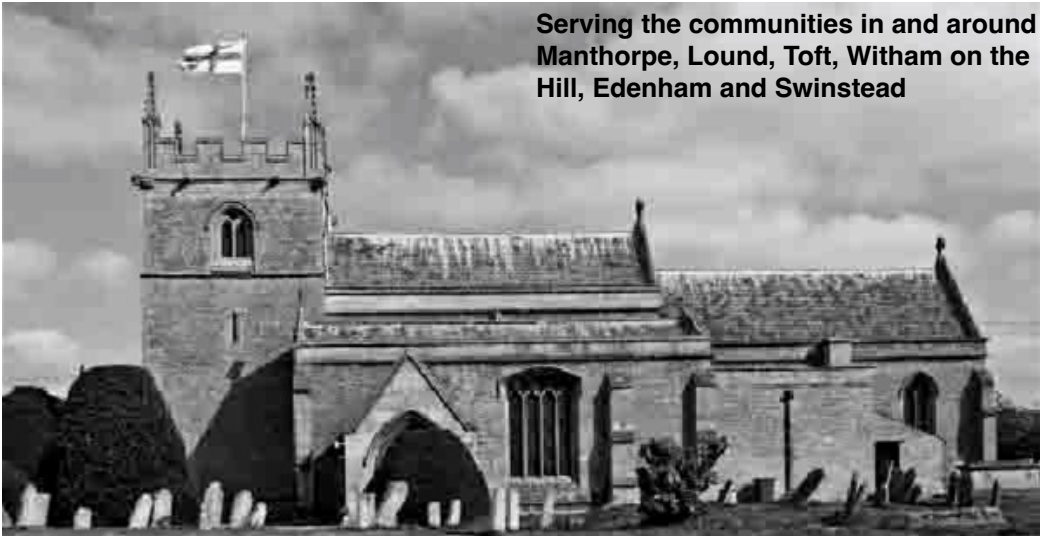


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July 2026



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Parish News

CONFIRMATION congratulations to Gene Plews, Miriam Forbes, Anna Forbes-Rogers, Angus Muirhead (grandson of Fr Andy & Sian Hawes) and Isla Hughes (granddaughter of Hannah and Martin Godbert). all confirmed at Lincoln Cathedral by Bishop Luke of Richborough on Saturday 6 June. Welcome to our church family. May God bless you always.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS to Paul and Tracy, of East Green, Witham on the Hill, on their marriage on 30 May. Wishing you both much happiness.

BAPTISM Albert Jasper Lygo-Frett, baby son of Freya and Josh Frett, grandson of Francie and Derek Lygo, on 14 June at St Michael's Church, Edenham.

WITHAM PARISH WEBSITE HISTORY PAGE: Does anyone have historical information, stories and photographs for the history page on the Witham on the Hill Parish Council website? Please contact Dave Haydon for more information.

SWINSTEAD COMMUNITY PRIDE – Swinstead is incredibly proud to celebrate our own Jill Halliday, who owns and runs Daramy Pet Rescue – a home-based, non-profit dog rescue. Jill has recently been recognised by South Kesteven District Council with the **Judy Smith Lifetime Community Champion Award 2026** – a truly well-deserved honour that reflects her unwavering dedication to ensuring every dog in her care is nurtured, supported, and prepared for a loving new home.

Daramy operates a little differently from many rescues, as they do not rely on foster homes. Instead, Jill and her family – very much a team effort – personally care for and work with every animal that comes into their home. This hands-on approach allows them to truly understand each dog's needs and personality. They are supported by a network of outstanding local partners, including Priory Veterinary Practice in Stamford, The Natural Dog Food Company, and local pet shops such as Pet Stop Market Deeping, whose staff are so committed they even adopt directly from Jill.

