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November 2024

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Parish News

WITH GREAT SADNESS - Sally Bentley (nee Munton) of Manthorpe passed away peacefully after a long illness on Sunday morning 20 October. A life-long resident of Manthorpe, Sally's passing leaves a big gap in our community. Sally leaves her sons, Tom, Robert and Josh, their partners, Lucy, Eimear and Lauren, and her grandchildren, Poppy, Violet and Bonnie.

SWINSTEAD GARDEN FETE (26 August) was opened by Rob Persani from Rutland Radio. As well as being a great day out, the event raised £2,200 for the St Mary's church funds. Well done to all who attended the fete.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE Last month there should have been a leaflet in this magazine explaining how to fill a shoe box with gifts for children in war torn areas or countries suffering natural disasters. The shoe boxes can be taken to certain places between 11 and 18 November. Thank you for your generous donations. For further information contact Jane Clark 01778 590232.

HARVEST FOODBANK Thank you very much to all who gave to the Harvest Foodbank contributions - all the bags delivered were very gratefully received. Please continue to give as and when you can. There is always a box in Witham church porch.

CHRISTMAS FOODBANK Following the success of last year's Bourne Foodbank/Witham-on-the-Hill December 'Give a Gift' initiative, we are planning to repeat this activity and collect gifts that are wrapped and labelled (man, woman, child (boy or girl or both) to deliver to the Foodbank before the holiday break. These gifts will be handed out by Foodbank staff to the families they support. If you would like to participate, **please deliver your gifts to either the church porch, Witham-on-the-Hill or to Frances Plummer's house, leave in the cupboard by the log shed. Please ensure all packages are delivered by Monday 16th December in readiness for the final delivery to the Foodbank.** Any questions or further information, please contact either Sonjeeta Mahapatra 07711 008034 or Frances Plummer 07919 288799

RNIB USED POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTION There will be a box in St Andrew's church porch, Witham on the Hill, for used postage stamps. The stamps will be forwarded to RNIB to raise funds for their charity. With the Christmas card

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season approaching please save your stamps!

ADVENT WINDOWS Witham on the Hill. If people would like to continue to enjoy seeing a window a day being lit up, I will need 24 volunteers. The windows can be as simple as a lighted candle and the number of the day. Please let me know if you are willing to take part and if you want a particular number. Please message Frances on 07919 288799.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING A very successful Macmillan coffee morning was held on Friday 27th September at **Witham Manor, hosted by Suzy Grigson and JustSing choir**. The coffee flowed, there were plenty of delicious cakes to enjoy and it was a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. An enormous thank you to all who supported the event which **raised over £1,200**.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - A massive shout out to everyone involved in the **Swinstead Macmillan coffee morning** in September, organised by Mark Woodruff. Last year we raised a whopping £561 via the coffee & cake morning, raffle sales and donations via our JustGiving page. **This year, we hit £572** in donations – a fantastic achievement and a huge thank you to all donators.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING in **ST Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill** on Saturday 19 October **raised a magnificent £500 in two hours**. It was a wonderful and well-supported social event - lots of chat and laughter. Well done to all the ladies who worked tirelessly in the kitchen and those who manned the stalls. Thank you to all who supported the event with raffle prizes, donations and turning up.



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TOFT COMMUNITY PULLS TOGETHER! On hearing an enormous bang, late afternoon on Friday 4 October, Toft residents sprang into action and ran immediately to the scene to find a tractor and trailer overturned, spilling a full load of grain onto the road.

Toft residents, Jenny Gilbert, Robin and Jaqui Molyneux and neighbour, Ian, raced to check on the farmer, Neville Bish, and they were later joined by a nurse called Caz. Lorna Cook took charge of traffic control asking those already at the scene to turn around and then, from the top of the road at the bend, she stopped and redirected all the traffic away from the scene and through Manthorpe so they could rejoin the A6121 - resulting in the road remaining completely clear for the Fire Service who arrived in minutes and a passing passenger ambulance was redirected to the scene.

