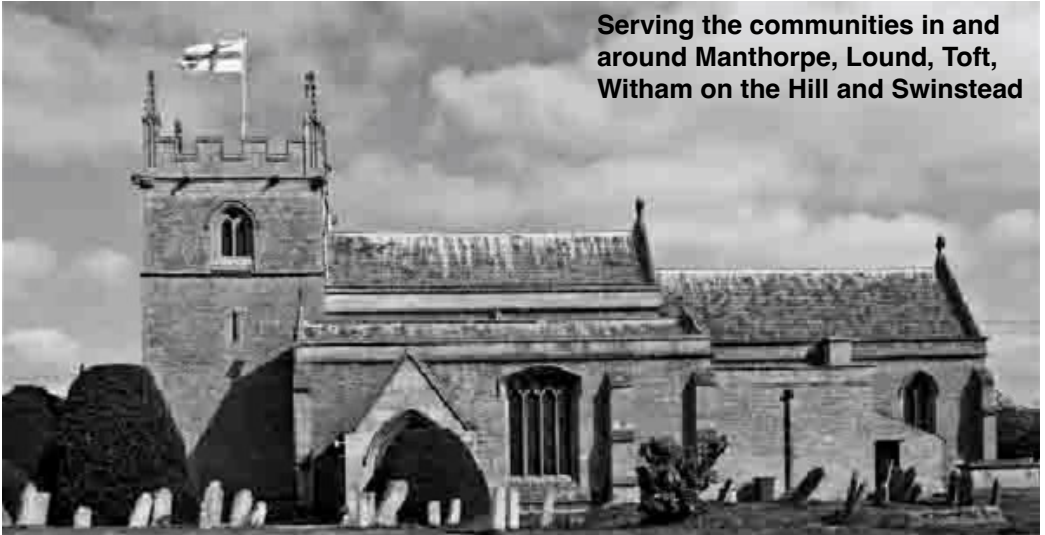


# THE THREE TOWERS

February 2026

Serving the communities in and  
around Manthorpe, Lound, Toft,  
Witham on the Hill and Swinstead



# 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.

**Parish Clerk:** Mrs Carole Sands e-mail: [edenham.pc@gmail.com](mailto:edenham.pc@gmail.com)

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

#### Farm Shop



*We now sell fruit & veg*

#### **Opening times:**

**Monday: 9am till 5pm**

**Tuesday: 9am till 5pm**

**Wednesday 9am till 5 pm**

**Thursday: 9am till 5pm**

**Friday: 9am till 5pm**

**Saturday: 9am till 5pm**

**Sunday 10am till 4pm**

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# Parish News

**CAROL SINGING** A big thank you to the Manthorpe carol singers, to our organiser Penny Dawson, to those who gave so generously and to all for the kind hospitality offered along the way in the form of warming drinks and tasty treats! This traditional annual act of generosity by the Manthorpe community **raised a grand total of £370**. All the money has been donated to the **Motor Neurone Disease Association**.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe fireworks display held on 5 November; **you raised £135.56**. The Parish Council has decided to donate this to the **Motor Neurone Disease Association**.

**THANK YOU** to Alison Whitehead for taking on the task of making use of the redundant Manthorpe red telephone box. Alison has turned it into the **MANTHORPE TELEPHONE BOX LIBRARY**. The plan is simple, it is a book exchange/swap. Select a book to take away and replace it with one of your own.

**CAROL SINGING** Well done to the singers who sang in Witham on the Hill! **£140 was raised for Church funds**. Thank you to all those who provided refreshments – mulled wine and mince pies were greatly appreciated.

**CONDOLENCES** to Joy Dawson, Hannah, family, neighbours and friends on the sudden loss of Mick (Michael) Dawson on 10 January. He will be much missed by all. Mick will be cremated on 4 February at midday in the South Lincs Crematorium. A service will follow at 2pm in St Faith's, Wilsthorpe.

**CONDOLENCES** to Denis, family, friends and neighbours on the loss of Dorothy Whisell who passed away on 8 December, aged 92, at home in Bulby.

