

The Three Towers

October 2020

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



A PLEA FOR CONSIDERATE CAR PARKING

I have been asked to publish this photograph as an example of parking on a verge that causes much distress and danger to many residents

Drivers are requested to ensure that their parking leaves sufficient room for pedestrians. Particularly, they are asked to consider how their parking may impact on those with poor mobility, those in wheelchairs or on mobility scooters, those who are visually impaired and those pushing babies in prams.



Parish News

HARVEST EUCHARIST Sunday 11 October 10am at St Andrew's church. To complete the festival, it is hoped to have a picnic lunch afterwards.

REGIONAL HOUSE Calling all gardeners! Can you spare a few hours to help at the Regional House about once a fortnight (usually Wednesday), to keep on top of all the work that needs to be done? Mainly weeding, pruning, hedge trimming, mowing etc, but whatever you feel capable of doing would be appreciated. For further information contact Father Ed 01778 591358 or Jane Clark 01778 590232.

BOURNE FOODBANK - We continue to collect for Bourne Foodbank and the demand continues to increase. They need non-perishable foods, toiletries and cleaning products, also financial donations. These generally go to Bourne fortnightly and can be left at The Old School House or Manor Cottage or in the church porch. As in previous years, as part of this Harvest Festival, we are collecting in St Andrew's church for the Bourne Foodbank. As the church is now locked most of the time, please leave donations in the box in the porch or bring them to church on the preceding Sundays. These will go to the Foodbank after 11th October. Many thanks for your support.

WELCOME to the new head of Witham Hall School and family, Will, Jossie, Sebastian and Archie. We hope you will be very happy here.

WELCOME also to Christine Angel to Bramble Cottage, Bottom Street and to Jessica and family to East Green, both of Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS to Lauren Senior and James Brown of Lound, married at St Andrew's church on 5 September. We wish you a lifetime of happiness.

GET WELL SOON to Dave Unwin after your accident. Hope you make a speedy recovery.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE – Operation Christmas Child. Included with this magazine is a leaflet, showing how to pack a shoebox for a needy child in a country ravaged by war or natural disaster or even COVID. If you could fill a box with toys and supplies, then take it to a local collection point, you will

have done a very special deed. Due to import restrictions **please do not put** any sweets, liquids or toothpaste in the box. For more information, or help getting your box to a collection point, contact Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

PRAYER CUSHION - Charlotte Conway has very kindly made a gift of a Prayer cushion to Edenham Church in loving memory of her grandfather, Reg Marriott, who lived for many years in Grimsthorpe.



WITHAM ON THE HILL PLAY EQUIPMENT Frances Plummer writes: We are now lucky enough to have fantastic new play equipment on the Village Green as well as the original. Sadly Bob Ray is no longer living in the village or able to sand down and paint it and it is becoming increasingly tired looking. Would any of you be willing to join a working party to paint the pieces in need of attention - or to donate towards a professional job? I had one estimate in January of £998! If anyone can help please contact Frances on francesplummer@btinternet.com .

WITHAM ON THE HILL CHURCH AND SCHOOL ESTATE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION Witham on the Hill Church and School Estate Educational Foundation is open to anyone living or working in the “Ancient Parish” of Witham on the Hill. The charity is responsible for the upkeep of the St Andrew’s Parish Hall, helps maintain the fabric of the church and gives grants for educational purposes. We hold 2 meetings per year, in March and in October.

This charity is able to make grants to those residents of 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

BAPTISM St Michael and all Angels in Edenham welcomed Tommy James Anthony Dean Arden-Reddish into our community.

HARVEST EUCHARIST

Sunday 11 October 10am



St Andrew's Church
Witham on the Hill





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The Vicar Writes

On the 29th July my daughter Jessica reached the ripe old age of 21. The day of her birth is a day I remember for a whole host of reasons. For a start, 29th July 1999 was her due date (possibly the first and last time she's been on time). When the contractions started Lesley was taking a bath and, every time she stood up to try and get out, another contraction arrived and stopped her in her tracks. We eventually got ourselves into the car only to notice that we were a little short on petrol (my fault). I can still remember the look on Lesley's face from the car as I stood in the queue at the petrol station...