Thankfully Mr Bish was not seriously hurt and remained at the scene to oversee the entire operation of organising the pickup and removal of grain and the recovery of his tractor and trailer. It was apparent that he was supported by his family and friends who also came to help. Jenny Gilbert and Penny Watering provided refreshments for the Fire services team and others.

The road was closed off until late into the evening with the road-sweeper arriving in the early hours of Saturday morning to give the road a final dust.

There were others who have not been named also helped - so thank you to them too.

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Fri 12:00-23:00

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Sun 12:00-20:00



Eating

Weds - Sat 12:00-14:30

and 17:00-20:30

Sun - 12:00-17:00

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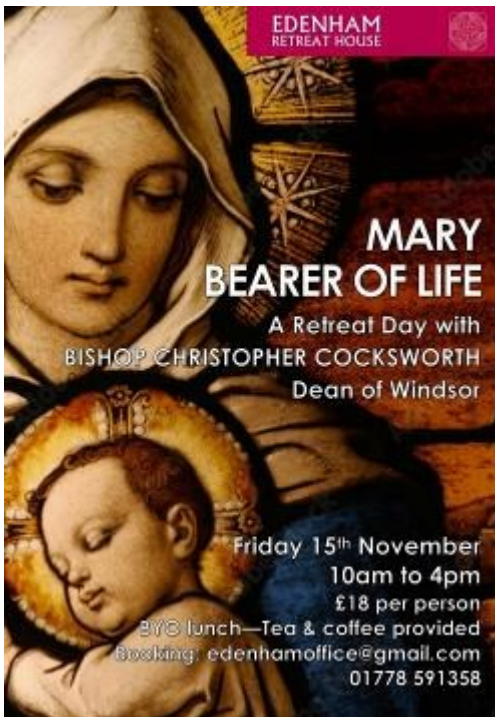
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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 6 & 20 November from 10.30am to 12pm – Swinstead Village Hall Social Coffee Mornings. Come and meet some new friends and enjoy some company, accompanied with coffee, tea, scones, cakes and bakes and a chance to win a great prize with one free raffle ticket, all for £3.00.

Friday 8 November 8pm - Swinstead Village - Low Noise Family Fireworks Display on The Green, Bourne Road. The Village Hall bar Opens at 7pm and hot dogs & chilli dogs are available, Fireworks start at 8pm. Bring the whole family down for this spectacular free event and don't forget to wrap up warm. (See page 12)

Friday 15 November, 10.30am to 4pm - Retreat Day Edenham Retreat House. "Mary, Bearer of Life". Led by Bishop Christopher Cockworth. Tea and coffee provided - £18 pp, BYO lunch. Booking: edenhamoffice@gmail.com

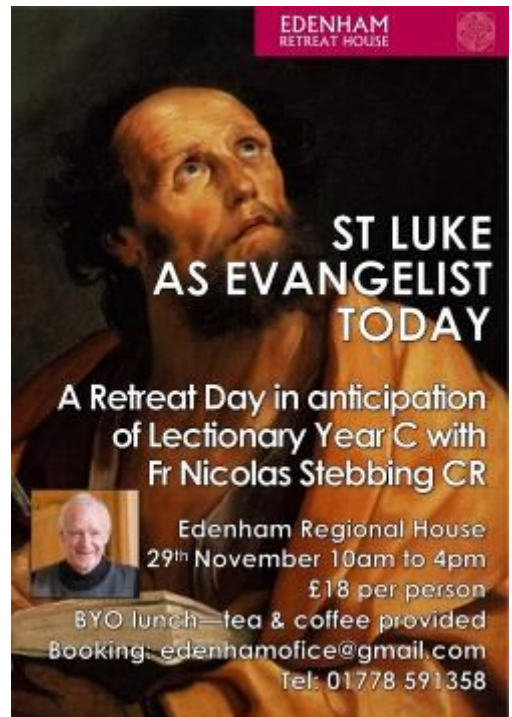


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TODAY**

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STEAM ACTION PRESENTS

Aladdin and the Wishing Tree

8th December at Edenham Village Hall

Tickets available online from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/steam-action
For more information, contact Nikki Gunn
01778 591197 or nikkigunn@yahoo.co.uk

