained-glass windows.

Give good-quality items a new home and help reduce landfill.

Items can include:

- Baby items – clothes, play mats, bouncers, toys, feeding and bath time items
- Anything suitable for children and young people aged 0-16.
- Clothes and shoes
- Toys and games
- Books
- School items – backpacks, stationery, lunchboxes

Kindly note: This is a family swap event, not a resale opportunity. Resellers and anyone attending primarily to acquire items for resale will not be permitted to participate. They may be asked to leave, and their £5 household ticket will be refunded.

For more information, please contact Melanie on: 07400 674 764
Meltagb@yahoo.com

Together we can make a difference

St Helen's Church & Heritage

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

Hello Heritage Open Day

Saturday 12th September

10 am – 3 pm

'Ride & Stride' & A Rare Chance to See ...

A display of 18th Century Bibles & our 19th Century Bell Ringers' Peal Book

Book binding demonstrations

Light refreshments available

Facebook.com/sthelenchurch | Email: heritage@sthelenchurch.net



St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Heritage Talks 2026 - 2027

September 29th	R 'Bis' Bisgrove	Leicestershire during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II
October 27th	Danny Wells	The Victorian Way of Death
November 24th	Rachel Askew	Mercian Sculpture & Breedon Priory church.
January 26th	Julie Starkey	Extending the Church: a Victorian Vision
February 23rd	Peter Liddle	Topic tbc
March 30th	Andrew Marriott	The Railway that went to war

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm / £4 including light refreshments
Tickets available on the door



Facebook.com/sthelenschurch

Website: www.sthelensashby.net

Email: heritage@sthelensashby.net



LOTTERY FUNDED



St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

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LOTTERY FUNDED

Sunday Soirée

Choral Evensong sung by St Helen's choir followed by refreshments then a short recital

Sunday 29 March (Different format - see event poster for more info)	Music for Palm Sunday by St Helen's Choir and a string quartet
Sunday 3 May	Organ recital by Chris Ouvry-Johns, Director of Music, Leicester Cathedral
Sunday 7 June	Brian Humpherson's Jazz Quintet
Sunday 5 July	Music by members of St Helen's church
Sunday 6 September	Music for two pianos Jeremy Kimber and Sue Field
Sunday 4 October	Music for saxophone, oboe and piano Corinne Marsh and Jeremy Kimber



6pm - 8pm
Admission is Free

St Helen's Church
Ashby-de-la-Zouch



St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

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

Heritage Talks 2026 - 2027

Leicestershire during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II

R 'Bis' Bisgrove
Tuesday 29th September
at 7.30 pm

So much happened in Leicestershire during the reign of our late Queen – motorways opened, railways closed, sports teams won trophies, singers were in the charts, new councils were formed, trees were planted and polytechnics became universities. This enjoyable trip down memory lane will stimulate lots of your own recollections.

Tickets on the door - £4 including light refreshments



Facebook.com/sthelenschurch

Website: www.sthelensashby.net

Email: heritage@sthelensashby.net



LOTTERY FUNDED

Autumn Fayre

at
St Deny's Church
on
12th September 11-3pm
Displays from
Ibstock Historical Society
Classic cars

Children's teddy bear parachute jump £1



also
Lots of stalls and Refreshments

Staunton Harold Church Harvest Festival

In support of Ashby Foodbank. Non-perishable food and monetary donations welcome.

Sunday 20th September 2026 4:30pm

There will be a short talk by a representative of the Ashby Foodbank.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Parking in the Lion Court car park courtesy of Caroline Large.

Enquiries 07415 190 426



Coffee Morning



Tea/coffee and homemade cake with a warm friendly welcome!

Every 4th Wednesday of the month
10am - 12 noon
at Holy Rood Church

Books and jigsaws to borrow or swap

St Helen's Church
Presents...

It's 'Knit & Natter' – but so much more...
Including sewing, embroidery, and crochet.

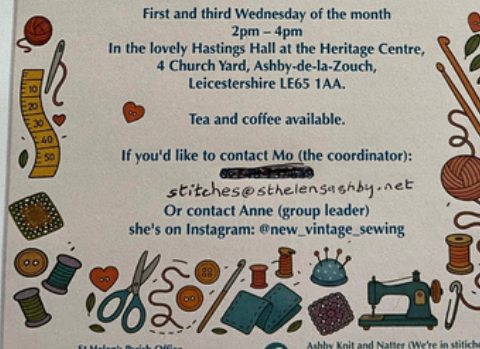
Bring your own textile project.
All welcome (over 18s please).