We made it to the maternity unit at Lincoln sometime between 5.30pm and 6pm. By the time we got settled into a room it was all systems go and, before too long, our 9lb 3oz bundle of joy made her way into the world. In the frenzy of activity that followed, Lesley was whisked away to be put back together and Jessica was handed to me wrapped in a towel. When I next looked up I realised that everyone else had gone! Jess was beginning to make noises (probably getting hungry) and I felt rather ill-equipped to do much about it. But then, inspiration struck! All the

delivery rooms were equipped with a TV and after a little channel hopping we ended up watching season one, episode three of *The Sopranos*. I mentioned this to Jess when we was around 12 years old and she badgered me to find the episode so that we could 'watch it again'. Knowing that *The Sopranos* wasn't exactly family viewing, I bought the box set and previewed the episode in question. Well, there was no way I was going to watch it with her! Suitable viewing for a 12 year old it was not! However, as Jess was back with us for her birthday this year and seeing that she had now come of age, I finally relented and on the day in question we watched the episode. In all honesty it wasn't quite as bad as I remembered and Jess has now 'borrowed' the box set and taken it to Hull.

For those not in the know, *The Sopranos* is an American crime drama that revolves around Tony Soprano (played by the late James Gandolfini), a New Jersey-based Italian-American mobster, portraying the difficulties that he faces as he tries to balance his family life with his role as the leader of a criminal organization. What's curious about it is that Tony is an incredibly loving man whilst also being a cruel, murderous mafia-style criminal.

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There's nothing he won't do for his family and friends but that's where his love and morality ends.

Loving your enemies is a concept Tony Soprano would struggle to embrace. But that's exactly what Jesus encourages us to do when he reminds us in St Matthew's Gospel that we must "be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt 5.48). But what is the perfection that Jesus is talking about? Is it a perfection that we could ever attain to or is it only achievable for a handful of super-religious types, say, the holiest Monk or Nun you've ever met? Fortunately, that's not what Jesus is getting at. In verses 43-47, Jesus speaks of how God the Father shows 'indiscriminate love' by making the sun rise and fall on both the good and the bad. Your access to the sun doesn't depend upon your morality, nor can you avoid the rain by deciding to be just plain wicked! In the same way, Jesus calls us to love all people – our brothers and sisters (those who love us) and even our enemies (those who wouldn't dream of loving us). That, says Jesus, is 'perfect love'; divine-like love.

One way of looking at it is to imagine a triangle – not your everyday 'love triangle' to be sure – it's something rather different that I'm proposing!

The greatest commandment is to love God; that's the tip of the triangle. But we are also called to love our neighbours (those who love us); they could be the right-hand point of the triangle. But if we stop there, our love seems obviously imperfect and the shape is incomplete. So, we must also love our enemies (those who, given the chance, we would ordinarily want to wish out of existence). Then, and only then, is the shape – and our love – complete, whole and perfect.

Everyone, even the worst of people, love their own. Even the most terrifying Mafia mobster remembers his Granny at Christmas. But what kind of love is that? It's lopsided love! It's a one-sided triangle which, of course, is no triangle at all. We are to love with perfect, complete love. The love that is ably demonstrated and brought to perfection through Christ's offering of himself upon the Cross. As St Paul pointed out in his letter to the Romans "... while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son" (Rm 5.10). That is perfect love. That is the love we are called to emulate. That is the love of God the Father has for us in Christ.

It's somewhat ironic that, holding my daughter for the first time (someone I

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cannot help but love), I ended up watching a TV show about a character whose capacity to love was lopsided and severely restricted. Love has to be more than loving those who are near and dear if it is to reflect something of the love that God has for us. It's a challenge to be sure, but if we're willing to try we could, by God's grace, edge evermore closely towards the complete and perfect love with which he loves us.

