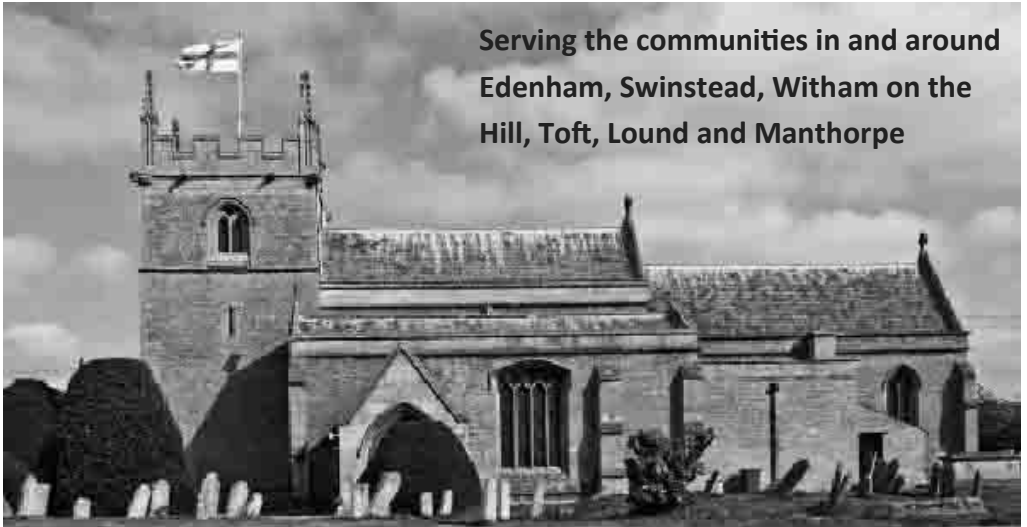


The Three Towers

March 2025

Serving the communities in and around
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Jodie Whitehead Miss Lincolnshire 2025

invites you and your friends to a

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On Sunday 2nd March Time 2pm Onwards

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Parish News

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL – this year the roll has to be completely remade. This happens every 6 years. Lay people are entitled to have their names entered on the church electoral roll of a parish if they are baptised, aged 16 or above and have signed an application form for enrolment. The number of names on the Electoral Roll can affect the way that the church is managed – for example how many people can sit on the Parochial Church Council; so, for active management we need good roll numbers. **Your church needs you.**

The application form and notes are the middle pages of this magazine.

An editable version of the form is on the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe website: <https://toft-lound-manthorpe.pariah.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/73/church-electoral-roll-application>

Alternatively, you can collect the forms at any of our churches.

Jane Bradley has kindly offered to deliver the forms to parishioners of St Michael and All Angels Church, Edenham. Contact Jane on 07976 578877 or edenhamjane69@gmail.com

Please return all completed forms no later than 10th April 2025.

Completed forms to be returned to Jane Bradley for Edenham parish, Jane Clark for Witham on the Hill parish and to Fr Ed or left in church for Swinstead.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Valentines Quiz night in Witham on the Hill. Thanks to Kevin O’Hara for setting a very testing quiz! Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway, setting up the hall, collating numbers, washing up and clearing away afterwards. A great success and a fun evening enjoyed by some 40 people.

SWINSTEAD RACE NIGHT

PLACE YOUR BETS! KICK OFF AT 7.30PM



**SATURDAY 22ND MARCH
FROM 7.30PM**

** Scan barcode to book tickets or
purchase directly at Village Hall Bar **

**£10pp including £1 free bet
Fish or Sausage & Chips included**



Dates for your Diary

Retreat Days for 2025 - Edenham Retreat House. All are 10 am to 4pm.

Bring your own lunch - £16/person. Bookings:

email: edenhamoffice@gmail.com or by telephone: 01778 591358

Saturday 8 March, Edward King and The Eucharist. With Fr Ed Martin and Canon Andy Hawes.

Friday 28 March, 'Listen and attend with the ear of your heart: A Retreat Day with St Benedict' with The Ven Gavin Kirk, Archdeacon of Lincoln

Saturday 10 May, 'Spirituality of the Third Age: Spirituality in Retirement' with Bishop Hall Speers, sometime Bishop of Mahajanga, Madagascar

Saturday 21 Jun, 'Towards the Lamp Post: Exploring Narnia' with Dr Jem Bloomfield.

Saturday 5 July – 'And on the seventh day... an exploration of rest and Sabbath' with Canon Rowena King, Canon Missioner at Lincoln Cathedral.