**GOODBYE** and good luck to Ruth Clarke who moved from Edenham to Essex in January.

**JUST SING!** Thank you to everyone who supported the concert in Witham on the Hill church on 7 December. 100 people attended and enjoyed a fabulous selection of songs. Thank you to the choir who sang beautifully, and to Suzy Grigson for organising the event. **£850 was raised for Church funds**.



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**BIG BREKKIE** thanks to head chef, Fr Ed, and all the kitchen and serving staff who produced an excellent breakfast in St Andrew's Parish Hall on 13 December. £165 was raised for Christian Aid.

**WELCOME** to Ella, James and Miles to KayFen, Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

**CONDOLENCES** to family, neighbours, and friends of Jill Mitchell who passed away in January. Jill and her late husband, Gerald, lived and farmed in Edenham for many years.

## Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 7 February, 6:30pm - Edenham Village Hall - Steam Action Bingo.**

**Wednesday 11 and 25 February from 10.30am to 12pm – Swinstead Village Hall - Social Coffee Mornings.** Come and meet some new friends and enjoy some company, accompanied with coffee, tea, scones, cakes and bakes, and a chance to win a prize with one free raffle ticket, all for £3.00.

**Saturday 14 February – Valentines Quiz Night - Swinstead Village Hall.** Are you a romantic at heart, known to enjoy a soppy rom-com or perhaps a Mills & Boon? Swinstead is hosting a quiz night from 8pm, covering all things romance. Bring your Valentine, Galentine's or Malentine's - this will be a fun night out for everyone. Maximum 6 in a team. £2.00 per head. **Village Hall Bar opens 7pm.**

**Saturday 14 February, 6pm - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, Race Night.** Bring and share supper. Bring your own drinks. Come along for fun and a flutter! See the poster on page 8 for details.

**Saturday 7 March 08.30-10.00 Big Brekkie in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill.** All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

**Tuesday 10 March to Saturday 21 March - Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford Stitchers' Exhibition.** An inspiring exhibition of embroidery, needle craft and textile art by a diverse group of local textile artists, including many items made by members of our Three Towers community. See poster on page 14.

**Friday 20 March 2026, 7.30pm - St Stephen's Church Careby, Corby Male Voice Choir.** Tickets from Mary Hoyle / 01780 410305 or Jonathan Hill / 01778 590637. See the poster on page 6 for details.

# **CORBY MALE VOICE CHOIR**



**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm**  
**St Stephen's Church, Careby**  
**Ticket price £15**

**Tickets from**

**Mary Hoyle: 01780 410305**

**Jonathan Hill: 01778 590637**

**Wine available**

**Proceeds to St Stephen's church**

# Swinstead News

Swinstead Village Hall experienced a particularly active end to 2025, beginning with events in October. The highlight was the annual 12-hour Charity Darts Marathon, which successfully **raised a whopping £2,400** in donations for **Don't Lose Hope** mental health charity. Despite the long and demanding day for the players, the team had an amazing time thanks to everyone who dropped in and the organisers extend their gratitude to all participants and supporters. Additionally, the hall hosted the biennial Spook-tacula Halloween Party in October, featuring a guest DJ which proved to be a popular event for families and children all dressed in fun costumes, enjoying a night of spooky fun and dancing.

Moving into November, the community celebrated the Swinstead Annual Village Fireworks display, attracting a large crowd and providing entertainment for all ages – once again, the Hot Dogs proved a hit.

December was equally busy, with the sell-out Rocking Xmas Party featuring the live band Idle Hands, delivering energetic performances that kept the dance floor lively. The final event of the year was a well-attended Quiz Night, which included a raffle **raising £315** donated to the **Bourne Food Bank**. A food donation box was also available in the hall, and community members contributed generously to support those in need during the festive season.

