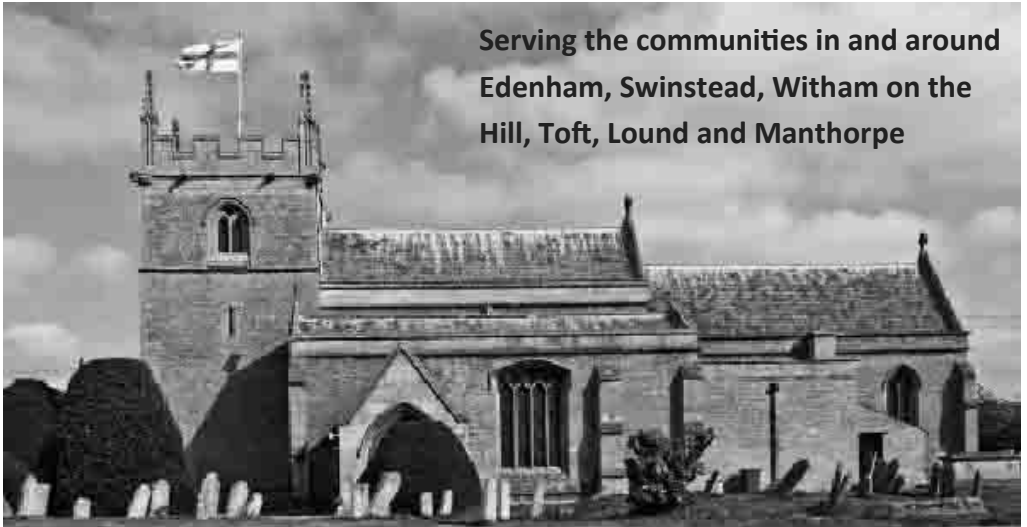


The Three Towers

May 2025

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Sat 12:00-23:00
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Sun - 12:00-17:00

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Parish News

BAPTISM: Ernest Robinson-Hawes, baby son of Tom and Lizi, at St Michael's Church, Edenham on 23 March.

BAPTISM: 8-year-old James Fisher of Castle Bytham, a pupil at Witham Hall School, at St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill, on Easter Day, 20 April.

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 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

Saturday 3 May 12 noon onwards, VE celebrations on the village green, Witham on the Hill. Entertainment in the marquee by Smuggler Jack. 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.

Wednesday 7 and 21 May, 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.

Thursday 8th May at 9.30pm - Swinstead Village VE Day Beacon Lighting. Victory in Europe Day marks the official end of World War II in Europe in the

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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. The Bar will open at 7pm, for anyone wishing to drop in prior.

Wednesday 4 and 18 June, 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.

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.

Saturday 14 June 7:30pm, summer concert – Grimsthorpe Castle. MUSIC DIVINE is the title of this St Peter's Singers' very special summer concert. We are teaming up with CELYS, the nationally acclaimed Consort of Viols, to present a wonderful programme of Early Music. Tickets £20 (£10 for under 16s) to include interval fizz and canapés, are available from Sue Nicholls 07913 296247 or suemusicconsultant@gmail.com

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

Saturday 6 September 08:30 onwards - Steam Action 49th Annual Produce Show, Edenham Village Hall. See schedule on pages 13 to 17.



Swinstead Village VE Day Beacon Lighting 9.30pm Thursday 8th 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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The Vicar Writes

Have you ever been found yourself locked or stuck in a small space – something like a lift, a car or even the cupboard under the stairs? I can honestly say that I have.

When I was a fresh-faced 26-year-old curate in Nottingham, I was sent to visit a housebound parishioner.

When I arrived, one of her carers was just about to leave and told me that she'd return the house keys to the little key safe near the front door.

After we'd finished chatting and had a cup of tea, I said my goodbyes, stepped out of the front door into the porch and, as the yale-lock door closed behind me, I reached out to exit the prefab PVC porch only to find that the outer door was locked. I was stuck in a housebound lady's porch!

Fortunately, it was nearly school home time, so I banged on the porch door and waved my hands hoping to be noticed by one the parents heading up the road to the local school but, in a scene a bit like that bit in the Graduate where Dustin Hoffman is banging on the window in the Church, I tried in vain to attract people's attention and raise the alarm. The only way I was going to get out was for someone to open the door and release me.