Saturday 9 August - 'Benedictine Spirituality for 21st century Christians: What Dom Gregory Dix can teach us today' with The Very Rev Dr Simon Jones, Dean of Lincoln

Sunday 2 March, 2pm onwards - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Afternoon Tea charity event in aid of OCD-UK. See advert on page 2 for more details.

Wednesday 12 and 26 March, 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.

Thursdays throughout Lent starting 13 March 10.15am - Food for Thought, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Starting with the Eucharist in church then onto the Parish Hall at 11am for Bible Study and Lent lunch at noon – a simple lunch of soup, bread, cheese and fruit. Donations to Christian Aid. All welcome to all or any of the events.

Saturday 15 March, 8.30am to 10am - Big Brekkie St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.



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Saturday 22 March, 7:30pm - Swinstead Annual Race Night – a firm favourite on the Social Calendar - for just £10 you get 1 free bet, sausage / fish and chips, and fun live amdram entertainment brought to you by Swinstead Squeaky Sneakers. Giddy Up and scan the QR code on page 4 to book your tickets or purchase directly at Village Hall Bar. Act fast as these sell out quickly!

Saturday 22 March, 10am to 12 noon - Witham Hall School Charity Easter Egg Hunt in aid of the Willoughby Foundation, Bourne. Tickets - £5 per child, adults are free. To purchase tickets, please visit www.withamhall.com - Click on “What’s on” then click on “Charity Easter Egg Hunt”. See page 18 for more details.

Thursday 27 March, 7pm - Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Annual Parish meeting, St Andrew’s Parish Hall. The Parish Meeting is an occasion for electors to raise any concerns they may have. Residents may wish to discuss parish affairs, make resolutions and vote but, please note, these are not legally binding for the Council. The Parish Meeting may pass resolutions on the public activities or policies in the parish of any local authority, public body, government department of public service, provided that they affect the parish especially and are not calculated to affect the whole country or all parishes. Please come along and support your own meeting.

Sunday 13 April 3pm Puddings in St Andrew’s Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Come and have your dessert in the hall after your Sunday lunch at home! Financial donations welcome. Numbers limited - contact Debra to book your place. 07716 965856

Monday 5 May VE Celebrations on the village green, Witham on the Hill. Details to follow.

Thursday 12 June 7.30pm St Andrew’s Church, Witham on the Hill. Music in Quiet Places - Kosmos Ensemble. This classical trio offers viola, violin and accordion from a combination of tango, Gypsy and Balkan, plus music from the Far East. Tickets from SKDC Arts Centres.

Sunday 6 July, 2pm - village green, Witham on the Hill, Petanque, Pimms and Picnic. Details to follow.

Drinking

Mon Closed
Tues 17:00-23:00
Weds 12:00-23:00
Thurs 12:00-23:00
Fri 12:00-23:00
Sat 12:00-23:00
Sun 12:00-20:00



Eating

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The Vicar Writes

You'll often hear people saying things like "we all have our crosses to bear". But what exactly is our cross? Ask anyone and they'll most often begin to speak of the hardships in life that they face, anything from a testing illness to a tricky situation. Then there's other people! Someone's cross could be a testing spouse, a difficult friend or a troublesome colleague at work. But when Jesus spoke of taking up our cross in St Mark's Gospel (8.34-48) he doesn't say "take up life's hardships and follow me" he says, "take up your cross". So, if our crosses aren't our hardships, illnesses or other people, then what are they?

Some suggest that Jesus could be talking about the ridicule someone might face for following him or the persecution you might expect for standing up for Gospel values at home, in the workplace or even on social media. The opposition Helen-Ann Hartley, the Bishop of Newcastle, has faced for speaking out against the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

and their handling of safeguarding might be an example of this.

Those things are all possibilities, but if you read St Mark's Gospel, you'll see that Jesus prefaces his invitation to take up our cross with a small piece of practical information. He says, "If anyone wants to be a follower of me, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me".

Renouncing self! Self-denial! Like it or not, that's the key here!

Part of our taking-up of our cross has to be what we renounce, what we lay aside, what we leave behind, what we deny ourselves. Just to be clear, denying ourselves doesn't mean depriving ourselves. Often what we consciously decide to leave behind can free us from things that weigh us down or even open-up new opportunities we hadn't imagined. Whenever I give up alcohol for Lent, I pretty much have to wean myself back onto it after Easter, as somehow, I manage to learn to live without it (and even to enjoy the alternatives).

We all know things that it would be



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good for us to stop doing – good for our health, good for our wellbeing and good for our Christian lives and yet, more often than not, we don't, won't or can't do it, as we don't really see it as being necessary or beneficial.