Performances at 2pm and 6pm
Raffle to be held at both performances
Adults £5 - Children £3 (Babes in arms go free)

Sunday 17 November, 4pm - St Peter's Singers Choral Evensong at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Greatford, followed by a short choral recital. Free for all to attend and refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Saturday 23 November, 8.30am to 10am - Big Breakfast, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

Friday 29 November, 10.30am to 4pm - Retreat Day Edenham Retreat House. "St Luke the Evangelist". Led by Nicolas Stebbing CR. Tea and coffee provided - £18 pp, BYO lunch. Booking: edenhamoffice@gmail.com

Saturday 30 November 6pm - St Andrew's Patronal Festival, a church service followed by a fish and chip supper in the St Andrew's Parish Hall. Please either put your name on the sheet in Church or contact Trudy on 07754 493792 to book - all welcome.


Saturday 7 December, 7:30pm - St Peter's Singers perform 'A Ceremony of Carols by Candlelight' in St Andrew's church, Witham on the Hill. Music by Benjamin Britten with harpist Rowena Bass, plus other seasonal choral offerings. Tickets £12 (children £6), to include interval refreshments, from Sue Nicholls (07913 296247) or Frances Plummer (07919 288799).

Saturday 7 December 7pm – Swinstead Village Hall 'Rocking Xmas Party' - Dust down those dancing shoes and come along to the Village Hall for a free party with Galaxy Disco DJ spinning tracks from the 1960's right up to modern day tunes. Snacks and Drinks available at the bar, opening at 7pm. Everyone welcome. (See page 14)

Sunday 8 December 2pm and 6pm - Edenham Village Hall, Aladdin and the Wishing Tree. A Steam Action production. (See page 10)


Saturday 14 December 8pm – Swinstead Village Hall 'Ho Ho Ho Xmas Quiz'. Enjoy an evening of fun and laughter – create a table of friends and test your festive knowledge. Trivia covering Xmas movies, songs and traditions - £2 entry fee - cash prize. The Village Hall bar Opens at 7pm - Quiz starts at 8pm.

Tuesday 17 December 6:30pm - Edenham Carol Singing , around the Christmas tree. (see page 17)



Swinstead Village Hall
Committee presents

Low Noise Family Fireworks Display



8pm Friday 8th November

Opp Village Hall on The Green
Bourne Road – Swinstead

By kind permission of Mr Nigel Hawkins



Village Hall Bar
open from 7pm

Hot Dogs £2
Chilli Dogs £3



FREE EVENT – EVERYONE WELCOME

The Vicar Writes

I've been enjoying two books in recent weeks, Flora Thompson's 'Lark Rise Trilogy' and a rather curious volume entitled 'The Revenge of Analogue' by David Sax.

In the first of the Lark Rise books, Flora Thompson shares memories of a 'hamlet Harvest' back in the 1880s, "In the fields when the Harvest had begun, all was bustle and activity. With no idea that they were at the end of a long tradition, the farm labourers kept the custom of choosing the tallest and most highly skilled man, who was called King of the Mowers."

He it was who led the band as they mowed (and he it was who decreed when they should halt for a breather and what drink should be had from the stone jar they kept under the hedge in a corner of the field). They didn't rest often or long, for every morning they set themselves an amount of work that they knew would tax all their powers till long after sunset. 'Set yourself more than you can do, and you'll do it' was one

of their maxims, and some of their feats in the fields astonished themselves as well as the onlooker.

After the mowing, reaping and binding came the carrying. For, when the corn was cut and dried, it was imperative to get it stacked and thatched before the weather broke. At last the final load was brought in, with the men walking alongside with pitchforks on shoulders. As they passed along the roads they shouted: Harvest home! Harvest home! Merry, merry, merry Harvest home!