Daramy welcomes dogs of all shapes and sizes, providing each one with a full



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.

assessment, health checks, and training. Once Jill feels a dog is ready, they are carefully matched with thoroughly home-checked adopters to ensure the best possible outcome. If you can help Daramy Pet Rescue with financial support, food donations, blankets, etc. please email Jill at daramypetrescue@gmail.com – any type of donation will go a long way to help support and rescue these wonderful animals.

Dates for your Diary

Swinstead Village Hall Bar - Spring/Summer Opening Hours - Every Friday & Saturday 7pm to close. Pool table, table tennis and dart board with electronic score board, along with a great mix of board games, playing cards and background music to keep you entertained. The volunteer bar staff will be sure to greet you with a nice cold beverage, or you may like to try on-tap beers, Tiger, Amstel and Moretti (subject to change). For all other information on upcoming events or to book the hall for an event or party, please visit www.swinsteadvillagehall.com

Wednesday 1, 15 and 29 July from 10.30 am to 12 noon, 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.

Thursday 2 July, 7pm, Glen House, Manthorpe - Swift Awareness Week. Paul and Liz Toseland invite you to their (now) annual Swift Awareness Week gathering at Glen House in Manthorpe. Please pop in, bring something to sit on, and enjoy an evening with neighbours, with an informal talk on our swifts, and the help we can offer them. If you would like to get involved in the conservation of our village swifts, please contact Paul on mail@paultoseland.co.uk

Sunday 5 July, 11am to 4pm – Summer Fare, Edenham Village Hall. Edenham CofE Primary School would welcome your support at its Summer Fare. See page 6 for details.

Sunday 12 July noon onwards, village green, Witham on the Hill. Barbecue (bring your own food to cook exactly as you like it) bring your own picnic, with games such as rounders, pétanque, and bat and trap. For more information contact Debbie 07716 965856

Saturday 25 July, 3pm – Edenham Vicarage Garden Fete. If you can help run one of our lovely garden games that no other fete has, that would be very helpful. If you have any unwanted gifts, we can use them on the tombola or for raffle prizes so hold on to them. Don't worry about the weather either because

Edenham CofE Primary

SUMMER FAIR

Sunday 5th July

11:00am – 4:00pm

Edenham Village Hall

BOUNCY
CASTLES

GAMES

TOMBOLA

CRAFT, JEWELLERY
& GIFT STALLS

LIVE PERFORMANCES

Star Struck, The Dance
Academy, Bourne to Dance
& Tuneless Choir

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BBQ

BAR

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we can cope with anything, last year we were throwing dice and beanbags down the aisle in church while it poured with rain! If you can help, please contact Ruth Atter - 01778 591328. If no answer, please leave a message and Ruth will get back to you.

Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council-sponsored Garden in a Wheelbarrow Competition. See below for details.

Saturday 1 August, 2pm to 4pm - Open Day, in the grounds of Swinstead Hall. Raffle, tombola, refreshments, stalls and games All proceeds to St Mary's Church Swinstead.

Saturday 5 Sept, Edenham Village Hall - Steam Action 50th Produce Show. Full achedule is on pages 9 to 12

Wheelbarrow Competition 2026 for Manthorpe, Toft & Lound Residents



Theme is
“Commonwealth Games”

Prizes to be won for the best
Wheelbarrow

Adults : 1st £25 : 2nd place £15
Children £10

Exhibit your barrow at the end of your driveway

Entries will be judged end of July

Any questions ring Alison on 01778 590347



Garden Fete

August 1st Saturday

2.00 – 4.00pm

Swinstead Hall

In aid of St Marys Church



Traditional Games

Raffle Tombola

Refreshments

Stalls

If you can donate a tombola prize it will be appreciated

Phone Isobel on 07962 216082 or Louise on 07484 715067

Or deliver to Swinstead Hall

Steam Action 50th Annual Produce Show

Saturday 5th Sept 2026 at Edenham Village Hall

50p an entry!

