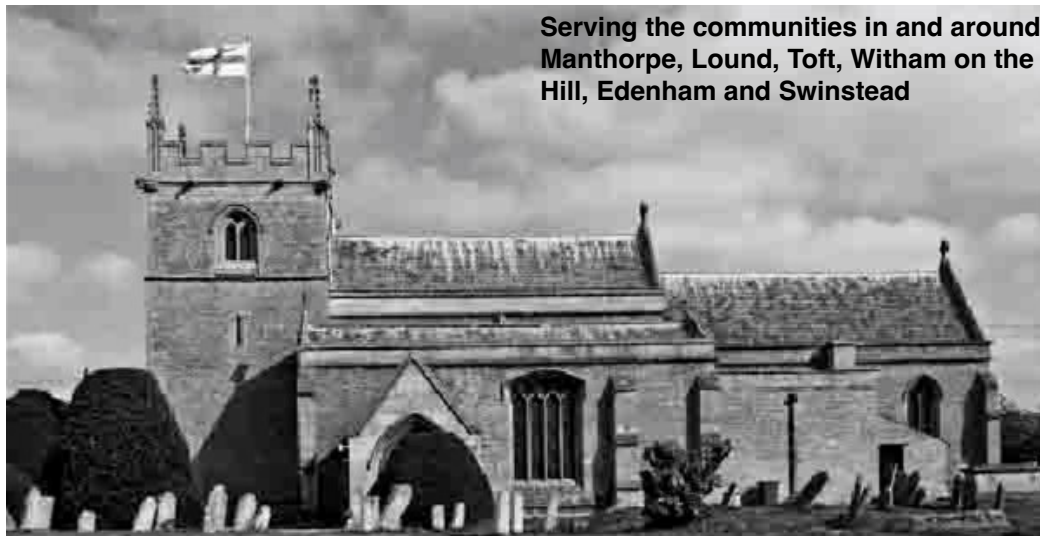


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August/September

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Parish News

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED to deliver **The Three Towers** in **Toft**. Contact Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

MANY THANKS to Lorna Cook for delivering the Three Towers in Toft for the past few years. Good luck in your new home.

MANY THANKS to Liz Underhill for delivering the Three Towers in Swinstead for the past few years. Wishing you and Graham well in your new home.

THANK YOU - I want to thank everyone who attended my Charity Event, Cream Tea and Bingo. It was a great success despite the heat and everyone coped very well so many thanks. Richard Burbidge did a fantastic job as Bingo caller. We managed to raise £430 on the day which is going to OCD-UK. This included a raffle with prizes from people in the local community. If anyone is interested in having Bingo evenings regularly then I can see what response I get for a start in the Autumn. My email is alison.whitehead45@btinternet.com

CONGRATULATIONS Leah Clark achieving a first class degree with honours at University of Cumbria, a BSc in woodland ecology and conservation, specialising in GHG fluxes in peat lands and restoration.

PLANNED INTRODUCTION OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE BOOKING SYSTEM - Lincolnshire County Council plans to introduce a booking system for the use of all its 11 waste and recycling centres. Nothing will change immediately and residents should receive plenty of warning. Details of the plan are on the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe parish website - <https://toft-lound-manthorpe.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/76/lcc-household-waste-recycling-centre-booking-system>

TOFT, LOUND & MANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WHEELBARROW COMPETITION RESULTS - The winners of the wheelbarrow competition were all in Manthorpe:

1st place - The Haven

Runner-up - Sunset View

Children's winner - Paddock View

THANK YOU to Alison Whitehead for organising the event once more. Alison would like to thank everyone who produced some really wonderful wheelbarrow displays in Manthorpe. Also a great effort from Juliette in Toft. We hope the winners will enjoy spending their gardening vouchers.



Garden Fete

August 1st Saturday

2.00 – 4.00pm

Swinstead Hall

In aid of St Marys Church



Traditional Games

Raffle Tombola

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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

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

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.

Wednesday 12 & 26 August / 9 & 23 September, 10:30 am to 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.

Saturday 5 Sept, Edenham Village Hall - Steam Action 50th Produce Show. Full achedule is on pages 13 to16

Saturday 3 October 7pm St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, Race night with fish and chip supper. All welcome. To book contact Debs 07716 965856

Saturday 31 October 7pm St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, Halloween quiz night with chilli con carne supper. All welcome. To book contact Debs 07716 965856

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THE VICAR WRITES

As I write this, harvest is well and truly underway in the fields around us. The Gospel readings on Sundays have been awash with the imagery of sowing, planting and harvesting. It makes you think. In St Matthew's Gospel, chapter thirteen, Jesus tells a story about a sabotaged crop:

"A man... sowed good seed in his field, but his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. So, the servants said to him, 'Do you want us to remove the weeds?' But he said, 'No, lest in removing the weeds you root up the wheat. Let both grow together until harvest, and at harvest time, gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Weeding is hard work, and it requires a degree of discernment deciding what to remove and what to leave. After all, some weeds look like plants, and some plants look like weeds. How can you tell? Apparently, one way of telling a plant from a weed is to pull on it; if it comes out of the ground easily then it's not a weed. Alternatively, you could simply pull up everything and whatever grows back are usually weeds. What's true is that no-one likes pulling up and sorting out weeds, including God. God isn't for weeding.

