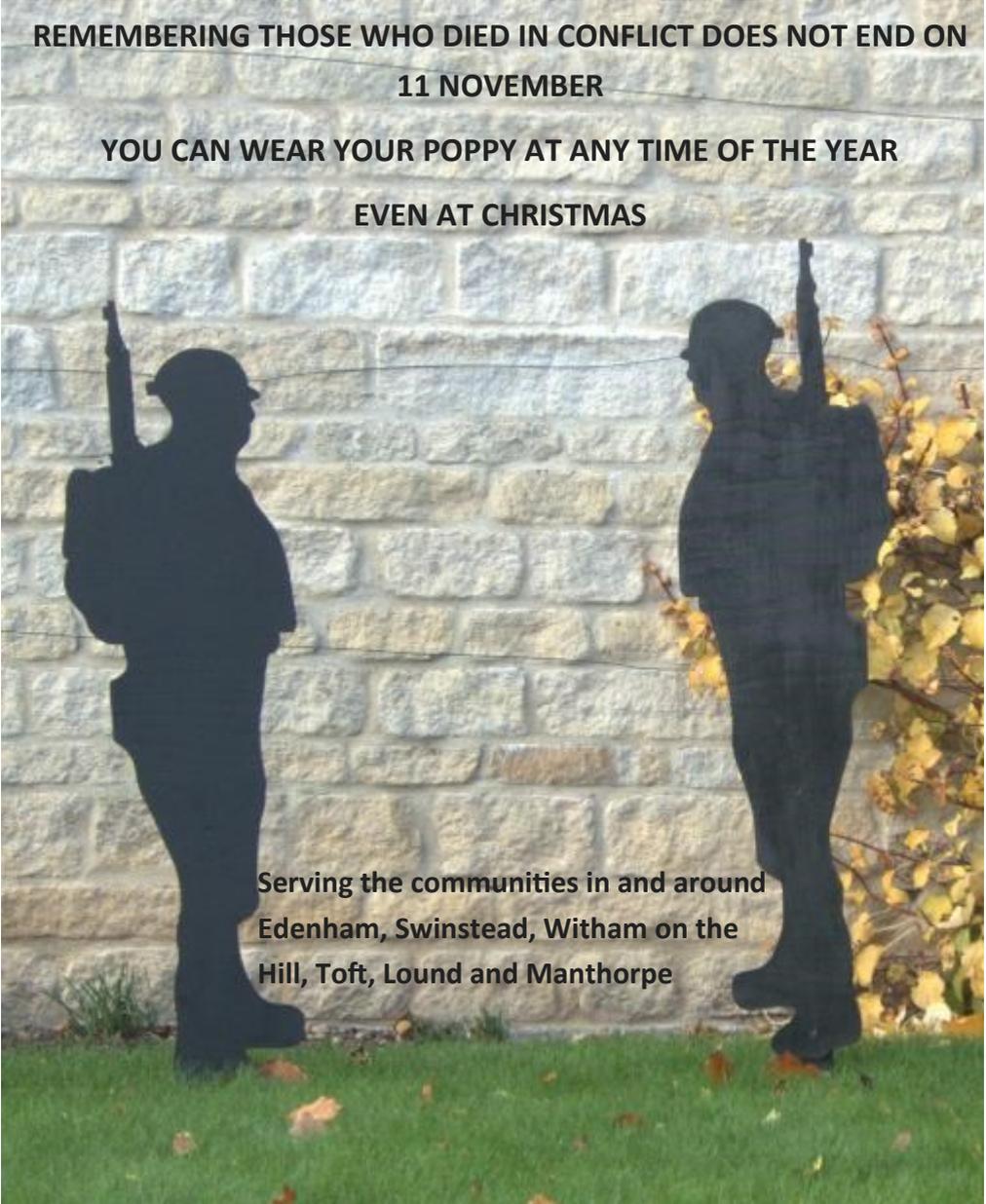


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December 2022 & January 2023

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# Parish News

**BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS** Bella Gates, on 20 October at Peterborough hospital, 7lb 15ozs to Sophie (nee O'Hara) and Dan Gates. Another grandchild for Lynne and Kevin O'Hara.

