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March 2024

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Edenham & Grimsthorpe Parish Council

Vacancy for Parish Clerk/RFO Edenham

Vacancy: The Parish Council is seeking a person with an interest in the local community for the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Working hours: The post is part-time, working hours vary from week to week but average around 1.5 hour per week.

Skillset: Applicants should possess excellent administrative, organisational and IT skills, as well as a flexible approach to working and be prepared to work from home. The position requires attendance at Parish Council Meetings held bi-monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm Edenham Village Hall.

Duties include:

Overall administration of the Parish Council's business – preparation of papers for Council Meetings, taking and production of accurate minutes, dealing with correspondence, monitoring Council's policies, advising Councillors regarding legal and good practice requirements and implementing Council decisions.

Maintenance of accurate and up-to-date financial records of the Parish Council, placing orders, preparing invoices for payment, receiving and banking income.

Preparation of the annual budget, completing the annual audit and liaising with internal and external auditors

Salary: The salary is in line with National Association of Local Councils (NALC) pay scales.

More info: For more information please contact the current Clerk. (see below) To apply for the position please send a letter with accompanying Curriculum Vitae by post or email.

Closing date for applications: Friday 8 March 2024 - the Parish Clerk, Mrs Carole Sands, 14 Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham, PE10 0LN - email: Edenham.pc@gmail.com



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Parish News

CONGRATULATIONS to The Six Bells in Witham on the award of its 14th Michelin Bib Gourmand award. The award is named after Bibendum, the official name of the Michelin Man. In the words of the Michelin Guide, “this distinction highlights restaurants offering great quality, great value cooking”. Well done to James and his staff!

BIG THANKS to all who generously pledged their monies to buy new fruit trees for the Swinstead Village Orchard, the volunteers who showed up with spades to help plant in and special thanks to Liz Underhill and Chris Hatch for co-ordinating the day. The Orchard was originally donated to Swinstead by Lady Willoughby de Eresby and is a family place to use, a safe enclosed area for children to play, have family picnics or just use the bench and bring a book for some quiet time. Always open for everyone to use, with entrance via front gate just up from the Church.

FREE BOOK & DVD SWAP is available in Swinstead Village Hall foyer. Anyone is welcome to come and swap or loan a book or DVD. There are children’s items there too! The Hall is open during Coffee Mornings (fortnightly on Wednesdays, and Friday & Saturday Evenings).

WINTER OPENING HOURS – Swinstead Village Hall Bar - Friday & Saturday 7pm to 11pm. A pool table, dart board with electronic score board and now a new table for those table tennis players, along with a great mix of board games, cards and background music. The volunteer bar staff will be sure to greet you with a nice cold beverage, or you may like to try on-tap beers, Tiger, Amstel & Moretti (*subject to change*).

BAPTISM Theodore Hawes, baby son of Rochelle and Aidan Hawes on 28 January at St Michael’s Church Edenham.

CONDOLENCES to Francie and Derek Lygo, family, friends and neighbours on the loss of Isobel Wright on 21 January.



Who was Edward King?
What can we learn
from him today?

A Day Retreat
with

Rev Dr Robert Beaken
author / historian

Edenham Regional House
8th March 10am to 4pm

£16 per person (BYO lunch)

Email: edenhamoffice@gmail.com

Tel: 01778 591358

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Joan Hulme, of Spalding, who died on 3 February, aged 93. Joan was a great supporter of Edenham Retreat House.

WELCOME to Fi and Glen at Birch House, Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

WITHAM ON THE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Future to be decided. After 20 years, Sue and Peter Cork have decided to step down from their roles as secretary and chairman of the Witham-on-the-Hill Historical Society. Unless there are people living locally with an interest in history, who are willing to take on these roles, it is likely that the society will be wound up.

If you are interested in taking over the running of the society, please contact Sue Cork: suecork8@hotmail.co.uk before the Members' Meeting on 11th March 2024. This meeting will decide whether the society can continue or whether to wind it up at the AGM in June.

Peter Cork - Chairman, Witham-on-the-Hill Historical Society

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 2 March, 9am to 2pm, Charity Car Boot Sale. See advert on page 8 for details.

