

The Three Towers

November 2015



Diary Dates

Monday 9th November, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Parish Hall - Historical Society. Phillippa Massey, "Our Daily Bread" A short history of food and drink. £2 members, £3 visitors on the door.

Wednesday 11th November, 7.30pm, South Witham Church - Woodbine Willie. Telephone 01572 767258 to reserve tickets £5.

Thursday 19 November 11am, Food for Thought, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Bible study followed by a simple fellowship lunch at noon - further study on Thursdays, 21 January, 11, 18, 25 February, 3, 10, 17 March (weekly during Lent), 21 April, 19 May, 16 June, & 21 July.

Saturday 21st November, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Parish Hall - Pudding Night.

Monday 23rd November, St Andrew's Parish Hall - Historical Society Members' Meeting.

Saturday 21 November, 7.30pm, Swinstead Village Hall - Smugglers Jack Band - in aid of St Mary's Church. Tickets £7.00, including light refreshments from the Vicarage, 01778 591358

Saturday 5th December, 5.30pm, Witham village green - Christmas Lights. Followed by festivities in the Parish Hall. Hot dogs, mince pies and mulled wine. Lucky Dip for the children. £3.50 per head, children under 7 free.

Sunday 27th December, 10am, Winter "Well Walk". Meet at the Post box in the middle of Manthorpe. We will be visiting known wells in the Parish. Route to be fixed. All welcome.

Parish Notices

REQUEST Witham-on-the-Hill Historical Society is trying to map all the wells and pumps, visible or hidden, in Witham, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound. Please contact Sue Cork, suecork8@hotmail.co.uk or 01778 590204 (messages can be left) with details and indication if you would allow access on the morning of 27th December, as part of the History Society Well Walk.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SAMARITAN'S PURSE

If anyone would like to prepare a shoe box of goodies for this children's charity I have some leaflets, or you can collect one from Church. The completed boxes can be taken to the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, 49 High Street, Stamford, during opening hours between 1st and 18th November. Jane Clark tel 01778 590232

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY Edna Rose. We hope you will be home from hospital very soon after your recent fall.

EDENHAM CHURCH Christmas Flowers: The Christmas colour for church this year is Gold, so please can we have gold, pale yellow or cream candles in the arrangements and that the candles are big enough to last over the Christmas period which could be lit 4 or 5 times. There will be a list in church, so please come and put your name down for an arrangement. The more the merrier.

THANKS The Macmillan Coffee Morning in Witham on the Hill raised £456. Thanks to everyone who came, all those who donated cakes and raffle prizes, and special thanks to those who manned the raffle, the cake stall and served the refreshments. Well done all of you!

WITHAM ON THE HILL
PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

PUDDING NIGHT

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THE VICAR WRITES

Last month, the 12th October, saw the centenary of the execution of Edith Cavell. Over the past two years I have been working with my brother on a choral work 'Eventide' to celebrate her life and commemorate her death. In this month of Remembrance Sunday it seems appropriate to recall the life and death of probably the most famous woman victim of the First World War. There is no doubt in my mind that it was her formation in the Anglican Faith that led her to her final sacrifice. Edith was the child of the Vicarage. Born in 1865, her Father was the Vicar of Swardeston, near Norwich. She was educated at home in a private school for girls located in the Cathedral Close at Peterborough. After school she alternated between being a day governess , and a full-time governess living with various families. At the age of twenty five she found herself as a Governess to the affluent Francois family in Brussels – perfecting her French which was to be so important in later life.

In 1895 seeking a change in lifestyle and career she sought the

place as a student nurse in London. After qualifying she worked as a private nurse before returning to the London Hospital as Staff Nurse on a men's surgical and accident ward. She was transferred to St Pancras Infirmary as a Night Superintendent.

In 1906 she was approached by a friend of the Francois family to return to Belgium to establish a school for nurses; a post for which her former Matrons commended her. This opened on 1st October 1907. For the next seven years she built up a school which met the highest standards in every aspect of nurse training and in 1914 work began on a purpose built Nursing School, which is now the site of the Edith Cavell Hospital in Brussels. At the outbreak of the war in August 1914 Edith remained in Belgium sharing in the privations of occupation and nursing both German and British wounded.

