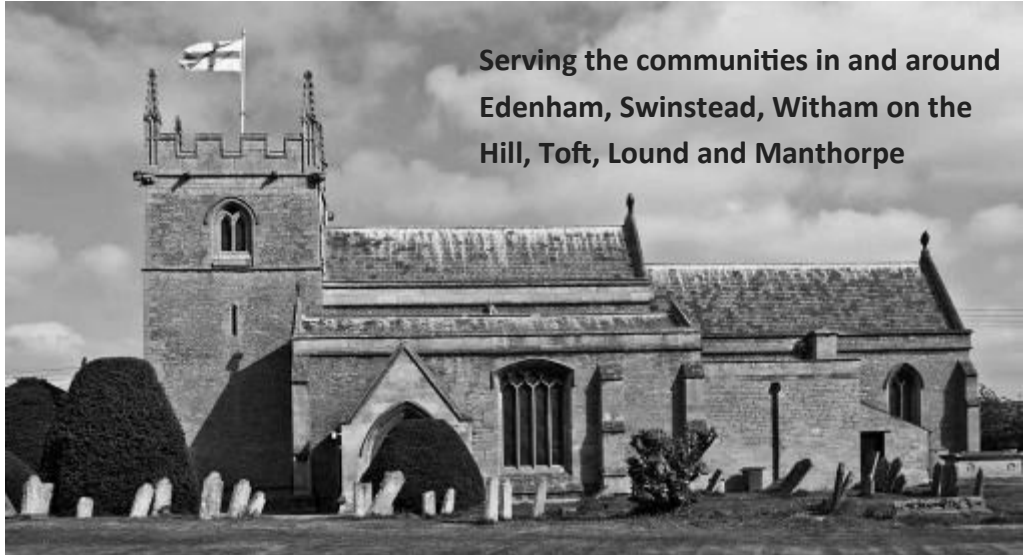


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Parish News

SWINSTEAD POORS LAND CHARITY: Each year the Swinstead Poors Land Charity pays out a small amount of money to the pension age residents of Swinstead. To qualify for this payment you must have one person in your household who is 65 years or over and has lived in the village for 10 years or longer. If you have not received this payment in the past and feel that you do qualify please contact one of the trustees to be included in this scheme. One payment per household. If you are already receiving a payment you do not need to do anything.

Trustees: George Brown, Pat Wright & Bryan Lynch bl7lynch@outlook.com

CONDOLENCES to Richard Setchell and family on the loss of John Setchell of Ingoldsby who passed away on 14 February, the day after his 90th birthday.

CONDOLENCES to family and friends of Sharon Hannah, who passed away on 10 February. Sharon, her late husband, and sons, Jerome and Magnus, lived at Witham Manor and then St Halina for some years in the 1980s and 1990s.

CONDOLENCES to Harold Russell, family and friends, on the loss of Joey Russell.

CONDOLENCES to Kevin O'Hara and family on the loss of his mother, Elvie.

GOODBYE to Karen and Leah Clark and Shaun Hill of Witham on the Hill. Good luck in your new home and for your future in Shropshire.

Dates for your Diary

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!

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 can be obtained by calling 01476 552169 or 01476 550972

Wednesday 11 and 25 April 10:30am to 12 noon, Swinstead Village Hall coffee mornings - tea, coffee and cakes - £1.50. All welcome.

Saturday 14 and 28 April, Swinstead Village Hall Pub Games & Social Evenings - all welcome, no cover charge.

Thursday 19 April 11am, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Food for Thought: Bible study followed by a simple lunch at noon – donations to Christian Aid.

Thursday 19 April 7pm, Toft Country House Hotel, Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe Annual Parish Meeting. This is the electors meeting in which they may pass resolutions on public activities or policies in the parish of any local authority, public body or government department .

Monday, 30th April 7.30pm - WOTH Historical Society talk: **Brian Lawrence** "Bourne Then and Now". Members £2, visitors £3, All Welcome.

Saturday 30 June, Edenham Village Hall. Steam Action want your help at the Edenham Extravaganza. If anyone has any prizes they can donate to the tombola or raffle, please drop these off with Doris Bee. If you would like a stall, or would like to volunteer to help on the day please contact Nikki on 07908 111690. Thank you!



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THE VICAR WRITES

How do you think? By that question I mean: 'How do you make decisions?' The latest research in neurology looking at how the brain works in the decision-making process reveals that the rational function of the brain does not make decisions. The decisions are made intuitively, subconsciously and the rational part of the brain then ratifies and then processes them into actions. Some neurologists have highlighted the activity of cells identical to those in the brain, but found in the stomach, as playing a part in decision-making. This would make sense of the common phrase 'a gut reaction' or 'I knew it in my guts.'