Friday 8 March, 10am to 4pm, Edenham Retreat House - 'Who was Edward King? What can we learn from him as we try to lead Christian lives today?'
Day Retreat with Rev Dr Robert Beaken - £16pp / BYO lunch.
Booking: edenhamoffice@gmail.com or 01778 591358

Thursdays starting 29 February until 21 March, 12 noon, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill - Lent Lunches. A simple lunch of soup, bread, cheese and fruit. All welcome—donations to Christian Aid.

Saturday 9 March, 7pm, Edenham Village Hall - Steam Action Quiz Night.

CHARITY CAR BOOT SALE

Sat 2nd March 9am till 2pm

in aid of a-Sisterhood & OCD-UK

Book now for the Danish Invader, Empingham Rd, Stamford PE9 2SX

All private sellers welcome: £8 outside pitch £10 inside table. There will be a nearly new clothes sale. Clothes second-hand but good quality from £5 upwards each garment.

Tombola stall and a stall with homemade cakes to buy.

We are looking for any donations, clothes nearly new, very good condition, hardly worn for people to buy. Good shoes hardly worn.

Donations For the Tombola any tins, dry goods, or bottles in the back of your cupboard would be most acceptable. Any unwanted Christmas presents that you think someone else would enjoy.

Email for any car boot bookings:

alison.whitehead45@btinternet.com Tel 01778 590347

Last year we managed to raise £1000 for OCD & Cancer UK with your help. As part of Jodie's ongoing pageant work, this year we would like to raise even more for these Charities.

Many thanks from Jodie & Alison Whitehead



Monday 11 March 6pm through to breakfast on 15 March, Edenham Retreat House - "The Lord is my Shepherd". A retreat with the 23rd Psalm led by Canon Andy Hawes - Suggested Contributions: Resident for the whole retreat (full board) £275, for a day with lunch £20, for a day with lunch and supper £25. Booking: edenhamoffice@gmail.com or 01778 591358

Monday 11th March at 7.30pm, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham-on-the-Hill Historical Society - Members' Meeting.

Wednesday 13 & 27 March, Swinstead Village Hall - Coffee Mornings. A great way to meet up with friends – new and old – held every other Wednesday. Beverage, Cake & Raffle for £3.00.

Saturday 23 March, Swinstead Village Hall – Race Night Giddy Up and place your bets. Our lively and popular **Race Night** is locked in, **with first race 7.30pm**. Tickets £10 include Fish or Sausage & Chips, and £1 free bet. Book your ticket ASAP, as numbers are limited. villagehallswinstead@gmail.com or purchase at the bar.

Saturday 4 May, Swinstead Village Hall - Sausage & Cider Festival returns – Save the Date! A whole day of Live Entertainment, traditional Ciders and Local & Specialty Sausages. Wristbands will be on sale very soon. For both events prebook tickets at villagehallevts@gmail.com or call 07805 659540 or alternatively, come and see the staff at the Village Hall Bar who can reserve your ticket.

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Swinstead Village Committee - Raising funds for Village Hall Refurbishment

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The Vicar Writes

Whenever we consider our 'Lenten discipline' and think about how we might 'approach it', we usually include some of the following:

- Denying ourselves the odd luxury (chocolate bar, glass of wine etc.)
- Reading and mediating more on the Holy Scriptures (our Thursday evening Lent Course at the Retreat House in Edenham is an excellent way to do this!)
- Spending more time with God in prayer.

Of all those suggestions, prayer is probably one that elicits a wide variety of responses and feelings. The invitation (or even the expectation) that we should pray more can result in either the most pious of responses or the most piteous of excuses! But what exactly do we mean by prayer?

Well, the concept and practice of prayer has evoked much thought, writing and discussion in the Church down through the ages. Most of us would agree that prayer is important but, then again, most of us would probably have to confess that we don't pray as much or as often as we should! So, as we mark the halfway point of our Lenten pilgrimage, I'd like us to think again about prayer (and I mean that both literally and 'figuratively).

A good place to begin might be to consider what prayer is (or is not). Part of the problem when it comes to prayer is that most of us feel uncomfortable in prayer. We don't seem to know how to pray and, because we often stall at the 'how to part', we end up feeling inadequate, embarrassed, and unable to approach God in prayer; so much so that many of us simply don't bother.