Fr Edward

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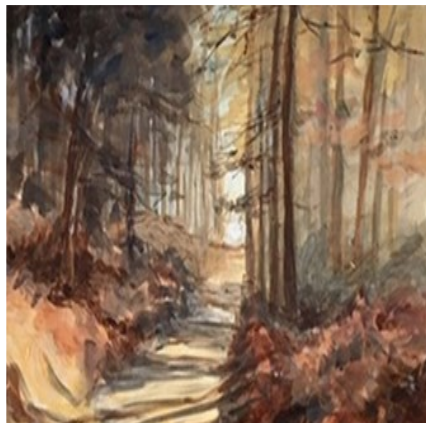
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Notes from the Edenham Parish Council Meeting 8th September 2020

Attendees

Mr R Biggs (Chairman) Mrs P Cranfield (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Whadcock, Mr D Bradley, Mr T Clarke, Mr A Wilson, Mrs C Sands (Parish Clerk), Mrs M Marshall. Cllr N Robins(SKDC)

1.0 Open Forum Meeting

Councillor Casual Vacancy - Co-

option - Following the retirement of Cllr A Martin earlier this year, Councillors unanimously voted to accept Mrs Marion Marshall as a co-opted Councillor to the Parish Council. Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be progressed by the Parish Clerk.

Resignation - Chairman Cllr Biggs announced that due to a change in personal circumstances he is resigning from the Parish Council. Cllr Biggs said it is with great sadness that this will be his last meeting as a Parish Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council.

Vice Chairman, Cllr P Cranfield, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Biggs

for all of his support and involvement in the community over the last 16 years both as a Councillor and a well-known figure in the Parishes. Ray and his wife Kim will be leaving Edenham, they will both be sorely missed by the Parish Council and the many friends that they have in the area. Cllr Robins (SKDC) also thanked Mr Biggs. Cllr Robins said, 'Having worked together for over 10 years, it has been a pleasure. You have always been very professional and you will be missed'.

Cllr Robins SKDC Update - Employees are starting to return to the Council offices following the national lockdown and home working arrangements. Many local businesses have now re-opened and SKDC are continuing to support businesses. In January the Local Plan was adopted. A review of the plan will commence 14th September to consider changes in local housing needs and provide an update on the provision of employment land and gypsy and traveller accommodation. There is currently work ongoing in relation to keeping dogs on leads and dog fouling.

1.2 Topics/Discussions (as raised by members of the public).

With no members of the public present, the chairman closed the open forum and commenced the main 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@gmail.com – or contacting any of your current Councillors.

2.0 Commencement of Parish Council Meeting

2.1 Apologies for absence - Des Bradley

2.2 Approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th July 2020 - Cllr Cranfield proposed, seconded by Cllr Wilson, that the minutes be signed as a true record.

3.0 Request for Dispensation - None

4.0 Declarations of Interest: None

5.0 Coronavirus Pandemic Support - Information from Edenham and Grimsthorpe Steam Action- Lucie Wilson (Chairman)

Steam Action is still shopping and offering support within the villages; however, this has reduced

considerably in the last few weeks. The team remain on alert in case there is a second wave of Covid-19. Steam Action received a certificate from the Lincolnshire Resilience team for the help and support they have offered during the pandemic. The team is now starting to focus on Christmas; it will be very different this year due to the required Covid-19 controls. The Parish Council Chairman said that he hoped that the Parish Council, in conjunction with Steam Action, would be able to hold the annual carol singing event around the Christmas tree.

6.0 Parish Matters & Update from Previous Meeting

6.1 - Parish Council Meetings - Looking forward requirements for face to face meetings (Coronavirus Controls) - It was agreed that the Vice Chairman, Cllr P Cranfield, and the Parish Clerk look into the possibility of having a face to face meeting in November using the guidance and suggested controls from Local Association of Local Councils (LALC).

6.2 Street Cleaning Update -

Following on from the last meeting, signage has been placed in the area by the field entrance near Elm



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Terrace, also, the litter has been cleared from the area. In recent weeks there have been some rather unpleasant signs of human excrement on grass verges/roadside lay-bys between Edenham & Grimsthorpe.

6.3 - SID Update - the unit is now in place near Copy Lawn Farm.

6.4 - Tumblerow Farm/Scottlethorpe Road - Update from Highways Dept investigation into potential collapsed drain in this area - The Parish Clerk received a reply from the Highways Dept stating that, following investigation, a job has been passed to Alliance Partners. It is anticipated that this drainage investigation will be completed by 21/11/20. Works are prioritised countywide and, although we will endeavour to complete works by the date given, there are times when this is not possible due to weather events or unprecedented demand."