Open to residents of Edenham, Swinstead & Witham Parish, 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

Friday 4 September

6-7pm – Please bring your entries to the hall

Saturday 5 September

8.30-10.30am - Please bring your entries to the hall

2pm - Viewing and refreshments

3pm - Presentation of trophies followed by

3.30pm - Auction of produce

Scottlethorpe38@gmail.com or telephone Amanda Treacy 07984427799 for queries

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 / tub (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 (size A5)
- 14 A flower or foliage arrangement in an unusual container

- 15 Decorative door wreath (12" in 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)
- 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 (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 Six 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
- 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
- 51 Decorated chocolate cake to celebrate 50 years
- 52 Tea Loaf “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

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

- 57 Drawing or Painting (oil or watercolour)
- 58 Sewing machine item
- 59 Hand knitted or crocheted toy
- 60 Hand knitted or crocheted garment
- 61 Item of patchwork
- 62 Wind chime
- 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 Item of paper craft

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 outdoor scene (fits in a shoe box)
- 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 (any media) (A4 max)

76 Miniature outdoor scene (fits in a shoe box)

77 Home grown fruit, flower or vegetable

78 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)

SECTION G – PHOTOGRAPHY (taken within the last 12 months)

(Maximum size of photo 7” x 5”)

79 Funny photo

80 Flowers

81 Sunrise or sunset

82 Farming

83 Squares

SECTION H – DISASTER

84 Planned entry that ended in disaster

SECTION D – HOMEMADE Class 52. Bake off cake recipe

Cake

300 ml strong black tea

375g mixed dried fruits

200g light soft brown sugar

275g self raising flour

2 medium eggs

Zest of 1 lemon

1 tsp mixed spice

THE VICAR WRITES

In the early 20th century social scientists suggested that people were more interconnected than they realised. This led to the hypothesis that any two arbitrary people on Earth are connected by a surprisingly short chain of acquaintances—popularly known as six degrees of separation. In the 1960s, psychologist Stanley Milgram tested this theory. He gave letters to people in the US Midwest, telling them that the letter had to reach a person in Boston previously unknown to them. Participants could only send their letter to someone they knew on a first-name basis and then ask them to send it to someone they knew in the hope that it would eventually reach the intended recipient. The letters that successfully reached their destination did so through an average of six people. Following the birth of the internet, a 2011 study estimated that six degrees of separation may now be as low as four. Facebook even claimed, “When considering even the most distant Facebook user in the Siberian tundra or the Peruvian rainforest, a friend of your friend probably knows a friend of

their friend.” But why tell you this? Well, I’d like to suggest that our own human interconnectedness can help us appreciate the mystery of God as Holy Trinity (three interconnected persons, one God).

Let’s start with the Father and the Son. In St John’s Gospel, we hear that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Reading on, we also learn that “all things were made through him” meaning that all things were brought into being by the Father through the agency of the Word. From the off, we glimpse the interconnectedness of the first and second persons of the Trinity. But we also see something more. That something is Creation (the universe as we know it). The first two persons of the Trinity not only relate to each other, there’s also a mutual relationship with Creation (all that was brought into being by the Father through the Word). However, this second relationship doesn’t damage the first one. There’s no tension or jealousy between the Father and the Word on account of Creation. This is



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no bizarre love triangle! As Jesus says, “I and the Father are one.” Furthermore, when the Word becomes flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth (the Son), that interconnectedness develops further. For Jesus is true God and true man. He is of the Creator (as the one through whom all things were made) but he’s also of Creation as a human being.

But that’s not all. For, having become incarnate as a human being, the Father then allows the Son to face the dangers of ordinary human life. The Father intends for Jesus to be with us and among us come what may and, because of the flawed and sinful nature of mankind, we allow envy, fear and cruelty to arise within our relationships, Jesus being with us results in us killing him. The Father, in the meantime, must stand back, and allow this to happen. Can we imagine what that’s like? Perhaps we can. When a parent leaves their child at school, when you wave your loved-ones off at the airport, you understand and appreciate that a particular dynamic within loving relationships is letting go. We might also experience letting go at the end of someone’s life – praying and hoping for merciful

release. In that context, the agony of the Cross only makes sense if Jesus and the Father fully and willingly experience the loss and separation of death. The Father and Son had to know the agony of separation on Good Friday for the glory of the Resurrection and Easter Day to be real.