So, let's have a look at the 'how to part'. To do this, I'd like to share with you a wonderful poem that might help gain a little perspective. It's called 'The Prayer of Cyrus Brown' by Sam Walter Foss:

*"The proper way for man to pray,"
Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,
"And the only proper attitude,
Is down upon his knees."*

*"No, I should say the way to pray,"
Said Reverend Dr. Wise,
"Is standing straight with outstretched arms,
And rapt and upturned eyes."*



The LORD is my shepherd

A retreat with the 23rd Psalm
led by Canon Andy Hawes
with worship according to the
Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Monday 11th March from 6pm
until Friday 15th March after breakfast

Each day begins with Morning Prayer
at 9am and ends with Evening Prayer
at 5.30pm. It's possible to stay for supper
and compline at 8.45pm. There are two
addresses (10am and 4pm) and a Eucharist
each day at 12pm.

Suggested Contributions: Resident for the
whole retreat £275, for a day without
supper £20, for a day with supper £25.

Email: edenhamoffice@gmail.com

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*"Oh, no, no, no!" said Elder Slow,
"Such posture is too proud;
A man should pray with eyes fast closed,
And head contritely bowed."*

*"It seems to me his hands should be
Austerely clasped in front.
With both thumbs pointing toward the ground,"
Said Reverend Dr. Blunt.*

*"Las' year I fell in Hodgkin's well
Head first," said Cyrus Brown.
"With both my heels a-stickin' up,
My head a-pointin' down;*

*"An' I made a prayer right then an' there
Best prayer I ever said,
The Prayin'est prayer I ever prayed,
A-standin' on my head."*

Part of our difficulty with prayer lies in the fact that we live in a largely non-praying world; ours is a frightened and frightening world but not a world that knows how to pray. There are many who like idea of prayer but have long since given up trying. So, ours is a world that includes a great many who've prayed once (or twice) but that's about it.

There are plenty of intelligent and gifted people who do their level best to try and help their neighbours, lead a good life and contribute something meaningful to society. But in the midst of all that good, there remains a sense of isolation from God; a perception that God is just too big to approach and forever beyond their reach and because of that isolation, these people feel alone in their endeavours to do and to be good.

The real problem is that most people were never taught what prayer is (and can be). Most children grew up these days unsure as to whether it would be more appropriate to address their hopes and dreams to God or to Father Christmas. Church theologians haven't helped much either, giving us over-the-top definitions of prayer. In fact, one thinker suggested that "Prayer is basically man in the totality of being stretched out to possess the transcendent, awesome God, in the intimate inwardness of his deepest



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consciousness.” Well, why didn't they say so before? That makes it abundantly clear!

Perhaps a better way of approaching it would be to take the example of Cyrus Brown. His encounter with God in prayer wasn't eloquent, stylised, stylish or theologically deep but it was honest. Cyrus Brown had nothing to hide but everything to gain from an honest encounter with God in prayer; there were no pretensions only simple relating directly to God.

Because that is exactly what prayer is, prayer is about being in honest relationship with God. Prayer is being in honest relationship with God so that we can speak to God and he can speak to us. It's so much more than our merely pestering God with a shopping list of wants. Prayer is finding that moment of peace amid trouble, calmness in calamity, love amidst loneliness. Prayer is falling down a well and, from a position of great physical discomfort, suddenly feeling comfortable with God.

You see, the problem isn't that we don't know how to pray, it's that we've lost our sense of how to honestly relate to a loving, forgiving and gracious God. Prayer is the only skill the disciples ever asked Jesus to teach them. They didn't ask him to teach them how to heal, to raise money to fix Church roofs, perform miracles, manage crowds or to organise a Rota or start a Sunday School. All they asked him to teach them was how to pray, and what did Jesus say? He said, when you pray, say “Our Father”. Our Father. Not our God, Lord, commander, or master. Our Father.

Prayer was the way Jesus began every important step in his life, even the steps that would lead him to Jerusalem and to death on a cross. So, wherever you're going this Lent, wherever you want to be on Easter day, no matter how intimidating it might appear, try beginning with prayer. Try approaching God honestly, openly and with true sincerity that we might know his grace, his love and find the strength we need to live the life we were born and made to live.

Fr Edward

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Kate's Bridge

An old bridge in a small hamlet

(Dick Mundy)

Mention the name Kate's Bridge to anyone in our locality and they will assume you are talking about the petrol station or the garden centre in this small hamlet about a mile and a half south of Thurlby. But there are also a few houses, an outfit that fixes lawn mowers, a farm, some sort of caravan establishment and a chicken farm. On the current Ordnance Survey map the name is attached to the farm, the houses, the chicken farm and a weir on the River Glen, just west of the A15 main road.