But the invitation from Jesus to take up our cross is just that. It's an invitation to put our wellbeing first, to let go, to trust, to put down the clutter and to take up our cross. After all, crosses require two free hands to carry them. That's simply not possible if you're weighed-down and overly burdened with smart-phones, online purchases, needless worries and

superficial nonsense. We could indeed gain the whole world but what would be the real cost? There are many beautiful things we could have and hold but are they in the light of eternity? They won't last and you certainly can't keep them forever.

Lent is almost upon us and it's a great time to review and renew, to jettison the accretions and be free to follow Christ unencumbered, with our eyes firmly fixed on the things that endure, "If anyone wants to be a follower of me" says Jesus "let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Fr Edward



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Parish of

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Name

_____ (full Christian name, surname and title)

Address

_____ (full postal address)

_____ Post Code

I declare that:-

- 1 I am baptized and am aged 16 or over (or, become 16* on)

AND Tick one only of boxes 2A, 2B or 2C.

- 2A I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and am a resident in the parish.
- 2B I am a member of the Church of England (or a Church in communion with the Church of England) and, not being resident in the parish, I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.
- 2C I am a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare myself to be a member of the Church of England and I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

I declare that the above answers are true and I apply for inclusion on the church electoral roll of the parish.

Signed.....Date.....

Notes

1. Those who become 16 during the next 12 months may complete the form, and become eligible to be entered on the roll on their sixteenth birthday. You must be over the age of 16 on the date of the AGM (and therefore be recorded on the roll) to be eligible to vote.
- 2A. The only Churches at present in communion with the Church of England are other Anglican Churches in Britain and abroad, and certain other foreign Churches.
- 2B. If you do not live within the boundaries of this parish you must have habitually attended public worship at this church for the last six months before you can be entered on the Electoral Roll (see below for exclusions from this rule).
- 2C. Membership of the electoral roll is also open to members in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England **which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity** where those members are also prepared to declare themselves to be members of the Church of England. Such denominations would include the Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic and URC churches.
3. If you have any problems over this form, please approach the clergy or lay people responsible for the parish, who will be pleased to help you.
4. In this form, "parish" means ecclesiastical parish.

When completed this form should be returned to the
Parish Electoral Roll Officer

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL CHURCH AND SCHOOL ESTATE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Witham-on-the-Hill Church and School Estate Educational Foundation is able to make grants to those residents of Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound who are undertaking courses at colleges and universities and also those who are on apprentice schemes.

Applications for educational grants can be made by submitting a request via email. The request should explain the type and duration of your course and how you would propose to use the grant during your studies.

Applications to:

The Clerk to the Trustees

Email: withamtrust@gmail.com



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Wednesday **26th March** and run until Wednesday **16th April**

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Paintings in a variety of media

Maxey and Deepings Art Groups



The Maxey Art Group and Deepings Art Club are holding the latest in a series of joint exhibitions this Spring. The two groups will be showing work from around 30 members in a variety of styles and media, with a broad range of subject matter.

www.willoughbygallery.com



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Witham Hall School

Very many congratulations to Year 8 Witham Hall pupil, Henry, who has been awarded a Music Scholarship to Eton College. As a Grade 8 pianist and Lincolnshire Young Musician of the Year, Henry's years of hard work and commitment have paid off and he should be very proud of his achievement.

The Girls' 1st VII Netball team also had immense success this term, winning the coveted Regional IAPS Netball Qualifier! Thirteen schools competed from across the region, and we look forward to the National Championship in March which will be held at Cranleigh Prep School in Surrey.

On Saturday 22nd March, we are excited to be hosting our annual Charity Easter Egg Hunt. Open to the public and our Witham community, the Easter Bunny will be visiting Witham and helping the children collect clues to win an Easter treat! There will be lots of crafts, games and a bouncy castle to enjoy this year plus our wonderful pop-up café. For further details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.withamhall.com.





WITHAM HALL

**Saturday 22nd
March 2025**
10am - 12 noon

For children aged one to six
Please visit withamhall.com
to book, *tickets £5 per child*
All proceeds to support the
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Loan sharks often work from home, charge very high rates of interest and don't give you much paperwork to confirm the arrangements they've made with you. A loan shark usually has lots of customers and lends money like a business but their lending is illegal. Loan sharks often take other illegal action to collect the money they've lent you, such as threatening violence or taking away your credit cards or valuables. In extreme cases, they've been known to force non-payers into prostitution and drug dealing.

Important - If you're threatened by someone who lends you money - If someone who has lent you money threatens you or is violent, contact the police straight away. Do this even if it's an informal loan from someone you know, such as a friend or family member.

