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# Dates for your Diary

**Monday 9 March, 7.30pm, Swinstead Village Hall - Bingo.** All welcome - proceeds go to the church.

**Monday 9 March, 7.30 pm, St Andrew's Parish Hall - Witham-on-the-Hill Historical Society members' meeting.** There will be a social session with refreshments after the meeting. Please bring an interesting article or topic to discuss.

**Thursday 19 March, 10.15am, St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill - Food for Thought.** Eucharist in St Andrew's Church moving to Bible study at 11am in the Parish Hall, followed by a simple lunch at noon. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

**Saturday 21 March, 10am, Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Community Clean-up.** The Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council is proud to support one of our community's great initiative to give our Parish a spring clean. **Ian McRae**, of Manthorpe, is **organising a Parish-wide clean-up**. Ian **needs 2** volunteer **residents**, one each from Toft and Lound to act as their Village Champions for the day. Bags, pickers, high viz tabards and gloves will be provided.

Should you wish to help co-ordinate the clean-up in either Toft or Lound then please see Ian's contact details in the flyer.

**Thursday 26 March, 7pm, Toft House Hotel - Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Annual Meeting and Parish Council Meeting (7.30pm).** The Parish meeting is the occasion for electors to raise any concerns they may have. The leader of the Parish Council acts as chairman. Residents may wish to discuss Parish affairs, make resolutions & vote but these are not legally binding for the Parish Council. The Parish meeting may pass resolutions on the public activities or policies in the parish of any local authority, public body, government department of public service provided that they affect

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the parish especially and are not such as are calculated to affect the whole country or all Parishes. Please come along and support your own meeting.

**Friday 3 April, 7 pm, St Andrew's Parish Hall - Race Night** with a fish & chip supper. Proceeds to Parish Hall funds.

**Saturday 25 April, 8.30-10.30am, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill - Big Brekkie.** Everyone welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

**Wednesday 29 April, 7.30 pm, Edenham Village Hall - AGM.** All villagers are welcome.

**Friday 8 May, Parish Playing Field in Manthorpe - VE Day anniversary celebration.** May Day has been put back to Friday 8 May 2020. VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. The holiday will form part of a three-day weekend of commemorative events

The Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council would like to receive the thoughts from residents of the parish with regard to this celebratory event. We also ask for volunteers to identify themselves - help to organise such an event is always required.

**Friday 8 May, 1.30- 6 pm, Edenham Village Hall - VE Day Street Party, SAVE THE DATE!** Free community event to commemorate the 75th anniversary there will be a 1940s fancy dress competition, vintage tea, 40s singer, games. More details to follow.

**Thursday 14 May, 7pm, Toft House Hotel - Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe AGM and Parish Council Meeting (7.30pm).** All parish residents are invited to attend both these meetings. Please send any discussion points to the Clerk or any member of the Parish Council so that they may be considered for inclusion in the agenda.

# Parish News

**CONDOLENCES** to Veronica, family, friends and neighbours on the passing of John Stapleton, aged almost 90 years young! John was a real gentleman and much loved in Witham on the Hill throughout the many years he lived there. He was an avid bird watcher, cared for the natural world and loved Africa. In December John was one of the group of people planting daffodils on the village green. He will be greatly missed. **John's funeral** will be at **St Andrew's Church**, Witham on the Hill on **Friday 6 March at noon**.

**PART-TIME VACANCY Edenham/Grimsthorpe Parish Council** - Edenham Parish Council is seeking a person with an interest in the local community. This is a part time role, working 2 hours per week keeping our community tidy by street cleaning/litter picking. **Closing date for applications: 20th March 2020**. For more information please contact the Parish Clerk by post or email: Mrs Carole Sands, 14 Scotlethorpe Road, Edenham, PE10 OLN  
Email: [Edenham.pc@gmail.com](mailto:Edenham.pc@gmail.com)

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## The Vicar Writes

By the time you read this, Valentine's Day will have come and gone. For some people 14<sup>th</sup> February brings with it a fair share of anxiety. There's the wondering if a card will arrive and what the recipient will make of a card that's been sent. Sometimes Valentine's cards bring great joy, whereas on other occasions they can get you into trouble (Thomas Hardy's 'Far from the Madding Crowd' is a good example of the latter). While I was growing-up I never worried about Valentine's Day. Regardless of my 'relationship status' I knew that I would always get a card come rain or shine. Why? Because my Gran sent me one every year until I was eighteen! The only snag was that she used to sign it "Much love, Gran"!