Cllr Whadcock raised concerns about potholes that have not been filled on Scottlethorpe Rd, a fix my street report will be raised again. A polite

reminder that anyone can raise issues of potholes in the local areas via the 'Fix My Street' App.

6.5 - Gigabyte Voucher Scheme & Quantum Air Fibre Optic - Cllr Clarke reported that progress is very slow with BT/Openreach. Cllr Clarke contacted Mr S Brookes from Onlincolnshire to see if he can help to speed up the process. Quantum Air is no longer being progressed as there was limited interest in this option from residents and therefore it is no longer considered viable.

6.6 Hedge/Tree trimming near the BT Exchange in Grimsthorpe - The Parish Clerk is waiting for further feedback on expected dates for the works.

6.7 - Local security - implementation of a 'No Cold Calling Zone' - Letters explaining the scheme were delivered to every residential property throughout the Parishes on Friday 4th & 5th September. Residents have until 25th September to register any objections to the scheme to the Parish Clerk. Next steps will be discussed at the

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November meeting.

6.8 - Flower beds by the village signs

- Cllr Bradley originally raised this item, due to his absence it was agreed to roll this over to the next meeting.

6.9 - New Parish website - Work is currently ongoing and must be completed by December 2020.

6.10 - Road Sign damage near Grimsthorpe (west side) - The Parish Clerk has raised this with the Highways Dept, photos and exact location have been provided.

6.11 Play Area Inspections - Cllr Whadcock carried out the bi-monthly inspection in August and it was noted that one of the large swing seats has a hairline crack. The Parish Clerk has contacted Wicksteed Leisure Limited to obtain costs for a replacement seat, this is currently awaited.

6.12 Review and approval of Standing Order Document - The updated document was accepted by Cllr Clarke and Cllr Cranfield seconded it.

6.13 Review and approval of Financial Regulations Document- The updated document was accepted by Cllr Clarke and Cllr Cranfield seconded it.

7.0 - Planning Matters

7.1 Application S20/0383 - The Piggery, Grimsthorpe Estate, Swinstead - this is still pending consideration by SKDC planning committee.

7.2 Application S20/0832 - Brook Farm , Main Road, Elsthorpe, - Construction of a slurry lagoon and associated works. There were no objections from the Parish Council.

Full details for all planning applications can be found on South Kesteven planning application website - <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk>

8.0 - Financial Matters

8.1 Receipts 20/21- Nothing to report

8.2 Expenditure - 2020/21

HMRC 2nd Qtr 2020/21 - **£45.40**

Community Street Cleaning 2nd Qtr (Mr Alder) - **£181.32**

Parish Clerk 2nd Qtr salary (Mrs Sands) - **£162.36**

9.0 - Correspondence

9.1 Welland Rivers Trust Community Engagement - Cllr Biggs has been carrying out the tasks associated with the monitoring of the water quality of the East Glen river local to the Parishes. Cllr Whadcock will continue doing this going forward.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Edenham Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 10th Nov 2020 at 19.30hrs.

Confirmation on location or if this will be a virtual meeting via Zoom will be confirmed in due course.

The draft minutes are available on the Parish Council website, this is also where details will be published for the agenda for the next meeting.

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The (cancelled) Steam Action Produce Show

This growing year has been amazing. The weather has been good and, due to lockdown, I have had loads of time to care for all the vegetables of which there were many. I had potatoes, curly kale, cabbages, beetroot, parsnips, carrots, leeks, shallots, seed onions, set onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweetcorn, dwarf French beans, massive pumpkins, lettuces and all kinds of spinach and rocket. I did 95% of it by myself with my grandad and Mum giving me some tips. My dad and I put up the old greenhouse and glazed it in the first few weeks of lockdown.

But the one thing that has been bad, is all these vegetables I hoped to be able to enter into the Edenham Steam Action produce show cannot be entered as it has been cancelled.

All in all, it has been a very productive year and the vegetables have been plentiful especially the massive onions.

Edward Dawson, Manthorpe, Aged 12

The scale on the right shows a weight of 1.25kg (2lb 12oz in old money)!



Witham on the Hill WI

Witham on the Hill WI was pleased to have a dry but, unfortunately, a little chilly evening for their outdoor meeting in August. We all brought our own chairs and there was a lot to catch up on as this was our first meeting since March. Many of our members have been knitting and sewing headbands, uniform bags and scrubs for the NHS and learning new technology skills just so they can communicate with their family and friends. During lockdown we have been setting quizzes for our members. August's quiz was a logo quiz and September's was about the month September.