On a final note, the Swinstead Village Hall Committee extends its gratitude to everyone who has visited the hall and participated in our events in 2025. Your support has been essential in making our evenings lively and enjoyable. We especially appreciate those who have relaxed at the Village Hall Bar, which operates every Friday and Saturday night, providing a welcoming space for socialising. Additionally, our fortnightly Coffee Mornings are a popular gathering, offering an opportunity to meet old friends, forge new connections, and indulge in delicious cakes. We also want to acknowledge the dedicated volunteers behind the scenes—members of the Village Hall Committee, the Coffee Morning Team, and the Bar Staff—whose generous time and effort help foster a strong sense of community. We look forward to continuing this tradition in 2026 and wish everyone a 'belated' happy new year.

The St Andrew's  
Parish Hall Management Committee  
invites you to a

## **Race Night**



on Saturday 14th February in the Parish Hall,  
Witham on the Hill

Doors open at 6pm  
First race at 6.45pm

Bring your own picnic food & drink  
and enjoy a sharing experience

8 races @ £1 per race

To make a reservation, please contact Debbie on:  
07716 965856 or via the  
"Witham Village Chat" whatsapp group

# THE VICAR WRITES

Are you one of those people who like to have a sneaky peek at the end of a book first to check what happens and so decide whether you want to bother reading the whole thing cover to cover? Or are you one of those people who'd never dream of looking at the last page, someone who lives in constant fear of someone giving away the ending before you finish the story? Whatever your preference might be, when it comes to the Christmas story, we all know how the ending works out. Perhaps know it all too well. We know that, despite all its twists and turns, the larger story has a happy ending. The anticipation of Christmas is followed by the drama, the uncertainty and, finally, the joy of Easter.

It's a sure thing, a done deal.

But for those who were caught up in the original Christmas story all those years ago, there was no such certainty. Granted, there were lots of hints about what was going to happen: messengers sent from God, prophetic utterances from elderly men (and women), shepherds rushing off from the fields to tell of angelic choirs singing that the saviour was born. And it's certainly true to say that everyone

who heard about it (or who saw the child lying in the manger) seem to have been suitably impressed by all these heavenly goings on.

But there are still an awful lot of gaps in the narrative, plenty of detail that isn't covered and a fair bit of ambiguity to go with it. Surely people must have argued about what the signs meant. Maybe they disagreed about the detail or the interpretation of the prophetic utterances or perhaps they didn't notice what was going on at all. It must have had its effect on Mary too and this is encapsulated in those famous, but rather understated, words that describe Mary's response to the whole thing. Everyone else is amazed and rushing all over the shop but Mary "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2.19).

What was she thinking? What did it mean to carry and then bring this child into the world? How was Joseph really coping with what had happened? What did it mean that her son would be called the Son of the Most High? How would he inherit the throne of his ancestor David? How exactly could this be good news to all





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people? It must have all seemed very confusing. Moreover, Mary must have wondered how you go about bringing up a child like this. Can you tell the Messiah off? Can you lean out of the window and say, quite literally, that he may be the Messiah but he's still a very naughty boy?

Really, there's so much left unanswered, so much that is unclear about what was going to happen next in a real and practical sense. Perhaps it's no wonder that Mary pondered all this in her heart – perhaps there was little else she could do! There must have been a fair bit to treasure up, ponder and think about too. Because for all the comings and goings and the miraculous interventions in the lives of these people, an awful lot of 'what happened next' seems to have been left down to them. What happened next in the greatest story ever told was, quite literally, whatever they decided to do next. It makes you wonder what the first century equivalent of putting the kettle on might have been. This often seems to be what happens when God's story is woven into the story of ordinary human people – a great deal is left down to us and that can seem more than a little scary.

Over the last few weeks, we've celebrated a familiar, well-worn and much-loved story (Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas). But I'd like to invite you to take some time to stand in the shoes of those who didn't know how it would all work out, and who had only their faith to help them put together the pieces of the heavenly jigsaw puzzle that was being laid out before them. Often, our own lives seem like trying to assemble a jumble of puzzle pieces – occasional moments of great clarity where all the pieces seem to fit together but most of the time is spent just getting on with it and trying to see how we might go about completing the whole. God understands this. That's why, rather than tying everything up in divine certainties, God gives us the time and space we need to allow the story of Salvation to unfold for each one of us, to become real for us in our own way. We know the ending (so to speak) and we know that it'll be a happy one for us but there's still so much to play for. It's exciting and it's scary but it's our chance to take part in the greatest story in the world, a story that's still unfolding today in you and me.

