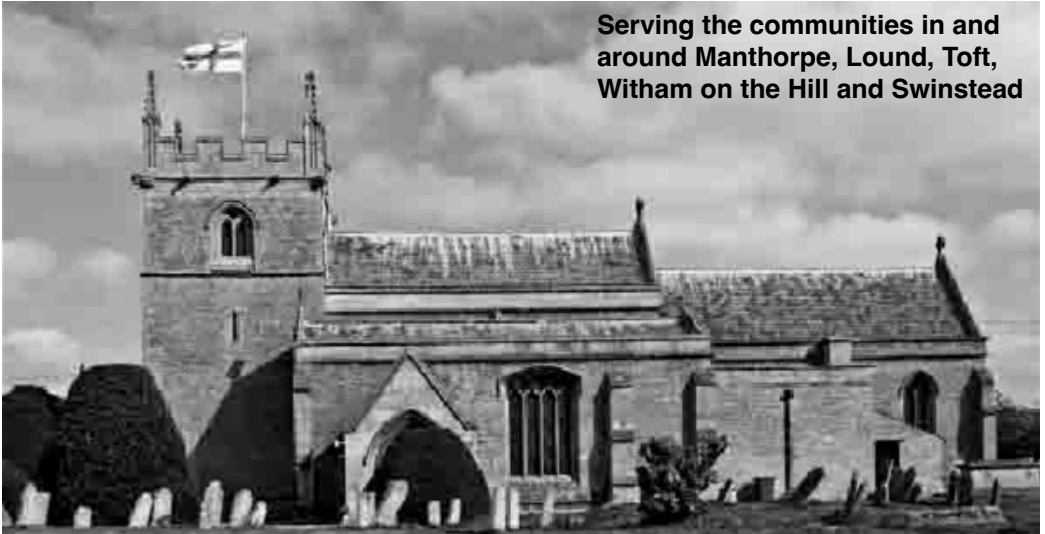


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October 2025



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Parish News

Plea to dog owners who might not always take their pet's waste home.

Should your dog foul the footpaths, pavements, common areas or roads then please pick up the droppings and dispose of them sensibly. Leaving the mess for others to step on or, worse, children to touch is not acceptable. Neither is collecting the waste in a bag but then leaving it for someone else to pick up.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rochelle and Aidan Hawes on the birth of Wilfred in August. A brother for Theo and another grandchild for Fr Andy and Sian Hawes.

CONGRATULATIONS to Layla Pond on her marriage at the Register office on 13 August. Layla is the daughter of Chris and Jo Pond of Bottom Street, Witham on the Hill. We wish you many happy years together.

CONGRATULATIONS to Daniel Alexander Thompson, son of Julia and Ray Thompson of Witham on the Hill, and Ellie Rose Finley on their marriage in August.

PETANQUE PIMMS AND PICNIC Thank you to the Hall management committee who organised this event in August on the village green in Witham on the Hill. It was well attended and enjoyed by all – a very sociable event. Most people participated in the petanque knockout tournament, organised by Dave Haydon. The eventual winners were Ann and Richard Burbidge. Well done!

EDENHAM CHURCH FETE in July raised the magnificent sum of £724. 45 despite the awful wet day. Games and stalls were held in the Church and Retreat house, and was very well attended. Thanks to all who helped and supported the event.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE You should receive a leaflet with this Parish Magazine, asking you to pack a shoebox of gifts, toys and supplies for children in need, in war zones or homeless as a result of natural disasters. If you can't fill a whole box donations of small toys and school supplies would be gratefully accepted. Do not include sweets, liquids, lotions, war related items, sharp or fragile items. The national collection week is 10-17 November, when filled boxes can be delivered to various sites around the county. For further information or help contact Jane Clark, tel 01778 59023. Thank you for your generosity.



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 member's role etc.

Please reply by Friday 31st October 2025.

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.

STEAM ACTION held its 49th Vegetable and Produce show at Edenham Village Hall on Saturday 6th September. Sadly, due to the weather this year, there were fewer entries in the Vegetable, Fruit and Flower classes meaning there were only 198 entries all together. Normally there are closer to 300 entries. The judges still had some tough decisions to make, as the quality of the entries were of a high standard. At 2pm the doors were opened to the public to view the entries and the participants could see how they had done. At 3pm the trophies were awarded, followed by the highlight of the day, the auction. Nikki was again an excellent auctioneer. The bids came in thick and fast with some heated competition particularly with the Victoria sponges baked by a man!

Steam Action would like to thank all who entered items into the classes and all who attended the Show. As a Committee, we are dwindling in numbers so we are looking for new members! If you would like to find out more about us, find us on Facebook and send us a message.

CONGRATULATIONS to Laurence Wood and Abi on the birth of Gwen in September. First grandchild for Miriam (nee Templeman, formerly of Witham on the Hill) and Jeremy Wood.

