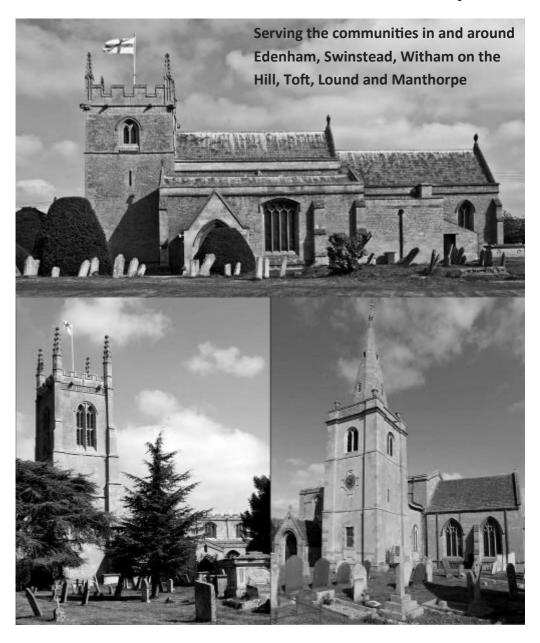
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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 8th February 7.30pm, Edenham Village Hall, in the meeting room. Steam Action AGM. It's your community, come and have your say!

Thursdays monthly, 16 February, 2 March and weekly during Lent until Easter, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. **"Food for Thought"** – bible study at 11am followed by a simple lunch at noon. Donations to Christian Aid.

SOLDIERS' CHARITY EVENT

Saturday 25th February 7.30pm Edenham Village Hall, Smuggler Jack will be playing to raise money for the Soldiers' Charity – Tickets are £15 and include a hot supper. There will be a charity bar. Tickets are limited, contact the Vicarage to buy yours!

Sunday 16th July, Grimsthorpe Castle, '**The Delights of Gardening'**. The 2017 decorated wheelbarrow competition. All members living in The Three Towers area are invited to take part.

Witham on the Hil Historical Society

All in the St Andrew's Parish Hall and talks cost £2 for members and £3 for non-members, unless otherwise stated.

Monday 13th March 7.30pm, Tom Lane "Salt Making in Lincolnshire" Monday 3rd April 7.30pm, members' meeting

Monday 10th April 7.30pm, Anthony Poulton Smith, "When Nature Calls" The history of the Privy.

Monday 22nd May 7.30pm, Dennis Windsor, "The Day the Bomb Fell on Bourne" or "Action over Bourne, May 1941", a German bomber which crashed on to the Butchers Arms pub in Eastgate, Bourne, after being shot down by a RAF Beaufighter operating from RAF Wittering directed by radar from RAF Langtoft.

Advertising manager: member@witham2001.fsnet.co.uk Editor: the3towers1@gmail.com

Parish News

High Speed Fibre Broadband - Are you dissatisfied with your

broadband service? You may be aware that BT has installed so-called "high speed" broadband in our area. Disappointingly, they did not install the capability to bring true high speed to you door. The local parish councils have been cooperating with a view to finding a way to bring fibre connectivity to everyone's front door. It is early stages yet but your councillors ask that you go onto the Gigaclear website www.gigaclear.com and register an interest. You are NOT signing up to anything by declaring an interest. However, the more that declare an interest ,the greater the possibility we will achieve this. The company has already successfully installed a system in Essendine and Carlby.

Edenham Church Christingle - The Christingle service held at Edenham Church on the 18th December raised £137.47 for the Children's Society thank you to the children of Edenham School for helping make up 100 Christingles.

Defibrillator Training - It is some time since defibrillators were installed in Toft and Manthorpe. It has been suggested that there may be a need for a repeat training session on how easy it is to use this potentially life-saving equipment. If you wish to take part in a training session then please contact either David Kreutzberger (07966 442872, 01778 590251, davidk@doubledaygroup.co.uk), or Rosemary Woolley (01778 560634, tlampc2@gmail.com). This training could give you the confidence to save the life of one of your loved ones.

