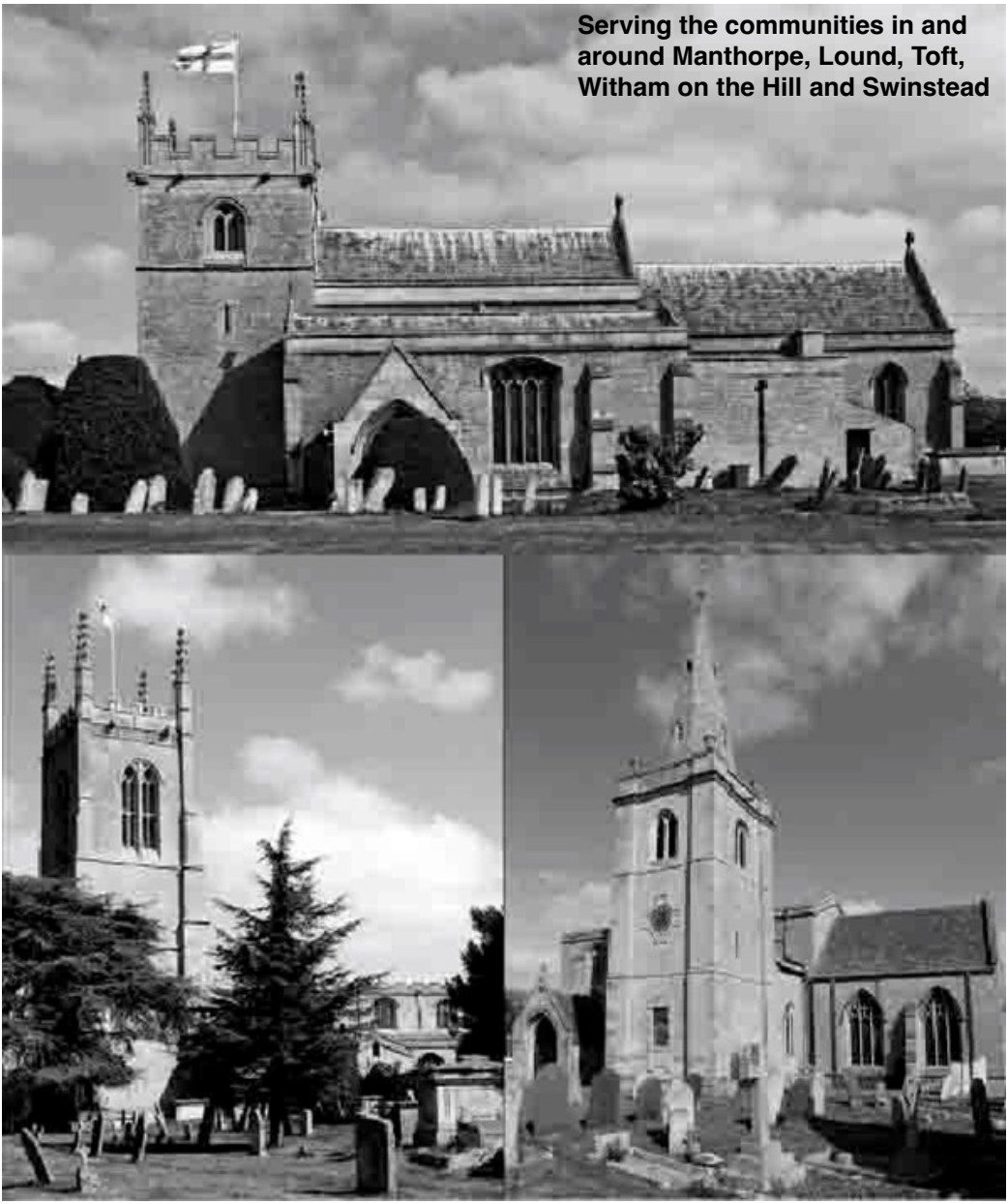
THE THREE TOWERS

November 2026

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



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Editor: the3towers1@gmail.com

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Parish News

THE FUTURE OF THE THREE TOWERS

Update: Your magazine production team is still working on a solution to ensure that it can keep delivering The Three Towers free-of-charge to every household in our community. So far, we have had some kind offers from a couple of our parish councils and a couple of our parochial church councils. We will let you know when the new financial plan is completed.