The joy and pleasure of the labourers in their task well done was genuine, for they loved the soil and rejoiced in their work and skill in bringing forth the fruits of the soil, and Harvest home put the crown on their year's work.

On the morning of the Harvest home dinner, everybody prepared for a feast, some even going without breakfast, so their appetite might not be impaired. And what a feast it was! Such boiling of hams and roasting of sirloins, such a stacking of plum puddings, such a tapping of eighteen-

Swinstead Village Hall Committee presents

Rocking Xmas Party

Sat 7th December 7.00pm

Free Party!

Galaxy Disco DJ

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modern chart hits!

Drinks & Snacks at the Bar

Party Wear - as Fancy as you Fancy

gallon casks and baking of plum loaves as would astonish those today. By noon the whole parish had assembled, the workers and their wives and children and a sprinkling of the better-to-do to help with the serving. The only ones absent were the aged bedridden and to them, the next day, portions were carried by the children from the remnants of the feast.

Long tables were laid out of doors in the shade of a barn and soon after twelve o'clock the cottagers sat down to the good cheer, with the farmer carving at the principal table. Passers-by on the road stopped their gigs and high dogcarts to wave greetings and shout congratulations. If a tramp looked wistfully in, he was beckoned to a seat and a full plate was placed on his knees. It was a picture of plenty and goodwill.

Flora Thompson began her account by saying that few in the 1880s realised that they were at the end of a long tradition. For very soon mechanisation, followed by the industrial revolution, put an end to such festivities; fewer and fewer took

part in the Harvest and so fewer and fewer were invested in its outcome and with that, fewer and fewer continued to care about it or to observe the celebration.

There is, of course, a much older Harvest tradition (older even than that of the English countryside at the end of the nineteenth century). It is the harvest that will signify the end of all things, when Christ comes to gather the fruit of his labours into the storehouse of eternity. It may be true to say that fewer and fewer are

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invested in the outcome of that harvest (certainly fewer care about it nowadays than previously did). And yet, it mirrors perfectly the account that Flora Thompson gives – for the heavenly harvest grants a place equally to those who labour all day, to those who chance to look in, and to those whose frailties leave them dependent on the generosity others to receive the full benefit of this great endeavour, for such is the Kingdom of God!

The might of mechanisation and industry may have changed the face of agriculture in the 1880s but we have something altogether more subtle to contend with, we are battling with the myth of self-sufficiency. We think we can do it all ourselves (we even think we can save ourselves). We've lost the power, dependency and security of faith and community. We even tend to view our congregations nowadays as a 'statistical coming together of individuals', rather than the people of God gathered around the Lord's altar on the Lord's day. But there is, perhaps, another way...

In the other book I've been reading, 'The Revenge of Analogue', author David Sax suggests that listening to vinyl records, writing on real paper, going to the movies with a friend and playing a board game with family, all serve to remind us that real things and real people matter and that sitting on your own, scrolling on your phone is no substitute for what this brings. We need to 'rediscover our dependency' says Sax and Harvest is a marvellous time to do this, to remind ourselves of our need of God, our need of the farming community and our need of the Christian community.

Both harvests matter (agricultural and spiritual). Why? Because God matters, creation matters and we matter (to God and to one another). 'Set yourself more than you can do and you'll do it' acclaimed the Harvest labourers of Flora Thompson's era and, in doing so, they forged what she called 'a picture of plenty and goodwill'. Could we not do the same? When our faith moves us to try to do more collectively than we could ever do individually, we find ourselves investing in one another,

surrendering self, relying on God and, in doing so, we cultivate something greater than the sum of our parts.

Therein lies the challenge! The challenge to know our need, to know our need of God and of one another. That's what will cultivate a picture of plenty and goodwill and that is what will put the crown on all that God has given us here in the places where we live and work.

Many thanks to all who supported our celebrations of Harvest this year.