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# Notes from Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe Parish Council meeting held on 8 January 2026

Councillors reported on the annual highway's walkabout with C.Cllr Redfern and Officers. Guidance was given on parking within the villages, Witham on the Hill crossroads, speed limits and Manthorpe river bridge footpath. Councillors were informed that the path would be placed on the maintenance list for 2028/29, this was not accepted by members of the Parish Council and further action would be taken. The Clerk was also asked to request that the national speed limit at Lound be reduced from 60mph to 30mph due to excess speeding.

Cllr Brown reported that he had purchased, on behalf of the parish, sandbags which were placed with the sand at Jasmine cottage. The damaged grit bins had been reported on 'Fixmystreet'.

It was agreed that the BT Kiosk, owned by the Parish Council, would be used as a mini-Library/book swap. Councillors thanked the resident who had made the suggestion and kindly offered to put up shelves.

The Bonfire event in November collected £135.56 which would be donated to Motor Neurone Disease Association.

For more information, please go onto the parish website – <https://toft-lound-manthorpe.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk> or contact the clerk [tlampc2@gmail.com](mailto:tlampc2@gmail.com)

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, on 19 March at 7pm. Please note that both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting will take place on this evening. All parishioners are welcome.



# Stamford Stitchers

## Life's Rich Colours



An inspiring exhibition of embroidery, needle craft and textile art by a diverse group of local textile artists.

**Stamford Arts Centre**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
March 2026 –  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>  
March 2026





# Notes from Edenham and Grimsthorpe

## Parish Council Meeting 13 January 2026

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Mrs P Cranfield (Chairman), Mr A Wilson, Mrs A Treacy, and Mrs E Unwin.

**In Attendance:** Mrs Carole Sands (Parish Clerk).

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Mrs M Avis and Mr D Hawes (Vice Chair)

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting 11 November 2025 were approved.

**Declaration of Interest:** Councillor A Wilson agenda item 2526/6/87

### **Parish Clerk & Councillors Update from Previous meeting:**

**Councillor Vacancy:** Currently there has been no interest in the vacant position, Parish Clerk asked to continue to advertise the position locally on Parish Council notice boards, website and in the Three Towers magazine. Parish Clerk to contact SKDC to ask for further advice relating to the vacancy.

**Carol Singing Event 2025:** The event was well attended, with refreshments of mince pies and mulled wine being served. The Parish Council would like to thank Father Ed for leading the carol singing, Grimsthorpe Estate for the donation of the Christmas tree, Heath Cranfield for use of the field, Steam Action for supplying the carol sheets and Councillor A Wilson for supplying the batteries for the tree lights. The collections made in support of Steam Action, raised just over £21.

**Mid-Year Internal Audit Report:** Work is ongoing to close out points raised; it was agreed that this will be reviewed again at the March meeting.

### **New Parish Council Matters:**

**Speed Monitor Issue:** The Parish Clerk is trying to resolve the issue relating to the downloading of data with the supplier. Parish Clerk to report back at the March meeting.

**Asset Maintenance Review:** The bus shelter has been added to the register; however, this was donated to Parish Council in the 1950's and therefore the



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value is unknown.

**Road Footpath and Public Footpath Conditions:** Residents have raised concerns with Councillor Wilson about the condition of the footpath along the main A151 between Grimsthorpe to Edenham. Parish Clerk asked to raise this with Councillor Hill of Lincolnshire County Council to see what can be done with regards to the breaking up of the surface of the path.

The public footpath leading from Main Street Edenham (near the river bridge/ Five Bells) across the fields into Grimsthorpe Estate is impassable due to the works carried out by Anglian Water for the pipeline. This work has left deep mud which has resulted in difficulties moving livestock and walkers getting stuck in the mud who have needed rescuing to safety. Parish Clerk asked to send an email on behalf of the Parish Council to the Countryside Access Officer in Lincolnshire County Council to try to resolve the issue.