The September meeting was held in the Church as it gave us space to be socially distanced. We were definitely on-message as one of the national WI resolutions is to End Modern Slavery and Duncan Brock came to talk to us about this. He works for the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, which educates people to be aware of good practice in the supply chain. He explained Modern Slavery is when people are forced to work, owned, controlled, dehumanised, not free to move around, badly fed and clothed, housed in poor conditions, paid a very low wage, and often have their passports taken away. In 2015 a parliamentary act tried to address the situation but with limited success. Companies with an income of £36m must produce a statement about modern slavery but only 70% have done so. One of the highest risk industries is mobile phones from mining of the metals and child labour in the assembly of the phone. The next highest risk area is clothing manufacture, mainly in Asia, but also Leicester! Other problem areas are car washes & farming in UK. The consumer has to make the difference by not purchasing goods that are too cheap!

Duncan left us with a quote from William Wilberforce:

“You may choose to look the other way but you can never say you did not know.”

Edenham Village Hall

Our Village Hall re-opened in September to our regular hirers with all COVID regulations in place. This is a slow opening plan with one booking each day: Monday - After School Drama, Tuesday - Dog Training, Wednesday - Dance, Thursday - Circuit Training, Friday - Baby Sensory. If you wish to enquire about a group, please contact Nikki Gunn, Booking Secretary, either through the website or on 01778 59197 and she will give you the hirer's contact details. We look forward to welcome you all back to the Hall once approved by Government regulations to be able to have parties, weddings, dances etc.

We are striving to maintain and improve the Hall going forward and, if anyone has any spare time, thoughts and ideas, please join us to make our Community Hall a better place in this ever-stranger world we now live in. Our vacancies are :

Treasurer

This role involves preparation of accounts to be presented at meetings and making payments to suppliers via on-line banking system.

Funding Co-ordinator

A role for anyone who likes a treasure hunt; there are many grants available from many sources, they just need finding and applying for. Time-consuming but rewarding when grants are awarded - we have been lucky in the past to have received grants from Tesco's & SKDC.

Fund-Raising Organiser

Organising fund-raising events, quizzes and competitions. It is a fun way to help to bring together the community which, in turn, helps those suffering from loneliness and the like, whilst raising funds for Hall improvements.

Odd Job/Spring Cleaning Volunteers

This involves joining the current committee team in all aspects of small running repairs, as and when required - painting benches, spring cleaning cupboards to name a few.

If you can spare any time to any of the above roles, please contact any of the following: Andrew Wilson 01778 591309, Nikki & John Gunn 01778 591197, Pat Smith 01778 591004.

For your chance to win £25,000 plus other prizes, click on www.lotterysk.co.uk . For every £1.00 you spend the village hall gets 50p.

106 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)

OCTOBER 1914

The War. – The progress of our allied forces is slow though we trust sure. It is quite possible that a very long time may elapse before the cessation of hostilities and the final victory is won. Meanwhile we must not slacken our intercessions. Let everyone of us make a resolve to pray daily during the war for our brave sailors and soldiers, and the success of our arms. Twelve o'clock is the time suggested by the authorities for such intercessions, at which hour the "Peace Bell" is tolled, to remind us of this duty. Further, every Sunday the service at 11-15 is set apart as the special weekly act of intercession: let all who can attend it in preference to any other, and make it a reality.

The Red Cross Society. – Our parish has given most valuable help to this society's work by providing and

equipping twelve kit-bags for the troops at the front. Each bag contains a shirt, pair of slippers, two pairs of socks, towel, handkerchiefs, comb, laces, boracic ointment, writing materials, pipe, tobacco and cigarettes. The last three items are the gift of Lady Ancaster. The following are the donors of the bags – Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs Brudenell, Mrs. Carr, Miss Christie, Mr. E.W.Cooley, Miss Lee, Miss Metcalfe, Mrs. Parkin, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Redshaw, Mrs. Wallis and the Vicar. Shirts have been given by Mrs. Battram, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Fenwick 4, and the Vicar 4; the last eight being made by Miss Brudenell, Miss Christie, Mrs. Glenn, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Osborn, Mrs. M. Pell and Mrs. Redshaw. Our grateful thanks to all.