Our thanks go to Jane Clark and Marion Marshall, who have been managing our finances and running the "business" for well over 20 years! Although they are both stepping back from the daily management of the magazine, Jane has agreed to continue to be our proof-reader and Marion will keep the original bank account open until a new system is running smoothly.

We are looking for a volunteer to look after our advertising and we still need a volunteer "village postie" to deliver around the village of Toft. We cannot thank our volunteer posties enough for going out in all weathers to ensure that you receive your copy of each edition of the magazine.

Should you contact a supplier or a service that is advertised in The Three Towers, please remember to let them know that you found them through the magazine.

Here's hoping that The Three Towers will continue for another 36 years.

Swinstead's Annual 12-Hour Charity Darts Marathon, held in October, was a tremendous success, with supporters dropping in throughout the day to cheer on the players and show their generosity. A huge thank you goes to all the players who demonstrated incredible stamina, dedication and team spirit throughout the event. You were all outstanding and helped make the day so memorable. Special thanks also to everyone who contributed behind the scenes, particularly Mark Woodward, the event's Head Organiser. Mark did a fantastic job coordinating the day and securing some amazing raffle prizes, generously donated by local businesses and individuals. Once all sponsorship funds have been collected and finalised, the proceeds will be shared between two very worthy charities this year: **Young Lives vs Cancer and Magpas Air Ambulance.** Well done to everyone involved for helping to make a real difference and for supporting such important causes.

Congratulations to Leah Clark and Matthew Cox on their marriage in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows in the Lake District on 12 September. We wish you much happiness in your new life together.



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Condolences to Debra, family and friends on the passing of Nigel McMillan in Scotland on 17 September. Nigel, a professional photographer, lived in Witham on the Hill for many years but spent his later years in his beloved Scotland.

Samaritan's Purse You should have found a leaflet in last month's magazine asking you to fill a shoe box of gifts and supplies for children in countries upset by war and natural disasters. This is a charity organised by a Christian Group. If you can please fill a shoe box or donate some suitable items that would be really good. The boxes can be taken to various collection points during 9-16 November. For further information or help with collection contact Jane Clark, tel 01778 590232. Thank you for your generous support.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the working party to tidy the Churchyard in Witham on the Hill on Sunday 20 September. The support from so many villagers was hugely appreciated, and it shows our church is greatly valued - it was a real community effort. Thank you all.

Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Witham on the Hill, was a very joyful event. The church looked beautiful, decorated with harvest themed flower arrangements. The supper afterwards in the parish hall was enjoyed by all – a bring and share supper. Fr Ed blessed the newly refurbished kitchen and said a prayer for all those who work in it. Thank you to James Briggs who made a beautifully decorated loaf, complete with fat church mice and currant eyes. The raffle boosted church funds and the total raised for the evening was £275. Thank you to everyone who helped set up, clear away, donated raffle prizes and to all those who came and supported this important festive occasion in our church calendar.

Advent Windows - Witham on the Hill. Over the past few years we have had an array of village windows decorated and lit up for Advent. I am looking for volunteers for this year. I need 24 people willing to decorate a window in their house (preferably visible from the road) and to do it for a particular date and leave it decorated throughout Advent. Please contact Fances to volunteer or for more information on 07919288799.

Dates for your Diary

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

Wednesday 4 and 18 November 10.30am - noon - Swinstead Village Hall Social Coffee Mornings. Come and meet some new friends and enjoy some

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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

Friday 6 November, 7pm - Edenham Retreat House - Rwanda Rambles. An illustrated talk - £5 - all proceeds to St Stephen's Church funds. **See page 16**.