We often view the empty tomb on Easter day in a similar way. We assume that, in order for Jesus to exit the tomb, someone (or something) had to roll back the stone and physically let him out. But that would be to underestimate what the Resurrection really is and means. When Jesus rose from the dead he wasn't brought back to life (he wasn't resuscitated), he was raised to new and eternal life. His body was no longer subject to aging, pain or decay, nor was it subject to the laws of physics. We know this because, when the risen Christ encountered his disciples, he appeared in the room where they were gathered, even though the doors were locked.

He didn't knock politely, no one let him in, he just appeared. But Jesus still had a physical body – he invited the disciples to see and to touch his wounds as proof that it was really him and he ate some grilled fish in front of them to prove that he wasn't a spirit or a ghost.

The tomb with the stone across the entrance didn't pose a problem for the risen Jesus. It wasn't an obstacle to him. It wasn't rolled back to let him out, it was rolled back so that we could see in – it was rolled back for us. We needed to see that the tomb was empty, that Jesus wasn't there



MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

AT
EDENHAM VICARAGE

An illustration of a tea party scene from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Alice is seated on the left, looking towards the White Rabbit. The White Rabbit is in the center, wearing a blue suit and a white bow tie. The Mad Hatter is on the right, wearing a red coat and a large, ornate hat with a yellow polka-dot bow tie. They are gathered around a table with a white tablecloth, set with teacups and saucers. The background shows a large tree and a garden setting.

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anymore, that death no longer held him, so that we might believe. And when death has no hold over you, when you've exchanged perishability for imperishability, mortality for immortality, you no longer worry about being stuck in a tomb, a lift, a car, the cupboard under the stairs (or even in people's front porches).

I eventually found my way out of that porch (just in case you were wondering). I managed to phone Directory Enquiries and get the number of the lady who I was visiting and, somehow, with the use of her walking frame, she managed to drop a spare key through the letter box.

She thought the whole thing was hilarious and she never let me forget it. The unlocked porch gave me back my earthly freedom but the empty tomb points us to something much, much bigger. It points us to our freedom in Christ. It releases us from the debt of our sins and it reminds us that, just as Jesus is now, someday we too shall be.

On the day of resurrection, we will rise just as Jesus did, our bodies perfected, our souls uninhibited, ready to dwell in eternity with God. All we have to do is to trust in him and live our lives in the light of that first Easter Day; to trust and believe in God's promises and the power of

his love in raising Jesus from the dead.

We glimpse an echo of that future and eternal glory whenever someone is baptized and welcomed into the family of the Church. In the waters of baptism, we enter the death of Jesus and then rise triumphant to walk in the light of his resurrection and begin our journey with him towards eternity. That's what the stone font symbolizes for us; it's the empty tomb. And, having been baptized, having passed through that water, we then take up our place as members of Christ's body here on earth – a living example of what lies in store for all who turn to him. A new day has dawned for us.

The tomb is empty, sin and death have been defeated, Jesus has risen from the dead in order that we may follow him into the light of eternity.

That is Good News indeed. It's so good that we must share it with others, bearing witness to it through lives that are lived with that new reality (the reality of eternity) front and centre. That's the joy and challenge of Easter – to live that new reality to be as those who have been set free by the empty tomb.

Happy Easter!

Fr Edward

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Steam Action

49th Annual Produce Show

Saturday 6th Sept. 2025 | Edenham Village Hall

Who can enter?

- Residents of the parishes served by The Three Towers
- Relatives of those who live in Edenham Parish
- Eligible members of Steam Action
- Pupils of Edenham School, Grimsthorpe Castle Day Nursery & Pillarwood Farm Pre-School

SECTION A – FLOWERS (Grown by the exhibitor for at least 2 months)

- 1 One rose (any variety)
- 2 Vase of six roses (any variety)
- 3 Vase of mixed flowers cut from open border (any variety)
- 4 Tallest Sunflower (judged on premises)
- 5 Flowering pot plant
- 6 Vase of five dahlias
- 7 Vase of five chrysanthemums
- 8 Foliage pot plant
- 9 Hanging basket (judged on premises)
- 10 Cactus or Succulent

SECTION B – DECORATIVE (Completed in the last 12 months)

