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December 2016 & January 2017

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Dates for your Diary

Sunday 4th December, Edenham Village Hall, Steam Action Pantomime "He's behind you!" Doors open at 1.30pm and 5.30pm for the 2pm and 6pm performances. Remember to keep this date free. There will be two performances. Adults £4, under 16s £2. Contact Nikki on 01778 591197 or Pat on 591004.

Saturday 10th December 10 till 12, all welcome at Jim and Carol's, 14 Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham for a Coffee morning in aid of the church repair fund. Offers of cakes and raffle prizes would be much appreciated - these can be left with Ruth Atter, 9 School Lane. Please support and call in for a cuppa and a chat.

Sunday 11th December 6pm, Grimsthorpe Castle. The Order of St John in Lincolnshire holds its annual Carol Service (by kind permission of Lady Willoughby). The singing is accompanied by Stamford Brass and is followed by wine and canapés. This service is organised to raise funds for St John Ambulance. Tickets are £10 - please contact the Vicar if you would like to come.

Thursday 15th December 11am, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. FOOD FOR THOUGHT" – bible study followed by a simple lunch at noon. Donations to Christian Aid.

Thursday, 15th December 12.30 for 1pm, Six Bells, Witham-on-the-Hill, Historical Society Christmas Lunch.

Sunday 18th December 6pm, Witham on the Hill carol singing starting at the church. All welcome – children, adults, singers and especially any musicians! If you are not able to join us we would be very grateful for any refreshments on route!

Christmas Eve 6pm, Carol Singing at Grimsthorpe Castle is by ticket only these are available from the Estate Office – 01778 591205: restrictions apply.

Saturday, 31st of December. 9.30 for 10am, Historical Society walk - Carey Fort - Meet and park on the road at the start of the track to Ling's Farm (on the left, past the Witham Hall School playing field, on the road to Little Bytham) at 9.30am or if you want a shorter walk, 10am in the Farm Yard. Grid reference for the path to Ling's farm is 045-168. Post code PE10 0JN. It is about 1 kilometre west of Witham on the road to Little Bytham.

Parish News

PAT PARTINGTON would like to thank everyone for their cards, and kindness on the loss of her husband Terry.

EDNA ROSE lived in Witham on the Hill for 60 years, moving from Manthorpe with her parents. Her greatest love is the Church and Father Andy. She has always joined in all events in the village, cleaned the Parish hall, and the Church too – way back with Madge Maile. Her first love is animals and then people. Sadly, she is now in a care home in Braceborough, safe and well cared for. I know she'll miss Witham greatly – wonderful memories. A very special person!

WELCOME Julia and John Whitehead and children Elizabeth and James to Witham Lodge, Bottom Street. We hope you will all be very in Witham on the Hill.

THANK YOU to the generous people from Witham on the Hill who donated gifts for the 11 shoe boxes that went to the Samaritan's Purse charity. The boxes will bring cheer to needy children this Christmas.

FOODBANK Thank you to all those who donated food at the Harvest Festival Service in Witham on the Hill. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU from Vera Curtis to everyone that came to her 90th birthday celebration. £350 was collected for Edenham Church funds.

THANK YOU to all those who helped in anyway at the St Andrew's Church Coffee Morning collecting bric-a-brac, making cakes, running stalls, serving refreshments, moving furniture and clearing up afterwards. A very special thanks to all those who attended and supported this event - it was a wonderful community effort and a good social event. There was a wide range of craft stalls and trade was brisk. The Church was buzzing with chatter and activity and over £650 was raised to help towards the roof repair. Well done and thank you all!

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THE VICAR WRITES

A Vicar friend of mine once put a banner outside his church at the beginning of July, which read ‘Come to church now and avoid the Christmas rush!’ I never did find out how his parish responded; but I dare say it was mixed! It is, however, a phenomenon of contemporary society that large numbers of people, of all ages, come to church at Christmas. If this year is anything like previous years, over six hundred people will attend church on Christmas Eve in the Three Towers Parishes. That’s ten times the usual Sunday attendance! The total adult population is just under one thousand and this means a very high proportion of the community come to church at Christmas.

I have to confess I am not at all clear why this should be the case. I assume that people come for a mixture of reasons. These might include – to sing carols; to enjoy the atmosphere both of togetherness and the numinous quality of the church; to meet people, and there must be many others. Underlying these reasons there may be something more

difficult to grasp – a deep need to renew connections – maybe with the past, or with spiritual experience. Whatever reason people come – they are very welcome – and I delight to see them there.