All these places are spread over about a mile on the map. So, effectively, the small hamlet has become quite large. Strictly speaking the term hamlet is correct, defined in England as a settlement smaller than a village and without a church.

But the highways authority has decided in its wisdom that Kate's Bridge is so small that the road signs announcing the name of the hamlet only merit being mounted on one pole. In fact, they have gone further, both name plates are on the same pole, one facing north, the other south, located on the west side of the A15 roughly opposite the houses and the petrol station.

The hamlet is shared with Thurlby and Baston County Parishes. The border runs from the north-east along the River Glen, which flows north-easterly through the hamlet, then south of Kate's Bridge farm, then zig-zags west across the A15 then south taking in the north west corner of Waterside garden centre.

The name also refers to the old stone bridge, east of the main road, crossing the River Glen. The old bridge is less than 18 feet wide and was adequate in its time for horses, with or without carts or coaches. The bridge no longer carries a road, just a muddy track which is part of the Macmillan Way long-

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distance footpath. The track abuts the A15 and forms an even muddier unofficial lay-by, exit from which by car into the fast-moving traffic on the main road takes extreme care.



The bridge is late 18th century but appears to be in superb condition. It is a single elliptical arch. The stone blocks have smooth faces and sharp square edges. Either side of the arch are pilasters which are flat

representations of classical columns. All masonry blocks on the pilasters and the arch on the east and west sides are rusticated, meaning they have deep V-shaped joints between the blocks. On the west face the keystone has a female carved head, who could well represent Kate in the hamlet's name. The keystone is the highest stone in the arch and stands proud of its neighbours. Sadly, ivy and much other foliage is growing over both the faces obscuring the quality of the structure and possibly damaging it. Despite the deterioration, the old bridge is grade II listed. (The picture above is about 15 years old, copied from the geograph website).

In the 1960s the increasing weight of traffic caused the old bridge to be replaced with a modern concrete bridge just to the west which now carries the A15. When the new bridge was built the A15 was also re-routed to bypass the old bridge and to smooth out the route.



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Stamford Lincolnshire

In times gone by the Roman road King Street consisted of its present route and part of the modern A15 north through Thurlby and Bourne. Where this route crossed the River Glen was the only section of river bed with a solid rock bottom thus a safe point to ford before the bridge was built, fords being more commonplace than bridges. During the thirteenth century the area north of the river was known as “Caterbrig” which must be of Latin derivation. Its ownership was apparently disputed between two bishops. However, the south side of the river was known by the Anglo-Saxon name, Thetford, a public ford, a name retained in Thetford Farm Estate.

The origin of the name “Kate’s Bridge” is a bit of a mystery. It could be the woman personified in sculpture on the west face of the old bridge. Or possibly a corruption of the name “Caterbrig”. Alternatively, a local newspaper recently published a feature about ghosts and spirits in the area. It related a story about a woman called Kate who hanged herself from the bridge and that her ghost still inhabits the hamlet which adopted her name. Or it may be something else entirely.

Admittedly there is not a lot to be seen in Kate’s Bridge unless you are into old bridges. But access means either parking in the muddy lay-by, or using the garden centre car park and walking along the very busy A15.

Mention must be made of Storm Henk in early January 2024 causing the River Glen to burst its banks resulting in devastating floods. On Wednesday 3rd January Waterside Garden Centre which is alongside the Glen had to close. On a local news website, the owner Andy Parrot said that parts of the premises were under five feet of water, he has lost virtually all his stock, and the damage could run into over a million pounds. At the time of writing (late January 2024) it was said that the popular garden centre could remain closed until March.



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WITHAM HALL

Very many congratulations to Year 7 Witham Hall pupil, Henry, who won the prestigious Loughborough Piano Competition last month. As one of the youngest pupils competing, Henry's rendition of a Bach prelude and fugue secured him the top spot in the competition against 23 of his peers ranging from Years 7 to 10. International concert pianist and competition judge, Luis Pares, was impressed by Henry's 'technical and musical approach.' As a Grade 8 pianist, Henry's years of hard work and commitment have paid off and he should be very proud of his achievement.