Carol Singing in **Manthorpe** raised just over £214 and **Witham on the Hill** raised almost £110. All the money will help towards the roof repair. Thank you to the merry bands of singers, those who so generously donated, and a special thank you to those who gave out refreshments to lubricate the singers' throats and voices!

Welcome to Alison and John at Bay Cottage, Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

Wedding Lisa Swaine and Nicky Kirk at St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill on Saturday 10 December.

Baptism Amelie, daughter of Poppy (nee Kirkwood) & Jim, at St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill, Sunday 29 January.

Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery

Katherine Winfrey, Alison Coaten, 5 Apr -3 May Ceramics,; Swayfield Art Group, 10 May-7 Jun Mixed Media; Lyn Lovitt, 14 Jun-12 Jul Paintings/Ceramics; Roger Heaton/Shelley Marsden, 19 Jul-16 Aug Paintings; Richard Elton, 23 Aug-20 Sep Paintings & Screen Prints; Liz Partridge, 27 Sep-25 Oct Paintings; Open Art Competition 2 Nov-24 Nov.

During exhibitions the gallery will be open Tuesday to Sunday (and Bank Holiday Mondays) from noon -5pm. www.willoughbygallery.com



Christopher Kent

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THE VICAR WRITES

In common with many readers I have personal experience of mental illness. Up to this point in my life I have had good mental health but several members of my own family have had treatment for mental illness. I have spent a lot of time in psychiatric hospitals and have a fairly all round knowledge of what it means to be mentally ill and its consequences.

Two general observations. First, having seen both, my own view is that mental illness is the source of greater pain than physical illness. Three times I have been with people in inconsolable agony and twice they were people suffering from mental illness. Secondly, mental illness seems to strain and damage personal relationships more than any other illness. When a family member is mentally ill everyone becomes caught up in it. Given the fact that mental illness has emotional symptoms this is not surprising - but it is always worth remembering.

A matter of great concern for us all is the increase in mental illness and the inadequacy of much of the treatments and therapies to bring healing. The increase in mental and emotional disease is a consequence of the unhealthy priorities and patterns of life in contemporary society. The pursuit of security by material means and an emphasis on physical appearance as a source of personal well-being, ludicrously high expectations on relationships of every kind and the tyranny of the 'success culture' are all influences at work in the emotional context for our lives.

Psychology and Psychiatry are words that derive from Psyche – meaning 'soul'. As a priest I do believe that what is needed most in our diseased society is medicine for the soul. I am intrigued by the secular 'retreat movement' that has borrowed some techniques and language from the realm of Spirituality

(Mindfulness is one). The recognition that drugs are not the whole answer points to the need to deal with that part of human being that cannot be discerned in any physical way.

The ministry of Jesus, as it is recorded in the Gospels, encounters many forms of mental illness much of which is described by contemporaries as demonic. Jesus' continual message is that healing comes through forgiveness and reconciliation. He teaches that a heart open to the love of God (who knows all the secrets of our hearts) can experience renewal, that experiencing ourselves as loved we are able to accept ourselves and others. We are taught as Christians

that 'perfect love casts out fear.' This is the love that is stronger than death and from which we can never be separated.

Perhaps we live in such unhappy times because we have forgotten what true love really is. God's love cannot be bought or found in a bottle or jar or even in the gym. It is a gift and with this gift comes the promise of hope and healing.

GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

I have been discussing with some gentlemen of the parish a proposal to get together in an evening, once in a while, to discuss religious and ethical issues. Not subjects usually discussed in pubs – but this would be very civilised. If anyone is interested, please contact me by any of the usual means.

SUPER MESSY SATURDAY

In February SMS is from 10am to 11.30am at Edenham Church on 25th February just before Pancake Day!

LFNT

Begins on March 1st – The Bishop of Grantham is to lead a series of evenings at the Regional House – 'Walking Closer with God' from 7.30pm – 9pm on Wednesday evenings beginning on the 8th March. All welcome.



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2017 Wheelbarrow Event

Many of you will remember the display of decorated wheelbarrows in Edenham Parish during 2012, with the theme of the Queen's Jubilee prompting a variety of displays.