Borrowing from friends or family - Not all lending needs to be authorised by the FCA - for example, informal, one-off loans between friends or family aren't against the law. If you're not sure if a loan needs to be authorised by the FCA, [get help from your nearest Citizens Advice](#). Even if a loan is informal, anyone who lends you money can't do anything illegal when they collect it, such as harassing you.

Checking a lender is authorised - If you borrowed money from someone who isn't FCA authorised, you haven't broken the law, they have. You can find out whether a money lender is authorised by checking the register on the FCA website at www.fca.org.uk.

If you think you owe money to a loan shark - You can contact the Illegal Money Lending Team. Tel: 0300 555 2222

Email: reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk / Website: www.stoploansharks.co.uk

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Witham on the Hill WI

February 2025

The February meeting was our annual meeting when we heard a comprehensive report of the many activities that we had participated in last year. Trudy, Vice Treasurer, gave a financial report which showed a healthy balance, although expenditure was up on last year.

A vote on meetings timings was taken and the majority were in favour of afternoon meetings in the winter and evening meetings in the summer.

It was announced that Witham WI subs due in April will be £47 an increase of £2 on last year but less than the recommended £51 by NFWI.

Vicky Cox was re-elected as President for a third term.

After refreshments a taxing word game resulted in a win for Margaret Rine's team.

On 14 February members are looking forward to an outing to Warner's Printers.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 4 March at 2pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Visitors and new members are always very welcome - entry fee £5. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary, tel 01778 590232.

WI MEETINGS 2025

4 March Haute Couture by Eileen Dilley

1 April Au Revoir My Hero by Shelagh Coates

6 May Life at the BBC by Alan Stennett

3 June You'll Fly Laughing by Kenneth Moore

8 July (Carlby village hall) Jeff Woods aka Pavanotti, an operatic tenor

5 August Games on the village green

2 September Fraud Prevention by Sharon Hall

7 October Lincs Notts Air Ambulance

4 November Hands on craft session

2 December Christmas party



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Who are “Steam Action”?

Upholders of community spirit and village traditions!

Steam Action began back in 1972 by a group of local teenagers. By 1974, we were handing out birthday cards, organising dances, coffee mornings and 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 event of the year... the Christmas Party with lunch and a show! A tradition that continues today, only instead of 35 people, we cater for 90 and 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 (or have a birthday approaching), living in Edenham Parish and want to get involved with the local community? Please get in touch!

We provide birthday and Christmas gifts, an afternoon tea, flowers/card following illness or a stay in hospital, dances, summer fetes, quiz nights, raffles, the annual Vegetable and Produce Show and a Christmas party followed by a pantomime!

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!

If you would like to join this friendly community group and help at events, please also get in touch!

Nikki Gunn (Chair) nikkigunn08@yahoo.co.uk

Andrew Wilson (Deputy) 01778 591309 andywilson0946@gmail.com

Steam Action – “To Foster a Community Spirit”

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

March 4th is Shrove Tuesday, pancake day. This is a tasty alternative to the usual lemon and sugar pancakes.

Marmalade pancakes

50g sr flour
1 tablespoon caster sugar
1 egg
3 tablespoons milk
1 orange, zest and juice
3 tablespoons dried cranberries
2 teaspoons sunflower oil
½ teaspoon cornflour
2 tablespoons Seville orange marmalade
crème fraiche or yogurt

Stir sugar into sifted flour. Gradually mix in egg yolk and milk to make a smooth batter.

In a separate bowl whisk egg white until stiff, then fold into batter with orange zest and cranberries. Heat a large frying pan to medium heat, then brush with oil.

Working in batches, spoon tablespoons of batter into pan, fry for 2 mins until underside is brown. Flip and cook for another 2 mins. Transfer to plate and keep warm.

In a small pan blend cornflour and a little orange juice to make a smooth paste. Stir in rest of juice and marmalade. Heat gently until melted, bring to boil stirring and cook until slightly thickened. Serve pancakes with marmalade sauce and crème fraiche or Greek yogurt

Makes 10 pancakes

PARISH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2025

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Stamford
2 nd March <i>Sunday before Lent</i>		9.30am Benefice Service	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (All in Stable Chapel)	11.15am Parish Mass
5 th March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		7pm Sung Eucharist		12pm Low Mass 7pm Sung Mass
9 th March <i>Lent 1</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong	11.15am Parish Mass
16 th March <i>Lent 2</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong	11.15am Parish Mass
23 rd March <i>Lent 3</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong	11.15am Parish Mass
30 th March <i>Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday</i>			9.30am All-age Benefice Eucharist 4pm Evensong	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