### **Play Area:**

**Internal Inspection & maintenance:** Nothing new to report at this meeting.

**Play Area Future:** The trim trial will be removed in late spring or early summer when weather permits, after removal the ground areas will be made good. The swings will remain in place.

**Village Hall:** The village hall committee received the endorsed document which has been signed and returned to Grimsthorpe Estate. The committee are now awaiting a copy for holding on file.

**Planning Matters:** There are no new planning applications to discuss.

**Financial Matters:** The Parish Council members noted that there had been no income, this was confirmed by the bank statements.

### **Financial Matters: Expenditure:**

<b>Microsoft 365 software</b>	£58.17 (inc VAT)
<b>McFee Protection Software</b>	£11.82 (inc VAT)
<b>Refreshments (Carol event)</b>	£29.05
<b>Lloyds bank account fees (ongoing monthly fee)</b>	£4.25

The Parish Clerk confirmed the total expenditure for salaries and HMRC

## **The Witham Church and School Estate Charity & The Witham Church and School Estate Educational Foundation**

The Witham Church and School Estate charity was set up in 1548 to provide education and care for the children of the Witham Church (St Andrew's) ecclesiastical parish. The charity funds were gathered through legacies and charitable gifts. In 1692 a deed was drawn up and a board of trustees put in place to manage the trust and its assets. The funds originally provided for schoolhouses and paid for children's education and a schoolmaster prior to the introduction of government-provided education.

Today, the Trust funds are used to maintain the Parish Hall and, where necessary, St Andrew's Church. Additionally, the Trust runs and funds the Witham Church and School Estate Educational Foundation. This sister charity is used to assist students within the Parish with furthering their education usually by way of a cash grant to help them during their time at university, college or on an apprenticeship.

### **Have you considered leaving a legacy in your will or making a charitable gift?**

If this is something you are thinking about, then do please consider making this gift to our local Parish charities. By doing so, you can be assured that the funds are being used to improve and assist with the continued education of young people in our Parish and/or to help ensure that our community retains its Parish Hall and Parish Church as hubs of the local community.

**If you wish to leave a legacy in your will or make a charitable gift to our local charities, or would like further information, then please contact the Clerk by email: [withamtrust@gmail.com](mailto:withamtrust@gmail.com).**

payment for December 2025 as £597.54

The Parish Clerk highlighted to the Council members that the monthly bank account charges had been missed off the minutes recently. The Council members noted this and confirmed that they were aware of these fees from the accounts and bank statements. It was also noted that the accounts are shared as part of the Parish Council meetings which are also displayed on notice boards and the website for transparency.

**Financial Matters Bank Reconciliation:**

**Community Bank Account** (05/01/2026) £3561.28

**Business Bank Account** (05/01/2026) £500.86

**Budget Finalise & Precept Requirements for 2026/27:** The Council members **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed budget and precept figure. Full details and discussions relating to each budgeted item are available on the Parish Council website and notice boards. Parish Clerk asked to confirm precept figure to SKDC, prior to the deadline on 16 January 2026.

**Parish Council Policies & Procedures:** It was agreed that the Parish Clerk publish these documents on the website.

**Risk Management:** Approved, Parish Clerk to upload to the website

**Communications:** Approved, Parish Clerk to upload to the website

**Complaints:** Approved, Parish Clerk to upload to the website

**Asset Register:** Approved, Parish Clerk to upload to the website

**Correspondence:** SKDC Food Waste collections, the caddies will be delivered in February 2026, and the service will commence in April 2026. Temporary traffic restrictions Scottlethorpe Rd, starting in February for 18 days.