She became involved in providing refuge to escaped (or lost) British soldiers handing them on to the Belgian underground who enabled many to return via Holland to England. It was for her part in this



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'treason' that she was arrested, tried and condemned to death by fire firing squad with two other members of the underground organisation. At her trial Edith Cavell admitted helping wounded and escaped British Soldiers which she described as 'simply doing my duty'. It was her confession that she knew that some had returned to England and active service that made her guilty of 'aiding the enemy.'

She was arrested on the 5th August 1915 and from 8th August she was a prisoner in the St Gilles Prison. Once interrogation began she was in solitary confinement. Her only personal possessions, apart from clothes, were her Bible, her Book of Common Prayer and a copy of the 'Imitation of Christ' by Thomas A Kempis. The trial began on Thursday 8th October. The sentence was confirmed on Sunday 10th. Despite the efforts of American diplomats, the military governor refused to commute the sentence to imprisonment.

On the evening of Monday 11th The Revd Gahan, who remained

in Brussels during the war as chaplain to the British Community, visited Edith in prison. He celebrated Holy Communion with her and they recited together the hymn 'Abide with me.' He was refused permission to stay with her or accompany her to the place of execution. A German Chaplain accompanied her instead. He left an account of her death and described her as 'very calm' but 'with a cloud of tears in her eyes.'

The execution took place at 7am on the morning of the 12th October and her body was buried at the firing range in an unmarked grave. Her death provoked a furore both in Britain and in Germany. She was the cause of a surge in recruitment; the slogan 'Remember Edith Cavell' being the inspiration.

After the war preparations were made to repatriate her body and on the 12th May 1919 her body, escorted by British troops, was taken on a gun carriage to the Gare du Nord in Brussels. The body arrived at Victoria station the next day and was escorted by hundreds of soldiers to

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Westminster Abbey where a service of prayer included the singing of 'Abide With Me'. The funeral service itself took place in Norwich Cathedral on the 14th May 1919. She is buried in the Cathedral close.

Everything Edith read and prayed was given a particular meaning by the knowledge of her certain death. Certain phrases leap out of the psalms and prayers given new light in the shadow of death. The Book of Common Prayer was her constant companion; she said Morning and Evening Prayer every day. This marked the passing of this solitary and fearful time. Although we cannot say for certain whether Edith made any formal prayer on the morning of her execution, it is certain that she knew this prayer and also most likely that rooted as she was in this discipline she offered it hours before leaving her cell.

Her copy of the Imitation of Christ is annotated and the chapters relating to 'A Holy Death' are in places underlined and the dates 10th and 11th October are written in the margin. We know from The Revd Gahan's record that they

celebrated the Eucharist together on the evening of the 11th using the Order for Holy Communion from the Prayer Book ; the context of this Eucharist gives unexpected illumination to the oft repeated prayers. It is Gahan that also records her saying the phrase which ends 'patriotism is not enough.'

Before he left the cell Gahan and Edith recited 'Abide with me'. It is the verses of this hymn, which has found such a profound place in the English psyche, that ties the works together, rooting it in so much of our national and personal experience. It is in the first verse that the title 'Eventide' is found. For Edith the 'eventide' was fast falling – in the intensity of her last days her faith was her 'strong support and stay' and I do not doubt that in her imagination she held up the cross before her closing eyes.

I would be happy to provide a copy of the libretto for the work: which draws on the prayer of her last days, if anyone would like one.


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Recent reports in the press highlighted the parlous state of the church in the countryside. Over 85% of churches have congregations of less than twenty and the majority boast regular congregations of less than ten. Some may find this surprising. In my experience it has been like this for over fifty years. In 1963 at Evensong in Chapel St Leonards I was one of a choir of five boys and one man, the Vicar and the organist made up eight and there were usually about half a dozen in the congregation. I have been in rural ministry since 1984 and on countless occasions officiated at services with two or three people present. It has never really bothered me as I recall the words of Jesus – ‘where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.’ I have found this to be true. It may be a small number of people but truth and faith have never been the pursuit of the majority. In any case the biggest congregation is always outnumbered by the angels present. In one of the prayers of the Roman Catholic Mass, God is thanked because ‘from age to age you call a people

to yourself.’ The Church of England may struggle where it gives up on simple faithful service to God, but God will survive that – of that I am certain!