Fr Edward



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Christmas tree
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Light refreshments will be served
Everyone welcome

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The Life and Times of Richard Bertie

Amongst the many superb memorials in Edenham Church is a particularly fine white marble tablet dedicated to Richard Bertie who was born in 1635 and passed on in 1686. Tucked away in a dark corner at the east end of the north aisle of the church, the visitor must really hunt around to find it. But the search is rewarding.

Coincidentally placed next to the black marble memorial to his grandfather, Richard's memorial is superbly carved, and contains extensive details of his life in the flowery language of the 17th century.

We learn that he was indeed of illustrious parentage, being the grandson of the first Earl of Lindsey, of Grimsthorpe Castle, who was killed at the Battle of Edgehill in 1642, and the son of Montagu, 2nd Earl of Lindsey. Both father and grandfather were Knights of the Garter, the highest

order of knighthood in the kingdom, founded in 1348, the oldest in the world. And both were hereditary Lords Great Chamberlain of England, the Officer of State to whom the Sovereign entrusts the custody and control of the Palace of Westminster, the responsibility for the organisation of the State opening of Parliament, and who plays a major role in a Coronation.

To escape the vindictiveness of Oliver Cromwell's republic, Richard and his elder brother Peregrine were sent out of the country by their father in 1649.





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Richard travelled throughout Europe before joining the Duke of York (later King James II), serving in the French army under Marshall Turenne during the Thirty Years War.

The Thirty Years war of 1618 to 1648 was one of the most destructive conflicts in European history, caused mainly by the Protestant Reformation in the Germanic states and those who opposed it. The Franco-Spanish war was part of this wider conflict and Richard distinguished himself in the Siege of Mouzon in eastern France in 1653. In the midst of the Franco-Spanish War, the nobility, the law courts (“Parlements”), as well as much of the French population, rose in revolt against the government of the young King Louis XIV in what was known as “the Fronde”. Again Richard won acclaim in the capture of the fortress of Landrecies in 1655 during this uprising.

Our man returned to England at the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 and briefly pursued a political career. He was a commissioner for assessment of taxation in Lincolnshire, was appointed a justice of the peace in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire and was returned as Member of Parliament for Woodstock in Oxfordshire in March 1685.

When King Charles II died on 6 February 1685 he left no legitimate issue. But despite being a Catholic, his younger brother James acceded peacefully to the throne as King James II. However James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth, eldest illegitimate son of Charles II, had other ideas. He was vehemently opposed to a Catholic King and in 1685 led a group of like-minded Protestants in an armed invasion known as the Monmouth Rebellion in the west of England with the object of toppling the King.

But Monmouth was opposed by James who had a standing army of nearly 20,000 men. Richard Bertie was part of this force as a Captain commanding a troop of horse. The Royal army easily defeated Monmouth on 6th July 1685, at the Battle of Sedgemoor, the last pitched battle fought on English soil. Monmouth himself was captured hiding in a ditch disguised as a shepherd.



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Stamford Lincolnshire

Tried and found guilty of High Treason, Monmouth was sentenced to death by beheading. However, Monmouth's execution was hideously bungled. The executioner took five strokes with the axe and even then the head was not completely severed and had to be finished off with a knife. Monmouth was interred, along with many other victims of execution, in the Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London.

King James's reaction to the Monmouth rebellion was to plan the increase of the standing army and the appointment of loyal and experienced Roman Catholic officers. But Richard and his younger half-brother Captain Henry Bertie did not support his measures and as a result were deprived of their commissions in December 1685. Richard died on 19 January 1686, and was buried at Edenham. He never married.

Edenham Church houses the monuments to the Berties, Lords Willoughby de Eresby and later Dukes of Ancaster, all of Grimsthorpe Castle, some of them huge and very ornate, but a series larger than that in any other Lincolnshire church. Richard was a politician, a magistrate and a soldier, and thoroughly deserves his place amongst these worthies.