**BAPTISM** Vienna McCormack at St Michael's, Edenham on 23 October.

**BAPTISM** 8 year old, Isla Esme Sims-Hughes, granddaughter of Hannah and Martin Godbert at St Andrew's, Witham on the Hill on 30 October.

**BAPTISM** Beatrix Chapman at St Michael's Edenham, on 6 November.

**WELCOME** Beverley and David to Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy in your new home.

**CONDOLENCES** to family, friends and neighbours of Peggy Pease who passed away on 1 November at the grand age of 103. She lived in Stamford, but often came to Witham Church and was a regular visitor to Edenham Regional House. Peggy is also known as the sister of famous June Spencer, better known as Peggy Woolley, in The Archers radio show.

**CONDOLENCES** to Claire Day, family, friends, and neighbours, on the loss of her husband Rowan Day; after a tragic motorcycle accident on 3 November. Claire lives in Irnham, and was housekeeper at Edenham Regional House for a short while, until Covid struck.

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOXES** Thank you to everyone who very generously made up a shoebox for children who are suffering as a result of war or natural disasters. I know at least 9 boxes went from Witham on the Hill. God bless you all.

**BIG BREAKFAST** On Saturday 5 November we held another very successful and enjoyable Big Breakfast event. Thank you very much to all who contributed, helped and attended - it was a lovely event and we raised £187 for Christian Aid! Please join us in 2023 for our next Breakfasts on 14 January and 15 April.

**EDENHAM CHURCH Christmas Arrangements** - If you wish to do a Christmas arrangement in Edenham church ready for the Christingle service, the colour scheme this year is gold. So, white, yellow or gold candles please that will last over the Christmas season. Also, if you would like to send a Christmas card to

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all your church family with a donation, the money will be sent to Christian Aid and can be left on the table in church.

**ADVENT WINDOWS** If anyone in Witham on the Hill is interested in decorating one of their windows for Advent please let us know: We've had a lot of fun with it over the past couple of years! Please contact either Frances Plummer on 590308 or Jane Clark on 590232.

**WITHAM CHURCH AND SCHOOL ESTATE EDUCATION FUND** makes small grants to those residents of Witham on the Hill Parish (including Manthorpe, Toft and Lound residents), who are undertaking courses at colleges and universities or apprentice schemes. If you wish to make an application please write a letter, setting out the nature of your course and the reasons for seeking a grant and send it to: The Clerk to the Trustees, Witham Church and School Estate, c/o The Vicarage, Church Lane, Edenham PE10 0LS

Or email to [withamtrust@gmail.com](mailto:withamtrust@gmail.com)

## QUIZ - CHRISTMAS GOODIES

1. Cimneeps. (2)
2. Krecarsc
3. Gnehcapma
4. Osgoe
5. Hetcocolafurselft (2)
6. Fritel
7. Finftsug
8. Senterps
9. Yrfiagiltsh. (2)
10. 'Tismelote
11. Hisstramcetre. (2)
12. Acasalnetes. (2)

Answers on page 26

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# Dates for Your Diary

**Sunday 4 December Steam Action pantomime.** See opposite page for full details. We are also looking for donations of raffle prizes. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact Pat Smith.

**Thursday 15 December, 6.30pm, Edenham - Christmas Carols around the tree.** The Parish Council and Steam Action look forward to welcoming everyone on the evening; mince pies and mulled wine will be served. Please meet in the field between the churchyard and the bridge. Don't forget a torch! Carol sheets are provided.

**Saturday 14 January 8.30am – 10.00am BIG BREKKIE** St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

## Swinstead Village Hall News

All events are in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm.** Number 38, Xmas Cake. All eyes will be down for **Swinstead's Christmas Bingo**. The bar will be open and there are some fantastic raffle prizes, in aid of St Mary's Church Funds.