**Next Meeting Date: 10 March 2026**

**Meeting dates for the new financial year (2026/2027) are as follows:**

**Tuesday 5 May 2026 Annual meeting and annual Parish meeting**

**Tuesday 14 July 2026**

**Tuesday 8 September 2026**

**Tuesday 10 November 2026**

**Tuesday 12 January 2027**





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# Stamford Castle

Anyone with the slightest interest in the past must be aware that there was once, long ago, a Norman castle in the middle of Stamford. True, there is little left to see, but what there is, and its history, is well worth looking into. In times gone by, the castle dominated the north bank of the River Welland, which flows through Stamford. Occupying a large area between the present Sheepmarket and Bath Row, and to the west of Castle Dyke, the castle must have been an impressive sight. It was built by William the Conqueror, and was part of his strategy of castle building to support the conquest of the north of England in the early years of his reign.

The castle had a conventional motte and bailey layout. The motte being an earth mound on which the defensible keep was built, surrounded by the bailey which contained domestic buildings like a chapel, kitchens and the great hall where the lord of the manor entertained his friends and conducted business. The whole castle was surrounded by a wall with the gatehouse on the east towards the town centre. In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century the motte was enlarged, its surrounding ditch filled in and a shell keep about 66 feet across was built. A shell keep is a tall circular stone wall with an internal firing platform, often containing wooden buildings. Apparently five houses were pulled down to make space for the new castle according to the Domesday Book of 1086.

The castle saw action several times during its history. By 1070, when William the Conqueror had suppressed the uprising known as the “harrying of the north”, the King considered Stamford to be a safe place. For in that year, Thorold, the Norman Abbot of Peterborough, took refuge in the castle with 160 knights when Hereward the Wake plundered Peterborough Abbey. The “Anarchy” was the name given to the civil war of 1139 to 1153 between King Stephen and Princess Maud. Stephen was the nephew of King Henry I and had usurped the throne from Maud, the daughter of King Henry and his only

legitimate offspring. Maud invaded England to pursue her claim to the throne and civil war ensued. Maud's son Henry of Anjou, the future King Henry II, invaded England at the age of 16 to support his mother. In 1153, this Henry attacked Stamford which was held by supporters of King Stephen. Henry broke into the town but had to lay siege to the castle. The castle withstood many assaults and the garrison only surrendered when they gave up hope of King Stephen coming to their relief. In 1189 the castle served as a refuge for the Jews of Stamford when a group of crusaders converged on the town's fair. The crusaders, fired by religious zeal, had killed a large number of the town's Jewish population and the rest fled behind the castle walls for safety. In 1204 King John lost the Duchy of Normandy and most of his other French lands to King Philip II of France. The loss of England's French possessions sparked another civil war with most of the nobility, known as the barons, led by Prince Louis of France, opposing the King. In 1215 the barons met in Stamford before proceeding to Runnymede where Magna Carta was sealed by King John.