When I see everyone gathered together on Christmas Eve I reflect that in that half hour we glimpse something of what God hopes for his children: we are gathered together – all sorts of us – in His house, singing His praise – listening to the story of His love for us. It is a glimpse of possibilities – a hint of the potential we have to be a community of love of service.

My prayer is that all our worship may draw us closer to our true selves and to God.

To you and yours a peaceful and blessed Christmas when it comes!

Father David Bratley wishes all parishioners a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas and new year.

Tom McWilliams and Jane Clark wish all readers, supporters and advertisers in The Three Towers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Steam Action Pantomime

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



Edenham Village Hall

Sunday 4th Dec 2016

Adults £4 Kids (under 16) £2
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Notes from the Edenham Parish Council Meeting 8th November

Open Forum: Chairman welcomed three members of public. The lack of accurate information available of the progress of broadband internet upgrade was discussed again. Council to contact LCC project team to ask for clarification on progress. Cllr Nick Robins (SKDC) briefed meeting on District's view on the proposal for a Mayoral Combined Authorities of Greater Lincolnshire. A majority of District Councillors were against the proposal and the executive had to concede that this should be the District's position alongside that of Lincolnshire County Council. He then introduced a member of the project team for Corby Glen's recently upgraded play area who gave an overview of their project and offered help if we were to proceed in seeking grants etc for our play area. Chairman thanked all for their attendance and input, closed the Open Forum and opened the Parish Council Meeting.

All parishioners are reminded that the Open Forum at each Parish

Council meeting is their opportunity to voice concern/raise local issues with their councillors. Details can be obtained by contacting the parish clerk at edenham.pc@btinternet.com – or contacting any of your current councillors.

Planning Application: S16/2070 - Conversion of the barns at Pillarwood Farm, Edenham to form 4 small residential units. Site visit 18th Oct with applicant - no objections raised for the welcome development of this near derelict site.

Highways: Disappointment over the recent reply from the department from concerns raised following last meeting. All issues will be monitored and raised again should they become worse.

Parish Christmas Tree/Lights: Project proceeding well - a 20ft tree kindly supplied by Grimsthorpe Estate is planned for installation in early December (Ford Cottage and Church Lane, Edenham).

Children's Play Equipment: Secretary reported that the report from the annual safety inspection

is still to be received. Once this is available the plans for the areas refurbishment can be made.

Hedges: The council would like to take the opportunity to remind property owners/farm tenants that where their boundary hedges border highways/footpaths, it is their responsibility to keep them trimmed back so as not to encroach onto them. This will ensure that they are safe for users and it will also enhance the parish's appearance - many thanks for those that do. (Your

local litter picker now finds it difficult to walk along the grass verges in places due to hedges/trees being left to grow right to the carriageway).

Suspicious Activity/Vehicles: All parishioners are reminded to be vigilant in their local area and report anything suspicious, however minor, to the Police using the Police 101 tel no.

The next meeting will take place in Edenham Village Hall on Tuesday 10th January commencing at 7:30pm.

Edenham Parish Council & Steam Action

Cordially invite all residents of the Parish to join them to sing Christmas Carols around the Parish Christmas Tree.

When - Tuesday 13th December at 6pm

Where - Field between Ford Cottage and Church Lane, Edenham

Light refreshments - Mulled Wine & Minced Pies available

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Swinstead Parish Council

Clerk's Notes 3rd

November

Present: Councillor Bryan Lynch (Chairman), Councillor George Brown (Vice Chairman) Councillor Clive Lunn, Councillor Tony Moss, Wendy Benson (Clerk), PCSO Stuart Bowden, Nick Robins (Leader of Lincolnshire County Council), Mr Dave Andrews (resident 8 Creeton Road)

Public Forum: Mr Dave Andrews of 8 Creeton Road, Swinstead presented documents in relation to his issues with the road outside of his property. The verge alongside his driveway is continually churned up as lorries and tractors use it as part of the road. This causes extremely hazardous driving conditions as the mud and water spread over the highway and the possibility of it freezing over in cold conditions would only add to the problem. Bryan Lynch stated he would email Martin Hill (legal leader of Council) and copy Nick Robins in the email.

Policing: PCSO Stuart Bowden stated that he has received no phone calls or has any concerns

regarding Swinstead. He explained that apart from the usual Deer Poaching, Speeding and Cold Calling nothing untoward had been reported. PCSO Stuart Bowden also stated that any concerns by the public of Swinstead could be reported to him via 101 and this would then be passed to him. He is also available most days with the mobile library. He agreed that a notice put up on the village notice board would be a good way to let people know how to contact him.