In his letters St Paul talks about knowing Christ in the 'guts'. Thinking and knowing are not entirely rational activities. Being in love or managing family relationships are not rational. Even the activities of deciding how to vote in an election or what to buy in a shop are not rational. I think that it is fairly incontestable observation.

Why is it then that being rational has been exalted as the only way to know and think, particularly in regard to the Christian faith?

As a person of faith who values the

spiritual over the material, I have never understood this slavery to reason. Being rational helps interpret the rational material world which for the most part follows rational laws (although I understand from friends who are scientists that science has abandoned the concept of 'law' for 'theory', as so many laws have proved to be inaccurate).

A friend of mine, who taught mathematical physics at university and became a monk, calls rationality 'the cloak over the human heart'. It is by casting off this 'cloak' that the writer writes, the artist paints and the children play. The English philosopher and theologian Eric Mascall wrote a wonderful book in the 1980's 'Whatever Happened to the Human Mind?' In it he argues that until the advent of the scientific theory the human mind, certainly in Europe, was understood to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit of God – this spiritual light was the source of knowledge and understanding; the purpose of reason was to interpret what had been understood. This does sound very familiar to the latest findings of neurology.

The New Testament teaches us 'to let your minds be remade' and to seek 'the mind of Christ.' Jesus never reasoned anything out with anybody.

Often, in response to a question, he would tell a story and thus triggered emotion, memory and imagination in the interrogator. That is what we might call wisdom, something very different to simply knowing a few facts.

Witham Church and School Estate Education Fund

This charity is able to make grants to those residents of the Manthorpe, Toft, Lound and Witham on the Hill who are undertaking courses at colleges and universities and also those who are on apprentice schemes. If you would like to make an application please write a letter setting out the nature of your course and the reasons for seeking a grant.

Please send it to:

The Clerk to the Trustees
Witham Church and School Estate
c/o The Vicarage,
Church Lane
Edenham PE10 0LS

SNOW

I don't like snow
Said the man who should know.

Once he was young and agile
Now he is old and fragile.

In between it was a different scene
He had snowball fights
sledge flights,
he built snowmen.

Until one day, they melted away
where, he could not say.

Now I don't like snow
Said the man who should know.

Fr David Bratley

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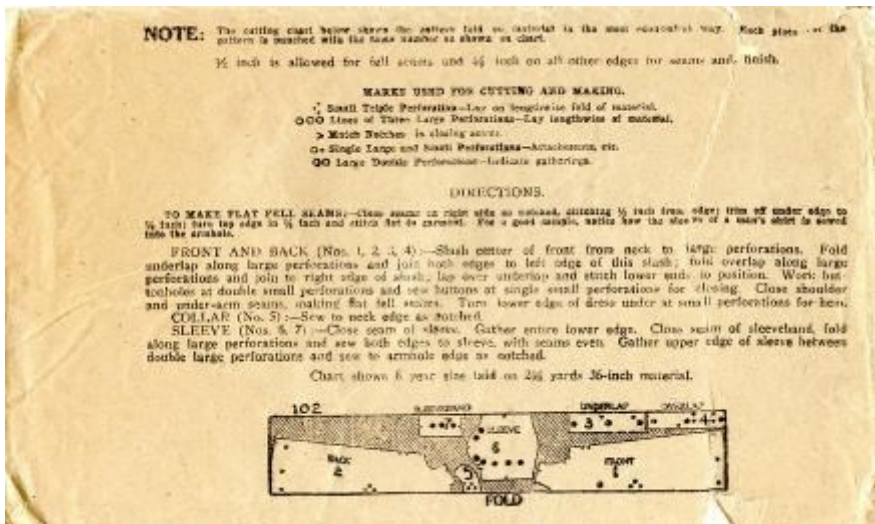
100 years ago this month

(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)

April 1918

More Light in Church. - Now that the dark evenings are over, we propose to remove the distemper from a portion of the West window, which will let in much additional light. Should it unhappily be necessary to screen the windows next winter, which please God may not be the case, we shall provide a curtain in its place.

Easter Offerings. - The Churchwardens, unknown to the Vicar, decided in accordance with ancient custom, to give the collection on Easter Day to the Incumbent. He is deeply conscious of their kindness, but whatever the amount may be, he will accept it only on condition that he may devote it towards a fund for providing a memorial to our fallen soldiers. We hope, after the war, to erect some standing monument to commemorate their names for ever, and the Easter offerings shall form the first instalment of this fund.