THREE PARISHES CHOIR

(AKA THE DIBLEY SINGERS!)

If you have never sung in a choir, but would like to: or if you once were in Dibley and would like to return – you would be very welcome. Practices for the Advent Carol Service are on Wednesday’s 11th and 18th November: 7pm - 9pm (includes a tea break!) Speak to the Vicar, Trudy Templeman or Sue Nicholls for details – we can help with transport.

WITHAM CHURCH AND SCHOOL ESTATE TRUST

EDUCATION GRANTS are available to those in higher education and apprenticeships who are resident in the historic parish of Witham on the Hill: (Witham, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound). Please send a letter of application to the Clerk to the Trustees, 12 The Green, Thurlby, PE10 0HB

Whist Drives

Whist drives were held on Friday 18th September and Friday 16th October when £74 and £90 were raised respectively.

The winners for September were:

GENTS

1st Mrs G. Stanford

2nd Mrs P. Cranfield

3rd Mr M. Brace

LADIES

1st Mrs T. Brace

2nd Mrs B. Carter

3rd Mrs S. Olley

The raffle winners were Mr S. Osborne, Mrs E. Basden, Mrs G. Stanford, Mrs M. Immink, Mrs J. Osborne, Mrs B. Carter and Mrs H. Strickson.

The winners for October were:

GENTS

1st Mr M. Brace

2nd Mrs M. Imminck

3rd Mrs P. Cranfield

LADIES

1st Mrs V. Curtis

2nd Miss E. Munton

3rd Mrs P. Collier

The raffle winners were Mr M. Brace, Mrs A. Blanchard, Mrs G. Stanford, Mrs D. Blanchard Xavier, Mrs D. Bennett, Mrs J. Osborne, Mrs B. Carter, Mrs E. Basden, Mrs P. Collier, Mrs P. Cranfield, Mrs P. Garrard and Mr S. Osborne.

Thank you to everyone for their support and for the donations towards the prizes. The next Whist Drives will be on Friday 20th November 11th December at 7.0pm.

USE BY DATE

Part 2

So does our Faith have a “use by” date? The whole idea is wrong. Why? Because our Faith does not ever become not fit for purpose. Our Faith, whether we need a refresher course or not, is continually the same and constant, and is not subject to the vagaries of our secular world. So forget “use by dates” or any other such instructions. Our Faith is constantly growing, but it does need feeding, through the sacrament of the Eucharist, and our constant attention. Don’t let your Faith be stuck in the refrigerator.

FATHER DAVID BRATLEY

Woodbine Willie - World War I Poems, Musical Settings

Wednesday 11th November at 7.30 in South Witham Church

The Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy was an Anglican Priest who served as a Chaplain in World War I, winning the Military Cross for bravery. His nickname was Woodbine Willie, because he kept soldiers supplied with cigarettes which helped calm their nerves in the face of battle. He wrote many poems, including a number that depict life on the Western Front, poems about the human cost of war, and theological reflection about it.

Our evening will include musical settings of some of these poems composed and sung by The Revd Richard Rice-Oxley. His wife Sylvia will read an account of the life and character of this outstanding pastor and preacher.

Please telephone 01572 767258 to reserve tickets £5.



Jane's Seasonal Recipe

Pears are in season, and this is a very popular preserve at the Regional House. Delicious served with cold meats and cheese.

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500g granulated sugar

1 teaspoon cloves

2 cinnamon sticks

1 lemon, rind & juice

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Willoughby Gallery

The 2015 Willoughby Memorial Trust Open Art Competition

The Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery invited all adult artists, amateur or professional and all budding young artists up to 18 years old (either living in Lincolnshire itself or within 30 miles of Corby Glen) to enter the annual competition. Judging is by two independent visiting judges.