Declarations of Interest: All Councillors have now signed the new Declaration of Interest forms and that from now on these are to be signed yearly.

Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct has now been rewritten.

Financial Report: One cheque had been issued to J K Mowing for the Orchard grass cutting. A cheque was written to Wendy Benson for stationery purchased.

Precept: This was adjourned until the meeting in January 2017

Planning: Planning applications are only available on line. Councillor Nick Robins explained



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that yellow notices were put up on lamp posts when an application had been received. The clerk agreed to check the website regularly and check with other clerks of nearby villages to see how they dealt with this.

Change of details, addresses, emails, banking, insurance etc:

This had mostly been carried out but Barclay's Bank were proving difficult as it needed a Signatory to change the address. Bryan Lynch to sort.

Buttercross: Councillor Clive Lunn has weeded and cleared the Buttercross area

Highways: The pot holes and drain cover issues in Croake Hill had been rectified. The pavement drain cover has collapsed by the outside number 4 Bourne Road causing a danger to pedestrians. Clerk will contact Highways at SKDC and report. Cars parked on the pavement in same area caused a lot of concern for the disabled and people pushing pushchairs as the cars blocked the pavement. PCSO Stuart Bowden agreed to check this when passing through and put a sticker on the windscreen stating the police were

aware of the pavement parking hopefully to encourage the residents to park on the road.

Parish Councillor Vacancy: We still have a vacancy for Parish Counsellor. The clerk will post a note on the village notice board asking for someone to fill the post.

Councillors' Reports: Clive Lunn stated that now the darker evenings were upon us the dog mess in the Church Yard had increased tenfold. It was also noted that on the pavements in Swinstead there was also a problem with dog mess. Nick Robins said that a new leader in May with new priorities could help with this, also mentioned the possibility of DNA testing could help. Residents could also report instances of dog fouling to the parish council or dial 101 and ask for Dog Warden who have powers to prosecute. The clerk will put this on the village noticeboard and also contact The Link to run a story on it and highlight the issue.

Date and time of next meeting:
The next meeting will be held on
Thursday 5th January

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If you have a child who will be 4 years old between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, this is the time to apply for a school place.

We do not run official open days, we prefer to meet you and show you what we have to offer on a one-one basis. We know that making a decision about which school is right can feel daunting. Hopefully after a visit, the process becomes a little bit more exciting rather than just plain scary!

Although the vast majority of our pupils begin on a full-time basis from the first day of the school year, this is not always the case. We are happy to meet you and your child to discuss their needs should fulltime school not be right for them by 1st September. Part-time schooling is also sometimes possible until children reach the compulsory school age - by law, every child must be in school at the start of term after their 5th birthday.

Applications are made to the Lincolnshire County Council until noon on the 15th January 2017. Whatever you do, try not to miss the deadline - life becomes very stressful for a few months if you do!

The preferred method for applying is online - go to <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/school-admissions>. You can also apply by telephone on 01522 782030.

Don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions about the admission process or if you wish to make a personal visit. We very much look forward to meeting you.

Please contact me directly on 01778 591207 or by email: enquiries@edenham.lincs.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Mrs Kris Radford-Rea (Head Teacher)

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We are pleased to announce that Edenham CE Primary School has entered a new chapter in its long history with its conversion to Academy status on October 1st 2016.

The school has worked in close partnership with a group of other local schools - the Pathfinder Partnership. The members of the Pathfinder group set out to become academies at the same time. The school will maintain its Church of England character by becoming part of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT) family of church and non-church schools.

Whilst many in our school community fundamentally disagree with the academies programme, it became clear that if we wish to maintain our genuine character and distinctive curriculum, it was the best possible path for us.

We are very proud of our individual character and we have always worked in partnership with other schools and organisations.

Increasingly the requirements on schools have become formalised, restrictive and isolationist. In addition the school, along with

many other Local Authority maintained schools, has been victim of the appalling financial support and guidance from the Serco operated 'Agresso' system in the past 18 months.

Past and present members of the Edenham School community, including parents, governors and Friends of the School, expressed overwhelmingly that they supported the Governors' decision to convert as they were reassured that the creative, energetic and family character of the school will be preserved.