Get together with like-minded textile enthusiasts.
Drop in, chat, and exchange advice, tips, and ideas.

First and third Wednesday of the month
2pm – 4pm
In the lovely Hastings Hall at the Heritage Centre,
4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicestershire LE65 1AA.

Tea and coffee available.

If you'd like to contact Mo (the coordinator):
stitches@sthelensashby.net
Or contact Anne (group leader)
she's on Instagram: @new_vintage_sewing



St Helen's Parish Office
07565 191852 parishoffice@sthelensashby.net



Ashby Knit and Natter (We're in stitches)
St Helen's Church Ashby de la Zouch

BREAKFAST CHURCH

Begin your day with a new experience!

We meet on the first Sunday of every month starting with breakfast at 10am.

A warm welcome is on offer with a choice of Toast, Crumpets or Croissants, tea, coffee or squash

followed by a short time of Poems, Hymns and Prayers.

Approximately 45 minutes

Colouring activities for children

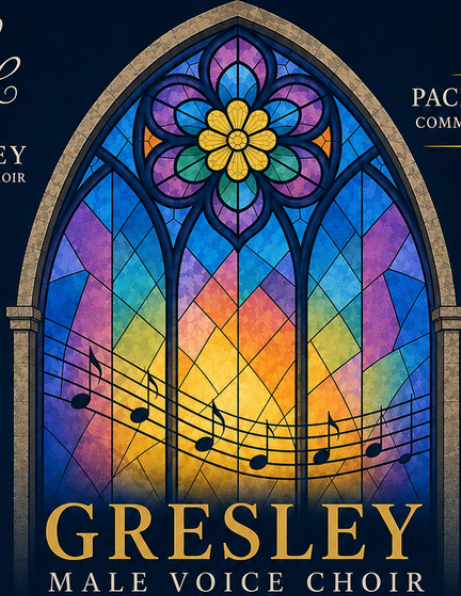
Holy Rood Church
Packington



If you would like more information, please contact
Anne 01530414621


GRESLEY
MALE VOICE CHOIR

PACKINGTON
COMMUNITY CHOIR



GRESLEY
MALE VOICE CHOIR
WITH
PACKINGTON
COMMUNITY CHOIR

10 OCTOBER 2026 | 7PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
KILWARDBY STREET
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, LEICESTERSHIRE
LE65 2FR

 COALVILLE
AND ASHBY
LIONS

 **TICKETS £12**
GRESLEY MVC • 07939 012458
PACKINGTON CC • 07967 316645



**PROCEEDS WILL HELP FUND
THE RESTORATION OF
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH'S WINDOWS**

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER: 519870

Christ Church
CHRISTMAS
COMMUNITY CHOIR

STARTS OCTOBER 1ST

Rehearsals
Thursdays 7pm - 9pm
at Christ Church, Coalville

We are a fun, relaxed choir
No musical knowledge necessary
£5 sign up fee

More information:
rhi@christchurchcoalville.com
07508050626

**SCAN TO
SIGN UP**



**Toastie
Thursday**



Come along to Holy Rood Church, Packington

12 noon - 2pm
Thursday 22nd October

Join us in our local church for cheese toasties,
toast & spreads, cake

DON'T BE BORED ON TOASTIE THURSDAY

A lovely time for children, accompanied with an
adult, to make a range of crafts, ice cakes and
generally have fun! If you have no children but
would like to pop in for lunch you would be very
welcome!

For more info please contact
Anne 01530 414621
Lesley 01530 413309

Donations accepted towards upkeep of the
church

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH,
WORTHINGTON**

12th SEPTEMBER 2026

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please join us as we celebrate our Heritage
Discover more of the Heritage of Worthington and
Newbold from the exhibits in Church.

"CHURCH OPEN DAY"

Tea and Coffee and toilet available here.

"RIDE AND STRIDE" cyclists welcome.
All visitors with or without dogs are welcome.

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**CHRISTMAS FAYRE &
COFFEE MORNING**

**HOLY ROOD CHURCH
PACKINGTON**

Saturday 31st October
10:00am - 12:30pm

Help us raise funds for
Breast Cancer UK
and
Prostrate Cancer UK

A variety of beautiful crafts, Christmas
cards, Raffle and so much more. Come
along and start your Christmas
Shopping!

Refreshments
£1.00 entry/children free