Five years on, I would like to ask everyone to consider repeating this for 2017. The aim is to fill the roadsides and gardens with even more colour and create a visual treat for all those who live, work and even drive through our villages.

The theme for 2017 will be 'The Delights of Gardening'. The hope is that during the summer months, residents will place their decorated barrows where they can be seen and enjoyed by others. By way of a joint celebration everyone will be invited to bring their barrow to Grimsthorpe Castle on Sunday 16th July where they will be displayed and judged as part of the 'Garden Day' event in the park.

There is no formal entry form to fill out but it would be good if you could contact me to let me know if you plan to take part. (ray@grimsthorpe.co.uk).

For 2017 the invitation to join in is extended to all the villages within the Three Towers area. Wouldn't it be great if we had 100 floral wheelbarrows on display for everyone to enjoy?



Editor: the3towers1@gmail.com

Advertising manager: member@witham2001.fsnet.co.uk

Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe Parish Council Clerk's Notes 16th November

During the Public Forum representatives from LIVES, The Willoughby School and St Andrews Church all gave reports on their various organisations before the Chairman-Cllr Stephenson presented them with cheques as donations from the parish.

The Chairman reported that the council had received a response from Lincolnshire County Council detailing the work done on the repair to the road over Manthorpe Bridge. The clerk had updated the Playing Field Roster but would appreciate email contact details of all those who are on the list for 2017. It was reported that Lound did not meet the criteria for a speed regulation order. The damaged street light at the entrance of Fairways should be repaired within 2 to 3 weeks.

Various highways issues were raised – the footpath next to Manthorpe Bridge and the culvert by the side of the Toft bus shelter.

The following planning applications had been approved by SKDC: erection of two storey side extension and single storey veranda at The Old Bakehouse, Manthorpe and a single storey rear extension and additional dormer window to east elevation at Oak House, Lound. The proposed dwelling at 2 Bourne Road, Lound, the appeal was dismissed.

The trees around the bus shelter at Toft had been removed and tiles will be replaced as soon as possible.

Cllr Stephenson reported that he and the Clerk had met with others who were actively interested in getting fibre optic direct to properties in the parish. Councillors felt that they wished to support the scheme but a working party should be arranged with residents. If anyone is interested please contact Richard or any member of the Parish Council.

Councillors agreed that they wished for all BT kiosks to be retained with their telephones in place on the basis that mobile signals are generally weak in the area and these phones could be the only means for some to summon emergency services.

C.Cllr Martin Trollope-Bellew reported that the Minerals & Waste Consultation closed in December. The Peterborough & Stamford NHS Hospital Trust would be going in with Hinchingbrooke, Stamford produces

40% of Peterborough's income. GP Practices in Stamford are hoping to combine and move to the old hospital site.

Rosemary Woolley, Clerk to the Council. Tel: 01778 560634 (answer machine) or tlampc2@gmail.com

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Edenham School News

Edenham School started their Advent with the experience of a Section 48 Inspection – all Church of England and Methodist Schools in England are part of this. As with Ofsted, the parameters for schools have changed fairly regularly over the 5 years since our last Section 48, 5 years ago. A brave new world of primary education, in fact!

The principal objective of this inspection is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school. And, the greatest focus of all is seeking to evaluate the *impact* that these church schools have on all their learners.

The outcome of the inspection emerged as 'Good' overall with an area for development being identified as: 'developing the staff and governors as church school leaders'. The staff and governors have, and will continue to, spend time reflecting on that as it raises all sorts of wider questions about the role of any school.

However, the key aspect we were really delighted about was the aspect of 'Meeting the needs of all learners' recognised as being 'Outstanding'. After all, what else is our purpose?

The final report highlights that:

'This is an exceptionally happy and caring school where explicit Christian values of respect, compassion love and friendship are deeply embedded within every aspect of school life.'

'Relationships between all members of the school community are exceptional. Staff and children respect and value each other highly. As one pupil said, 'It doesn't matter what your opinion is you are always listened to.'