The Rifle Range. – We trust that by the time this magazine is published shooting may be re-commenced at the miniature range, in the sand pits. We desire to thank Mr. Fenwick for providing this excellent opportunity for rifle practise and feel sure that many will avail themselves of it.

The Prince of Wales' (National Distress) Fund. – In addition to the large collection made in church, which we recorded last month, a house-to-house collection in the civil parish of Witham – kindly undertaken by Miss A. Holmes – has resulted in a further sum of £3/18/0. Collections are to be made – so far as we know – in Manthorpe, and Toft-cum-Lound.

October 18th
First battle of Ypres

October 29th
Turkey entered the war on Germany's side. Trench warfare started to dominate the Western Front.



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Steam Action

Steam Action was awarded a certificate from SKDC for its help in the community during lockdown as part of the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum. The Forum was set up by the Council to help communities during lockdown. We registered Steam Action with them and gave them weekly updates on how we were helping the community.

This photo was taken at the first meeting since lockdown, last month, before further restrictions were imposed.

L-R Back: Glenys Peeling, Doris Bee, Caroline Haver, Pat Smith, Jane Bradley, Amanda Whadcock, Fr Edward Martin

Front: Andrew Wilson, Lucie VonCarthy, Lynda Wilson,



Edenham CofE Primary School

After such a period of unknown, it has been absolutely wonderful to be able to welcome all our children back to school. As soon as staff saw children skipping and running across the playground with smiles on their faces and sheer excitement about being back in school, any 'first day back nerves' were quickly diminished.

We have followed guidance and adapted our practices to ensure we are working safely but still providing an engaging and broad curriculum for all our children. In Forest School children have been continuing their learning about themes such as Leonardo Da Vinci and art and architecture produced by the Ancient Greeks. Our reception children have settled wonderfully and look forward to now joining us for full days where they will continue to learn through exploration as they have already started to do over the last 2 weeks.

At the heart of what we do is ensuring the school pulls together as a community embodied in a Christian context. This has continued with Collective Worship each morning, using platforms such as Zoom; each class is still able to see one another on their own screen and feel part of the whole school and interact with one another in storytelling and prayer.

Despite only being the start of the year, many parents are now already looking to the start of next year when their young children will be beginning school. Unlike we have done in the past, we will not be able to hold individual 'tours', so have once again adapted what we will do. Our children are currently producing, filming and editing their own virtual tour showing and explaining what they believe are the key parts of the school. This will be on the website very soon so please keep an eye out!

If you are interested in your child joining us at Edenham as a Reception child in 2021, please give the office a call or email (01778 591207 or

edenham.enquiries@southlincs-hub.co.uk) where we can arrange our Head of School, Mr Pasqualino, to give you a call and talk about our school. We also currently have spaces across KS2, so, if you do want to find out a bit more about us, please do get in touch.



Edenham C of E Primary School



- High standards
- Well established links within the local community
- Great provision for outdoor learning
- Strong pastoral and spiritual links with our local church
- OFSTED rated GOOD – 2019

If you have a child who is starting school in 2021, keep an eye on our website for our virtual tour, and contact us to arrange a phone call with our Head of School. We also have places across KS2, if you are interested in finding out about us, please get in contact or have a look to see what we are up to.

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LINCOLNSHIRE CHURCHES TRUST ANNUAL SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 12 September

On a glorious autumn day, Bob and I set off from St Andrew's church, Witham on the Hill, at 10.30am for the annual Lincolnshire Churches Trust Ride and Stride. With the COVID regulations still in place, we were uncertain what we would find. It was certainly quite different to other years! At St Medard's, Little Bytham, we found the church unlocked and open for private prayer but there was no one around. No biscuits nor drink offered. We expected this, so fortunately we had brought our own refreshments. On to Careby St Stephen's where the church was locked for repairs with scaffolding on the roof. The hardest part of the ride was ahead of us – Barber's Hill and I will confess that we both pushed our bikes up some of it! We reached Carlby and the worst bit of our route was done. At St Stephen's the church was again locked but I was surprised to discover that despite being in Lincolnshire, it was in a benefice with Essendine & Ryhall in the Deanery of Oakham, under the Diocese of Peterborough. All very confusing!