Friday 6 November – Swinstead Annual Low Noise Fireworks on Bourne Green. Join us for a fantastic evening of **free family entertainment** at Swinstead's Annual Low Noise Fireworks Display. Bring your family and friends along for a memorable community event, with the fireworks spectacular beginning at **8pm**. Why not make an evening of it? The **Chapel Street Pizza Van** will be serving delicious pizzas from **6pm until sold out**, and the **Village Hall Bar** will also be open from **6pm**, offering a selection of drinks before the main event. We look forward to seeing you there for a fun-filled night of food, refreshments, and fireworks!

Saturday 7 November - Discover Witham Hall School - join us at our Open Morning. **Scan the QR code on page 12** or click on the following link to book your appointment. **https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=a6pczUgVAES7Gx6kf3lz_3G23FJmmaVMiQuXuSHGwwlUN1RTQVlKR1FWV0JBSkVRQjMwSEwzNjdERy4u&route=shorturl**

Saturday 14 November, 7.30pm - St Peter's Singers - St Joseph's RC church in Oakham (LE15 6QU). A Choral Meditation for the Remembrance Season, including movements from Requiems by Duruflé, Fauré, Rutter and Howells as well as other reflective music by Parry, Harris and Lobo.

Saturday 21 November Big Breakfast 8.30am - 10am, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

Saturday 21 November, from 10am to 4pm, Witham Hall opens its doors for its much-loved Winter Fair, and everyone is invited. **See page 13 for details**.

Wednesday 25 November, 7.30pm - Peterborough Cathedral - St Peter's Singers will be joining Tenebrae and the Britten Sinfonia for a very special concert that will be performed live by over 100 musicians, with orchestral drama, solo virtuosity and heart-bursting moments of choral beauty. https://peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/event/britten-sinfonias-surround-sound-playlist/

Saturday 5 December, St Peter's Singers Christmas Concert - Priory Church, Deeping St James - more details to follow.

Sunday 6 December 1pm and 5pm - Steam Action presents Dick Whittington. S**ee page 4 for details**. Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/steam-action/e-mvvpvz

SAFE PHRASE

STOP SCAMMERS!

Voice Cloning is increasingly commonplace

We should all be aware of the scam text messages that claim to be from a friend or family member stating that they have lost their phone and are now using a new number. They then ask for money and, of course, **it is** not them but **a scam**.

Voice Cloning takes it to a new level. According to the Home Office, it only takes 3 seconds of hearing someone's voice to create a clone of it. Voice cloning is where a scammer will call you or send a voice message that sounds just like the person they are claiming to be. One very simple way to combat this type of scam is to have a pre-arranged "**safe phrase**" with your family members and maybe another with very close friends.

If your son/daughter/mother/father calls you and explains that they need money urgently, simply ask them to give you the safe phrase. If they cannot, or say they have forgotten but will give it to you later, hangup!

Do not send any money or get into discussion with them. It is a scam.

The advice is to agree on a safe phrase in person. Do not discuss or agree to it online, certainly not on Facebook. It is advised that we do not record this phrase on any digital device. Put it down on paper.

Keep the phrase simple but do not include anything personal like a pet's name, your address or a child's name. Daft things like: "Pink Olive Trees" has been given as an example. I am sure you can think of your own.

Advertising Manager: nobby236@gmail.com Editor: the3towers1@gmail.com

Saturday 12 December – Swinstead Village Hall Annual Christmas Party. Get ready to celebrate the festive season at the **Swinstead Village Hall Annual Christmas Party**. Dust off your dancing shoes and join friends and neighbours for an evening of fun, music, and Christmas cheer. This **free party** hosted by the Swinstead Village Hall Committee, will feature entertainment from **DJ Tom Patton**, who will be keeping the dance floor buzzing throughout the evening. The **bar opens at 7pm**, so come along, enjoy a drink, and kick off the Christmas celebrations in style. We look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday 12 December, St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Fotheringhay - St Peter's Singers will lead the singing at the annual Richard III Society Carol Service.