LINCOLNSHIRE CHURCHES TRUST RIDE AND STRIDE Thank you to all my generous sponsors. Once all the money has been collected, I will have raised £250, half of which goes to St Andrew's Church and the other half to the Lincolnshire Churches Trust. I had a lovely day cycling to Wilsthorpe, Braceborough, Greatford, Barholm and Thurlby churches. A wonderful exhibition of beautiful work by Stamford Stitchers was on display in St Firmin's, which raised my spirits and helped me up Swallow Hill! I confess to pushing my bike up Witham hill though. Jane Clark

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 28 September 6pm Harvest Festival, St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill, followed by supper in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

Wednesday 8 and 22 October 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



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Halloween Spook-tacula

Saturday 25th October

7.00-11pm

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chance to win a great prize with one free raffle ticket, all for £3.00.

Thursday 9 October, 7pm - St Andrew's Parish Hall - Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council Meeting. All parishioners are welcome. An open forum for residents of the parish will take place before the commencement of the parish meeting where they can ask questions or make statements.

Saturday 11 October 10am - noon Macmillan Coffee morning. St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Refreshments, raffle, cake stall.

Saturday 11 October, 10am to 10pm - Swinstead Village Hall - 12 Hour Charity Darts Marathon. Our annual darts marathon each year gets bigger with lots of players and supporters involved. All proceeds raised will go to Don't Lose Hope Mental Health Charity and Counselling Services for children, young people and their families. Please come along throughout the day or evening to support the dart players and spur them along. A large raffle and refreshments available throughout the day. For more info, or you wish to kindly donate a prize for the raffle, please contact Mark Woodruff on 07810 873394.

Sunday 12 October, 6.30pm - St Mary's Church - Harvest Festival, Swinstead. Come and celebrate Harvest, arrive early to buy our homemade produce (jams, chutneys, etc). The service will be followed by light refreshments in the church. Raffle tickets will also be on sale.

Saturday 25 October – Swinstead Village Hall - Spook-tacula Halloween Party with Guest DJ - Get your best Halloween Costumes out for a spooky night of naughtiness and dancing. This is a great family night out where the children can dress up and dance to some tunes – prize for the best halloween outfit. **Free event** from 7.00pm – 11pm – no tickets required.

Saturday 22 November, eyes down at 7pm - Steam Action Bingo Night at Edenham Village Hall, all welcome. Doors open at 6.30pm, cash prizes, raffle, tea and coffee - bring your own drinks if you wish.

Sunday 7 December, 7pm - A concert in St. Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill. A delightful evening with a selection of songs from films, theatre and Christmas performed by the Just Sing! Ladies choir. Tickets are £10 and include a glass of wine. They can be purchased from Suzy Grigson tel no 07970 784668 / email: suzygrigson@msn.com. All proceeds will go to St. Andrew's Church.

Save the date – Friday 7 November, 8pm – Swinstead Annual Village Fireworks on Bourne Green. A great night of **free** entertainment for the whole family, with fireworks starting at 8pm. Our Chilli Dogs and Hot Dogs are a huge hit with kids and adults alike, so get in early as they sell out fast. Village Hall Bar open from 7pm.



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The Vicar Writes

I've been enjoying two books of late: Flora Thompson's 'Lark Rise' and another rather curious volume entitled 'The Revenge of Analogue' by David Sax.

In the first of her 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-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

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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 took part in the harvest and so fewer were invested in its outcome, and with that, 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 are invested in the outcome of that harvest than previously. 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 of others in order 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 others, 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



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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 aim 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.

Fr Edward



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WITHAM ON THE HILL WI

September 2025

Sharon Hall, the speaker, explained that she is in the East Midlands Special Operations Unit dealing with Fraud Prevention. The slogan is Recognise, Reject, Report - 40% of all reported crime is fraud. £7 billion is lost to domestic fraud.

The first recorded fraud was in 300 BC when a ship was sunk to claim insurance. Sharon explained different types of fraud: postal, telephone, doorstep and online. She advised various precautions:

- Don't recognise a telephone number? Don't pick up – they will ring back if known to you or leave a message.
- Shred shopping receipts which may contain your loyalty card number, and your prescription bags which may have your date of birth and NHS number, which can be used for identity fraud.
- Doorstep callers can result in distraction burglary, so do not let anyone in you are not expecting.
- Beware of bogus driveway tarmac layers, jet washers, roofers etc.
- Pedlars selling dusters and cloths play on your emotions so check their pedlar's certificate carefully, most are not genuine.

Report such callers to Police on 101 so they can be checked.

Sharon showed a video clip with Michael McIntyre making fun of online password security. Do not click on links that you are not expecting. When doing online shopping, look for the padlock logo and check out as a guest. Romance fraud was mentioned – often victims are too embarrassed to admit it.