Well, at least I knew my Granny loved me!

One place where few people expect to find romantic love getting much of a mention is in the Bible. But they'd be wrong! If you venture into the Old Testament, you'll discover a book known as the 'Song of Songs' (which is another way of saying that it claims to be 'the very best song of all'). It often surprises people to discover that the Song of Songs is a collection of slightly racy love poetry. Sadly, we

don't often hear it read aloud in Church. At one point the Church authorities considered it to be too romantic to be read in Convents. However, there is a passage from chapter two which, together with a small portion of chapter eight, is often read at weddings (Song of Songs 2.10-13; 8.6,7). The verses from chapter two describe what one 'lover' hears from the other...

*My beloved speaks and says to me:*

*"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;*

*for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.*

*The flowers appear on the earth;*

*the time of singing has come,*

*and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

*The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom;*

*they give forth fragrance.*

*Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

In these words, we can hear the beauty of a Mediterranean springtime (and with our own weather being a little unpredictable right now we may take some comfort in that). We also hear God's invitation to us, his beloved, to be his own. We also hear Christ the



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bridegroom inviting the Church, his bride, to be with him for ever and we hear the splendid cadences of the love of a man and woman for each other. As I mentioned, the reading goes on to include some verses from chapter eight. Perhaps this is the voice of the other lover, answering and responding to the previous invitation...

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;*

*for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.*

*Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.*

*Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.*

*If one offered for love all the wealth of his house,*

*it would be utterly scorned.*

This lover calls for a union with the other that is as close as a tattoo on the arm or a seal (a mark) upon our very hearts. For love is strong and fierce, as powerful as death and then some! Love is a burning flame that no torrent can quench. Only a fool would attempt to buy it; love is more precious than that. If you've ever felt love, then you know the truth of these words. They speak of the love that unites God and Creation, Christ and his Church, husband and wife in

their marriage. Such love is so powerful, so central to existence – both human and Divine – that words fail us in describing it, as indeed words must fail us when we try to speak of such things. The implication is clear: human love at its best, it's most passionate, it's most flaming, reveals something of the love of God for us!

Now, we may think we know what that means. We may know something of what love is and how flames can rage and leap and burn. But if you look at the text in the original Hebrew language, you'll find that the word we translate as 'a raging flame' is a superlative. In other words, it speaks of it being 'the fiercest flame that ever there was'. But the Hebrew superlative is constructed by combining the word for 'flame' with a form of the name of God (something that can be done in Hebrew but doesn't really work in English). So, love isn't simply the 'most raging flame' or even 'the flame that rages in a way no other flame ever could'. Love is the 'God-flame'! It suggests to us that human love has a share in Divine love; that the passion uniting husband and wife speaks to us of the passion that burns in the heart of God for his people and for his Creation.

So, the love that unites two people in



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marriage could be said, in Biblical terms, to be the 'most raging flame' or even the 'God-flame'! At the centre of the love of bride and groom for each other we can see something of the love which is God's passion and compassion for us and for the whole of Creation. So, when you think of love (and of the love you may have for that special someone) I would invite you to consider God's inexhaustible love for you and for us all. Imagine for a moment the most passionate love you have ever known or felt and then imagine a love that burns with such intensity that cannot be adequately described or fully comprehended and maybe, just maybe, you may just begin to see something of the love that God has for you.

One final suggestion. Whether you enjoy poetry or find it puzzling and perturbing – as I often do – it's certainly true to say that a poem often finds a way to describe love that other forms of writing struggle to do. So, may I encourage you to treat yourself (and possibly your significant other) by reading together the poems that you can find in the Song of Songs?

You never know what you might find there!

Best wishes, Fr Edward

  
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# 100 years ago this month

## March 1920

**The Memorial Cross.** - As it was found that some considerable time must elapse before the old school can be removed, the Memorial Committee recently met and decided that the erection of the Cross must not be any longer delayed, and a new site must therefore be chosen. The place finally agreed upon was the churchyard, where it will stand at all events for the time being. In this position it will be a conspicuous object to all passers-by, for the total height from the level of the ground to the summit of the soldiers' Cross of Sacrifice will be over sixteen feet, or some twenty feet above the roadway. Upon the base of the monument will be placed the following inscription:- "In glorious memory of the men of this parish who fought and died in the Great War, 1914-1919." A Bronze tablet bearing the name, regiment, and the place and date of death of each soldier, will be placed on the east wall of the porch, as it has been found that there is not sufficient space for this upon the Cross itself.