'Parents and pupils are exceptionally positive about relationships within the school. The school's Christian vision impacts positively on the standards of behaviour and achievement in the school. The quality of the partnership between the school and the local community is very good and this is realised by the pupils' understanding of local, national and global communities.'

Other areas identified for celebration include:

The quality of teaching and learning across the curriculum, including RE – a subject area in which a very strong understanding of multiculturalism, the major world faiths and diversity are particularly well developed.

High level of attendance for the majority and swift intervention to improve attendance in other cases.

The nurturing of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils.

The strength of relationship with the local church and the extent to which it impacts on all areas of school life and community, and the extent to which it is valued by families and friends of the school.

All of this was clearly in evidence in our end of Term 2 Carol Service.

All pupils were involved in some shape or form in singing or instrumental performances (especially the inaugural performance of our school band 'Bandboozled'), the church was filled with pupils, staff and families in full festive spirit, the Friends raised something like a whopping £1,400 over all their Christmas events and a family who won the 50:50 very kindly donated it all back to the Friends and the Church. One parent said they felt it had really kick started their Christmas holiday with a bit of zing - joyful organised-chaos! It's hard to top that.

We are welcoming a number of new families to our school over the next few weeks which we are looking forward to very much. Do call if you'd like to enquire about pupil places in our school and book a visit.

Massive thanks to everyone in our community who plays a part in our school – it wouldn't be the same without you.

Very Happy New Year to you all,

Kris Radford-Rea (HT) and all at Edenham School.

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Notes from the Edenham Parish Council Meeting 10th January 2017

Open Forum: The update from 'OnlinelincoInshire' on the forecast delivery dates for the broadband internet upgrade was much appreciated. (Postcodes PE10 OLL, PE10 OLW, PE10 OLN – due March 2017-Sept. 2017. PE10 OLP, PE10 OLR, PE10 OLS – due March 2018 – Sept. 2018). A number of potholes were also reported along Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham.

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.

Parish Christmas Tree/Carol Singing:

The installation and illumination of the Christmas Tree in Edenham has proved to be an overwhelming success. Up to 70 residents joined Council Members and 'Steam Action' to sing carols around the tree and partake in light refreshments on the evening of 13th December. Many thanks to all those involved in the project including Council Members,

Steam Action Chairperson and team, Heath Cranfield, Rob Haddow and especially to the Grimsthorpe Estate whose Forestry Team kindly provided the tree and helped in its installation. Feedback from the parish has been excellent and the Council hope to repeat the project for Christmas 2017.

Children's Play Equipment: Annual safety inspection highlighted several issues that need to be addressed. A subcommittee is to be formed to investigate viable and affordable solutions for these issues - report at next meeting.

Pensions Regulator: Formal notification made to its one employee prior to the Council's Staging Date' that although he did not meet the requirements to be automatically enrolled in a Council Pension Scheme, he could request to do so if he desired. Employee has formally acknowledged the information and confirmed that at this time he did not want to be considered to be enrolled. Secretary to complete the necessary online certificate of compliance with the Pension Regulator.

Annual Precept 2017/18: The total Precept Income for the year will be set at £2,750. Due to reduction in the

Local Council Tax Support Grant and the number of equivalent band D's in the Parish, this will mean the Parish Band D Charge would increase by approx 3.5% to set the precept element at £2,683 along with the LCTSG grant of £67. Agreed by a majority vote.

Financial Matters: Cheques signed prior to meeting: (a) Clerk's wage 3rd Qtr 2016/17-£275:31p. (b) Post Office (HMRC) PAYE 3rd Qtr 2016/17-£68-80p. (c) Wicksteed Leisure safety Inspection -£54.

Highways: To be reported: Potholes - Elsthorpe/Grimsthorpe Road & Scottlethorpe Road. Subsidence - Footpath between Edenham Village Hall and School Lane.

Hedges: The Council would like to take the opportunity to remind property owners/farm tenants that where their boundary hedges border highways/footpaths then 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 by dialling on 101.

The next meeting of the Edenham Parish Council will take place in Edenham Village Hall on Tuesday 14th March at 7:30pm. Council Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every second month starting in January.