Charity Easter Egg Hunt – All Welcome!

This event is open to the public. Families will follow the bunny trail through Witham Hall's historic grounds, collecting clues along the way to earn a sweet treat at the end of the adventure. Visit Withamhall.com to purchase your tickets. For enquiries, please contact community@withamhall.com



The poster features a light teal background with a white rabbit in the center, holding a carrot and a basket. The text is arranged on the left side, and a QR code is in the top right corner. The bottom of the poster has a red ground area.


WITHAM HALL

**Saturday 16th
March 2024
10am - 12 noon**

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EGG HUNT**



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Witham on the Hill WI

February 2024

February was our annual meeting, when Vicky Cox was re-elected President for another year. The committee's annual report gave an account of a very busy year with lots of interesting speakers, events, outings and workshops that members enjoyed. The Treasurer gave a report that showed a balance slightly down on the previous year but still enough for a reduction in the annual subscription from £48 recommended by NFWI to £45 due in April. Bev Haydon gave the President a vote of thanks and presented her with a scarf. The winners of the annual competition were: 1st Kaye Mundy,

2nd Jane Clark, 3rd Trudy Templeman, who each received a Marks and Spencer gift voucher and a trophy. The raffle winner was Wendy Wooldridge. Kaye Mundy gave a 10-minute talk on her hobby of quilting and showed some stunning pieces of work. After refreshments, members had a go at a tricky quiz set by Vicky Cox.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5 March in St Andrew's Parish Hall at 7.30pm when Tim Stubbs, a former baker's delivery boy, will give us his reflections of life in Thurlby. New members and visitors are always most welcome. For further information, contact Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

The Three Towers Recipe Book

If you enjoy our "Seasonal Recipes" then do not forget that the whole collection from May 2011 onwards is available from the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe parish website. Either click on the link below or copy it into your browser: [the-three-towers-recipe-booklet-2020 \(lincolnshire.gov.uk\)](http://the-three-towers-recipe-booklet-2020.lincolnshire.gov.uk)

We add the newest recipe each month, so why not bookmark the link to make it easy for your to find your favourite recipe or just look for some inspiration?

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

This is a quick supper dish – an alternative to sausage and mash.

Sausage and Leek Potato Bake

750g potatoes

25g butter

450g sausages

4 large leeks

40g plain flour

450ml milk

110g mature cheddar

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

25g fresh breadcrumbs

Peel and thinly slice potatoes. Cook in boiling water 5 mins until just tender (do not overcook). Drain. While potatoes are cooking, melt butter in large fry pan, add sliced sausage, cook for 5 mins. Add sliced leeks, cook for 5 mins. Stir in flour, cook for 1 min. Gradually add milk and 75g grated cheese, then stir in mustard. Bring to boil stirring continuously. Tip into greased ovenproof dish, arrange potato slices on top, sprinkle with breadcrumbs and rest of grated cheese. Bake at 200°C for 30mins until browned. Serve hot with sprouts or cabbage.

SERVES 4

PARISH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
3 rd March Lent 3		10am Parish Eucharist At Witham	11.15am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Deanery Evensong At Old Somerby
10 th March Lent 4 <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	8.45am Parish Eucharist At Swinstead	10am All-age Eucharist At Witham	11.15am All-age Eucharist 6.30pm Deanery Evensong At Edenham
17 th March Lent 5		10am Parish Eucharist At Witham	11.15am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Deanery Evensong At Bourne Abbey
24 th March Palm Sunday			11.15am Benefice Eucharist with Blessing of Palms and Procession 6.30pm Deanery Evensong At Morton
25 th March Mon in Holy Week	7pm Eucharist At Castle Bytham		

PARISH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
26 th March Tues in Holy Week	7pm Eucharist At Swinstead		
27 th March Wed in Holy Week	7pm Eucharist At Little Bytham		
28 th March Maundy Thurs		7pm Sung Eucharist & Watch At Witham	
29 th March Good Friday	10.30am All-age Service At Castle Bytham	1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy At Creton	
30 th March Holy Saturday			
31 st March Easter Day	8.45am Parish Eucharist At Swinstead	10am Parish Eucharist At Witham	5.30am Easter Vigil & Breakfast At Edenham - meet outside Church Porch 11.15am Parish Eucharist

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

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