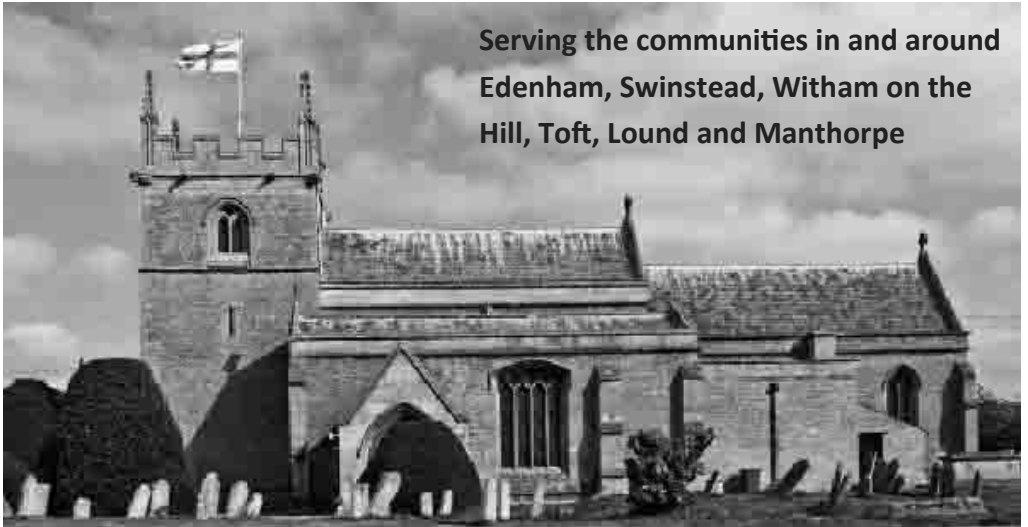


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# Parish News

**CONDOLENCES** - to the family of Jason Derrick of Longways, Toft. Jason sadly passed away on 23 February 2025, aged 52, after a long 16-year battle with illness. Jason leaves behind his wife, Joanne Derrick, as well as his daughters Lily-Kate Derrick and Amber-Rose Thorpe and his son Alexander Thorpe.

**MEMORIAL BENCH** - Last month, Swinstead Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council gifted a memorial bench that is placed outside the Village Hall, in honour of George Brown, who was instrumental in the opening of the Village Hall Bar. Sadly, George passed



away in October last year and the bench is to commemorate exactly where he loved being the most ... and will be used by many. Inscribed 'A life well lived and everyone's friend' and indeed, George was that.

**ST MARY'S SWINSTEAD CHURCHYARD** - After a successful year last year with some brilliant volunteers looking after our churchyard, we will be doing the same again this year. Would you like to join them to make a difference to this peaceful spot?

We would be keen to have a couple more volunteers to help the existing team - mowing the grass in the churchyard and keeping the areas around the graves tidy. The church owns a mower and strimmer and covers the expenses associated with these. We cut from late March until October.

If you can help or would like to discuss please contact Sarah Roberts, PCC treasurer, 07760468052, email [roberts.sarahm@gmail.com](mailto:roberts.sarahm@gmail.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS** - to Rasell's Nurseries of Little Bytham in picking up the best Garden Centre at the Rutland and Stamford's Favourite Independent Business Awards. Also winning a category for best Butcher was Mill Farm in Manthorpe and the final award representing the Glen Ward went to the

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Bytham Community Shop in Castle Bytham who secured the runner up spot. What talented people I have the pleasure to be representing. I wish all of them further success from all the positive publicity. Well done to every entrant.

CLlr Penny Robins

**THANK YOU** - to everyone who attended and supported the Afternoon Tea Charity Event at Witham on the Hill. It was very successful and fully enjoyed by all. Your kind generosity raised £500 for OCD-UK

## 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](mailto:edenhamoffice@gmail.com) or by telephone: 01778 591358

**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

**Thursdays throughout Lent, 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 5 April, 11.30am - The memorial service for Briony Henriques** in St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill.