Thursday 7 January 7.00 pm. AGM of St Andrew's parish hall management committee. We are particularly keen to welcome new members from Manthorpe, Toft and Lound to the committee to represent their communities. Do come along to hear what is planned for the hall in the coming year.

Saturday 16 January 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.



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Would you be willing to take on the role of advertising manager and look after our finances?

If so, please contact the Editor:

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ST ANDREW'S PARISH MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 1901

By kind permission of Sue and Peter Cork of Manthorpe, the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe parish website now has a unique collection of newsletters from the parish of St Andrew's from 1901 to 1942. The files are in searchable pdf format and are available to all to download/read online for research or fun.

https://toft-lound-manthorpe.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/77/st-andrew-s-parish-newsletters-1901-to-1942

The following is the first of these articles, dated 30 November 1901.

Parish Tea and Dance – On Tuesday week, during the feast of the Dedication of the Parish Church, a most successful parochial gathering took place in the new School. The arrangements were carried out by a committee of ladies, including Mrs Brackenbury, Miss Knipe, Mrs Moxon, Mrs Thos Pick, Mrs Watts and Mrs Webster, all of whom presided at trays. Though the evening was wet, over one hundred sat down to tea which commenced at six o'clock. After tea, the room was cleared for dancing, which was kept up with much spirit until 11.30. Mr J H Berry of Bourne was the accompanist. Notwithstanding the heavy expenses entailed by hiring a piano from Bourne, the Committee found themselves solvent, with a small balance to the good. It is agreed by all that the evening was a great success and that those who took part in it thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A Visit to the Homeland - Amongst the passengers by the Lucania, which arrived in Liverpool on Friday week, were Mr and Mrs William Andrew. Mr Andrew is a brother of the late Mr Joyn Andrew and a representative of one of the oldest families in this parish. He went out to America twenty-one years ago and for the last seventeen years has acted as manager on the extensive stock farms of the Hon Leander J McCormac. Before leaving for England, Mr Andrew was the recipient of a valuable silver cup, presented to him by the Hon L J McCormac and also another silver cup, presented by his personal friends in Lake County, Ill., USA. Mrs Andrew also received gifts from her friends before departing. Mr and Mrs Andrew will remain here for some time.

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WITHAM HALL SCHOOL

WITHAM HALL SCHOOL U11 GIRLS CROWNED REGIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONS



Witham's U11/10A girls enjoyed a day to remember at the IAPS Regional Tournament, hosted by Oakham School, finishing as regional champions and qualifying for the National Finals. After topping their pool by a single point, including a spirited comeback against Bilton Grange, the team swept aside Swanbourne 3–0 in the quarter-final. A short corner with just ten seconds remaining then sealed a dramatic 1–0 semi-final win over Spratton Hall. Our goalkeeper conceded just once all day, and a winning goal in the final completed a memorable triumph. The girls are now preparing for the National Finals in November.

GET FESTIVE AT WITHAM HALL'S WINTER FAIR

On **Saturday 21st November, from 10am to 4pm**, Witham Hall opens its doors for its much-loved Winter Fair and everyone is invited.

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Younger visitors can enjoy the biggest excitement of all; Father Christmas is opening his grotto and every child will leave with a treat and a gift.

Entry is £3 for adults and children go free. Grotto tickets will be available to book soon at www.withamhall.com, so keep an eye out!

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Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe Parish Council Meeting St Andrew's Parish Hall on 17 September

The Councillors co-opted Mr Tom Hennesey of Manthorpe onto the Council.

Cllr Hartley thanked Alison Whitehead for organising another successful wheelbarrow competition. Winners - The Haven, Sunset View, child's entry - Paddock View. The Council was happy to give £50 towards prize money.