Lieut. Fenwick has been recently appointed as General Staff Officer on the Defence of London. We congratulate him on this appointment, which is a gratifying tribute to his military ability. As a consequence, we shall see but little of him here, and the Hall will be closed.

Sewing Meetings. - In consequence of the above, the proposed fortnightly Red Cross Sewing Meetings at the Hall will have to be abandoned, but the Vicar has suggested that they might be held at the Vicarage, if there is a further supply of material to be made up. Due notice will be given should this be arranged, and we hope to enrol many fresh helpers.

An Easter Social is to be held on Easter Monday, the proceeds to be given towards presents for our soldiers.

April 9th Germany started an offensive in Flanders

Notice of Annual Parish Meeting

The Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 19th April 2018 at Toft Country House Hotel starting at 7pm. This is an occasion for electors to raise any concerns they may have and discuss, make resolutions & vote. They are not legally binding for the Parish Council. This is the electors meeting in which they may pass resolutions on public activities or policies in the parish of any local authority, public body or government department provided that they affect this parish and not calculated to affect the whole country or all Parishes.

Please come along and give your Councillors ideas, support and concerns.

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Arthur Galton Vicar of Edenham

A new book which will be of interest in our parish has just been published. Entitled **Arthur Galton Vicar of Edenham**, it tells the story of the life of the man who was our vicar one hundred years ago at the beginning of the 20th century. The author, Margaret McKay, writes...

“From 1904 - 1921 Arthur Galton was vicar of Edenham, Elsthorpe and Grimsthorpe. There is no one left alive today who knew him but for my father’s and grandfather’s generation he was a significant figure in the life of the village. My grandfather, Arthur Holmes, was church warden and gravedigger in the first decades of the twentieth century and my father, also an Arthur, was a child of ten when the vicar died in February 1921. It was anecdotes of my father’s about the reverend Galton that first excited my curiosity about the man behind the title. In particular there was the story of an intruder to the vicarage who, one dark night was frightened off by Mr Galton brandishing a pistol (a shot was fired inside the house). And then there was the tale of the Sunday morning visits of Lawrence of Arabia roaring into the village on his, according to my uncle, Bill Holmes, “Brough Superior”, motorbike! Many years after hearing these anecdotes, and others, I decided I simply had to find out what lay behind these mysterious goings on in Edenham, a village which I also have loved since childhood and its associations with my grandparents and rambling in the surrounding countryside.

The outcome of my quest was more fascinating than I could have imagined – albeit not quite in the Indiana Jones manner that the incident of “the vicar with the pistol” initially suggested. Instead it turned out to be the story of the child of an eminent and wealthy scientific family (Francis Galton was Arthur’s second cousin), who, despite a promising start in life, carved out an unconventional, zigzag path for himself, encompassing religious conversions, a five year

Too dearly
loved to be
forgotten . . .



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sojourn in Australia and a circle of friends and acquaintances ranging from Matthew Arnold, Oscar Wilde, Laurence Binyon and W.B.Yeats, to thrice Prime Minister, William Gladstone, and the modernist American poet, Ezra Pound – who once spent a weekend in Edenham! The quest for Arthur Galton certainly proved to be a journey worth the taking.”

Arthur Galton vicar of Edenham by Margaret McKay (£9.50) is available from Edenham Regional House (the vicarage), Edenham, also from The Grimsthorpe Castle shop, and from Callow’s, Market Place, Market Deeping and other local retail outlets.

Email contact: mmspostbox@gmail.com

WHIST DRIVE

A Whist Drive was held on Friday 16th February in the Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, when £72.50 was raised for church funds. The winners were:

GENTS		LADIES	
1st	Mr M Brace	1st	Mrs M Imminck
2nd	Mrs D Bennett	2nd	Mrs B Carter
3rd	Mr S Osbourne	3rd	Mrs V Curtis

The raffle winners were: Mrs B Carter, Mr S Osbourne, Mrs M Imminck, Mrs J Osbourne, Mrs E Brewster, Mr M Brace, Mrs P Cranfield and Mrs P Collier. Thank you to everyone for your support and for your contributions of raffle prizes. The April Whist Drive is on Friday 20th April at the new time of 1.30pm. This will be the last one until the autumn.