**Friday 9th December, from 8pm - quiz.** Who doesn't love a quiz, and a festive one at that. Delve into your memory bank on some of those jolly ditties and jingles. Join in the fun - maximum 4 in a team. Bar will be open, along with mince pies & mulled wine. To reserve a table, please email Mark Woodruff at [markwoodruff911@btinternet.com](mailto:markwoodruff911@btinternet.com)

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, from 7pm onwards.** Get your party outfits ready and your dancing shoes ready! Tickets are on sale for Swinstead's **Rocking Xmas Party**. A high energy band will be playing songs from the 60's right up to modern chart hits, along with mulled wine on arrival, mince pies, and some top raffle prizes. Tickets £8 – over 18's only. Book at [swinsteadvillageevents@gmail.com](mailto:swinsteadvillageevents@gmail.com) – tickets limited.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm.** Deck the halls with boughs of holly ... **St Mary's Church** presents **Swinstead Carols** with the Three Parishes Choir. There will be light refreshments and a raffle in the Village Hall afterwards.

**7th & 21st December from 10.30am – 12pm, and 4th & 18<sup>th</sup> of January.** Everyone is welcome to the **coffee mornings**. Meet some new friends and

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old, and enjoy some banter accompanied with coffee, tea, freshly baked cakes and raffle prizes.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 8pm (bar opens at 7.30pm).** Local 'Swinsteadite' Mr. Charles Sentance will be hosting an informal and free 'Evening of Reminiscence' on the history of Swinstead Village and its Community, captured through past and present slides and photography. Charles is well known to the village, having gathered some wonderful local knowledge, historical topics of interest along with some jolly good imagery and storytelling – all seen through the eye of the lens. This will be an evening not to miss.

## What Goes in our Bins

<b>Silver Wheelie Bin / clear bag</b> <b>Recycling items</b> <small>Processed at a recycling plant in Lincolnshire</small> <b>CLEAN, DRY AND LOOSE</b> <small>Washed tins and bottles</small>	<b>Black Wheelie Bin / pink bag</b> <b>General waste</b> <small>Majority turned into electricity in Lincoln</small> <b>NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS</b> <small>No electricals</small>	<b>Green Wheelie Bin</b> <b>Garden waste</b> <small>Your garden waste is composted in Lincolnshire</small> <b>NO BAGS</b> <small>Additional waste to your local household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)</small>
 Glass bottle and jars    Metal cans/tins    Foil aerosols	 Food waste    Crisp packets    Plastic bags	 Hedge trimmings    Grass cuttings    Flowers and plants
 Plastic bottles    Toilet/Cleaning product bottles    Waxed cartons	 Plastic bin or food bag    Nappies & sanitary products    Takeaway containers	 Leaves and bark    Twigs and small branches
 Plastic pots, lids and trays    Paper and cardboard    Lid/bottle tops	 Food pouches    Black/brown plastic food trays    Polystyrene	<b>No thanks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Food waste</li> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Animal waste</li> <li>• Fallen Fruit</li> </ul> 
<b>No thanks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisp packets or plastic bags</li> <li>• Batteries &amp; electricals</li> <li>• Polystyrene</li> <li>• Clothes</li> </ul> 	 Toys    Plastic plant pots <b>No thanks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batteries</li> <li>• Electricals</li> <li>• Hazardous waste</li> </ul> 	<b>SKDC OFFERS A COMMERCIAL WASTE SERVICE</b> 01476 406280 / 07813 549471 <a href="http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/commerc">www.southkesteven.gov.uk/commerc</a>

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## The Vicar Writes

There's a question that I come back to every Christmas, 'What would I have seen or noticed, had I been there on that night in Bethlehem?' Would I have heard choirs of angels singing or just the sound of barnyard animals feeding and grunting in their sleep? Would I have seen the majestic star in the sky? Might I have bumped into two poor and frightened people, desperately seeking warmth and shelter for the night? Would I have understood the hushed silence of God's divine presence, or simply felt the chill of the cold winter wind? Would I have understood that God had come among us as a tiny, vulnerable, new-born child or would the cosmic significance of that evening have totally passed me by?