According to Jesus, God is more inclined to wait until harvest and sort it out then.

On the surface, there seems little to say about the story, except to make sure you're not a weed because, come the harvest, the weeds will be bundled up and burned. But who exactly are the weeds? Well, read on and you'll soon discover that the weeds are all who do evil. All who do evil? That's slightly disconcerting. Where might God draw the line when it comes to doing evil? Does it stop with murderers, adulterers, thieves? Does fibbing on your tax return count? What about gossiping or sins of omission? Throw in St Paul's famous statement in Romans 3.23 that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and we could all start to feel a little uneasy. And yet we shouldn't worry, for we know that the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross has paid for our sins, once and for all. Still, a fiery furnace doesn't sound overly appealing and when God starts pulling up those weeds, I for one will be mightily relieved that I'll have Jesus to depend on and not my own virtue.

So, if Jesus isn't trying to make us uneasy with this story, what is he saying? Well, I would suggest that there are three things to consider:

1. Pulling-up weeds is an important



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part of life

It's often the case that weeds need to be nipped-in-the-bud before things get out of hand. It's the same in life. Chances are that most of us will know people whose lives have been damaged by things like debt, depression, alcohol or even by negative attitudes like overwhelming bitterness and resentment. It can happen to anyone; a few wrong turns and, suddenly, you're lost, entangled and trapped. Sometimes a great deal is at risk; a marriage, your health, the safety of others etc. Pulling up weeds like these is an important part of all our lives; seeing the danger early and, with God's help (and the support of others), trying to do something about it while you can.

2. God isn't out to get us

You might think that, after reading the story that Jesus told, God sounds more than a little eager to destroy those who do evil. But if you think that this means God is a vengeful judge then you'll have missed an important truth. The last thing God wants to do is to destroy anyone. What God wants is to make us mindful of the weeds growing in our lives so that he might help deliver us from them. Often, the greatest victim of our sin is us. Sin affects our lives, our bodies, our relationships with others and our

relationship with God.

At time our guilt is great, our sin cries out and yet God wants to save us. God is the Master Gardener who wants to help pull up the weeds and bring order back to our lives. Regardless of how messy our lives may seem, God can turn that mess into a masterpiece.

3. The Cross counts now

For many people, the Cross is about getting into heaven when you die; it's the ticket to life in the world to come. But there's more. The reason God hates sin is because sin hurts us and that's what the Cross is all about. We may live in a broken world, and we cannot expect things to be perfect, but we can make a start by finding our way to the foot of the Cross and by asking God to pull up the weeds that grow in our hearts and lives. These may be weeds of bitterness, envy, desire, etc. the list goes on. We know for ourselves the weeds that choke our spirit. We don't have to give in to them. Give them to God and let him throw them into the fire that will consume them once and for all. God is the Master Gardener of life. We can always turn to him through the Cross of his Son, so that he might put the garden of our lives back into some kind of order once more.

Enjoy the summer!

Fr Ed



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Edenham, Grimsthorpe, Scottlethorpe and Elsthorpe Clerk's Notes

Annual Parish Council Meeting 13 July 2026

Councillor Vacancies: There are now two vacancies on the parish council, if any resident is interested in becoming a councillor please contact the Parish Clerk via email: Edenham.pc@gmail.com

Community Street Cleaner Position: Mrs J Bradley has kindly agreed to take on this position. Parish Clerk asked to progress the necessary paperwork and salary payments on to the HMRC PAYE

Email addresses: Costs were shared with the members prior to the meeting, Parish Clerk asked to gain answers to the questions raised and feedback at the meeting on 8th September 2026.

Play Area: The annual inspection by ROSPA is booked in for August 2026. The internal inspection noted that, due to the continued dry weather, gaps have appeared around some posts. However, they are not considered to be a safety issue at this time, monitoring to continue. The members agreed that we wait for the ROSPA report before any further actions are taken in relation to the removal of the trim trail.

Village Hall: There has been no news on the lease document from Grimsthorpe Estate.

Planning Matters: There were no new applications to discuss, notification was received for a property on School Lane; however, this did not require full planning consent.