But what of the Son and the Spirit? In John Chapter 14 verse 16, Jesus declares “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever”. So, the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. The key difference between Son and Spirit is that Jesus was God among us for a moment in time and history. Jesus could only be in one place at one time. The Spirit, however, doesn’t have a body in the same way. The Spirit is present at all times and in all places. The Son and the Spirit also have a relationship of perfect partnership. Think of Gilbert and Sullivan, Torvill and Dean, (Ant and Dec?). One of the most fulfilling experiences we can have is to have that perfect synergy with another person – it may be a spouse, colleague or best friend. But there’s a more poignant aspect to the relationship between the Son and the Spirit. When Jesus died on the Cross, he declared “Father, into your hands I



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commit my spirit!” As the Son’s relationship with the Father is briefly severed, his relationship with the Spirit abides and remains. Again, we see something of our human experience played out within the life of the Trinity – the Spirit holds things together in a moment of tragic separation. The Spirit bridges the chasm between the Father and the Son brought about by Christ’s death on the Cross. To be the one (the glue) that holds people, families, situations together in this way, is one of the most significant things we can experience in life.

Then there’s the relationship between the Father and the Spirit. For, what the Father brings into existence through the Son (Word), the Spirit makes holy (sanctifies). Without the Spirit, bread and wine remain bread and wine. Without the Spirit, water is just water. The same could be said of us! The Spirit transforms us from flesh and blood into God’s Holy People.

So, the Father and Son together express the depth of love by loving beyond themselves (Creation) and by letting go. The Son and Spirit portray perfect partnership and the holding together of those who’ve been separated. The Father and the Spirit model creativity as God breathes his

divine life into ordinary created matter (us included). Far from being removed from our earthly experience, the life of God as Trinity shows us how aligned we are with him (God) and how divine love and perfection can be glimpsed through the life we live. Trying to relate to God as Trinity doesn’t result in us looking up to heaven and dismissing God as being unknowable. Rather, it helps us to look around and realise that God is with us and for us – creating, giving, loving, restoring and perfecting in order that we might know life and love in all its fullness.

Fr Edward

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Witham on the Hill Parish Meeting Chairman's Annual Report

11 May 2026

As usual, my thanks to all Councillors for their support during the last twelve months and I would also like to thank Councillors Charlotte Vernon and Penny Robins for their continuing support for our community at County and District levels respectively.

Last May we welcomed Valentino Calabrese to the Parish Council, which means we have a full complement of five parish councillors serving our community. A resident of the village for many years, Valentino has regularly volunteered his help in keeping the village street furniture decorated along with Martin Hyde, to whom we should also express our thanks.

The village website, www.witham-hill.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk, has been an issue for some time. However, thanks to the singular efforts of Cllr Dave Haydon, this is not only up to date but being run much more as a live service with regular bulletins to promote village activities and the like, in conjunction with the village WhatsApp group.

Our village landmark, the stocks, is still surrounded by the protective screening SKDC put up over a year ago, but progress is being made. There is a scheme of works to refurbish the supports and the slate roof and listed building consent was granted in March. There remains the question of when the work will be carried out, hopefully this year, as soon as SKDC can get the funding confirmed. The same applies to our request for replacement of the permanent picnic tables/benches on the green.

The deteriorated state of the road in Bottom St, is still a frustrating issue, as the earlier works did not go far enough and damage caused to underground pipes at the time has caused another leak with continuous water running down the road. Continued requests are being made to LCC Highways to get repairs done.