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Notes of the Witham on the Hill Parish Council Meeting 21st November 2016

Open Forum

Peter Smith handed a quote for a new sign and fittings which amounted to £120.98 plus VAT. He said that that there might be an extra cost of cement for fixing the post into the ground. He was told to go ahead and get the work done.

Matters to report

It was reported that light No 11 was not working. The Clerk will action.

The field with footpaths 1 and 2 running through it need the footpaths re-instating. The land was owned by Will Stanton. The Clerk will action.

The footpath from the village to the crossroads is in urgent need of cleaning/clearing of leaves and vegetation. Children using the bus find the footpath difficult to navigate and often walked on the road. The Clerk will action.

Cllrs Henriques and Greenwood attended a recent meeting at Manthorpe to discuss the installation of Broadband in villages by a company called Gigaclear. Local Parish Councils had placed an article in the Three Towers magazine and it was suggested we put a similar one in from Witham to say we would recommend residents registering an interest. It was understood the more people that registered it was likely that Gigaclear would install Broadband in the village.

County Cllr T M Trollope-Bellew:

Devolution

The County Council recommended to the Leader that the County should not go forward with the Combined Mayoral Authority, 43 against 17 for 5 Abstentions. The Leader has now informed the Government of the decision, this means that there will be no Mayor. The 8 Authorities who voted for it may put in their own bid in the future.

Minerals & Waste Plan

This will run through till 2031, it can be viewed www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste, any representations must be in by 5pm 19th Dec.

Stamford Hospital

Peterborough & Stamford are looking to join up with Hinchinbrook. The effect on Stamford should be minimal as it produces about 40% of the Trust income. The MRI scanner will be in place at the beginning of 2017. The renovation of the hospital site will not

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be affected by the join up. The paying for parking will only be introduced after the site works have been completed.

SKDC Financial Statements for the year 2015/2016 are now published on the SKDC website.

Planning applications:

S16/2437 – erection of log store and shed storage, siting of compost bins and erection of fence at The Six Bells Main Street. Response by 29th November 2016. Resolved. No comments.

The Clerk had prepared in part a budget for the financial year 2017-18 and although had not sent copies out to Councillors he was able to show the expenditure for 2015-16, the budget for 2016-17, the expenditure and income to date and a revised budget at year end. The budget for 2017-18 was then considered and various figures put in to see what we were going to spend and what if any money we needed by way of a Precept. Advice was given on whether we needed to ask for more income or whether we could manage on the capital that we had. The Clerk also pointed out the present consultation being undertaken by the Government about capping the large Councils and that this might work its

way down to smaller Councils.

It was resolved that the Precept be set at £1836.00 The Clerk was to try and ascertain if a Parish Council could contribute towards repairs to the Church roof.

The Clerk pointed out that we needed to give consideration on whether to purchase a laptop for the Clerk as he used his own computer and if anything happened to him the data might not be transferred to any new Clerk. He also said that consideration should be given to joining LALC and if we should have a Publication Scheme. He was asked to put these on the agenda for the next meeting.

BT is holding a 9- day consultation regarding the removal of payphone kiosks. If there was a red kiosk in the village and this was to be shut down we could apply to purchase it for £1. If we did that BT would give no guarantee on the condition of the kiosk and we would have to be responsible for its upkeep and repair. There was a red kiosk in the village and we should apply to see if we can purchase it. If successful the telephone would be removed and we would be free to use it as we saw fit.

Expenditure

£256.47 – B M Champness £45.60 – HMRC (PAYE) £70.00 - Grimsthorpe Estate

The date of the next meeting is Monday 16th January 2017 at 7pm at St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill.

Witham on the Hill WI

Witham on the Hill WI started the Christmas celebrations this week with circle dancing and singing to Christmas carols led by Julie Bell. Circle dancing is gentle rhythmical dancing and Julie introduced us to traditional dances from around the world. Even though the dancing was gentle, we found much hilarity as we often went wrong and ended up bumping into each other! We then enjoyed a fabulous festive feast provided by members of the WI.