The more I think about it, the more I'm convinced that if two different people had both witnessed the events of that night in Bethlehem, there's at least a possibility that they'd have come away with completely different ideas about what took place! It's a bit like when two people read the same book, see the same film or watch the same play and then, afterwards, one is totally bowled over but the other, well, they couldn't see what all the fuss was about.

Sometimes I wonder if we find ourselves in a similar situation when we think about God. After all, God never reveals himself to us in a way that forces us to believe in him. Somehow, we're always left with the option not to believe; we can take it or leave it – it's just God's way of doing things. So, one person might look at a situation and say "It's a miracle", while another is totally convinced that it was "just a coincidence."

Perhaps very few people in Palestine saw, heard and understood what really took place that night. If there were choirs of angels singing then they may well have been drowned out by the haggling and trading going on in Bethlehem's many markets. Scientists are now pretty much convinced that

there was a bright star in the sky around the time that Jesus was born but, then again, the only ones who paid any attention to it were pagan astrologers from the East. If anyone did see Mary and Joseph that night, the likelihood is that they were probably too preoccupied with their own problems to notice (or to offer them any help or assistance).

What we see and hear in life often has little to do with the events themselves and more to do with who we are as people. It's not what's out there but what's inside of us that really holds the key. There's a good example of this in Charles Dickens' novel 'A Christmas Carol'. The Ghost of Christmas Past has just paid a heart-stopping visit to Ebenezer Scrooge and the old miser is clearly shaken by what he's seen. But when he awakes from his sleep, does he take that message to heart? Does he change his life on account of it? No! He simply dismisses it by famously saying: "Bah, humbug! It wasn't real. Just a bit of last night's undigested beef". So, was the vision that Scrooge experienced something to be taken to heart or simply the product of indigestion? We might wonder!

Now you might say that, had you or I been there in Bethlehem that night, we would have seen it and we would have understood what was happening. But would we? Would we really? There is one way of knowing. Ask yourself what you've seen so far this Christmas. If you caught the news this evening did you see chaos and disaster all around the world or did you see countless sheep without a Shepherd? When you went into Bourne, Stamford or Grantham to do your Christmas shopping, did you see only masses of people in the shops or did you notice the worried looks on so many people's faces? Perhaps they were still worried about COVID or the rising cost of everything, not knowing how they were ever going to make ends meet?

And ask yourself what have you heard so far this Christmas? Have you heard only music and carols that warmed your heart, or have you noticed the silent sighs of the lonely, the newly-bereaved and the worried, those who may be

dreading Christmas because it makes everything seem so much worse? So often what we see and what we hear isn't dependent upon the event but upon ourselves.

But if you did hear the cry of the lonely, if you did see lost sheep without a shepherd, then you might just have seen what took place that night in Bethlehem. The chances are that most of us would probably have been with the other 99 percent who were there but who didn't notice anything out of the ordinary. Perhaps some words from one of my favourite carols describes it best:

No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin.  
Where meek souls shall receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

Let us pray that this Christmas time we may indeed have hearts ready to receive him, imaginations open to the saving mystery that God has placed before us and an awareness of just how precious is this wondrous gift that we've been given. Let us pray for meek souls, so that the dear Christ may enter into our lives once more this Christmas, to open our hearts and eyes to his presence among us and to the needs of the world and the people he came to save.

Happy Christmas!

Fr Edward

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## Witham on the Hill WI Report - November 2022

Tuesday 1st November was our first meeting after “the clocks go back”, so it was a dark Autumn evening. However, we really enjoyed our meeting and had a very good turnout. Perhaps some Silent Witness fans were lured by our speaker on forensic sciences!

President Elaine Brock welcomed all and efficiently dealt with the usual business and diary matters. All the monthly groups – Book Club, Witham Walkers, PPP, sewing – are running regularly and we look forward to our Christmas Party and Christmas meal, the best “full” schedule since pre-Covid. Vicky Cox also gave a short report on a recent Lincs. South WI lunch at Greetham Valley Golf Club; an excellent meal and a very insightful and engaging speaker - Dianne Squires, a retired police officer who had served as a Family Liaison Officer in some tragic cases, notably a family shooting in Spalding.