We cycled on to St Margaret's, Greatford, also locked, and sat on a bench in the churchyard to eat our lunch. So far, we had passed many cyclists but mostly males in lycra who didn't look like they were doing the same ride as us. However, sat at Greatford, we were surprised to see a fellow cyclist turn up – Jane Bradley! So, she had a rest, chatted and we compared notes before she set off to Langtoft. It was very pleasant sat in the churchyard watching birds and butterflies and a small group of rambles who passed through. On our bikes again, we headed for St Martin's at Barholm, also locked. Next stop was St Margaret's church at Braceborough and our last church was St Faith's at Wilsthorpe. To my great delight there were bottles of water on the wall, so I downed a full bottle, as the bottle in my backpack was almost empty.

Our final stop was Waterside Garden Centre, where we enjoyed well-earned tea and cake! We set off for home, opting for the longer Obthorpe route

rather than going up Swallow Hill which is probably shorter but very hard going! We did again push our bikes up the steepest part of Witham hill from the crossroads. We got home about 3.30pm, saddle sore with aching legs. But it had been a wonderful ride, admiring the countryside, the hedgerows resplendent with hawthorn berries, the fields full of wheat and many farm-workers busy harvesting and ploughing. The weather was warm and sunny with a breeze a bit stronger than I would have liked but at least it helped to keep us cool!

Thank you to all our generous sponsors. Once all the money has been collected, we will have raised £160, half of which goes to Witham Church and the other half to the Lincolnshire Churches Trust.

Ride and Stride 2020

No veg and produce show and a brand new electric bike

So no excuse but to ride for Lincolnshire Churches Trust.

Cotton wool clouds in pale blue sky,

Bright Autumn sunshine,

Dappled shade through drying, dying leaves

And berries and berries, green, black and red.

Dodging the trains, over and under,

To London, Edinburgh, London.

Bright yellow straw stacks,

The smell of muck on stubble -

Cow, chicken and pig!

The smell of newly turned earth -

Cleaning up the land, like Hoovering!

The smell of drying grain -

Stores full to bursting, at last the harvest is in!

Spires and towers stand as beacons across the land

Calling to the peoples.

But churches are mostly closed -

Locked, barred and bolted like never before.

Keep Covid-19 out!

Head wind home after 43 miles and 16 churches.

Jane Bradley

Jane's seasonal recipe

I made this the first time with fresh gooseberries, and the second time with thawed ones from the freezer. Both worked well. I have adapted the recipe from a Waitrose card. I didn't have enough ground almonds, so, I topped it up with plain flour. The second time I used 200g of ground almonds (omitting the flour) but it sank in the middle, though was perfectly fine. Flour helps to produce a firmer cake but if you need a gluten free cake just use ground almonds.

Gooseberry and Pistachio cake

5 eggs, separated
220g golden caster sugar
100g natural yogurt
60ml olive oil
140g ground almonds
60g plain flour
¼ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon bicarb
100g pistachios, chopped
125g gooseberries (small pink ones)

Whisk egg whites to form soft peaks. Gradually whisk in 110g sugar, until stiff & shiny. In separate bowl whisk egg yolks & 110g sugar until thick & pale. With a large metal spoon gently fold yogurt & oil into yolk mixture. Add almonds, bicarb, baking powder, 75g nuts & gooseberries. Carefully fold in egg white, & spoon mixture into 23cm greased & lined spring form tin. Smooth the top. Bake for about 1 hour 180c, covering the top halfway through with foil. When cooked should be well risen & coming away from the side. Cool in tin. Serve dusted with caster sugar & 25g chopped pistachios.

PARISH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2020

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 th October Trinity 17	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Harvest Festival (Vicarage Garden)
11 th October Trinity 18	8.45am Parish Eucharist 6pm Harvest Festival	10am Parish Harvest Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
18 th October Trinity 19	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
25 th October Dedication Festivals	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
1 st November All Saints	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm All Souls Service

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

Associate Priest: The Revd Fr Peter Lister SSC 01778 423730 - pwr.lister@btinternet.com

Licensed Reader: Mrs Heather Lee 01778 591338 - beltislobelle@btinternet.com