

The Three Towers

May 2017

Serving the communities in and around
Edenham, Swinstead, Witham on the
Hill, Toft, Lound and Manthorpe



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 13 May 10am, St Andrew's Church coffee morning (new date)

Wednesday 17 May 7pm, Toft Hotel - Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Annual Parish Meeting followed at 7.30pm by the AGM of the Parish Council and Parish Council Meeting.

Saturday 15 July, Handful of Harmonies Concert, St Andrew's Church. Details to follow.

Saturday 15 July 3-5pm, Edenham Church Garden Fete. -

16 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.

23 July Garden Fete in the grounds of Swinstead Hall. In aid of Church funds.

1st Monday of each month - whist drive, 7.30pm, Swinstead Village Hall

2nd Monday of each month - bingo 7.30pm, Swinstead Village Hall

Witham on the Hill 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, 22nd May, 7.30pm, Dennis Windsor, "The Day the Bomb Fell on Bourne" or "Action over Bourne, May 1941", about 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.

Thursday, July 6th, at 10.30am, visit to Flag Fen, Peterborough. The tour takes about 90 minutes and is suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters can be booked subject to availability. There is a small café and a Visitor Centre. **£8 per person to secure the booking which has to be done soon!!!**

Contact Vicky Cox on 01778 590289 byreside@btinternet.com

Parish News

Thanks - On the 8th April Smuggler Jack was back on the road and dropped in at Swinstead Village Hall. £575.00 was raised for St Mary's Church. A very enjoyable evening. St Mary's Church P.C.C.

Congratulations - Katherine and Nigel Jordan on the birth of Felix Edward Peter, a grandson for David and Angela Clifford.

Congratulations - Hannah (nee Hawes) & Patrick King on the birth of Esther on 14 March. A sister for Elijah and Gabriel and the 11th grandchild for Father Andy & Sian!

Wedding Congratulations to Georgiana Applegate and Adam Aldkish married at Edenham Church on 25 March.

Wedding Congratulations to Coleen Clarke & Joe Everitt married at Witham on the Hill on 29 April.

Condolences to family, friends & neighbours on the death of Yvonne Blessett of Manthorpe in March.



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THE VICAR WRITES

May is a majestic and mystical month in the Christian Year. It is a month that opens up the dynamic and powerful relationship between the visible and invisible creation. The beauty and purity of some of the festival days is lost on anyone who considers the entirety of reality to be material. It beggars belief given the universal experience of beauty in the new life and delicate radiance of our environment that anyone does not have the slightest mental or emotional space for wonder and joy at the gift of it all.

The whole month is wrapped in the continuation of the Easter festival which lasts for fifty days until 4th of June. In these weeks it is worth five minutes to pop into one of the churches to see them dressed for Easter – there are few finer works of art to see than the flowers complementing the shape and texture of the interior – all given depth by the light and shade of the sunlight falling from the high windows. On the 21st May (Rogation Sunday) we ask God's blessing on the growing crops and those who care for them. On Ascension Day (forty days after Easter Day) the Christian Church celebrates the 'break through' made by Jesus in opening up eternal life to

humanity and the initiation of the New Created Order in which the One who chose to be the slave of all becomes the 'name above all names.'

This year our Parish Confirmation is on Ascension Day and we will join with the nine candidates for Baptism and Confirmation in renewing our faith in the God whose will and purpose is to strengthen us by His presence in our life by the gift of His Spirit.

The very last day of the month is the feast of the visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. This day recalls that collision of joy when Mary, now pregnant with Jesus, visits her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist – another baby that was a gift from God. This feast is a reminder how the eternal God has intervened in human history to open up a living way back to him who is the beginning and end of all things.

From my perspective the wonder of God's revelation of himself is more perfect and beyond understanding than the minute perfection of May Blossom.

THE BIG BREKKIE!

Come to Big Brekkie in aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 20th May from 8-11am at the Parish Hall Witham on the Hill.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The next F4T will be on Ascension Day Thursday 25th May and the 15th June at 11am

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH

From noon on Thursday 25th May and the 15th June – all welcome

ROGATION SUNDAY

Rogation Walk begins at Swinstead Church at 4pm and ends at Edenham Vicarage with a picnic at 5.30pm. Service in the garden at 6pm. Come to one part or more!

Edenham Regional House

Creative Fridays are free and take place on the 4th Friday of the month from 10am to 3pm are:

26th May - Gardens of Grimsthorpe Castle – a trip to Grimsthorpe.

23rd June - Fun with letters led by Erica Burt

28th July - Paint and Pray Workshop – follow your own inspiration with Kate Austin of Christ Art.

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The Adventures of Augustine

Augustine is a high church mouse. He has made his home in a redundant thurible, hanging in a cupboard in the vestry of St Agnes-on-the-Hill church. Things had never been the same since Father Mark left to become a Roman Catholic. Augustine said to himself the candle has slipped away very badly. Local priests had helped to keep a monthly Mass going. Celebration of saints' days and other festivals had vanished off the face of the earth. Pastoral visiting no longer existed. Augustine sighed for the olden days. He was too young to remember Sir John Betjeman but he had heard Sir John's poems and sympathised with him.