The castle remained in use throughout the 13th century but by 1340 it was

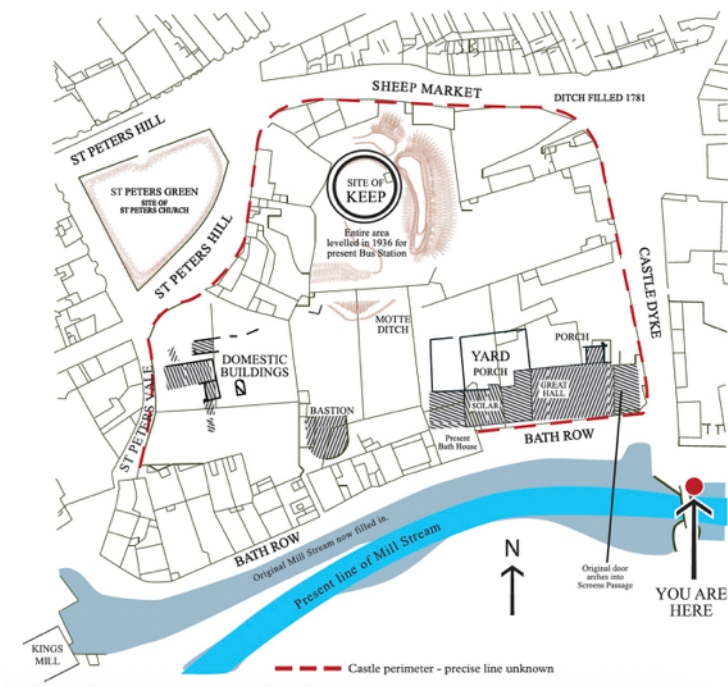


recorded as being “old, and the walls decayed”. Much of the castle appears to have been pulled down in the reign of King Richard III (1483 to 1485), and the stone used to rebuild Whitefriars Friary in Stamford. By 1600 very little remained of the medieval fortress but a part of

the great hall had been transformed to serve as a Law Court administering the manor of Stamford - a function it served into the 19th century. The three arched doorways seen now at the corner of Castle Dyke and Bath Row (pictured above) with their Early English style arches on the other side were part of the

east wall of this building.

In a massive act of municipal vandalism, the motte was removed in 1935 along with the remains of the shell keep to build a car park which later became the bus station. The remaining castle site survived as a large green space well into the 20th century and most of the bailey was made into gardens. In the 1970s the gardens were dug up in a major archaeological excavation which resulted in all the information known about the structure of the castle and the buildings in the bailey. The Burghley Estate, who owned the rest of the castle site, sold it in 1977 to provide the Warrenne Keep housing estate. The south wall of the bailey



ran along a former mill stream which was filled in to provide Bath Row and its car park. This wall, probably not the original but follows its line, forms the boundary of the gardens of the houses in Warrenne Keep. A lady resident told me that English Heritage pay for the upkeep of this area and that no building is permitted on its frontage to the river.

All that remains of Stamford castle are the three arched doorways and the south wall already mentioned. There is the small plaque on the south wall giving the date of the castle's construction. A reset doorway survives amongst the cottages in Bath Row. From Sheepmarket up to the bus station is a sloping access road which might follow the incline to the top of what remains of the motte. An information panel opposite Castle Dyke was produced and erected by Stamford Civic Society in 2008. This includes an excellent map of the castle imposed on the modern street plan. And some useful artist's impressions of the castle in its heyday along with snippets of its history.

Parking is free in Bath Row, and there are usually spaces if you can get there early enough. This is the best place from where to visit what is left of the castle and view the information board. Opposite Bath Row is The Meadows from where a visitor can get a good impression of the castle site. That, and a wander around Stamford, makes a good educational morning out to see another aspect of our rich local history.

Dick Mundy



## Thurlby & Northorpe Repair Café & Book Exchange





**What do you do with:**

- A toaster that no longer pops up?
- A bicycle that needs a puncture repaired?
- A pair of garden shears that need a sharpen?



**Bring it along to the Repair Café!**

- Volunteers will repair your items for free
- Meet with others to share & learn
- Enjoy the tea, coffee and cakes on offer



**Fancy a new book, magazine or jigsaw?**

- Bring an old one and exchange for new
- Find yourself a new author, or one from an old favourite!

**Where and When?**

- The last Sunday of each month (except August)
  - 2.00pm – 4.30pm
- Thurlby Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Thurlby, PE10 0EE
- For more information email – [thurlby.repair.cafe@gmail.com](mailto:thurlby.repair.cafe@gmail.com)



# WITHAM HALL SCHOOL

## FROM CHRISTMAS MAGIC TO EASTER EXCITEMENT

Witham Hall has been a hive of activity this season. Our annual Christmas Drinks Reception was a wonderful start to the festive period, bringing together Old Withamians, parents and staff for champagne, canapés and beautiful singing from *The Vocal Club*.

To help us continue building our OW community, please stay in touch via [www.withamhall.com/alumni](http://www.withamhall.com/alumni)

Pupils have also enjoyed an unforgettable rugby masterclass with England's most-capped men's player, Ben Youngs, and coaches from Gresham's School. A lively Q&A was followed by an action-packed afternoon of strength work, skills training, drills, and fast-paced game play.