- 11 Arrangement of flowers (not to exceed 24" overall)
- 12 Button hole used for a wedding (man or woman)
- 13 Pressed flower (A5 size)
- 14 A flower or foliage arrangement in an unusual container
- 15 Decorative door wreath (12" diameter)
- 16 Decorative headdress
- 17 One vegetable and one bloom (open to any interpretation)
- 18 Greenery arrangement not to exceed 18" overall

SECTION C –FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (Grown by the exhibitor for at least two months)

- 19 Box of mixed vegetables (maximum box size 18" x 12")
- 20 Cucumber
- 21 Three potatoes any colour
- 22 Three quality carrots with 3" tops
- 23 Pepper (any variety)



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Good School

- 24 Three onion sets (cut and tied)
- 25 One large onion (cut and tied)
- 26 Three greenhouse tomatoes
- 27 Three pods of runner beans
- 28 Unusual shaped, or sized, fruit or veg
- 29 Pair of marrows, courgettes, squash or pumpkins
- 30 Five shallots
- 31 Three beetroot with 3" tops
- 32 Tied bunch of three herbs
- 33 Three dessert apples
- 34 Three cooking apples
- 35 Bowl of dessert fruit

SECTION D – HOMEMADE (Completed in the last 12 months, wrapped in Clingfilm)

- 36 Homemade beverage in a bottle (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)
- 37 Jar of curd any flavour (must have cellophane top)
- 38 Jar of jam any flavour (must have cellophane top)
- 39 Jar of marmalade any variety (must have cellophane top)
- 40 Jar of chutney any variety (must have cellophane top)
- 41 6 cheese straws (any size)
- 42 Victoria sponge (jam filled, sprinkled with castor sugar)
- 43 Victoria sponge baked by a man (jam filled, sprinkled with castor sugar)
- 44 Six squares of flapjack
- 45 Lemon meringue pie (foil container)
- 46 Four fruit scones
- 47 One rich fruit cake
- 48 Savoury quiche in foil container
- 49 Apple pie in foil container
- 50 Loaf of bread (any size)
- 51 Decorated chocolate cake
- 52 Banana cake- "Bake off cake" (see recipe on last page)
- 53 Five pieces of shortbread
- 54 Five decorated cupcakes
- 55 Five pieces of lemon tray bake
- 56 Six sausage rolls



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SECTION E – HANDICRAFTS (Completed in the last 12 months)

- 57 Drawing or Painting (oil or watercolour)
- 58 Sewing machine item
- 59 Wood crafted item
- 60 Hand knitted or crocheted item
- 61 Item of patchwork
- 62 Wind chime (any size)
- 63 Article of embroidery or cross stitch
- 64 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)
- 65 Upcycled/recycled item (include the item origin and what it has transitioned into)
- 66 An item of homemade jewellery

SECTION F – CHILDREN Under 7 years (key stage 1)

- 67 Item of cookery
- 68 Vegetable model
- 69 Self Portrait- (any media) (A4 max)
- 70 Miniature Garden (maximum size 12" x 18". Traditional or modern. Be creative!)
- 71 Home grown fruit, flower or vegetable
- 72 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)

SECTION F - CHILDREN 7 – 15 years (key stage 2 -4)

- 73 Item of cookery
- 74 Vegetable model
- 75 Self Portrait (A4 max)
- 76 Miniature Garden (maximum size 12" x 18". Traditional or modern. Be creative!)
- 77 Home grown fruit, flower or vegetable
- 78 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)

SECTION G – PHOTOGRAPHY (Taken in the last 12 months)

(Maximum size of photo 7" x 5")

- 79 Funny photo
- 80 Bridges

- 81 Sunrise or sunset
- 82 Farming
- 83 Triangles

SECTION H – DISASTER

84 Planned entry that ended in disaster

Show Rules

1. Children may enter any class, but this must be clearly stated at time of entry.
2. The organisers reserve the right to alter or omit any classes.
3. Care will be taken to safeguard exhibits, but the organisers cannot be responsible for
loss or damage, or for exhibits left after 3.30pm on the day of the show.
4. “Not for sale” cards are available on request and should be placed with any item
entered but not for the auction.
5. The judge’s decision is final.
6. Bunting in E64, F72 and F78 is to be kept and hung at future shows.