**Saturday 5 April 7pm Bingo Night, Edenham Village Hall - Steam Action** (see page 10 for details)

## 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  
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**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

**Wednesday 9th and 23rd April, 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, plus a chance to win a great prize with one free raffle ticket, all for £3.00.

**Monday 5 May 12 noon onwards, VE celebrations on the village green, Witham on the Hill.** Musical entertainment and barbecue planned. Barbecue facilities will be provided but bring your own meat to cook and a picnic. Bring your own drink too. Numbers to Debra 07716 965856 please.

**Thursday 8th May at 9.30pm - Swinstead Village VE Day Beacon Lighting.** Victory in Europe Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8th May 1945; it marked the official end of World War II in Europe in the Eastern Front. To commemorate this historical day, Swinstead will light the Village Beacon Brazier at 9.30pm sharp and afterwards raise a glass in the Village Hall Bar to all those that paid the ultimate sacrifice throughout WWII. Village Hall Bar will open at 7pm for anyone wishing to drop in earlier.

**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.

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## **Swinstead Village VE Day Beacon Lighting 9.30pm Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



*Victory in Europe Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8th May 1945; it marked the official end of World War II in Europe in the Eastern Front.*

*To commemorate this historical day, Beacons will be lit in all Capital cities of the Commonwealth & Communities nationwide, with Swinstead's own Beacon Brazier at 9.30pm sharp on The Green on Bourne Road (situated next door to 6 Bourne Road).*

*Afterwards raise a glass in the Village Hall Bar to all those that paid the ultimate sacrifice throughout WW11, and gave so much to enable us all to share the freedom we have today.*



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### ***A Landscape in Sculpture***

Bas-relief and freestanding Sculpture Chris Groombridge

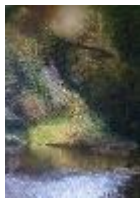


Chris Groombridge is a Rutland based sculptor who has amassed a body of work centred around exploring human and animal forms as a 'landscape'.

*"The contours of something like the wrinkles of a human face, can reveal mountain ranges and ravines, valleys and plains, which map out a lifetime's experience".*

### ***The Metamorphosis of Light in Landscape***

Paintings evoking the beauty of nature Joan Kirby



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Post Code

I declare that:-

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**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

## The Vicar Writes

The evangelist Billy Graham once said, "If I were an enemy of Christianity, I would aim right at the Resurrection because that's the heart of Christianity." St Paul echoed this in his first letter to the Corinthians when he wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15.14). All three synoptic Gospels tell us that the first witnesses to the Resurrection were a group of women who, early on Easter morning, came back to the place where Jesus had been buried.

Some may wonder why God chose those women to be the ones who discovered the empty tomb. The women who made the discovery did so because they were the first who wanted to do something for their deceased friend. They went back to the tomb to anoint the body with spices and, as a result, discovered that Jesus had Risen.

Sceptics of every age have struggled with the Resurrection. They remain unconvinced that, after three days, Jesus rose again and, in doing so, left the tomb empty. It's perfectly understandable! After all, that was how the disciples reacted when they first heard the news.

But really, I think it's the sceptics who've got their work cut out when it comes to disproving the Resurrection. For, within a week of Jesus' death, that small band of depressed, miserable and cowardly men were transformed into a determined, exuberant and focused team of evangelist witnesses, the likes of which the world had never seen. Tradition tells us that at least ten of the original twelve were executed for their beliefs. Their lives could easily have been spared if they'd denied that Jesus had risen. But they didn't (and people aren't usually willing to die for a lie).

According to St Mark's Gospel, the women saw that the stone had been rolled back. And they saw a young man dressed in a white robe. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. Go, tell his disciples."

In some sense, the words and actions of the women capture what it means for us to be an Easter People. Firstly, Easter people are those who actively search for Jesus. The angel told the women that they were looking for Jesus in the wrong place (no one looks for the living among the dead). Jesus was alive! But at least they were searching (which is more than



could be said for the disciples).