As he settled down to sleep in his thurible, his mind relived those past days and he dreamed of the future. Augustine awoke to the sound of voices in the vestry. He looked through a crack in the door of his cupboard and saw three or four people he knew. Amongst them the two church wardens and one man he didn't recognise. This man was wearing a purple shirt, so Augustine assumed he must be the Bishop. What did he want? Augustine wondered. After a lot of words from the Bishop, which Augustine thought were meaningless, the Bishop said something that made Augustine sit up and listen. The Bishop admitted he had made a mistake. Augustine thought that Bishops did not generally admit to their mistakes. It was not good for their image within the House of Bishops. But here was this Bishop saying he had got it all wrong by trying to make St Agnes-on-the-Hill fit into the general churchmanship of the Diocese. He would put things right. He realised that there should be certain parishes that followed the true traditional catholic line. The Bishop said he had somebody in mind, a Father Andrew, and he would be here in six months' time.

To be continued.... Father David

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?



MANTHORPE IN BLOOMIN' WHEELBARROWS!

As you can read in Ray Biggs' advert, he has widened the catchment area for all Three Towers readers to join in this year's wheelbarrow event. Manthorpe residents will be getting a flyer through their doors to invite them to join in and make a wonderful display for their front gardens and driveways in a wheelbarrow. You don't have to be a keen gardener or green-fingered to join in as long as your display is bright and cheerful with the theme 'The Delights of Gardening'. There is a small prize on offer for Manthorpe residents and also we can arrange transport if required to enter the wheelbarrow competition at Grimsthorpe on the 16th July. I will need to know who would like to enter for the Grimsthorpe competition in advance.

Look forward to seeing your wheelbarrows on show. For Further information contact Alison Whitehead, Church Farm Manthorpe. 01778 590347



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Recent work by the Swayfield Art
Group

The exhibition will feature traditional representations of a variety of subjects including local scenes, landscapes, botanical studies, animal portraits and much more, mainly painted in watercolour.

This is the second show at the Willoughby Gallery for the group of sixteen local amateur artists from Swayfield and the surrounding area who meet in the Village Hall each Tuesday morning to engage their passion for drawing and painting. The group offers no formal instruction or tuition – only the opportunity to sit down together for a couple of hours and paint – whilst encouraging and helping one another with technical advice and constructive criticism.

The primary aim of the exhibition is to invite visitors to celebrate the achievements of the Group. Anyone who is interested in drawing and painting will want to

see what these local amateurs have accomplished.

**Preview of the exhibition on
Wednesday 10th May 6.30 -
9.00pm.**

During exhibitions the gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday (and Bank Holiday Mondays) from 12 noon - 5 p.m.

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Witham on the Hill WI

As with all WIs we needed to have our Annual Meeting and this one was entered into with trepidation because our fabulous President for the last 4 years, Julia Haynes, was stepping down. Julia gave her address saying this was a chance for a new face to take over. She thanked the committee for all their hard work and she then presented gifts to June Dandridge & Julia Thompson because they were leaving the committee.

The new committee for the Witham on the Hill WI is Lou Blaes, Elaine Brock, Jane Clark, Vicky Cox, Anne Marie Lilly, Delia Holland Jones, Melanie Russ and Barbara Vann. There was then a secret ballot for President which was supervised by Rebecca Main WI adviser. Melanie Russ was nominated & agreed to take the role. Treasurer, Anne Marie Lilly presented the audited annual accounts which are showing a healthy balance.

Jane Clark gave a report of the Lincs South Federation WI spring council meeting and read the committee's annual report which told of a very busy year with some great social events and interesting speakers.

Every month we have a competition relevant to the speaker, the scores are tallied up during the year and the results were announced: Jane Clark was 1st, Vicky Cox 2nd and Frances Plummer 3rd. Rebecca presented the trophies & gift vouchers. Hazel Darley & Jane Clark won raffle prizes.

The next meeting is Tuesday May 2nd. Elaine Harburn will be talking about Textile souvenirs of WWI. All visitors are sure of a warm welcome.

WI SPEAKERS 2017

2 May - Elaine Harburn: Textile Souvenirs of WW1

6 June – Yuko Swindells: Sushi demonstration

4 July – Michael Brown: medieval gardener

1 August Adam Lowe: The ruler – a soldier's tale

5 September – Lorna Grey: "Make a wish"

3 October – Paul Stammers: Ospreys at home and away

7 November – Annie Hall: Hamlin Fistula Hospital, Ethiopia

5 December – Christmas party

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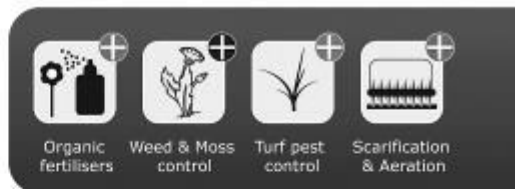
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Swinstead News

Village Hall Flower Rota:

29 April -6 May Mollie Lunn

13 May -20 May Joyce Dickens

27 May - 3 June Enid Clarke

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For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

PARISH SERVICES FOR MAY 2017

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
7 th May Easter 4	8.45am Parish Communion	10am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
14 th May Easter 5	8.45am Parish Communion	10am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
21 st May Easter 6 Rogation Sunday	8.45am Parish Communion 4pm meet Swinstead Church for Rogation walk to Edenham	10am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion 5.30pm picnic followed by Rogation Service at 6pm
25 th May Ascension Day			7pm Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
28 th May Sunday after Ascension	8.45am Parish Communion	10am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
4 th June Pentecost	8.45am Parish Communion	10am Parish Communion	11.15am 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