Cllr Brown gave an outline of his meeting with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and C.Cllr Redfern with regards to the flooding at Toft. It was agreed that LCC would provide highways closure if the Parish Council paid for the work to clear out the ditch between the golf course to the river. Cllr Brown reported that a camera had been down the drains and that they had been rodded and cleaned. The Council had to obtain quotations from companies who were accredited. The hedge along the bank at Fairways, Toft, was overgrown and causing issues for motorists. It was agreed to report this on Fixmystreet. Alicia Kearns MP was looking at LCC speed limit policy and it was agreed that the Council's response would be to ask that Lound be eligible for a reduction of speed limit from 60 mph to 30 mph. It was noted that the speed signs purchased by the Parish Council had been blacked out by LCC along with their own. It was reported that they had cleaned their own but had not cleaned the parish council's signs. Councillors felt that this was a form of vandalism and asked C.Cllr Redfern to report the problem.

Cllr Hartley reported that a log burner had been installed, wasp nest removed, re-pointing work done and the Council had received quotations for the installation of new bath and shower at Jasmine cottage. Cllr Brown reminded the meeting that sand/sandbags were available for collection at Jasmine Cottage if required.

Cllr Whitaker reported on the recent ROSPA safety report for equipment at the playing field. It was agreed that the Council would hold its annual fireworks party in November.

A resident had reported that the bus shelters at Toft were in a poor state of cleanliness. Councillors felt that residents should be encouraged to help towards keeping the area tidy. A request for bench at Lound and Toft would be considered when grants become available.



An illustrated talk
from our recent trip

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£5 entry

Please contact Mary Hoyle
if you would like to join us

mary.v.hoyle@gmail.com
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All proceeds to Stephen's Church

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It was agreed that the Council would fund the Three Towers Magazine £122.20 which would help towards the cost of the next three issues. It was also agreed to support the refurbishment of St Andrew's Parish Hall.
Councillors reported that they had received one quotation towards the maintenance of the Toft triangle; it was agreed that this be updated. It was reported that as the area to be worked was part of the highway whoever undertook the work had to be accredited. It was agreed that gravel would be placed between the kerb and sleepers to allow for pedestrian access and that plants would have to be easily managed.
Cllr Whitaker reported that he had received additional correspondence regarding resident's village concerns. They had included the appearance of Toft triangle, road sweeping, overhanging branches, golf course fence and a broken tree. A request for an additional streetlight at Lound Road, Toft, would not be possible as the construction site would have to be on private land, and the cost of purchase of light and construction would be borne out by the Parish Council. The meeting was also informed that the Council had purchased one re-active and 6 passive speed signs to help reduce speeding. All sitings of signs were under the instruction of the Lincs Road Safety Partnership.

Date of next meeting – 3 December 2026 at St Andrew's Parish Hall at 7pm.

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL CHURCH AND SCHOOL ESTATE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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.

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The Vicar Writes

It's a sad fact that a common hatred of something can often unite groups or individuals who would otherwise be bitterly opposed to each other. For instance, the fact that the often fractious Premier League has suddenly come together in the wake of Manchester City being found guilty of 114 charges of financial mismanagement is somewhat telling.

It's certainly not a modern phenomenon. Back in first-century Judea, Jesus faced opposition from various parties including the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Pharisees and the Herodians were groups with somewhat contrasting outlooks. The Pharisees were nationalistic and resistant to the Roman occupation of the Holy Land, whereas the Herodians had all but sold-out and were happy to serve as stooges for their foreign conquerors. The Pharisees were narrow and conservative when it came to religious observance, whereas the Herodians more liberal and changeable. However, what brought these seemingly chalk-and-cheese groups together was their common hatred of Jesus. The Pharisees hated Jesus because he challenged their religious agenda and superiority, the Herodians hated Jesus because he threatened to destabilise the political compromise they'd worked so hard to bring about. Both groups wanted rid of him, which meant that both groups wanted him dead.

To try and defeat their common enemy, the Pharisees and Herodians joined forces, seeking to ask a question of Jesus that would get him into serious trouble with either the Jews or the Romans (or both). It was classic 'Catch 22' stuff – they were determined to get their man and to bring him down publicly and definitively. So, they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them or should we not?" After several failed attempts, the Pharisees and the Herodians felt sure that they'd got Jesus this time. Silence or a refusal to answer would've been disastrous. Jesus had to say something (he couldn't 'fob it off' or plead the fifth amendment). If he affirmed that it was right to pay taxes to Caesar, then he would have been labelled a traitor and collaborator. If he answered 'no', then the Romans would have had no choice but to bring

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him in as an insurrectionist. Either way, Jesus stood to lose.