We are very pleased to report that the Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £650. Many thanks to all who supported it. We are also supporting Samaritan’s Purse shoe boxes this year again.

Our speaker, Carl Denton, had worked as a Paramedic in Lincolnshire and was encouraged to move into forensic medicine, which entailed medical and legal re-training. He deals primarily with people in police custody and explained the difference between the forensic fields of medicine, science and pathology, the latter being portrayed by Emilia Fox – Dr Nikki Alexander in Silent Witness - very different to his role! Carl showed some medical equipment and discussed the onerous paperwork required, including photographic and DNA evidence needed in serious cases. All drunk/drugged drivers are carefully checked for medical problems, eg asthma or diabetes and also supplied medicine as required, so that they are fit for court appearance. Forensic medicine also deals with sudden deaths and suicides, so can be quite traumatic. But still a fascinating talk!

Meetings – Tuesday 6th December – Christmas Party meeting; no meeting in January; Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - AGM

Visitors and prospective members always welcome. More information on Insta and Facebook at WI Witham on the Hill; or call our Secretary, Jane Clark 01778 – 590232.

# **Northorpe & Thurlby Repair Café and Book Exchange**

The Northorpe & Thurlby Repair Cafe and Book Exchange meets monthly and has been running since early 2019. The idea behind the Repair Cafe was to gather volunteers together with skills and experience from a wide range of backgrounds to be able to offer advice and repairs for pretty much anything that can be carried into the hall!

Our volunteers have tackled hundreds of items over the years, including toasters, vacuum cleaners, Christmas lights, ceramics, toys, pushchairs, wooden furniture, sewing alterations and roman blinds - we also sharpen garden tools such as shears, lawn edgers and secateurs, which is very popular during the summer months.

It's not all about repairing though, we offer refreshments so all are welcome to pop along for a cup of tea or coffee, a piece of cake and a chat, we are a very friendly bunch. We have also recently started the Book Exchange and have built up a large collection of books and jigsaws that are available for swapping.

No booking is required for repairs (or refreshments!), so if you have something you'd like us to look at, please pop along - it's worth getting there early as we do get busy. We meet on the last Sunday of each month (except August) from 2-5pm in St Firmin's Church Hall in Thurlby. If anyone would like any further information then please email - [thurlby.repair.cafe@gmail.com](mailto:thurlby.repair.cafe@gmail.com)

# Notes for the Edenham, Grimsthorpe & Scottlethorpe Parish Council Meeting 8th November 2022

**Attendees:** Parish Councillors Mr T Clarke (Chairman), Mrs P Cranfield (Vice Chairman), Mr A Wilson, Mrs M Marshall, Mrs A Treacy, Mrs M Avis, Mr D Hawes and Mrs C Sands (Parish Clerk). Councillor M Hill ( LCC).

**Public Open Forum:** There were no members of the public present. Councillor Martin Hill (LCC) gave a brief update on Covid & flu vaccinations and the Boundary Commission review.

## **Parish Council Meeting:**

**Community Street cleaning:** Fly tipping reported to SKDC; this was in a similar area to previous incidents along Hanthorpe Road.

**TRS Building Grimsthorpe:** The conifer trees have been reduced in height; however, they have not been trimmed and re-shaped as requested by the Parish Council. Parish Clerk to contact Openreach/BT to ask for this work to be completed.

**Christmas Carols & Christmas Tree:** This event is taking place 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 starting at 18:30 hours. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served, carol sheets will be available, we look forward to seeing you all on the evening.

**Civility & Respect Policy:** Councillors agreed to the draft policy.

**Pillar Wood Farm:** Drainage, there have not been any issues reported during recent rainfall. Monitoring will continue during the winter months.