Dick Mundy

Edenham, Grimsthorpe, Scottlethorpe & Elsthorpe Parish Council - Councillor Casual Vacancy

There is a Casual Vacancy for a new member. Therefore if any parishioner is interested in becoming involved in Local Government, they should contact the Parish Clerk for further information/details of a members role etc.

Please contact the Clerk by Friday 8th November 2024.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Carole Sands e-mail: edenham.pc@gmail.com

Parish Council Meetings: Are usually held on the second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, November at 19:30 hours in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Edenham.



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Witham on the Hill WI

October 2024

The speaker, Horace Liberty, told us he lives in North Hykeham, rides a penny farthing, has been a ship's engineer and a teacher. He explained his talk is a cross between Antiques Road Show and a family history of Liberty's of London.

Arthur Lasenby Liberty started selling imported textiles from India, China and Japan in 1875. His motto was "Do not follow existing fashions, create new ones".

He got married, got a £1,000 loan from his father-in-law, leased a shop in Regent Street and was soon doing well, selling furniture, rugs, metal items, ceramics as well as fabrics. He worked with William Morris and William Moorcroft doing Art Nouveau designs using nature: grasses, flowers, butterflies, peacock feathers. The Hera design has been in continuous print since 1887 – good design never goes out of fashion.

He had no children but trained Ivor Stewart, his nephew, to run the business. Arthur died in 1917 and Ivor took over.

In 1925 the business moved to a new shop around the corner in a

magnificent Tudor style building. The business was sold in 2000 to a private equity firm but the shop survives. Horace explained he is 3rd cousin, 3 times removed to Arthur Liberty. He showed slides, brought fabric samples and lots of interesting books.

A small group of members and one husband did a litter-pick on Sunday afternoon, 13 October, as their contribution to the Climate Coalition's Week of Action.

In an hour the footpath, ditches and hedgerows between Witham on the Hill and Manthorpe were cleared and about 6 bags of rubbish were collected. Many thanks to Richard Hartley for taking most of the bags away. Well done all.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5 November at 2.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill.

Please note the change to afternoon – this is a trial to see if members prefer it. The speaker will be Rosemary Sneath, talking about her experiences as a Norland Nanny.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome, entry fee £5. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary, tel 01778 590232.

Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery

Moreley's Lane, Corby Glen, NG33 4NL

12 – 5 pm. Tuesday – Sunday

ADMISSION FREE

Exhibition opens on Wednesday 30 October
and runs until Friday 22 November



All the entries to the competition are exhibited. The exhibition, open to adults and young people living in Lincolnshire or within 30 miles of Corby Glen, makes an exciting and varied end to the season at the Gallery, showcasing the wealth of artistic talent in the area.

In addition to the prizes awarded by the judges, Gallery visitors are encouraged to vote for their own favourite works and the most popular will be awarded the Visitors' Choice Prize at the end of the show.

The gallery will close for the winter from the 23rd November reopening on 26th March 2025

www.willoughbygallery.com

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

Don't waste the inside of your pumpkin – make this delicious warming soup!

Spicy Pumpkin and Butter Bean Soup

1oz butter
1 chopped onion
1 teaspoon chilli flakes
1lb pumpkin or butternut squash
14oz can butter beans
1 pint veg stock
¼ pint double cream
chopped coriander to garnish

Fry onion gently in butter until soft. Stir in chilli flakes, drained butter beans and pumpkin. Cook for 5 mins. Pour in stock, bring to boil then simmer for 30 mins. Process with a blender until smooth. Stir in cream and heat through. Garnish with coriander.

PARISH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2024

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Stamford
3 rd November <i>All Saints Sunday</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist 4pm All Souls Service of commemoration	11.15am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Mass
10 th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	7pm Remembrance Service	<u>10am</u> Parish Eucharist followed by Act of Remembrance	<u>11am</u> Act of Remembrance followed by Eucharist	<u>11am</u> Act of Remembrance followed by Parish Mass
17 th November <i>2 before Advent</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	<i>No service at St Mary's today</i>
24 th November <i>Christ the King</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	11.15am Parish Mass

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