Report spam calls by dialling 7726 on your mobile phone. If money is stolen report to bank first, then to the police.

Sharon finished by reminding us "If you are not expecting it, question it" and then answered questions from members, giving out Essential Guide to Fraud booklets.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 October at 2.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. The speaker will talk on the Lincs Notts Air Ambulance. 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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The breadth of scholarships was as impressive as the number – from academic to music, art, drama, and sport – the children excelled across the board. We are immensely proud of their achievements and wish all our leavers the best of luck at their new schools.



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The Old Stocks

Witham on the Hill is blessed with many fine attractions among which are the old school, the church, the green, the pub and the old stocks, to name just a few. Historic England has judged the stocks to be a historic building, listed Grade II. The stocks are next to a post box and a phone box. The phone box is also listed Grade II. All are on the edge of the green with an adjoining convenient lay-by for parking.

Historic England, a government body, maintains the National Heritage List for England, an official, up to date register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites. Witham on the Hill has twelve listed buildings, Manthorpe by comparison has only one: the bridge. Thus, the stocks are a protected building, with dire penalties for interference, as is the telephone box.

The official listing reads: “The Village Stocks and Whipping Post under the canopy are Grade II listed. They date from the 17th century but were altered in the 20th century. The structures are of timber, with a conical Collyweston slate canopy roof. The stocks have upper and lower boards with four apertures which are set between two posts, one post is taller, presumably a whipping post. The 20th century canopy is supported on four timber posts”. The wording must mean that the stocks comprising the two boards set between the two posts and doubtless the bench seat behind, are at least 300 years older than the conical roof with its four supporting posts. The whole is enclosed on three sides by a stone wall





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which bears plaques to commemorate awards to the parish council.

Stocks are not to be confused with a pillory. Stocks just retain the ankles, whereas a pillory holds the neck and wrists forcing the sufferer to stand up with a bent back. Either device were used to punish drunkenness, theft and other petty transgressions. Miscreants were also pelted with rotten fruit, bad eggs and other unspeakable items by the working people some of whom were victims of their crimes. They have been used in parts of Europe for more than 1000 years, possibly much longer in Asia, and as far back as ancient Greece.

In England the Statute of Labourers was a law created in 1351 by Parliament in the reign of King Edward III. A clause in the statute prescribed the use of the stocks for "unruly artisans" and required that every town and village erect a set of stocks. The statute was enacted in response to a scarcity of labour caused by the Black Death. The epidemic wiped out at least a third of the population leading those left over to demand higher wages causing a loss of income to the landed gentry. The statute prohibited workers requesting, or landowners offering, higher wages. The 1351 statute was repealed in 1863 along with many other statutes from 1235 to 1685 which were deemed to be no longer necessary. However, some sources indicate that the stocks have never been formally abolished in England. Their last known use was in June 1872 at Newbury in Berkshire when one Mark Tuck was fixed in the stocks for four hours for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

All I can find out about the history of the stocks in Witham on the Hill is two old photographs of the stocks, dated 1920 and 1954. The Historic England official listing says that they are 17th century. But to comply with the 1351 act there must have been an earlier set and the 17th century stocks are a replacement. It would be interesting to know where they were originally sited, how often they were put to their intended use and what happened to them when the 1351 act was repealed. The official listing also says that they were altered or restored in the 20th century. It is possible that the stocks were rescued, restored, and

placed in the specially built enclave and the conical roof supported on four posts were erected over them to protect the stocks from the worst of the weather. It is this arrangement that we see today. My two old photographs also show this arrangement, which means that the enclave must be over a century old. All that is missing is the extensive growth of trees on the edge of the green. The photographs also show that the walls of the enclave were sloped, whereas now they are stepped.

Sadly, there are gaps in my information about the old stocks, which is unfortunate because they must have a fascinating history. So I am reduced to speculation, or, if you prefer, guesswork. Whether records exist to support or contradict my guesswork is more guesswork. All I can be definite about is that the stocks are well worth a visit and a close look whether or not you are bothered about their history.

Mention must be made that the Old Stocks has been fenced off for some months and that there are no notices telling visitors the purpose of the fencing. I refer readers to the June 2025 issue of The Three Towers, containing the

Witham on the Hill Parish Meeting Chairman's annual report of 12th May. In summary it says that a concerned resident was worried that the posts supporting the roof might collapse, and raised the matter with the Clerk, who thought the SKDC should



investigate. The responsibility for the Old Stocks maintenance has been a cloudy issue for many years but the Parish Council hope that SKDC will carry out some remedial work in the near future.

Dick Mundy

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Szilvia has exhibited her work in solo and group shows across the UK and internationally. Her artistic journey has been a deep exploration of the collective unconscious, a realm that connects the individual's psyche to the shared symbolism of our ancestors.