The reactive speed sign continues to provide a helpful reminder to motorists to check their speed through the village. It also shows that there are still comparatively few instances of significant speeding. The sign is moved periodically from one end of the village to the other.

Cllr Dave Haydon organised a training evening last December, in the use of a defibrillator and when to use it, which was attended by seventeen residents. In due course this valuable exercise will be repeated.

Planning applications during the year have mainly related to arboreal work, however two applications for newbuild development have been given consent. One at Corra Lynn opposite the Six Bells, where the existing bungalow will be

replaced by a new home and we look forward to welcoming Ian and Sonjeeta Brown into the heart of the village when they eventually move from West Farm. The other, is a new development on the pasture between Cleeve Acre and Witham Grange on the opposite side of the valley overlooking the church. Two earlier applications were refused and it was the Parish Council's view that this application should also be turned down. SKDC planning committee considered the application last December and I attended the meeting to present the Parish Council's objections to the proposal. Although the committee was almost equally divided for and against, it was decided to grant consent given there are dwellings on either side of the site, even though it is outside the traditionally recognised curtilage of the village. Local resident's opposition to the proposal was not deemed by the committee to be a significant consideration.

Cllr Valentino Calabrese represented the Parish Council and laid the wreath at the Remembrance Sunday service in St Andrew's Church last November. Our thanks to Cllr Dave Haydon whose 'Tommy' silhouettes were again on show around the village.

As usual I would like to thank our local landowners for helping to keep the footpaths clear from obstruction. In particular, I want to thank John Furlong, for his generous donation to Parish funds this year, and the improvements he has made to the land on the north side of the village. The bridleway from Lound which joins Bottom Street has largely been resurfaced and several residents have mentioned how much they enjoy the new wild flower strips which border the sixty acre field.

I conclude by wishing everyone well, and my thanks to Bernard for his help and advice over the last twelve months.

Charles Henriques

Chair: Witham on the Hill Parish Council 11/05/26



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St Andrews Parish Hall Update

We are delighted to report that refurbishment works at St. Andrews Parish Hall are now under way. The first phase of the project is the installation of a new kitchen. This will be followed by repairs and redecoration of the hall, together with the fitting of new floor coverings, helping to ensure that the hall remains a welcoming and well-equipped facility for the whole community.

As a reminder, The St Andrew's Parish Hall is not the Witham village hall. This facility is for the benefit of the residents of Toft, Lound, Manthorpe and Witham. The Parish Hall Management Committee oversees the day-to-day operation of the hall and helps organise events and activities for all local residents. We are currently seeking new committee members and would particularly welcome volunteers from Manthorpe, Toft and Lound to help represent our wider community.

The refurbishment programme is being made possible through the generous support of the Church Trustees, Toft, Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council and Witham on the Hill Parish Council.

Our next committee meeting will take place at 7.00 pm on 8 July at St. Andrews Parish Hall. Anyone interested in finding out more about the committee or becoming involved is warmly invited to attend.

For further information, please contact Frances Plummer on 07919 288799 or Richard Burbidge on 07885 496385.

Please do come along and get involved – it is your hall, and your support can help ensure its continued success for the whole community.

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The Power of the Church

As an avid reader of historical tomes, I am always surprised to learn that the Church of England has changed considerably over many centuries. From an almost tyrannical, autocratic regime to the benign and welcoming institution that we have today. And that we have King Henry VIII to thank for it.

I have read that in medieval times the English Church was Roman Catholic under the authority of the Pope. The Church penetrated every area of life: politics, law, government, the economy, education, art and architecture. The Church baptized and buried virtually everyone in England. People who married did so in accordance with its rites and laws. It had its own language, Latin, with services conducted in Latin, and the Bible in Latin. It had its own system of law, known as “Canon Law”, its own property which extended to more than a fifth of the land in England. It was extremely wealthy with contributions known as tithes demanded from everyone. The Church also required that all accept its authority. Monarchs were no exception. Dissent was seen as heresy and could lead to excommunication, meaning expulsion from the Christian community.