They were still cowering behind locked doors. There's a wonderful promise from the Old Testament, from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah, where God declares "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations." (Jeremiah 29.13-14)

We must continue to search for Christ, to seek him, to discern his living presence in even the darkest places. And we must never think or suggest that there's ever any situation which Christ cannot redeem; for not even death could hold him back.

Secondly, Easter People are those who remember God's Word. In St Luke's account of that first Easter morning, the angels invited the women to recall the words of Jesus, "Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise. And they remembered his words". (Luke 24.6-8) In St Mark's Gospel, Jesus himself declared that "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Mark 13.31).

The words of Christ are a living testimony to who he is and it's through God's Word, through the Holy Scriptures, that we are continually reminded that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets and that his rising again has brought about the longed-for reconciliation between God and his people.

Thirdly, Easter people are those who believe in the Good News. Once again, the women of that first Easter morning were head and shoulders above the disciples as, from the moment they heard that Jesus had risen, they believed it. The disciples, however, were a little slower on the uptake. The women's words seemed like an idle tale. Thomas even refused to believe unless he could see and touch the wounds in Christ's hands and side. Later, when Jesus showed himself to Thomas, he went on to say "Have you believed because you've seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20.29)

We, here, are among those whom Jesus refers to as blessed. For even though 2,000 years stand between us and the Christ who healed, taught, suffered and died, we believe that we have seen and felt his touch through the Sacraments, heard his voice in the

Scriptures and, like his early followers, shared the joy he brings through our fellowship with one another.

And finally, Easter People are also those who share the Good News. That's what the women of the first Easter did. They were the very first Christian evangelists. As St Luke tells us, "Returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest." (Luke 24.9) Easter people cannot keep the Good News to themselves because, by its very nature, it demands to be shared and declared. So let us search, remember, believe, share and declare this Easter that Jesus Christ is risen. Fr Edward

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## Witham Hall School

Witham Hall was transformed into a magical Kingdom this term as our pupils took to the stage with a colourful, joyous and brilliant production of “Shrek the Musical Jr”. The months of hard work culminated in a spectacular performance that showcased the immense talent and dedication of our pupils.

A madcap adventure featuring fairy-tale characters, guards, ogres, storytellers and a talking donkey, they sang and danced their way to a fabulous finale of ‘I’m A Believer’ which had the audience clapping along enthusiastically.

The entire cast did Miss Story, Head of Drama, and the production team proud with their enthusiasm, skill and willingness to throw everything into it. All of this was made more special by the amazing set and the most fantastic costumes and makeup created by a team of volunteers and parents. Congratulations and well done to our incredible cast and crew for a brilliant show!





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# In Praise of Tracery

Among the many architectural splendours to be enjoyed in our Gothic cathedrals and parish churches, the decorative stonework called tracery in the windows is one that is frequently overlooked but still worthy of admiration.

The Gothic style of church architecture was imported from France in the late 12th century and soon became the true English style. English Gothic came after the fortress-like Norman style. Norman architecture has thick walls, massive columns and tiny round-headed windows. Gothic was a revolution, with pointed arches, rib vaulting to the ceiling, thinner walls with flying buttresses to support them, and large windows containing beautiful patterns of tracery, all leading to much more graceful buildings.

The first design used in the Gothic style is known as Early English. Windows in Early English were Lancets, tall, narrow windows each with a sharp pointed arch at its top containing plain or stained glass. It

acquired the "lancet" name from its resemblance to a lance. There is no tracery. Lancets are often seen together in groups of three or more, sometimes the central lancet is taller than the rest.

These grouped lancet windows gave way in the mid-13th century to larger and wider windows. Larger windows obviously meant a larger area of glass, which needed supporting against the pressure of wind. Which then led to window tracery. The pointed arch feature of the Gothic style created a space below the peak of the arch which is filled with decorative stonework. Below the arch are mullions, vertical ribs of stone dividing the window into two or more vertical window "lights" or panels of glass. If the window was particularly tall then horizontal ribs called transoms were added, giving more support to the glass and creating more lights. The outside of the ribs themselves are moulded or shaped and the ribs create an intricate pattern over the whole window.