Financial Matters:	SKDC Street Cleaning Grant	£463.32
	Church Maintenance grant	£350
	ROSPA	£83.00 + VAT
	Community Account	£5,714.23
	Business Savings Account	£502.17

Next Meeting Date: 8 September 2026

Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery

Moreley's Lane, Corby Glen, NG33 4NL

12 – 5 pm. Tuesday – Sunday

ADMISSION FREE

A group exhibition will open on **Wednesday 12 August** and run until **Wednesday 2 September**.



Artists **Kate Genever, Kate Fortune Jones, Soraya Smithson, Claire Morris-Wright, Serena Smith, Sue Baker Kenton, Caroline Penn, Meredith Kenton** and **Andrew Bracey**, together with writer **Andrew Falconer**, have drawn inspiration from the unique collection of books, maps, manuscripts and objects in the Willoughby Memorial Trust Library to create new work specially for this exhibition.

Their responses range from medieval manuscripts, natural history and Lincolnshire's rural heritage to maps, aviation history, forgotten stories and the library itself as a place of memory and discovery. Through ceramics, textiles, embroidery, artists' books, drawing, installation, performance and text, the exhibition offers fresh perspectives on the library's rich collections and the stories they continue to inspire.

Together, the artists invite visitors to look again at the library and its treasures, revealing unexpected connections between the past and contemporary artistic practice.

www.willoughbygallery.com

Steam Action 50th Annual Produce Show

Saturday 5 Sept 2026 at Edenham Village Hall - 50p an entry!

Open to residents of Edenham, Swinstead, Witham, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound, relatives of those who live in Edenham Parish, eligible members of Steam Action, pupils of Edenham School, Grimsthorpe Castle Day nursery and Pillarwood Farm Pre-School and all those who receive a copy of The Three Towers magazine.

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

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

Angels in the Roof

When walking around any of our public buildings, cathedrals or parish churches, visitors are always advised to look upwards. This is nowhere more relevant than at the church of St. Martin, Barholm with Stowe. If the advice is ignored then the superb angel roof in the chancel will be missed. Which will be a great shame, because not only is it outstanding, but out of the four that I know, I believe it to be the finest in our area.

An angel roof is a term for a medieval or later timber roof decorated with large carved wooden angels. They are often colourfully painted and skilfully carved with very fine detail. Angel Roofs are often found as part of hammer-beam roofs. The best example of a hammer-beam roof is at Westminster Hall, near the Houses of Parliament. It has the largest medieval timber roof in Europe. Measuring 68 by 240 feet, the roof was commissioned in 1393 by King Richard II and is a masterpiece of design by Hugh Herland, the King's chief carpenter.

Essentially, short horizontal hammer-beams are fixed to the walls, wooden arches spring from the ends of the beams and the sloped rafters are attached to the arches. The weight of the roof is borne by the hammer-beams supported in their turn by the buttressed walls. The carved angels decorate the ends of the hammer-beams. The design overcomes the problem of obtaining very long timber beams to span a wide roof and permits a floor space uninterrupted by supporting columns.

Until the Reformation and the Puritan revolution of the Civil War, churches were a riot of colours and images. In the Protestant iconoclasm of the 1640s, most of these portrayals in glass, paint, stone and wood were condemned as idolatrous and "papist" and destroyed. But amidst the destruction, there were some survivors. Roof angels were far above the ground, inaccessible without long ladders. Not all of them escaped the iconoclasts but to tear down roof angels required determination and time, and the co-operation of locals which was not

always available.

More than 140 angel roofs survive. They are found mostly in churches, and mainly in East Anglia, particularly in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. While angel roofs were initially a feature of medieval churches, they were sometimes replicated or restored during the Victorian period, often in a style that reflected the artistry and craftsmanship of medieval times.

The church at Barholm was restored in 1855 by one Edward Browning. The restoration included a new chancel roof built in a style known as a false hammer-beam roof (see pictures).

The architect wanted to include carved angels which always seem to be attached to the horizontal hammer-beams. So, at Barholm false hammer-beams were installed, which appear to serve no structural purpose but to carry



the carved angels. Visually, the whole effect is quite stunning. According to a leaflet from the church entitled “A Short History and Guide” the new roof and all the wooden furnishings cost £950.

The church of All Saints in Stamford has just had its plumbing,

heating and lighting upgraded. Volunteers used the contractors scaffolding to clean the roof angels. By comparison the project cost over £330,000.

Photography of roofs is not always easy. Short of demanding that the vicar

install scaffolding in the chancel, you have to lean back and bend your neck at an impossible angle leading to pains in the cervical vertebrae and imperfect results. My attempts are above.