Looking ahead, our Charity Easter Egg Hunt in support of the Willoughby Foundation, Bourne, takes place on Saturday 21st March from 10am to 12 noon. Families can explore a bunny trail through Witham Hall's historic grounds and enjoy treats at the finish. Coffee and cake will be available in the pop-up café (cash and card accepted), along with a bouncy castle and activities. Tickets are £5 per child, with adults free. Visit [www.withamhall.com](http://www.withamhall.com) for details and booking.





## Witham on the Hill WI December 2025

At the Christmas party Val Calabrese demonstrated making a pizza. The delicious end result was enjoyed by all as part of the bring and share supper, washed down with Italian Prosecco. Each member chose a secret Santa gift from the sack.

The second Community Café in the St Andrew's Parish Hall will be on Friday 13 February at 10am. Come along for refreshments and a chat – board games will be available. All welcome – men and women! A scheme organised by the WI to aid mental health and alleviate loneliness.

The next WI meeting will be the annual meeting on Tuesday 3 February at 2.30pm, in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Visitors and new members are always very welcome: entry fee £5.

The March meeting will see Helen and Beth, the Wild Woolers, with various aspects of knitting, wool production, dyeing, knitting and crochet - all of which are closely aligned to the socio-economic history of women. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary: tel 01778 590232.

# Jane's Seasonal Recipe

*If you have some mincemeat left over from Christmas this is a delicious alternative to mince pies. This recipe came from WI Life magazine.*

## **MINCEMEAT MONKEY BREAD**

250ml warm milk	FILLING: 350g mincemeat
7g sachet fast action yeast	55g softened butter
50g granulated sugar	55g light brown soft sugar
2 eggs	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
50g melted butter	
1 teaspoon salt	GLAZE: (OPTIONAL)
500g plain flour	100g icing sugar
	2 tablespoons single cream
COATING: 115g melted butter	½ teaspoon vanilla extract
200g granulated sugar	
2 tablespoons cinnamon	

Whisk the warm milk, yeast and sugar. Cover, set aside for 5 mins to activate the yeast. Using a stand mixer with a dough hook, add eggs, melted butter, salt and 125g flour. Beat on a low speed for 30 secs. Scrape the sides of the bowl with a silicone spatula. Add remaining flour. Beat until dough comes away from sides – about 2 mins. Continue mixing dough for 7 mins.

Place dough in a lightly oiled bowl and turn it to coat all over in oil. Cover and leave to rise in a warm place for 1-2 hours until doubled in size. Generously oil 2.4 litre bundt tin.

Mix mincemeat, softened butter, brown sugar and vanilla until well combined.

For the coating melt butter in small bowl, mix cinnamon and granulated sugar in a separate bowl.

Once the dough has risen knock it back in the middle to release air then roll into approx 50 small balls about the size of a walnut. Dip each ball in melted butter then roll in cinnamon sugar. Layer the balls in the bundt tin. When a layer is complete, spread with 2 tablespoons of mincemeat mixture. Repeat, building several layers, spreading remaining mixture over final layer. Cover with cling film, leave to rise for 30 mins. At this stage it can be put in fridge overnight and cooked the next day as required.

Bake 180°C for 40 mins until golden and cooked through. Cool on a wire rack for 5 mins. Loosen carefully with narrow silicone spatula and turn out onto serving plate. To make the glaze: whisk the sugar, cream and vanilla, Drizzle over bread, serve warm, tear and share style!

Enjoy

## PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams
1 <sup>st</sup> February <i>Candlemas</i>		9.30am Three Towers Benefice Eucharist	4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
8 <sup>th</sup> February <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist	4pm Parish Eucharist (Careby)
15 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Sunday before Lent</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
18 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Ash Wednesday</i> (Note: all services include the Imposition of Ashes)		10.30am Said Service		7pm Sung Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
22 <sup>nd</sup> February <i>Lent 1</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little Bytham)  6pm Evensong & Sermon (Little Bytham)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Confessions or any other pastoral or spiritual need, contact: The Revd Fr Edward Martin SSC 07736 711360  
Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org