**The Dedication** of the Memorial by the Bishop will take place on Monday,

March 29th, at 3 pm. It is hoped that all who can will make a point of being present at this solemn ceremony, and will bring a wreath or bunch of flowers to place beside it as a tribute to the memory of the gallant dead.

**The cost** including erection will be about £135. Towards this sum the people of Witham have given £30, Toft-with-Lound £14/6/0, and Manthorpe is expected to give about £8. The Farmers' Committee have kindly given the balance of their soldiers' gifts fund amounting to over £27, Captain Fenwick, Mrs. Walter Fenwick and Mr. Monty Fenwick £40; church collection £4/17/4; other contributions £3/11/0. Total £127/14/4. The bronze tablet is likely to cost a further thirty or forty pounds, and just as we write the Trustees of the Church Estate have most kindly voted a grant of £40, wherewith to provide this.

**A "welcome" to our Soldiers.** - It is proposed after Easter to give a supper to all the men from the parish who served in the forces during the war. We feel sure that this will be readily supported by all, and we will all be asked to contribute either in money or in kind towards it. A committee will be formed to make the necessary arrangements.



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# EDENHAM VE DAY CELEBRATION

Friday 8th May 2020 at Edenham Village Hall 1:30pm-6pm

Join Steam Action, a local community group, as they take you back in time to 1945! A Free day out for surrounding parishes and their families.

**BYOB** (plus glasses) and a picnic, as well some 1940s inspired savoury or bakes goods to go on the sharing table! wartime loaf, eggless sponge, spam! Get creative!

**SINGER.** Grab some tea and cake to watch Rachel Hamby sing wartime classics.

**FREE** tea and cake available throughout the day served at our NAAFI tea station by the Steam Action Land Army girls!

**3pm** The Nation toast to the heros of WWII. Grab a glass of Sgt Wilson's Black Market Tipple and join us in raising a glass to our heros.

TURN TO BACK PAGE, COLUMN ONE

## \* THE KING SAYS: \*

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# Steam Action Christmas Lunch and Panto

On the weekend of the 7th and 8th of December, Steam Action held the Christmas Community lunch at Edenham Village Hall. Over 80 people enjoyed a 2-course Christmas lunch, lovingly cooked and served by the Steam Action Committee and helpers. The Hall was soon full of festive spirit and chatter. After the food had all been eaten, members and friends of Steam Action took to the stage to perform their annual pantomime, this time it was Peter Pan. The audience was invited to travel to Neverland with Peter and Wendy and meet the dastardly Captain Hook and the stunning Tiger Lily. Things didn't always go to plan in the panto though, causing a headache for the backstage crew (it was all in the script, honest!)



On the Sunday we took to the stage again and performed the pantomime twice more for the general public, both performances selling out in record time this year. Thank you to everyone that came along to support us. We enjoy putting these events on as much as you enjoy attending them. This year's pantomime (yes, seriously) will be Sunday 6th December!

Andrew (Chairman of the Village Hall, member of the Parish Council and Steam Action) as Smee, along with Amanda (fellow Parish Council and Steam Action member) as Starky.

## STEAM ACTION A.G.M - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Present:** Amanda, Andrew, BA, Caroline, Emma, Father Ed, Glenys, Gill, Jane, Kim, Lucie, Lynda, Nikki, Pat.

**Apologies:** Clarissa, David, Doris.

The minutes of the last AGM were read and agreed as a true record.

**Chairman's Report:** Nikki declared another great year with much achieved over the year. We have had 10 meetings, 2 veg and prod meetings and plenty of panto rehearsals. She said she was very pleased, especially with the record numbers attending the Christmas party and she felt this showed that reducing the age limit had been a good decision in making this a community event rather than an old persons' event. Nikki thanked everyone for their support in trying to fill the previous big boots.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pat presented a summary of much more detailed accounts that are available for anyone to view, if required. We do have a current and a deposit account and Nikki suggested transferring an amount to cover a whole year's worth of expenses into the deposit account, even though it makes very little interest. Funds stand at £6,250.26.

Well done to Pat for straightforward accounts.

**Election of Officers:** Lucie stepped up to the Chair and thanked Nikki for the last 3 years.

Nominations for Vice-chair were one for Amanda - she said no, one for Nikki – she said no, and three for Lynda – she initially said no because of family conflict and also because she did not want to succeed to the chair but she agreed when Lucie said the succession could be discussed further at another time.