**General drainage in the village:** The drains on Main Street, Edenham are blocked with silt which results in flooding when there is rainfall. Councillor Hill (LCC) agreed to look into this matter and report back to the Parish Council.

**Play Area Inspection Report:** Parish Clerk has offered to fill holes around posts and reseed the areas. The Parish Council agreed to the expenditure cost for soil and grass seed.

**Planning Matters:** Parish Council received two notifications for changes to existing approved plans for the art galleries at Grimsthorpe Castle.

## Financial Matters:

**Receipts:** Community Street Cleaning grant from SKDC Oct 22 - Mar 23 - £463.32

**Expenditure:** Due November/December 2022: HMRC £45.20; Community Street Clean Salary £181.52; Parish Clerk Salary £171.00; Platinum Jubilee Photo: Costs confirmed £49.00 (Paid September)

**Grants:** The Parish Council agreed to give grants for the Church Yard & Edenham Village Hall maintenance £300 each

**Bank Reconciliation Report:** Treasurer's Account Balance £3134.70  
Business Account Balance £3441.07

## Correspondence:

SKDC Precept for 2023/24 - Completion due 20th January 2023

LALC subscriptions 2023/24 - Training Scheme £5 increase per electorate banding. LALC membership 4% increase.

SKDC Cost of Living Leaflet - Parish Clerk to post on the PC website.

**Next Meeting:** 10th January 2023 at 19:30hours.



wedding breakfast • vintage teas



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## **Gratitude for St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill**

The staff and pupils of Witham Hall are lucky to enjoy proximity to a church as beautiful and welcoming as St Andrews, but this link is more than just a school and its village church. Father Ed, with support from Father Peter and Father Andy, show a depth of care and commitment to the school evidenced in how pupils talk about them with the same familiarity as they do their teachers. While this relationship is not a new one – there has been a strong link for decades - it is certainly one that is thriving.

It was a joy to hear one of the Year 2 pupils in attendance at a St Andrew's Sunday service say, 'Look, Father Ed is here too!' To him, Father Ed belongs in school and it was a surprise that he too made an appearance at the service in the village! The role of a school chaplain is often underplayed in the secular age we live in, but Withamians regularly refer to Father Ed's Thursday Assemblies, a highlight of the week with quizzes and pupil participation, but also for Exeat Services, Remembrance Day with Father Peter this year, and the forthcoming Carol Service. The Remembrance Day service was a particular highlight with a wonderful turn out of parents, an opportunity for the school's senior choir to take part in worship and with a warm welcome from the congregation.

While it may seem obvious that a church would serve the school in its village, Witham Hall is grateful for the important part the church plays in spiritual wellbeing of the community and in the education of its pupils. Thank you, we consider ourselves lucky!

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# Hereward the Wake

Hereward is an almost legendary figure on whom there is little reliable and much suspect information. Born around 1035 and died 1072, his epithet “the Wake” means “the watchful” or is derived from Hereward's relationship with the manor of Bourne in Lincolnshire, which from the mid-twelfth century was held by the Wake family. He is the most famous of all the figures who resisted Norman rule and perhaps is best known for raising rebellion against William the Conqueror and fighting a last ditch stand against the Normans in the Isle of Ely.

Traditionally it is said that he was the son of Leofric of Bourne and Eadgyth, a descendant of Earl Oslac of Northumberland, and a nephew of Abbot Brand of Peterborough. Hereward was of high social status holding estates at Witham-on-the-Hill and Barholm-with-Stow as a tenant of Peterborough Abbey and lands as a tenant of Crowland Abbey, according to the Domesday Book.

Hereward must have committed some severe transgressions in his youth because he was exiled from England at the age of eighteen for disobeying his father and even worse for being declared an outlaw by the Saxon King Edward the Confessor. He went to the continent and found employment as a mercenary in the service of the Count of Flanders. After the Norman Conquest he returned to England in about 1069 and found his family's lands confiscated by King William and given to the Norman Ivo de Taillebuis. Hereward's father and brother had been killed and his brother's decapitated head placed on a spike at the entrance to his house.