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Notes from the Edenham Parish Council Meeting 13th March 2018

Open Forum. Cllr N Robins (SKDC) gave the meeting a brief update on work/projects underway at District Council. These include progress on the Town Markets, Retail Forum, Improvements to Leisure Centres, Improvements to SKDC Community Grant Funding Scheme, SKDC working closely with Rutland County Council (shared resources), Upgrade to car park ticketing systems in Grantham/Stamford and the setting up of an SKDC Lottery to support community activities.

Parish Council Meeting. Interactive Speed Warning Sign: Secretary reported: Following receipt of LRSP survey results (1 site Grimsthorpe unsuitable - post leaning, 1 site Edenham unsuitable - hedge overgrown) an order had been placed with Unipart Dorman for one interactive speed warning sign plus 3 mounting brackets. Cheque signed prior to meeting for £2,582.40, order confirmed with a delivery forecast of early April. Working party to install equipment to be arranged with the sign being rotated around all 6 sites on a random basis to maximise effectiveness.

Children's Play Area: Secretary reported: The further application

made to SKDC's Community Fund has been successful with 80% of grant to be paid shortly with final 25% on completion of project. A completed order form and payment (Cheque signed for £4,050.78) for the replacement posts sent to Playdale Ltd to enable works to be scheduled as soon as possible. Once these are in place the play surface can be installed. It is hoped to have the facility open again later in the year once the re-seeded grass surface has grown.

Planning: Application S18/0169 - Mr T Blanchard, Agricultural Building, Elsthorpe Lodge, Elsthorpe studied prior to meeting - no objection/ comments passed to SKDC Planning Dept.

Financial Matters, cheques signed:

LALC Subscription - £103.48

HMRC - PAYE £71.00

Mr LA Clayton - wage Admin/Street Cleaning 4th Qtr 2017/18 -£283.71

Highways: Please be advised that the Lincolnshire County Council Website (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 (particularly bad at this time of year **so please**

report any near you), damaged road signs, street lighting faults.

The next meeting of the Edenham Parish Council will take place in Edenham Village Hall on Tuesday 8th May 2018 commencing at 7:30pm.

Council Meetings take place on the second Tuesday in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov in Edenham Village Hall at 7:30pm.

VIEW FROM THE PEW AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

As we come to the end of Lent and look forward to Easter, I would like to thank everyone involved in any way with the **weekly Bible Study and Lunches** on Thursdays during Lent. Whether you attended, helped or contributed in any way, you all helped to make this Lent special with this weekly fellowship and witness in St Andrew's Church and Parish Hall and so thank you to you all.

We will continue with our **monthly Thursday** morning sessions which involve a Eucharist service at 10.15 in Church, Bible study and coffee at 11 in the Parish Hall followed by a simple Lunch of soup, bread, cheese and fruit at 12 – you are welcome to all or just part of the morning, do come along and join us, upcoming dates are – 19th April, 17th May and 14th June.

All money raised from contributions to the Lunch goes to **Christian Aid** (as part of our outreach to others) as does the money from the '**Big Brekkies**' - please come along and try these too – the next ones are on Saturdays 7th April and 2nd June from 8 – 11am, all are welcome.

The work to replace the stolen roof lead and associated works has begun. It has been a long hard process to get to this stage with lots of forms being completed, many conversations had and much fundraising but now at last we will see our beautiful Church restored to its former glory during Easter time – Alleluia!



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Notes from Witham-on-the- Hill Parish Council March Meeting

Present: Councillors: Charles Henriques, Andrew Greenwood, Janet Kirkwood, Sue Pennant-Jones and Lynne O'Hara. Bernard Champness the Clerk. Others: Bob Adams & District Cllr Martin Wilkins
Apologies received: None.

Previously Cllr Greenwood explained the Hill footpath is in a dangerous state, due to surface crumbling & vegetation spreading across it. C.Cllr B. Adams said the Hill footpath overgrowth has now been acknowledged and should soon be able to give us a progress report.

Potholes throughout the village were mentioned and will be pointed out to LCC Highways dept.

Cllr J Kirkwood mentioned the salt bins and the person to contact at South Kesteven District Council is Mr Adrian Smith with regard to re-filling or moving them.

No planning applications received.

The PC discussed a number of ways to reduce speeding through the village. Chairman C. Henriques recommended the village should 'register an interest' now for the Speed Guns scheme, to be ready for a future date.