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Notes from Edenham Parish Council Meeting

9 September 2025

Present: Parish Councillors: Mrs P Cranfield (Chairman), Mr A Wilson, Mr D Hawes (Vice Chairman) Mrs A Treacy, and Mrs M Avis.

In Attendance: Mrs Carole Sands (Parish Clerk).

Apologies for Absence: Mrs E Unwin.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Mr A Wilson Agenda item 2526/4/57

Parish Clerk & Councillors Update from Previous meeting:

Councillor Vacancy: The vacant position is now being advertised as a co-option. This is published on the website and Parish Council notice boards.

Carol Singing Event: The date is confirmed as 16 December 2025 commencing at 6:30pm in the field on the corner of Church Lane.

National Grid Proposal: The first consultation phase has now closed and the Parish Council is continuing to monitor the situation for local impact.

New Parish Council Matters:

River Vegetation Management: The Environment Agency has confirmed that managing the vegetation in the river system is completed annually and is due to be conducted later this month. The Parish Council feels that the removal of silt in the river would potentially help to reduce flooding issues. Parish Clerk to confirm with the agency if the planned work includes silt removal.

Play Area - ROSPA Annual Inspection report: The Council discussed the risk assessment and recommendations within the report from August 2025. The members noted that in financial year 2024/25 £4,070 was spent on the maintenance of the wood structure within the trim trail. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk request a quote for the areas risk assessed as amber. The Parish Council will review this at the meeting on 11 November 2025.

Village Hall: Village Hall lease document has been agreed by the Village Hall Chairman. Parish Clerk to progress this with Grimsthorpe Estate Manager.

Financial Matters Income: The Parish Council members noted the refund of £31.96 by the Parish Clerk for over payment in the 2024/25 accounts.

Financial Matters Expenditure:

Lloyds Bank Account fees (£4.25 for each month) £8.50 (July & August).

ROSPA Invoice for annual play area inspection £96.00.

September Salary & HMRC payments exact amount to be confirmed at the next meeting. (See note below with regards to changes).

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to agree the increase of salary for the Parish Clerk in line with the recent salary agreement via National Association of Local Councils Scale 15. The Council members **RESOLVED** to accept the confirmation letter for the salary increase for the community street cleaner.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Microsoft software has not yet been purchased as detailed at the meeting in July. Therefore, this item is still awaiting purchase by the Parish Clerk. The Council members noted this.

All payments made via the Community Bank Account and interest on the Business Bank Account are shown in the separate document attached to these minutes.

Financial Matters: Bank Reconciliation:

Community Bank Account: £4786.15 (as at 01/09/25)

Business Bank Account: £499.83 (as at 11/08/25)

Parish Council Policies & Procedures: Parish Clerk to review the statutory requirements and confirm what documents are required and report back at the next meeting.

Correspondence: Various have been received which have been forwarded to the Parish Councillors prior to this meeting. Worthy of note are those detailed below, no further discussions were required on other items received.

Waste Collections: Reminder about the waste collections days which come into effect from Monday 15 September 2025, full details have been sent out to all householders by SKDC. The SKDC website also has the details of the changes.

Anglian Water Road Closure: this is currently in place; the back lanes are busier than usual as a result.

Next Meeting Date: 11 November 2025

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REFERENCES AVAILABLE

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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

This season has been our best ever for red peppers, so I made this “jam”. Good with cheese!

RED PEPPER AND CHILLI JAM

1kg red peppers

6 red bird's eye chillies

350g cider vinegar

700g granulated sugar

black pepper

Cut peppers in half, remove stalks, seeds and white pith.

Puree $\frac{3}{4}$ of peppers in food processor, depending on your processor you may need to chop the peppers, and add the vinegar.

Very finely slice the rest of the peppers.

Chop the chillies (remove seeds if you don't want it too fiery!) In a large pan combine puree, vinegar, chillies and sugar.

Simmer, stirring until sugar dissolves. Stir in ground black pepper and bring to boil. Boil for 10 mins. Take off heat and stir in sliced peppers.

Allow to cool for 20 mins. Fill four 300g jars, seal with lids immediately.

Ready to eat once it is cool. Keeps up to 6 months but eat within a week once opened.

PARISH SERVICE FOR OCTOBER 2025

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams
5 th October <i>Trinity 16</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	11am Harvest Eucharist & Lunch (Castle Bytham)
12 th October <i>Trinity 17</i>	6.30pm Harvest Festival	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Harvest Eucharist & Lunch <i>No Evensong</i>	6pm Parish Eucharist (Careby)
19 th October <i>Trinity 18</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
26 th October <i>Dedication</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little Bytham)

HOW CAN YOU?

Lord, help me to root deep in my being
The remembrance of your compassionate goodness

Your healing, gifts,
Your power to transform

Prevent me from ever wondering
'How can you?'

AMEN

Fr Andy

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