Hereward took a bloody revenge when with just one follower he slaughtered fourteen Normans at a drunken feast and replaced his brother's head with theirs. After returning briefly to the continent while the heated situation cooled, he came back to England, only to find that his uncle Abbot Brand had been replaced at Peterborough Abbey by a Norman abbot, Turolde of Fecamp.

The Danes themselves were still trying to conquer England and their King Sweyn with a small army had established a camp on the Isle of Ely, where Hereward joined them. With the aid of the Danes, Hereward and his crew stormed and sacked Peterborough Abbey, claiming that he resented the

appointment of the Norman Tuold to the house and that he wished to save the Abbey's treasures from the rapacious Normans. Later he must have felt badly let down by his new friends. Sweyn realised that his force was too small and accepted terms from King William. The Danes left Ely, sailed into the River Thames where they stayed for two nights and then sailed back to Denmark. It is said that they even purloined the loot taken from Peterborough.

The Isle of Ely is so named because it occupies an area of raised ground which was the largest island in the Cambridgeshire Fens. The isle was only accessible by boat or causeway making the area relatively easy to defend until the waterlogged Fens were drained in the 17th century.

Morcar, the former Saxon Earl of Northumbria, had already raised rebellion against the Normans in the north of England and was well supported. But he was unwilling to take too much risk and advanced with his men to Warwick and there submitted to William leaving his companions high and dry. Morcar and a small remaining force made their way to Ely and joined Hereward.

Round about 1071, the King was in Normandy but returned to England to deal with the revolt personally. He called out naval and land forces to mount an attack from all directions. Ships blockaded the island on its eastern seaward side, while to the west his army constructed a pontoon bridge to launch an assault across the marshes.

William was foiled on three occasions by the superior military skill of Hereward in his attempts to build a causeway across the impassable marshes. However, during William's first attack the weight of the troops on the bridge was so great that the causeway sank and many soldiers drowned.

After many attempts the Normans bribed Abbot Thurstan of Ely to reveal a safe path across the marshes, which resulted in Ely at last being taken. Some of Hereward's men were imprisoned, but some were set free only after hideous mutilation, a practise William often performed on rebels. Morcar was captured and imprisoned for the rest of his life, but Hereward managed to escape into the wild fenland.

There are several conflicting accounts of Hereward's fate after his escape from the Isle of Ely. Some say he was reconciled with William the Conqueror, regained his lands and estates, died in his bed and was buried at Crowland.

Others that he was killed by a band of Englishmen. Alternatively, he lived for some time as an outlaw in the Fens, but that as he was on the verge of making peace with William, he was set upon and killed by a group of Norman knights.

Hereward owes his popularity as an archetypal English hero in the mould of Robin Hood to the publication in English of the “Gesta Herewardi” (The Life of Hereward) in the nineteenth century. This is an ancient tome originally written in Latin in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and from which much of our knowledge is gained. And to Charles Kingsley's novel Hereward the Wake: Last of the English, published in 1866 which is largely based upon it, elevating Hereward into one of the most romantic figures of English medieval history.



But Hereward lives on. Even more than nine centuries after his demise his name is celebrated in the Hereward Cross Shopping Centre, Peterborough; Hereward Medical Centre, Bourne; Wake House, Bourne; and the Hereward Way, a long-distance footpath from Peterborough to Ely and probably several others.

The picture is from a “See Britain by Train” poster in the National Railway Museum in York, captioned “Ely Cathedral where Hereward the Wake made his last stand”.

As mentioned before, Hereward is a semi-legendary figure with narratives of his life and exploits recounted in many ancient works most with wildly conflicting accounts. As in most histories getting to the truth is not easy. But why let historical accuracy spoil a good story? Even if there is a grain of truth in the written accounts, he was a determined and brave warrior and epitomises the refusal of the English people to be governed by foreigners. That is why he is still popular today.

Dick Mundy

## Who are “Steam Action”?

Steam Action began back in 1972 when a group of Edenham teenagers decided to provide entertainment and dances at the Village Hall. In that first year, every elderly resident was given a present to the value of £1.