We all had a secret Santa gift, but first the wrapping was judged by all the members. Jean Marshall came 1st, Melanie Russ 2nd and joint 3rd Jane Willmott, Julia Haynes and Deirdre Dunne. Susan Peskett, Trudy Templeman and Lou Blaes won raffle prizes.

The celebrations don't stop there, we are looking forward to a Christmas meal at the Woodhouse Arms in Corby Glen.

A big thank you was said to all our

members who provided gifts to fill shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse. We sent 11 boxes to be delivered to children by Operation Christmas Child.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 February 2017, in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be Sue Walker, talking about the Lincs Notts Air Ambulance. Visitors and new members always most welcome.

For further information contact Secretary Jane Clark, tel 01778 590232.

Thai Herbal Compress Massage



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Kim Lowery IHHT, MICHT 01778 591066 'The Haven', Edenham

A Nun's Prayer (17th Century—Anon)

I suspect that the sentiments put down some 400 years ago are pretty accurate to many of us today!

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Defibrillators

Public Access Defibrillators are installed and ready for use in Manthorpe and Toft.

In Case of Emergency - Dial 999 from a landline or 112 from a mobile.

The ambulance service will know your location from your mobile and will ask you your geographic position from a landline. They will give you the access code to the cabinet if you can assure them that there is at least one other person with the injured person. Enter the code into the keypad and open the door. Take the defibrillator to the emergency.

VFRY IMPORTANT

The defibrillator requires no training - all the instructions are given by the machine. Do not wait for one of the 'trained' residents to come and assist -

TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS - YOU CANNOT GO WRONG!

Did You Know That 112 is Better than 999 from a Mobile?

Did you know that you can dial 112 even when the mobile is locked or when there is no credit on the phone? Not only that but the same number is in use in over 70 countries and will work even if it is not your service provider.

Type the link below into your favourite web browser and spend a really worthwhile 5 minutes finding out why you should use 112 in preference to 999 when dialling the Emergency Services from your mobile.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZv 8dABfU



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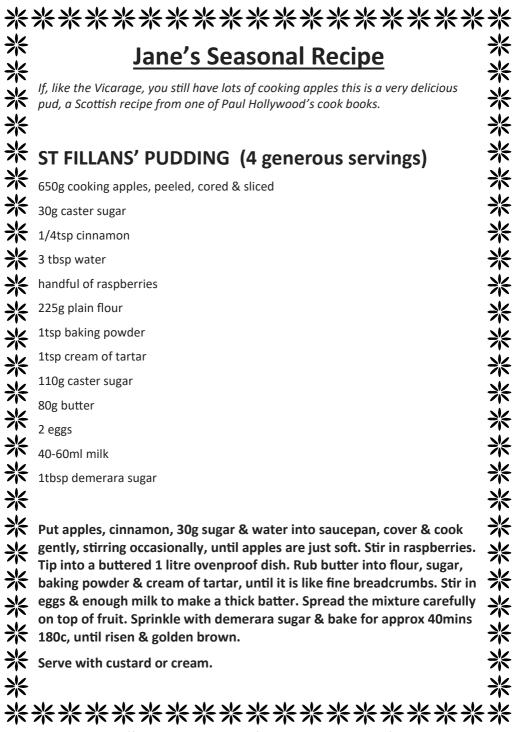
- Affordable door to door service
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For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

| PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2017 | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Swinstead | Witham | Edenham |
| 5 th February Candlemas | | 10.30am Three Parishes Eucharist | 4pm Evening Prayer |
| 12 th February 3 rd Sunday before Lent | 8.45am Parish Communion | 10am Parish Communion | 11.15am Parish Communion 4pm Evening Prayer |
| 19 TH February 2 nd Sunday before Lent | 8.45am Parish Communion | 10am Parish Communion | 11.15am Parish Communion 4pm Evening Prayer |
| 26 th February Sunday next before Lent | 8.45am Parish Communion | 10am Parish Communion | 11.15am Parish Communion 4pm Evening Prayer |
| 1 st March Ash Wednesday | 9am Holy Communion and Ashing | 7.30pm Holy Communion and Ashing | |

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