At the start of this piece, I made the rather pompous statement that the angel roof at Barholm is the finest in our area. This is my personal opinion. There are other examples: Edenham, All Saints in Stamford and Clipsham in Rutland. The latter having carved stone angels at the bottom of rather elongated corbels supporting the roof arches. There may well be others. I hope this is the case, for angel roofs are probably the most beautiful timber roof decoration and should be sought out and admired.

Dick Mundy



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Witham-on-the-Hill Church and School Estate Educational Foundation is able to make grants to those residents of Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound who are undertaking courses at colleges and universities and also those who are on apprentice schemes.

Applications for educational grants can be made by submitting a request via email. The request should explain the type and duration of your course and how you would propose to use the grant during your studies.

Applications to:

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Email: **withamtrust@gmail.com**

WITHAM HALL SCHOOL

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

We have celebrated another outstanding year of scholarship success at Witham Hall, with this year's leavers securing an impressive 17 scholarships and awards to leading senior schools, including Eton College, Oakham School, Oundle School, Rugby School, Stamford School and Uppingham School.



The breadth of achievement was just as impressive as the number of awards, with scholarships gained across academic, sporting and artistic disciplines. Special congratulations go to Archie, who was awarded the prestigious Annah Shaw Scholarship for Classics, recognising the strongest performance in Latin and Greek among candidates not elected as King's Scholars. This is the second consecutive year that the scholarship has been awarded to a Witham pupil.

Many congratulations to all our scholarship recipients, and we wish all our Year 8 leavers every success as they begin an exciting new chapter at their chosen senior schools.

SADDLE UP WITH WITHAM'S EQUESTRIAN TEAM

The Witham Equestrian Team has enjoyed another successful season, with impressive performances at NSEA qualifiers, the Brooke Priory Festival and the Spratton Hall Show. A particular highlight was qualifying for the NSEA Championships at Hickstead, where Benjamin, Silva and Lottie competed against hundreds of riders from across the country. There was further success at the Burghley Pony Club 80cm One-Day Event, where Etta finished second overall, winning both Best Burghley Rider and Best Dressage Test, while Silva was placed fifth. Congratulations to all our riders on a fantastic year!



WITHAM ON THE HILL WI JULY 2026

Jeff Woods, aka Pavanotti, gave a talk "Have Voice Will Travel", interspersed with wonderful songs from opera. Having spoken to us last year at Carlby WI, this was part 2. He told of Spalding Water Festival last weekend, where he went down the river on the water taxi, accompanied by canoes and paddle boarders, singing "Just One Cornetto", while Cornettos were thrown to crowds on the banks! He sang an aria from Mozart's Magic Flute wearing a silly bird hat and playing small panpipes! He told of a concert at Moulton Chapel when the King and Queen were invited but unable to come, so his Aunts came dressed in King and Queen masks! He was full of jokes and had us all in stitches. For the finale he sang Nessun Dorma (also known as Messy Norma!)

Members are looking forward to an outing to Moulton Windmill on Sunday 26 July.

The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 4 **August at 7.30pm** in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. The speaker will be Rachel Thomas, talking about the Prickleback Hedgehog Rescue Centre. On 1 September Nicola Hallam will be talking about Lady Dorothie Fielding who drove ambulances in Belgium during WWI. Visitors and new members are always very welcome: entry fee £5. For more information contact Jane Clark: tel 01778 590232.




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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

We have a glut of beans and courgettes already, so this casserole is a good supper dish this time of year. Any combination of green veg can be used – peas, mange tout, or broccoli spears.

Sausage Casserole

1 onion
1 tablespoon oil
1 red pepper
4 sausages
1 tin chopped tomatoes
1 tablespoon tomato puree
¼ pint stock
2 courgettes
4oz French beans

Gently fry sliced onion in oil for 5 mins, add sliced red pepper, frying a further 5 mins. Add the sausages and cook until lightly browned, add tinned tomatoes, tomato puree, stock, sliced courgettes and chopped beans. Simmer until beans are tender, approx 20 mins. Serve with jacket potatoes, rice or crusty bread.

SERVES 2

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Liability Care insurance

Contact: Debbie

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PARISH SERVICES FOR AUGUST

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams
2nd August <i>Trinity 9</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
9th August <i>Trinity 10</i>			9.30am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Careby)
16th August <i>Assumption</i> <i>BVM</i>	9.30am Patronal Combined Group Eucharist		4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	
23rd August <i>Trinity 12</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Patronal Festival (Little Bytham)
30th August <i>Trinity 13</i>			4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Combined Group Eucharist (Creeton)

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

PARISH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams
6 th September <i>Nativity</i> <i>BVM</i> <i>(transferred)</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
13 th September <i>Trinity 15</i>			9.30am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Careby)
20 th September <i>Trinity 16</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	11am Harvest Festival (Creeton)
27 th September <i>St Michael</i> <i>& All Angels</i> <i>(transferred)</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little Bytham)

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