Secretary – Emma was interested but still felt that she was too new. Jane assured her that to take an office was to get fully integrated immediately, so she agreed.

Minute secretary – Jane agreed to continue.

Treasurer – Pat agreed to continue.

Veg and Produce Committee – Lucie, Nikki, Pat and Gill agreed to continue and Amanda agreed to join.

The committee was re-elected and Father Ed invited to join, he agreed.

**Committee Fund:** Pat would like to hand this over to someone else. The fund stands at 8p. After some discussion, it was agreed to scrap the committee fund, not give regular cards to the younger committee members and make a one-off collection for each special event when we decide we want to give a gift – eg. wedding, birth, special anniversaries.

**Dates:**

- Dinner – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- V.E. Day Celebration – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Afternoon Tea – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Veg and Produce Show – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020
- Christmas Party and Panto – Sat 5<sup>th</sup> & Sun 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- AGM – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Annual Dinner – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The AGM ended at 8.15pm.

## EDENHAM VILLAGE NEWS



For **your** chance to win £25,000 and support your village hall refurbishment log on to [www.lotterysk.co.uk](http://www.lotterysk.co.uk) for every £1.00 spent the Village Hall gets 50p

Thank you for your support.

# Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery

Moreley's Lane, Corby Glen, NG33 4NL

The 2020 season at the Gallery will open on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April with an exhibition, ***Stone, Clay and Paper***, a joint show of recent ceramics, lino-cuts, collages and drawings by Lyn Lovitt alongside stone carvings by John Crampin.



The 2020 exhibitions will bring a wide variety of art and craft to the gallery with an exciting mix of solo, joint and group shows. Whatever their taste in art, all visitors will find something appealing to admire in the works on show during the season.

Opening times during the shows are Tuesday to Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm. and, as always, admission is free.

[www.willoughbygallery.com](http://www.willoughbygallery.com)

# Jane's seasonal recipe

*This is my adaptation of a Waitrose recipe – a tasty winter warmer. The original recipe used cavolo nero, but I put sprout tops in, though any leafy greens could be used.*

## **Spicy lemony lentil green soup - Serves 4**

**250g red lentils**

**1 onion**

**1 teaspoon turmeric**

**1 teaspoon ground cumin**

**½ teaspoon chilli flakes**

**1 teaspoon cumin seeds**

**1 large potato**

**1 lemon**

**½ teaspoon salt**

**200g Brussel sprouts**

**2 tablespoons olive oil**

**chopped coriander to serve**

Put lentils & chopped onion in large pan with turmeric, ground cumin & half chilli flakes. Add 900ml cold water, bring to boil & simmer very gently for 15 mins. Stir in small cubes of potato, 2 strips of pared lemon rind & salt. Add another 500ml water & simmer gently for 20 mins. Stir in the greens and cook for 5 mins until wilted. Whizz with a soup blender to the consistency required – I prefer it slightly chunky. Season with pepper & the juice of ½ lemon. Heat the oil in a small pan, stir in the rest of the chilli flakes, cumin seeds & 2 strips of lemon zest. Sizzle gently for 2 mins until seeds are toasted & the oil a reddish colour. Drizzle over the soup & add chopped coriander & a squeeze of lemon juice.

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## PARISH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2020

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
1 <sup>st</sup> March Lent 1	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  6pm Deanery Evensong (Morton)
8 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 2	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  6pm Deanery Evensong (Colsterworth)
15 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 3	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  6.30pm Deanery Evensong (Bourne)
22 <sup>nd</sup> March Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am All-age Eucharist  4pm Evening Prayer & Benediction	11.15am All-age Eucharist  <i>No Deanery Evensong</i>
29 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 5	10.30am Joint Benefice Eucharist		6pm Deanery Evensong (Edenham)
5 <sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday		10.30am Joint Benefice Eucharist	6pm Deanery Evensong (Corby Glen)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Confessions or any other pastoral or spiritual need contact:

Vicar: The Revd Fr Edward Martin SSC 01778 591358 - [Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org)

Associate Priest: The Revd Fr Peter Lister SSC 01778 423730 - [pwr.lister@btinternet.com](mailto:pwr.lister@btinternet.com)

Licensed Reader: Mrs Heather Lee 01778 591338 - [beltislobelle@btinternet.com](mailto:beltislobelle@btinternet.com)