Matters to Report: - the new Tower for the Playground was now well under way. A new piece of play equipment was discussed such as an assault course or zip wire. South Kesteven District Council recommended another play equipment company called E.I.B.E. to consider. Proposals will be necessary from the two companies that provide park equipment. Cllr Greenwood mentioned the play area was still very marshy and would watch to see if it dried with the warmer weather, before discussing how to deal with it. Cllr M. Wilkins talked to us about the street lighting options and also mentioned that Grantham has a new and much larger cinema being built and it is well underway in construction.

It is hoped that a PCSO would accept an invite to the parish council meeting of 16th July 2018 with an opportunity for anyone who wants to discuss policing concerns and update on local matters.

Next meeting – Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting will precede the next parish council meeting 21st May 2018 at 7.00 pm at St Andrew's Parish Hall.

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Parish Meeting

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Thursday 10th May 2018

(to be held after the AGM at 7pm)

8pm to 9pm

In the Swinstead Village Hall

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For more information please contact Wendy Benson (Clerk)

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Witham on the Hill WI

Our speaker, Becky Taylor, explained she retired from the Royal Air Force aged 38 and did cookery courses as part of her resettlement package. She was so inspired learning about chocolate that she decided to pursue it as a career, teaching in schools & various groups. She explained that the cocoa tree grows between the tropics of Cancer & Capricorn, though 70% of world's cocoa comes from Ivory Coast, Ghana & Nigeria.

The cocoa pods are surprisingly large (she handed dried ones around), the pods are split, & seeds scooped out & dried in sun. The seeds are winnowed to remove husk, & then nibbed (crushed). The nibs are then conched (separated) to produce cocoa powder & cocoa butter. The white cocoa butter (used as a body lotion) smells of chocolate, is white in colour but tasted with a pinched nose does not have a chocolate flavour!

Becky explained about the problems of British chocolate and EU regulations: that Belgian chocolate is pure with no additives.

We tasted a very expensive dark Cuban chocolate which has a smoky flavour. She gave us lots of advice about tempering chocolate & is

willing to do a workshop for us at a later date, as problems with her car curtailed her presentation. Everyone was fascinated by her talk – an excellent enthusiastic speaker. The competition winners for a chocolate recipe were: 1st Deirdre Dunne, 2nd Jane Clark, 3rd Sue Horton.

Members were informed of various outings – a coach trip to London to see 42nd Street, a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and a ladies lunch at Burghley Park Golf Club when the speaker will be Professor Krista Cowman, consultant for the film “Suffragette”.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting on Tuesday 3 April at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill – with a competition for an Easter bonnet and other Easter fun.

Visitors always very welcome. For further information contact Jane Clark: tel 01778 590232.

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Jane's seasonal recipe

With a few parsnips still in the garden, this recipe is ideal for a tasty dinner.

Pork & Parsnip Cobbler (SERVES 4)

1 tablespoon olive oil
600g diced pork
1 chopped onion
2 parsnips, cut into small chunks
2 teaspoons dried sage
1 tablespoon tomato puree
2 tablespoons plain flour
1 litre stock

TOPPING

250g plain flour
1½ teaspoons baking powder
75g cold butter, grated
100g cheddar, grated
1 teaspoon mustard powder
1 teaspoon dried sage
200ml milk

Fry onion in oil, add pork & cook until brown. Add parsnips, sage, & tomato puree. Cook for 2 mins. Add plain flour & give a good stir. Pour in stock, & simmer gently for 1½ hours with lid on – or in oven at 160°C for 1½ hrs. To make topping: mix flour, baking powder, sage & mustard powder. Stir in butter & most of cheese. Mix in milk to make a sticky dough. With a tablespoon, shape into 8 balls & place on top of casserole. Sprinkle over rest of cheese & bake uncovered for 30 mins at 200°C. Serve with green veg.

A Letter from a Grand Breton

from a former resident

It occurred to me with the passing of 2017 and the arrival of 2018 that our great family exodus from the idyllic corner of Lincolnshire to an equally picturesque one here in Brittany was all happening 7 years ago. For many of us that period of time will seem to have flown by and in some ways it has. So there a couple of things which I'd like to ponder on and share with you:

The first is that I miss the earthy and familiar routine of the English rural life. The Community, the Friendships, the local Pub and that old building which most people, although they may not frequent it regularly, consider to be their local Parish Church. Here in Brittany, one of the most traditionally Cultural and Religious Regions (or Duchy) of France, I find myself living in a very compartmentalised society. People judge you on all kinds of levels – Education, Race (Breton, French, English....) Culture, Profession, Country/Town and whether you have a Faith.

