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## Parish News

**THANK YOU** to everyone in Manthorpe who generously gave to the **Manthorpe Carol Singers**. This was another impressive round of giving where **£243.14** was raised in aid of St Andrews church funds. The singers very much appreciated the food and drinks along the way; typical Manthorpe hospitality.

**THANK YOU** to the “angelic singers” and those who generously supported us during this year’s **carol singing in Witham**. Another great event that raised **£132** for St Andrews church funds.

**THANK YOU** from Denis Murray to the sponsors of his Lincolnshire Churches Trust Fund Sponsored Ride and Stride. Denis visited 22 churches and raised a record £261, half of which will go towards Edenham church funds.

**THANK YOU** to Edenham School children for helping to make up the 120 Christingles for the annual Christingle service on the 17th December where we raised £194 for the Children’s Society.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the **Food for Thought** lunches and **Big Brekkies** in Witham on the Hill. In 2017 **£1,456.60 was raised for Christian Aid**. Well done – a magnificent sum!

**BAPTISM** of baby Rex Bear Burley, son of Claire (nee Renner) and Gareth Burley at St Andrew’s Church, Witham on the Hill on 19 November.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS** to Samantha (formerly of Manthorpe, daughter of Peter and Sue Cork) and Philip Jeffries, married at Comberton Church, near Cambridge on 11 November.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS** to Sophie Russell and Harry Coups, married at Edenham Church on 30 December.

**GOOD LUCK** to Coleen, Joe and Oliver Everitt in your new home in Stamford.

**WELCOME** Rachel to East Green, Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

**STEAM ACTION PANTO** What great fun was had at the panto! Lots of booing and hissing for the baddie (David Hawes), cheering for Robin Hood

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(Nikki Gunn), plenty of topical local jokes, magnificent costumes, a bit of singing, and chocolate coins thrown for the children. What more could you want for an afternoon of entertainment? Well done to everyone – thank you Steam Action.

## Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 10 February** and Saturday 7 April **8am-11am**, the **Big Brekkie** in **St Andrew's Parish Hall**, Witham on the Hill. Donations to Christian Aid. Come and start your day with a Father Andy special!

**Thursday 15 February** and weekly each Thursday during Lent until Easter - **11am - Bible study St Andrew's Parish Hall**, followed by a simple lunch at noon – donations to Christian Aid.

**Thursday 8 and 22 February 10:30am , Coffee Mornings** at **Swinstead Village Hall** - tea / coffee and cakes £1.50 - All Welcome

**Saturday 24 March 2 – 4pm, Easter Fayre Swinstead Village Hall.** With stalls and tea / coffee etc. Stalls can be booked by contacting Ethel on 01476 552169 or Liz on 01476 550972.

**Saturday 7 April, Swinstead Village Hall cheese and wine evening .** With vocal entertainment by local entertainer Chris Hatch. Tickets £5 to include first glass of wine.

## Lent in Three Towers Land

**Every Thursday:** 15th and 22nd February. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March - **10:15am – Eucharist** – St Andrew's Witham on the Hill followed at **11am** by **Food for Thought** – Coffee and discussion of Sunday's Gospel reading in the Parish Hall then a **Lent lunch** of bread, soup and cheese at **12 noon** – all proceeds to Christian Aid.

**Every Thursday 7:30pm** 22nd February, 1st ,8th, 15th and 22nd March at **Edenham Regional House - 'Simple Prayer'** – five talks on the fundamentals of Christian prayer – Andrew Hawes.

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## THE VICAR WRITES

'Life long learning' has been a catch-all description of all kinds of adult education programmes and activities. To keep learning throughout life is easier said than done. For various reasons we can be turned off learning – it might be that our experience of school was almost entirely negative. It might be that in various ways we have been convinced that we are useless at it. It may be that we are quite content the way we are and don't want to learn anything new. There will be, of course, some readers who think they know it all already!

The first description of a Christian is a 'Disciple' – which simply means a 'learner'. The Christian never comes to the point where they stop learning.

The syllabus for the Christian stretches over every aspect of life and its core subjects include the Bible and the broader Christian Tradition. Furthermore, the Christian has to explore not only the area of intellect in building up knowledge and understanding but also enter into the mystery of spiritual experience. Christian Discipleship has an impact on every area of life-style. It is a whole-person, whole-life endeavour.

To describe the Christian life in these terms will be a puzzle to the majority of people. A quick glance at the written media and a channel hop across the broadcast media will reveal a rather tired disdain for religion in general and the Christian Faith in particular! This was illustrated recently by the proposal (by the presenters) to ditch 'Thought for Today' on Radio 4.

I am, of course, convinced that the Christian Faith stands up to the most robust examination from any intellectual discipline. I am more than willing to meet with anyone to discuss any issues arising from Christian ethics and teaching.

Lent is a six-week period set aside in the Church's year for stretching minds and souls and The Three Towers contains details of what's on offer in these parishes and the Deanery. If anyone would like any more details please get in touch.

I am very interested in getting a group of enquirers/interrogators together and meeting on a Sunday evening – if you would like to know more please ask.