By 1974, we were handing out birthday cards, organising quizzes, dances and coffee mornings, even arranging coach trips to stately homes and theatres. On the last Sunday in November, logs were delivered to each household, along with an invitation to the Christmas party with lunch and a show! A tradition that continues today, only instead of 35 people, we now cater for over 90 folk. Our pantomime has become so well known that we hold a further two performances for the public!

### **Are you 60 years of age or over and living in Edenham Parish? - JOIN US!**

Recently, to involve the more of the wider community, we lowered our members' entry age to 60, for whom we provide birthday and Christmas gifts, an afternoon tea, flowers/card following illness or a stay in hospital, and a Christmas party followed by a pantomime.

As well as this, we hold fundraisers for the local community, such as dances, summer fetes, quiz nights, raffles and a produce show.

Due to Covid we could not hold events in 2020; however, we stayed in contact with our members over the phone, carried out weekly shops and delivered 98 Christmas hampers! In 2021, we were fortunate to bring back the Vegetable and Produce show, as well as our Christmas lunch and entertainment in December.

We'd like to say a big thank you to our members and the community for their continued support. Without this, we would not be able to organise such wonderful events!

**We do not want anyone to miss out, so please get in touch if you are 60 or over, or have a birthday approaching.**

Lucie VonCarthy (Chair) 07715843387 | [Luciejwilson@hotmail.com](mailto:Luciejwilson@hotmail.com)

Lynda Wilson (Deputy) 01778 591309 | [Lyndawilson738@gmail.com](mailto:Lyndawilson738@gmail.com)

## **Steam Action – “To Foster a Community Spirit”**



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## Jane's Seasonal Recipe

*We grew a variety of squash called "Honey Bear" this year, and had loads of them! They have a creamy orange flesh but don't grow very big, so this recipe is perfect for them. It is a Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall recipe.*

### **LEEK AND CHEESE STUFFED SQUASH**

*4 small squash about 450g each*

*35g butter*

*2 large leeks, thinly sliced*

*1 teaspoon English mustard powder*

*4 tablespoons crème fraiche*

*125g gruyere, or other strong flavoured cheese*

*Fresh or dried thyme*

*Black pepper*

Fry leeks in butter over a medium heat; when they sizzle turn the heat right down, cover the pan, sweat gently for 10 mins until very soft. Stir in mustard, crème fraiche and cheese. Season with black pepper and thyme. Cut a small slice off the base of each squash, so it will stand up in a baking tin. Carefully slice a lid off the top of each squash. With a sharp knife cut out the centre of the squash and scoop out the seeds. Fill the cavity with the leek mixture, then put the lid back on. Place in a large baking tin, with space around for hot air to circulate. Bake at 190°C for about 60 mins, depending on the size of the squash, until the flesh feels tender inside.

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### **Answers to the Christmas Goodies Quiz**

1. Mince pies; 2. Crackers; 3. Champagne; 4. Goose; 5. Chocolate truffles; 6. Trifle; 7. Stuffing; 8. Presents; 9. Fairy lights; 10. Mistletoe; 11. Christmas tree; 12. Santa Claus

## PARISH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2022

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 2		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  <i>No Evening Prayer due to Steam Action Pantomime</i>
11 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 3	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
17 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm Carol Service		
18 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 4		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  6pm All-age Crib & Christingle
24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve		4.30pm Traditional Carols & Readings with Christingle  11.30pm Midnight Mass	9.30am Eucharist (Stable Chapel)  6pm Carol Service (Grimsthorpe Castle)
25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	8.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Parish Eucharist

## PARISH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2023

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
1 <sup>st</sup> January Christmas 2			10.30am Benefice Eucharist
8 <sup>th</sup> January The Epiphany	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
15 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 2		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
22 <sup>nd</sup> January Epiphany 3		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
29 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 4	10.30am Benefice Eucharist		4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
5 <sup>th</sup> February Candlemas		10.30am Benefice Eucharist	4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)

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)