There are 2 things which popular liberal thinkers here in France just cannot get their heads around and that is Religion, France is by definition a secular state. But do not confuse

this with being non-religious. It all makes for interesting dinner table conversation (there are no taboo subjects for me!) and I'm proud of my wife when she marks a line in the sand during a discussion "Glyn is very religious". The conversation often pauses and I simply state that for me, to believe in God and to consider what may exist beyond my and our collective understanding, is as much part of my life as how a motor car works, a tree is felled or a house is built – it's in my being and there is no conflict with that.

The second may provoke terrible thoughts and emotions, but I want to mention it, Brexit. Personally, I'm fervently against the current direction of the European Union. I see the effect first hand working in industry within an American-owned company operating within France. I believe that the economic model that we have within the EU neither serves its peoples, nor does it endeavour to raise the living standards of the general populous. On the one hand the monetary policy behind the Euro is one that I could align with but it is being exploited by big business to reduce operating costs through the increased fluidity of capital within the Euro regions to the benefit of the wealthy and Politically the EU has an Anti-Democratic structure that leaves

the elected representatives in the EU Parliament unable to question, modify or rescind legislation.

All I see from my office window is a constant flow of lorries with number plates ending in BG, CY, CZ, EST, H, IRL, LV, LT, PL, P, RO, SLO and very rarely 'F' for France. Germany dominates the fiscal policy of the Euro (because the German politicians have poured German wealth into it) and the French are struggling to align their strong Social-Structure policies (and expenditure) with a form of Capitalism that favours big business and corporate tax evasion (Luxembourg and Ireland). I feel for the peoples of the European Continent and particularly in the UK after the political shock of the EU Referendum; but when I look at the great changes which were brought in by the Peasant's Revolt, English Reformation, Civil War, Emancipation of Slavery, Defeat of the Grand Armée (Napoleon), WWI & WWII and the coming of the age of the Internet..... I can only state two phrases coined by Einstein: "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." and his definition of insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

EASTER PEOPLE?

St Augustine's saying 'we are an Easter People and our song is Alleluia!' is often quoted and has achieved the status of a motto on prayer cards and the like. But what does it mean for us in our daily life? How do we live in the victory of Christ knowing as St Paul taught 'you have died and your life is now hid with Christ in God?' This is essence of the Spiritual life. Living in Christ who is Lord of the living and the dead and setting our minds 'on the things that are above'. Let me suggest three ways to live in the light of the Resurrection and in the love of Christ from which we can never be separated.

The first is to contemplate the fact of the Resurrection. Read the Gospel accounts of the resurrection appearance of Jesus. All of these include conversation with the Risen Lord – hear him speak to you. Pay attention to the transforming effect on the apostles and share with them in their wonder, hear Jesus plead with you, as he did with Thomas 'do not be doubting but believe'. Imagine Jesus coming in to console and strengthen you in your confusion and fears as he did to the disciples locked in the upper room. Simply ask the Lord to renew and strengthen your

faith in his risen life. Ask for Grace to see and know where he is at work in your life now.

The second is to be more careful to attend and more attending in your partaking of The Eucharist and Holy Communion. This was the place of revelation in Emmaus and on the beach in the light of dawn. It is the sure place to know and share the presence of Christ. Prepare diligently to meet him there and be truly thankful for your sharing in his life. The worship of the Church in the Easter Season is a glorious experience; be as careful in your attendance for the fifty days of Resurrection as you were in the forty days of Lent.

The third suggestion is to use one of St Ignatius's spiritual exercises which he called 'contemplation to attain the love of God.' This begins by asking for grace to know the fullness of God's love. He continues by using all the senses to lift the mind and heart in thanksgiving for the love of God poured out on the whole of creation and of our experience of it in the here and now. The next step is to contemplate the outpouring of love and grace through the Christ that outweighs all the physical gifts and joys we are given through our senses. (The opening Chapters of the Letter

to the Ephesians can be helpful here). In this way our whole life and being finds its proper place in creation and we are invited to share in the 'glorious liberty of the children of God' for we truly are 'an Easter People and our song is Alleluia!'

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PARISH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2018

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
1 st April Easter Day	8.45am Parish Eucharist 6pm Evening Prayer	10am Parish Eucharist	5am Vigil followed by breakfast 11.15am Parish Eucharist
8 th April Easter 2	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 4pm evening prayer and benediction	11.15am Parish Eucharist
15 th April Easter 3	8.45am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evening Prayer	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist
22 nd April Easter 4	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 4pm evening prayer and benediction	11.15am Parish Eucharist
29 th April Easter 5	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evening Prayer
6 th May Easter 6	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist

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