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The house is located in the Parish of Edenham in the rich countryside of Lincolnshire five minutes away from the deeply historic Grimsthorpe Castle Park and Gardens.

### **Days of Reflection**

The Icon of Friendship Across the threshold with Christ - Saturday 3rd February. Led by Rev Canon Stephen Hoy, Lincoln Diocese Spirituality Adviser. During this day we will be considering an icon from the 8th century that asks us many questions about how we see and perceive the holy, and how we encounter this in ourselves and in our relationship with Christ.

Castles, Bridges and Moats - Friday 9th March. This day will be led by Rev Sally Myers, Principal of the Lincoln School of Theology. Rev Myers will reflect on the 'Interior Castle' by Theresa of Avila

To book a place on any of the days listed above, please call 01778 591358 or [emailedenhamoffice@gmail.com](mailto:emailedenhamoffice@gmail.com)

## **What is a Retreat?**

A retreat is exactly what it sounds like — the chance to step aside from life for a while, to rest and just 'be' in a welcoming, peaceful place. Retreats offer the opportunity to: find space, reflect, pray and worship in peaceful and comfortable surroundings. Some of them might involve different activities like walking or gardening. There are two types:

### **Individually Guided Retreats**

These retreats are held in atmosphere of quiet and enable individuals (who are accompanied by an experienced prayer guide) to respond to the call of Christ in their lives. The days include a time of prayer and worship together, but is tailored to the needs of each individual.

### **Conducted Retreat**

These retreats are more group focused and are conducted by a leader. They are usually held over a weekend or Mon-Fri. A typical day will involve 9am Morning Prayer, 10am Address (a talk lasting about 20 minutes), 12-noon Eucharist, 1pm Lunch, 4pm Address, 5.30pm Evening Prayer, 6.30pm Supper and 9pm Night Prayer. Suggested contribution of £175 or you can take a flexible approach to a traditional conducted retreat. If you find that you don't have the time to complete a whole retreat you can join us for 1 day or more and you don't have to stay over! You can pick any combination of days and just pay £22.50 per day with supper included! (£15 without supper).

### **Conducted Retreat: 12th - 16th March 2018**

The Letters of St Peter, led by Father Andrew Hawes. Suggested contribution of £175 or you can take a flexible approach to a traditional conducted retreat; If you find that you don't have the time to complete a whole retreat you can join us for 1 day or more and you don't have to stay over! You can pick and combine days and just pay £22.50 per day with supper included! (£15 without supper).

# 100 years ago this month

(From entries made by the Rev L H Cooley into the Parish Magazine—  
reproduced by kind permission of The Witham on the Hill Historical Society)

## February 1918

**The Day of Intercession** was on the whole, well observed here. Unwontedly large congregations were present, and the special forms of service issued by authority were used throughout the day. The services, we are told, made a deep impression on many.

The collections (£1/6/6) were sent to the Red Cross Society. This solemn day must be the key-note for the year. We should try to make a far greater use of our weekly Intercession every Sunday at 11, and if it really is the case that we can come to one service only, let it be rather than in the evening.



*In an article about Mr Thomas Pick of Elderwood, who has made a complete recovery after his long and critical illness, the following was included. "We feel also that we speak for all in saying how heartily we welcome Mr. Edgar Pick's return home, which happily coincided with the commencement of his father's improvement in health, and probably even contributed to it."*

**The Social Evening**, organized by the Committee of the Reading Room (*Parish Hall*) on December 27th, realized a net profit of £9, £3 of which has been sent already to the Netley Hut Fund, to be followed by a further contribution at the end of the season, if the funds allow.

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# Notes from the Edenham Parish Council Meeting 9th January

**Open Forum:** No members of public present. Chairman 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](mailto:edenham.pc@btinternet.com) – or contacting any of your current councillors.

## **Parish Council Meeting:**

### **Interactive Speed Warning Sign:**

Grant application from the Lottery 'Awards for All' Scheme successful, funds received (£2,192). Application for site surveys along Main Street, Edenham and Main Road, Grimsthorpe being progressed.

**Children's Play Area:** Initial funding bid for play surface replacement deferred by SKDC pending further information on ongoing costs. However, it was agreed that a new application should be processed to include both replacement play surface and installation costs of the equipment posts that need to be replaced. Failure of this bid will possibly result in the permanent

closure of the facility unless other funding can be obtained - ideas on such to be passed to your councillors.

## **Financial Matters:**

Cheques signed:

HMRC - PAYE 3rd Qtr 2017/18 - £71  
Mr LA Clayton - wage Admin/Street Cleaning 3rd Qtr 2017/18 £283-71p  
Carols - Refreshments £73-64p  
Tree lights - Batteries £57-17p  
Lincolnshire County Council - LRSP Site Survey Speed Indicator - £40

**Planning:** Application S17/2027 - Mr Mrs D Bradley, bungalow alterations at 46 Scotlethorpe Road, Edenham - permission granted, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2017.

**Village Signs:** The parish council would like to pass on their sincere thanks to Mr Desmond Bradley for the new village signs that he has had made and erected to replace the old ones that had become faded. They are a vast improvement - thanks Desmond.