The term tracery probably derives from the tracing floors on which the

complex patterns of windows were laid out. These patterns were full size. Tracings were taken, then wooden templates were cut from the tracings and passed direct to the mason who carved the stone ribs.

Plate Tracery is the earliest form, where the area of stone was greater than the glass. The “plate” of stone was simply pierced to create small areas where glass was inserted. In the 13th century plate tracery began to give way to Bar Tracery, where the area of glass was greater than the area of stone. The simplest form of bar tracery was “Y tracery”, where the thin stone mullion separating two window lights branched into two sections in the shape of a letter Y. Another simple form is Intersecting Tracery where the mullions curved to the arch head, crossing over each other in the process.

As Gothic architecture developed, windows became much wider, and there might be three or more lights, separated by stone mullions, with increasingly complex tracery patterns above the lights. The fascinating subject of Tracery uses a wealth of

technical terms, beloved of architectural historians in an attempt to describe the patterns and place each one into a named category.

For instance, Geometric tracery has circles, trefoils and quatrefoils below the peak of the arch above the stone mullions. Curvilinear or flowing tracery involves more complex shapes based on ogee curves. The final phase of Gothic was the Perpendicular style of architecture of the late 14th century which has mullions crossed at intervals by horizontal transoms. This pattern is often called Panel Tracery or Rectilinear Tracery.

Patterns of tracery are complicated and it is frequently impossible to tell to which category a window belongs. Besides, quite a lot of windows do not seem to fit these neat categories. There also seems a dispute about which pattern of tracery is in which category. A visitor to a church is not necessarily an architectural historian and the layman need not be concerned with all the complicated categories of tracery that I have been at pains to describe.

A visitor travelling around our area will see many examples of beautiful window tracery. A good example of grouped lancets is on the chancel wall at St. Mary, Essendine. There is plate tracery at St. Mary, Clipsham, in the east wall of the north aisle and also in the spire bell-openings. The east window of St. Martin, Barholm uses intersecting tracery.

At another St. Mary, in Swinstead,



Swinstead east window  
Cusped curvilinear tracery. C14. Restored

the west tower is Early English with Y tracery in the bell openings and the east window has four lights with curvilinear or flowing tracery. I think the east window is the one of the most stunning I have seen.

But the finest example of Geometric tracery must be the great east window in the Angel Choir at Lincoln Cathedral. At 59 feet high it has eight lights and seven circles above, all filled with gorgeous stained glass. If an opportunity occurs, it has to be seen. Not quite so grand but still worth seeing is the late 13th century east window at St. Andrew, Folkingham, with four lights and three circles.

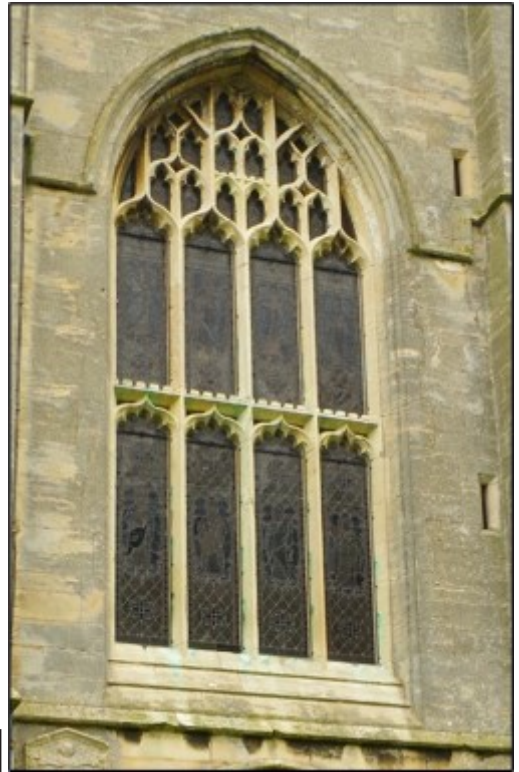
There are several windows at St. Michael, Edenham, of the Perpendicular style, particularly the east and west windows of five lights.

And a very fine west window at Folkingham which has a castellated transom, resembling small battlements.