But the King of England needed educated men to run the country. He needed administrators, lawyers, accountants, teachers and clerks. Such men only came from the clergy and were thus deemed to be in holy orders. For the Church had a monopoly on learning and the teaching of Latin which had become the language of government and public and private administration.

One in six of the population were in some form or other of holy orders. If they committed misdemeanours they were allowed “benefit of clergy”, trial in more lenient ecclesiastical courts rather than secular courts, avoiding imprisonment, harsh punishment and the death penalty.

All this came to an end with the Protestant Reformation which was a widespread revolt in Europe against the perceived autocracy of the Roman Catholic Church. Reformers such as Martin Luther in Germany and John Calvin in France protested against practices of the Catholic Church not rooted in the Bible. The trigger of the Protestant Reformation is generally considered to be Luther’s posting of his “Ninety-five Theses” (its core message is that salvation

cannot be bought, but is a gift from God received through faith) on the door of Wittenberg Church in October 1517.

Our friends north of the border were influenced by the teachings of Martin Luther, and the preaching of John Knox and themselves broke away from the Catholic church and established the Protestant Church of Scotland.

But the English were different. The English Reformation was sparked off by King Henry VIII (pictured below) who wanted to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, so he could marry Anne Boleyn. However, the Pope refused the divorce under Canon Law. As a result, Henry detached England from the authority of the Pope and achieved his divorce.

Henry summoned the Reformation Parliament which sat from 1529 to 1536. This Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy of 1534 legally designating King Henry VIII as the Supreme Head of the Church of England permanently severing England from the Roman Catholic Church, and the Dissolution of the Monasteries Act of 1535 initiating the closure of monastic houses, ultimately leading to the mass transfer of Catholic wealth and land to the English Crown.



Henry VIII died in January 1547 aged 55 years. He was succeeded by his only son, crowned Edward VI in February 1547 at the age of nine. Edward died aged 15 years in July 1553 probably of tuberculosis. Edward was a staunch Protestant and his short reign made a lasting contribution to the English Reformation and the Church of England which changed from an essentially Catholic liturgy and structure to Protestant, helped by a prayer book in English issued in 1549.

Whereas Edward was a staunch Protestant, Henry's daughter Mary was the polar opposite, a staunch Catholic. Acceding to the throne after the death of

Edward in 1553 she was the first Queen Regnant in England. She restored papal supremacy in England, abandoned the title of Supreme Head of the Church, reintroduced Roman Catholic bishops and began the reintroduction of monastic orders. She brutally executed those who would not recant Protestantism. Mary died in 1558, possibly from cancer, leaving the crown to her half-sister Elizabeth.

During Elizabeth's 45 year reign a secure Church of England was established, a compromise between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. Elizabeth and her advisers sought a Protestant solution that would not offend Catholics too greatly while fulfilling the desires of English Protestants. As a result, the Parliament of 1559 legislated for a church based on the Protestant settlement of Edward VI but with many Catholic elements, with the monarch as its head. But fines were levied for failure to attend a church service once a week. The Elizabethan Religious Settlement remains the doctrine of the Church of England to this day.

We keep being told that the Church of England is losing popularity and congregations. I take issue with that. Many sources report that attendance, especially by younger people, is increasing. Baptisms for adults is also increasing. By a small margin admittedly, but an increase is an increase.

In our area the church is strong. An army of volunteers supports our lovely churches, with cleaning, gardening, grass trimming and flower arranging. The Three Towers parish magazine has a circulation of 500 printed copies all hand delivered by volunteers to every household, and avidly read. All the churches that I have visited are similarly well supported by local people. The power of the church in medieval times might help to explain why there are so many churches in our small area. About nine or ten between here and Peterborough. All built before the 16th century, therefore originally Catholic.