A parent stated 'We chose Edenham School because we were inspired by the school's commitment to outdoor learning, loads of experience in the Arts, Science and Sport, and the high standards in learning in English and Maths. We also know that the vast majority of the Edenham pupils become well-rounded individuals by the time they leave for secondary school. We agree that we want to do what we can to preserve this.'

Kris Radford-Rea - Head Teacher

EDENHAM C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



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- ◆ A n experienced and creative teaching team
- ◆ A local community, passionate about their school
- ◆ Strong pastoral and spiritual links with our local church
- ◆ Happy, energetic and enthusiastic pupils!

We look forward to meeting you! Contact Mrs Kris Radford-Rea to arrange a visit — see contact details below...

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When I worked with lots of schools in Lincolnshire, this part of the Autumn Term was always the one where I missed having my feet just grounded in one school.

Advent is always slightly chaotic in a primary school – trees to decorate, cards to make, Christmas parties to plan for, nativities and plays to rehearse and perform, mud on the playground, leaves in the corridor, and glitter everywhere – oh, and lessons to learn as well...

However, believe it or not, it is such a time of joy it's hard to be bah-humbug about those things for long!

Advent is a really special time for us at Edenham School – Assemblies and some of the curriculum is focussed on the Nativity Story, symbols of Christmas and what Christmas means to Christians around the world. We spend time enjoying other festivals of Light such as Hannukah, and Divali, and we share a Posada journey (a Mexican Tradition) with anyone in our school community who wants to join in.

We teach the children that this time is for preparing for 'coming' or

'arrival' and we have some great discussions about 'Good Things Coming to Those Who Wait' (something of a challenge when you are 5 or 9 or even 42 years old, perhaps!).

For every family in school, for everyone of our children, whatever their creed, there are different and diverse ways of celebrating or enjoying this time of year. And with all that in mind, the best thing about this term is the opportunity to share something really special together no matter how we do it. Time to reflect, time to be with people we love, time to enjoy time to ourselves perhaps, time to dance, sing and celebrate, create treasures that may well reappear for years to come at home, and time to make memories.

For the next years to come, Edenham School will be enjoying and continuing to enjoy channelling the Advent spirit in everything we do. Love Learning, Love Life – Love Life, Love Learning!

Contact school on 01778 591207 or at enquiries@edenham.lincs.sch.uk if you'd like to come to meet us.

Very Happy Christmas and best Wishes for the New Year,

Kris and all at Edenham School

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A Whist Drive was held on Friday 21st October in the Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill when £85 was raised for Church funds.

The winners were:

GENTS

LADIES

1st Mr.M.Brace
2nd Mr.G.Templeman
3rd Mrs.A.Blanchard

1st Mrs.V.Curtis
2nd Mrs.S.Olley
3rd Mrs.T.Brace

The raffle winners were Mrs J Templeman, Mrs V Curtis, Mrs A Blanchard, Mrs G Stanford and Mrs M Imminck. Thank you to all those who supported the evening and to all who generously donated prizes.

The next two dates are: Christmas Whist Drive is on Friday 9th December followed by one on Friday 20th January 2017 both at 7pm

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Willoughby Memorial Trust

Open Art Competition 2016 Results

Class 1 Ages 5 -7 Key Stage 1

1st Oliver Reynolds, 2nd Yasmin Norcliffe, 3rd Ava Daff

H.Com April Thorley, Katie Gonzalez, Chrystal-Mae Lunn, Isabel Hurst, Charles Kavati

Class 2 Ages 8 -10 Key Stage 2

1st Oliver Seward, 2nd Georgia Spooner, 3rd Sophie Witherington

H.Com Year Four Collective, Jimmy Machin, Charlie Machin, Joshua Lindley

Class 3 Ages 11 -14 Key Stage 3

1st Erin Slater, 2nd Elizabeth Hooson, 3rd Shannon Page

H.Com Kieren Hepworth, Georgina Laxton, Molly Greenhalgh, Abby Garthwaite, Anita Wong

Class 4 Ages 15 -16 Key Stage 4

1st Ema Zitenaite, 2nd Georgina Vasey, 3rd Szymen Lampert

H.Com Tegen Wheeler, Lauren Shearman Smith, Isi Priest, Geri Willcoc, Rosie Tomay