As has been seen, tracery thrives in our local churches. And knowledge of terminology and category names,

although there are a scattering in this article, is not needed to appreciate its magnificence. Best thing to do is just enjoy the architecture and revel in its beauty. No need to get technical.

Dick Mundy



Folkingham west window  
Perpendicular. Castellated transom

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Stamford Lincolnshire

# Witham on the Hill WI

## March 2025

Eileen Dilley began her talk explaining that she wanted to be an architect like her father but it was not something women did then. So, she went to a London ladies' college near Selfridges that taught dressmaking and hairdressing. The idea of Haute Couture, meaning one dress one person, began with Charles Worth. At college, during a 3 year course, she learnt many skills: anatomy, history of costume, art and design, textiles, tailoring, modelling, millinery, using sewing equipment and book keeping.

She began working for a tailor for £4 per week to prove herself and then rose up to £9 per week. She married a Met policeman and has a daughter who is a member of Stamford Stitchers. Eileen designed her own wedding dress, influenced by Princess Grace of Monaco's wedding the previous year. The dress was made by college students. She specialised in Victorian style blouses and wedding dresses, bringing many beautiful items to show us, including gifts,

purses, lavender bags, egg cosies, nightdress covers and bed jackets – all containing lace, ribbons and pin tucks.

Eight WI members enjoyed an outing to Warner's Printers in Bourne and were fascinated that the small unobtrusive building in West Street housed a thriving business with huge modern print machines, massive rolls of paper and stacks of boxes of printed paper and magazines.

Many members are busy knitting squares to make into blankets for dementia patients in Peterborough hospital.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st April at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. The speaker, Shelagh Coates, will tell us all about her relative, a WWII pilot, who was recovered from his plane near Venice. Visitors and new members are always very welcome - entry fee £5.

For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary: tel 01778 590232.

# Jane's Seasonal Recipe

*With Easter this month a chocolate recipe is a must. This is a quick and easy cake; very rich so only small slices recommended!*

## Simple Sachertorte

8oz plain choc (I always use Bournville)  
4oz soft butter  
3oz sr flour  
4oz caster sugar  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
2oz ground almonds  
4 eggs  
4oz choc nut spread (eg Nutella)  
4 tablespoons apricot jam  
4 tablespoons single cream  
½ oz butter

Gently melt half the choc in a bowl in microwave for 30 secs. Stir until smooth, leave to cool slightly. Beat butter, sugar, flour, baking powder, almonds and eggs until smooth. Stir in melted choc. Spoon mixture into 8in greased and baselined round cake tin. Bake 170°C for approx. 50 mins until skewer inserted comes out clean. Cool in tin for 10 mins. Turn onto wire rack, cover with tea towel and leave to cool. Slice cake horizontally and sandwich together with Nutella. Melt jam then brush over top and sides of cake. Gently heat the rest of the choc with butter and cream, stirring until smooth. Cool for 10 mins until thick enough to spread over cake. Leave to set.

Traditionally the cake is piped in chocolate with the word Sachertorte, but you could decorate it with mini choc eggs!

## PARISH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2025

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
6 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Lent 5</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
13 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	4pm Evensong (Careby)	9.30am Procession & Group Service	
14 <sup>th</sup> April Mon in Holy Week	7pm Eucharist (Little Bytham)		
15 <sup>th</sup> April Tues in Holy Week	7pm Eucharist (Swinstead)		
16 <sup>th</sup> April Wed in Holy Week			7pm Eucharist & Healing (Edenham)
17 <sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thurs	7.30pm Sung Eucharist & Watch (Castle Bytham)		
18 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday	10.30am All-age Service (Little Bytham)	2pm Good Friday Liturgy (Creeton)	
19 <sup>th</sup> April Holy Saturday			10.30am Children's Activities
20 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Day	8.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist & Baptism	5.15am Easter Vigil & Breakfast (meet outside Church Porch)  11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong
27 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 1		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Confessions or any other pastoral or spiritual need contact: The Revd Fr Edward Martin SSC 01778 591358 - [Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org)