The Church of England does not have the power over the people it had in medieval times. Tithes were abolished by a series of Parliamentary statutes in the 19th and 20th centuries. Fines are not levied for non-attendance at church. Services are conducted in English. The Bible is in English. The church no longer has a monopoly on education and healthcare. Since the 19th century

monasteries have been re-established. Benefit of clergy was abolished in the United Kingdom in 1827 with the passage of the Criminal Law Act 1827. Those living in a parish have a right to a christening, a marriage and a funeral in their parish church. Nobody gets turned away, no matter how unbelieving they are. Things have changed considerably over the past 500 years. Few would argue that this is not a good thing.

Dick Mundy.



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Something special is taking root at Witham Hall. This summer, we opened our doors - and our woodland - to the very youngest explorers. Witham in the Woods is a new Forest School morning for toddlers and preschool children, welcoming both Witham families and those from the wider community.

These engaging sessions offer a wonderful opportunity for young children and their grown-ups to explore, discover, and enjoy the great outdoors together in the beautiful surroundings of Witham Hall.

Designed to spark curiosity and build confidence, each session is led by an experienced Outdoor Education practitioner and includes activities such as campfire cooking, den building, seasonal crafts, storytelling, singing and much more.

Sessions will run each term, the next commencing in September. For further details, please visit our website www.withamhall.com/whatson.





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Saturday 12 September 2026

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Join your friends or family or have a peaceful day on your own, visiting Lincolnshire's beautiful churches, and be sponsored for every church you visit.

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Your local organiser is: **Jane Clark tel 01778 590232**

Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery

Moreley's Lane, Corby Glen, NG33 4NL

12 – 5 pm. Tuesday – Sunday

ADMISSION FREE

A group exhibition showcasing a variety of artistic styles and techniques will open on **Wednesday 15 July** and run until **Wednesday 5 August**.

Fenland Friends



Fenland Friends is a group of artists from South Lincolnshire whose work spans a variety of styles and media, including oils, watercolour, acrylic, ceramics and sculpture. Inspired by landscapes, flowers, coastal scenes and abstract forms, the exhibition celebrates both the individuality of each artist and the shared creativity and friendship that bring the group together.

www.willoughbygallery.com

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

The raspberry season is almost upon us, so here is a nice cake recipe from the Dairy Diary. You could substitute blueberries or other soft fruit.

Raspberry Cream Cheese Streusel Cake

150g caster sugar
200g butter
2 eggs
25g ground almonds
200g sr flour
200g raspberries
50g cream cheese
50g demerara sugar

Beat caster sugar and 150g softened butter. Beat in the eggs, fold in ground almonds and 150g flour. Gently fold in raspberries. Spoon half mixture into a greased and lined 2lb loaf tin. Add teaspoonfuls of cream cheese, cover with remaining mixture, smooth the top. Rub remaining 50g of butter with remaining 50g flour, stir in demerara sugar. Sprinkle on cake. Bake 180°C for approx 1 hour until golden, and a skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in tin.

Witham on the Hill WI June 2026

The planned games on the village green were changed to board games in the village hall, due to a forecast for heavy showers, which didn't actually materialise! However, we all had fun with a wide assortment of board games, there was a lot of jollity and laughter. A bring and share supper was enjoyed with lots of delicious food. Some members will be going to Tolethorpe to see Twelfth Night, and an outing to Moulton Windmill is planned for 26 July.

The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 7 July at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. The speaker will be Jeff Woods, aka Pavanotti, an operatic tenor, with lots of humorous tales. Visitors and new members are always very welcome: entry fee £5. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary: tel 01778 590232.

PARISH SERVICES FOR JULY

	Witham	Edenham	Bythams
5 th July <i>Trinity 5</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
12 th July <i>Trinity 6</i>		9.30am Benefice Eucharist (Grimsthorpe Chapel) 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Careby)
19 th July <i>Trinity 7</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
26 th July <i>Trinity 8</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Patronal Festival (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