CLASS 5 Ages 17 -18 Key Stage 5

1st Lei Payumo, 2nd Ellie Harwood, 3rd Rex Briddon

H.Com Jane McNulty, Soraya Mobasheri, Nathaniel Gadd, Elspeth Rider

CLASS 6 Adults over 18

1st Liz Underhill, 2nd equal Wendy Coaten & John Crampin

H.Com Keith Andreetti, Frances Silver, Barbara Leaning, Valerie Tyler

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

CHOCOLATE YULE LOG

Cake

Filling

4 EGGS

1/4 PINT MILK

4 OZ CASTER SUGAR

2 EGG YOLKS

3 OZ SR FLOUR

6 OZ BOURNVILLE CHOC

1 OZ COCOA POWDER

4 OZ BUTTER

2 OZ ICING SUGAR

Grease & line 12x9 inch Swiss roll tin. Whisk 4 eggs & caster sugar until thick, pale & creamy. Gently fold in sifted flour & cocoa cutting through the mixture in a figure of 8 movement, lifting it from the base of the bowl & shaking the cocoa & flour back into the egg mixture. Pour the mixture into the tin. DO NOT smooth the surface, just tip the tin so that the mixture flows into the corners. Bake at 200c for 12-15 mins until the cake springs back when pressed lightly. While still hot, turn out onto greaseproof paper dredged in caster sugar. Carefully peel off the paper, trim off any crisp edges and cut a line, 1 inch in from one of the short edges but don't slice all the way through. Fold the indented end over & roll up keeping the paper inside. Leave to cool. Heat the milk until just warm. Blend egg yolks in a heatproof basin & beat in milk. Put the basin over a pan of gently simmering water & cook, stirring frequently, until the mixture coats the back of the spoon. Add chocolate & stir until melted. Cover the basin with cling film & leave to cool, stirring occasionally. DO NOT refrigerate. Cream butter & icing sugar, then gradually stir in cooled choc custard. Unroll the cake & spread with 1/3 choc mix. Re-roll carefully so as not to cause cracks, but don't worry too much as they can be covered. Transfer to serving dish. Spread the remaining choc mix onto the cake, covering the ends too. Make lines with a fork – as for the bark of a tree. Chill for approx. 1 hour until set. Decorate as you wish.

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PARISH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2016

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 TH DECEMBER 2 ND OF ADVENT	8.45am PARISH COMMUNION	10am PARISH COMMUNION	11.15am PARISH COMMUNION AND HOLY BAPTISM 4pm EVENING PRAYER – STABLE CHAPEL
11 TH DECEMBER 3 RD OF ADVENT	8.45am PARISH COMMUNION	10am PARISH COMMUNION	11.15am PARISH COMMUNION. 4pm EVENING PRAYER – STABLE CHAPEL
18 TH DECEMBER 4 TH OF ADVENT	8.45am PARISH COMMUNION	10am PARISH COMMUNION	11.15am PARISH COMMUNION 5pm CHRISTINGLE
24 TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE	3pm CRIB SERVICE	4.30pm CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE 11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS	6pm CAROL SINGING AT GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE (BY TICKET ONLY)
25 TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY	8.30am PARISH COMMUNION	9.30am PARISH COMMUNION	10.30am PARISH COMMUNION

FOR BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, CONFESSIONS, OR ANY OTHER PASTORAL OR SPIRITUAL NEED CONTACT :VICAR: THE REVD CANON ANDREW HAWES SSC 01778 591358 - athawes@tiscali.co.uk LICENSED READER: MRS HEATHER LEE 01778 591338 - beltislobelle@btinternet.com

PARISH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2017

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
1 ST JANUARY The naming of Jesus			10.30am THREE PARISHES COMMUNION
8 TH JANUARY BAPTISM OF JESUS	8.45am PARISH COMMUNION	10am PARISH COMMUNION	11.15am PARISH COMMUNION 4pm EVENING PRAYER – STABLE CHAPEL
15 TH JANUARY 2 ND OF EPIPHANY	8.45am PARISH COMMUNION	10am PARISH COMMUNION	11.15am PARISH COMMUNION 4pm EVENING PRAYER – STABLE CHAPEL
22 ND JANUARY 3 RD OF EPIPHANY	8.45am PARISH COMMUNION	10am PARISH COMMUNION	11.15am PARISH COMMUNION 4pm EVENING PRAYER – STABLE CHAPEL
29 TH JANUARY 4 TH OF EPIPHANY	8.45am PARISH COMMUNION	10am PARISH COMMUNION AND HOLY BAPTISM	11.15am PARISH COMMUNION 4pm EVENING PRAYER – STABLE CHAPEL
5 TH FEBRUARY CANDLEMASS		10.30am THREE PARISHES COMMUNION	4pm EVENING PRAYER STABLE CHAPEL