SECTION D – HOMEMADE CLASS 52. BAKE OFF CAKE RECIPE

Cake

345g mashed bananas	375g all purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder	1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp ground cinnamon	½ tsp salt
170g unsalted butter	200g granulated sugar
100g light or dark brown sugar	3 large eggs
2 tsp pure vanilla extract	360ml buttermilk

Cream Cheese Frosting

226g full fat brick cream cheese	113g unsalted butter
360g confectioners’ sugar	1 tsp pure vanilla extract

Witham Hall School

Egg-citing Fun at Witham's Charity Easter Egg Hunt!

Witham Hall's grounds were bursting with joy and laughter as we welcomed nearly 300 visitors to our Charity Easter Egg Hunt. Children of all ages delighted in exploring the grounds, eagerly searching for clues to win an Easter egg.

But the fun didn't stop there! Families took part in a range of exciting activities, from creative Easter crafts and biscuit decorating to bouncing the morning away on the ever-popular bouncy castle. Our pop-up café kept everyone energised with tasty treats and warm drinks, creating the perfect spot to relax and soak in the festive atmosphere.

Thanks to the amazing turnout and generous support from our school and local community, we raised valuable funds for The Willoughby Foundation in Bourne.

A huge thank you to all who joined us and helped make the day such a cracking success!



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Witham on the Hill WI

April 2025

With slides, video footage and music, the speaker, Shelagh Coates, told us all about her Uncle John Henry Coates (Harry) from York. He joined the RAF in 1941 aged 20. On 5 March 1945 on his way back from a sortie, his plane was hit, he crashed into a peat bog in Caverzere, Italy and lay there for over 70 years.

The Romagna Air Finders heard talk from locals of the crash and began the search. In 2017 the plane was recovered with a body and an advert in the Yorkshire Post asked for relatives to come forward. DNA test confirmed the body was PT410 Warrant Officer Coates.

Shelagh told us of the grand civil procession with an RAF band as well as an Italian Forces band, when hundreds of local people lined the streets and went to the Catholic Church for the funeral service.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission arranged the ceremony at the war cemetery in Padua, where the Union Flag on the coffin was presented to Shelagh. She was also given a small piece of wreckage mounted on a wooden plaque. She visited the Romagna Air Finders

museum, where parts of the plane were on display. She was very touched by the kindness and generosity of all the Italian people and of the efficiency of the RAF. The theme tune for the Dambusters movie was written by Eric Coates – a relative!

Many members are busy knitting squares to make into blankets for dementia patients in Peterborough hospital and it looks like we should be able to send at least 4 blankets.

Members have signed a letter to Alicia Kearns MP, asking her to vote in favour of the microplastics filters for washing machines bill which is making very slow progress through parliament.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6 May at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill.

The speaker, Alan Stennett, will talk about his work with BBC radio.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome - entry fee £5.

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

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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

This is a very adaptable recipe – different salad leaves, cheese and nuts could be used to add variation.

Feta, Beetroot and Walnut Salad

100g salad leaves
Small red onion
200g cooked beetroot
100g walnut pieces
200g feta cheese
mint leaves
2 teaspoons honey
1 teaspoon mustard
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
3 tablespoons olive oil



Put salad leaves in a dish, scatter over finely chopped onion, beetroot cubes, and walnuts. Crumble over cheese and top with shredded mint leaves.

Whisk honey, mustard, vinegar and oil to make a dressing.

Serves 2 for a light lunch

Jane apologises for the errors in the April recipe for Sachertorte!

I know at least 4 people have baked it – well done to those who managed to work out how the recipe should be! The list of ingredients should read 4oz caster sugar. The cooked cake is sliced horizontally and spread with Nutella. The top of the cake is spread with melted apricot jam then the melted choc mixture spread on top.

Editor's note: The online version and the online Recipe Booklet have been corrected.

PARISH SERVICES FOR MAY 2025

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams
4 th May <i>Easter 3</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
11 th May <i>Easter 4</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	6pm Parish Eucharist (Careby)
18 th May <i>Easter 5</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
25 th May <i>Easter 6 / Rogation</i>	3pm Meet in Little Bytham Church for Rogation Walk to Edenham	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 5pm(ish) BYO Tea (hot drinks provided) followed by said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little Bytham) 3pm Meet in Little Bytham Church for Rogation Walk to Edenham

Do you need the support of a Carer/Home help?

Experienced NVQ qualified carer available for work including short term live-in
DBS checked, excellent references
Liability Care insurance

Contact: Debbie

Tel: 01780 481356 Mobile: 07716 719329 Email: debswelton@yahoo.com

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