**Christmas Tree/Carol Singing:** The Carol Singing event around the Parish Christmas tree was well attended considering the snow and cold weather. Thanks to all involved in the evening, especially Grimsthorpe Estate forestry team (providing and installing tree), Steam Action (carol sheets and leading the singing), Heath Cranfield (use of field and new access gate) and all those who helped with the lights, refreshments etc.



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## REFLECTIONS

(by Father David Bratley)

In our younger days

We lived in simpler ways.

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no computers, mobile phone or  
online chat.

There was nothing like that.

We could just about fly,  
now we have conquered the sky.

We press keys,  
everything for our ease.

We ask what is this and that,  
our head spins in the chat.

The language is foreign.

Please can we stay the same,  
and live in the world we know  
with things just so.

One question before I die,  
what on earth is PPI?

Hope to repeat the event this year!!!

**Highways:** Please be advised that the Lincolnshire County Council Website ([www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/)) holds a lot of information on Lincolnshire Highways such as planned works, road closure etc along with an online defect reporting system that anyone can use to report things such as potholes, damaged road signs or street lighting faults.

The next meeting of the Edenham Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 13th March, 2018 commencing at 7:30pm.

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## **Witham on the Hill WI**

In May, we had the pleasure of seeing the church decked out with thousands of paper flowers made from old bibles and hymn books by Coleen and Joe for their wedding. For our December meeting, Coleen and Joe came to show us how to make two different types of paper flowers, one used the origami technique and the other by folding, gluing and embellishing lots of paper. As with all things, some of the members found the paper flowers easier to make than others but we all made a flower or two. During the evening there was much chatting and laughing as we

enjoyed mulled wine and delicious food. Our competition was to wrap a Christmas present and each member took one of the presents from Santa's sack. Kay Mundy came 1st with a beautifully wrapped present, Jean Marshall 2nd and Frances Plummer 3rd. The raffle winners were Jenny Stanton, Margaret Rine and Melanie Russ. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6th February at 7:30 pm in Witham on the Hill Parish Hall, when Richard Haynes will be talking about Impressions of Russia. All visitors are sure of a warm welcome. For further information contact Secretary, Jane Clark, tel 01778 590232.

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# Lincolnshire Churches Trust Fund Sponsored Ride and Stride

A big thank you to all my sponsors this year . A record £ 261 was raised , half of which will go towards Edenham church funds. 22 churches were visited with mixed fortunes . The morning ride was quite uneventful , the weather being good , as I followed a route through Witham , Thurlby, Market Deeping to Stamford. In Stamford I had to take refuge in St. Leonard's Priory to avoid a sharp shower . Stamford Civic Society were holding a fund raising event , with displays , which was interesting. My luck then ran out , in the centre of Stamford , when my bike suffered multiple punctures from one drawing pin ! However with kind assistance from Messrs. Harrison & Dunn I was able to resume my homeward journey. Managing to avoid most showers I finally reached home via Carey , some nine hours later.

**Denis Murray**

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# Swinstead News

## Flower Rota

27 January - 3 February Anita Henson

10 February Natasha Henson

14 February Lent No flowers

## WHIST DRIVE

A Whist Dive was held on Friday 8th December in the Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, when £95 was raised for Church funds. The winners were:

### GENTS

1st Mrs P Cranfield

2nd Mr S Osborne

3rd Mrs D Bennett

### LADIES

1st Mrs M Imminck

2nd Mrs J Osborne

3rd Mrs T Brace

The raffle winners were Mrs J Osborne, Mrs J Templeman, Mrs D Bennett, Mr S Osborne, Mrs E Brewster, Mrs M Imminck, Mrs B Carter, Mrs G Stanford and Mrs T Brace.



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A decorative border of black floral patterns surrounds the text. The border consists of a top row of 20 flowers, a bottom row of 20 flowers, and vertical columns of 10 flowers on the left and right sides.

## Jane's Seasonal Recipe

*After all the indulgences of the festive season, this makes a nutritious and healthy change.*

### **Green Soup (SERVES 2)**

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 chopped onion

1 chopped courgette

500ml veg stock

1 chopped avocado

85g spinach

juice of ½ lemon

Sauté the onion until soft, add courgette & stock. Simmer for 10 mins. Add avocado, spinach & lemon juice. Cook for a few mins to wilt the spinach. Blend until smooth. Season to taste. Add more stock if you prefer a thinner soup.

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## PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2018

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 <sup>th</sup> February Candlemass		10:30am Three Parishes Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer
11 <sup>th</sup> February Sunday next before Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evening prayer and benediction	11:15am Parish Eucharist
14 <sup>th</sup> February Ash Wednesday	9am Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes		7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
18 <sup>th</sup> February 1 <sup>ST</sup> Sunday in Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Deanery Evensong – Bourne Abbey	11:15am Parish Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist 6pm Deanery Evensong (yes at Swinstead!)	10am Parish Eucharist	11:15am Parish Eucharist
4 <sup>th</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 6pm Deanery Evensong Corby Glen	11:15am Parish Eucharist

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