Any medium of a permanent nature accepted, for example drawing, painting, collage or three dimensional artwork.

All entries will then be exhibited until 20th November and can be offered for sale.

We plan to publish a complete list of Open Art Competition 2015 prize winners in the December edition of The Three Towers.

The Willoughby Memorial Trust was founded in 1965 by the late Lord Ancaster in memory of his son, Timothy, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, who died in 1963.

For more information go to www.willoughbygallery.com

Swinstead News

Thank you to everyone who supported the Harvest Supper in so many ways. £420.00 was raised for Church funds.

Flower rota:

31 October - 7 November Isobel Skerrit

14 November -21 November Pat Wright

Swinstead Village Hall Committee

Would you like to become a member of Swinstead Village Hall Committee? If so, please contact 01476 550802.

SMUGGLER JACK ON TOUR

This popular five piece band which plays original songs, and pop and rock favourites are on tour to Swinstead Village Hall on Saturday 21st November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 and include refreshments – there is a charity bar. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended and can be obtained from the Vicar 01778 591358 or Clive Lunn of Swinstead 01476 550393

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Witham on the Hill WI October meeting

The speaker was Sam Thorpe of Travel Eyes, an independent travel company for blind and visually impaired people. Discounts of up to 50% are offered to sighted people, who guide blind travellers. The company was founded by Scottish man, Amar Latif, who lost a lot of his sight at a young age and by his late teens was blind. Amar, a qualified chartered accountant, took part in the BBC documentary "Beyond Boundaries" with a group of 11 disabled people who crossed Nicaragua from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. This fed his appetite for travel; & in 2004 Travel Eyes was set up. Sam explained that the average sized group is about 14 people – half of them sighted. They travel & dine together – each day a sighted person is matched up with a different visually impaired person, who explains how they like to be guided. No training is necessary. All travellers are English speaking, & a local tour guide is employed. The emphasis is on sharing your sight – describing what you see; which

can include sky diving, sailing, skiing or walking holidays, in UK, Europe, America or Australia.

Three ladies are looking forward to visiting RAF Cranwell museum on 3 November. The next walk will be on Thursday 29 October, starting at Ginton with lunch in Market Deeping. Members have been asked to donate assorted items for the Women's Refuge at Boston; and to save unwanted bras for the young women of Zimbabwe. The WI Christmas lunch will be at the Woodhouse Arms at Corby Glen on 15 December. Please notify the Secretary of your menu choice

NEXT MEETINGS:

3 November: Adnams wine tasting – Chris Church

1 December: Christmas party & supper

2 February 2016: Boarding schools - Richard Haynes

1 March 2016: Relics of the Raj - Tim Hudson

5 April 2016: Annual meeting

Visitors and new members are always most welcome. For further information, contact Jane Clark, Secretary, tel 01778 590232.

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- Home & Car Insurance
- Business & Commercial Vehicle Insurance
- Retirement Planning
- Protection

NFU Mutual Financial Advisers advise on NFU Mutual products and selected products from specialist providers. We'll explain the services we offer and our charges.

**For a real
conversation about
your needs call
01778 422218 or pop
into our branch**

Holt House Business
Centre, Cherry Holt
Road, Bourne,
Lincolnshire PE10 9LH



NFU Mutual

INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

It's about time®

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited. For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

PARISH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2015

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
ALL SAINTS DAY November 1st	8:45am Parish Communion	10:00am Parish Communion	11:15am Parish Communion 6.00pm Commemoration of the faithful departed
ALL SOULS DAY November 2nd		7.30pm Requiem Mass	
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY November 8th	8:45am Parish Communion 6.00pm Remembrance Service	10:00am Remembrance Service and Holy Communion	10:55am Act of Remembrance and service with Holy Communion
15 th November 2 nd before Advent	8:45am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	10:00am Parish Communion	11:15am Parish Communion
22 nd Christ the King	8:45am Parish Communion	10:00am Parish Communion	11:15am Parish Communion
29 th November Advent Sunday	12:45pm Baptism	10:30am Three Parishes Eucharist	6pm Advent Carol Service