Jesus knew what was happening, and knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a coin, [a denarius] and let me look at it.” A denarius was a small, silver coin about the size of a modern day five pence piece. On one side was the head of Caesar together with the inscription, ‘Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus’ and on the other it declared ‘PONTIFEX MAXIMUS’ (meaning High Priest). Even handling the coin would have been detestable to first-century Jewish people. They hated it not only because of what it stood for but because of what was on the coin itself. Jews didn’t put images of people on their coins but Caesar had his image stamped all over his currency, together with the inscription proclaiming that he was divine and High Priest. It was idolatrous and sacrilegious all at the same time.

In response, Jesus put a question to his accusers, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed and astonished at him. The enemies of Jesus thought they’d got him in an inescapable fix but Jesus knew better. Ultimately, his response “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s” rested upon the notion that ancient coins were understood to be the property of the person whose likeness and inscription were on them. How could anyone object to giving to Caesar what was rightfully understood to be his in the first place? No one.

Perhaps the question for us today is this: whose inscription and likeness do we bear? To whom do we belong? Are we driven by a political or ideological allegiance, or do we surrender ourselves to God by turning to him in penitence and faith in Christ? The Old Testament often speaks of us having God’s love inscribed upon our hearts. Is that the inscription we might choose to live by? Is our faith the currency that’s of most value in our lives? It matters where our allegiance lies. For me, part of the difficulty of living in this world is trying to decide things like who to vote for or who to trust to lead us when none of them seem willing to live to the ideals of the Gospel. At the same time there are those on opposite sides of the modern political divide who are willing to unite in order to threaten the lives of both the unborn and those nearing the end of their lives. Personally, I won’t vote for someone who won’t fight to protect

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the rights of our fellow human beings from conception to natural death. That's not as radical as it might sound as the Church of England has a clear stance on these issues (you can read on the official CofE website). Many people are surprised by this but it's true.

There's a tension seeking to live in the world but not to be of it – living in the here and now but with an eye firmly focused on eternity and the life of the world to come. It's a tension that I must live with and, if anything, it reminds me not only of where my true loyalty lies but also where, ultimately, I believe true joys are to be found. And if anyone finds that amazing or astonishing, then that's okay with me.

Fr Edward

Witham on the Hill WI October 2026

Our President, Vicky Cox, introduced Jane Elliot, a retired food teacher, who demonstrated making a simple chicken curry, French bread pizzas, and tuna mayo dip with dippers – all designed to teach year-7 pupils basic preparation and cooking skills. She told us tales of children's ignorance of many simple principles which should be taught at home; a humorous tale of toad in the hole setting off the smoke alarm and a more chilling procedure of having to count all kitchen knives at the end of a cooking session. Jane said at times she thought she sounded like Joyce Grenfell! The items cooked were tasted by members and were quite delicious. The members competition for a favourite cookbook produced 3 copies by Mrs Beeton!

The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 3 November at 2.30 pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. There will be a lace making demonstration and various crafts to have a go at – including dried flower corsages, painting pebbles, beaded Christmas stars and making a coaster from beer bottle tops covered in fabric. Visitors and new members are always very welcome: entry fee £5. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary: tel 01778 590232.

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

Conference pears are at their best now and I have scrumped a few from my neighbours' tree! My adaptation of a Dairy Diary recipe. This is a quick dish that minimises washing up too.

Pork, Pear and Parsnip Traybake

2 pork shoulder steaks
2 tablespoons oil
300g small new potatoes
2 parsnips
2 pears
Sprigs of thyme
6 sage leaves
½ pint cider
2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
Stilton or Lancashire cheese
2 tablespoons crème fraiche

Place a large roasting tin on the hob to heat. Rub pork with oil and seasoning. Sear the pork on both sides and remove from tin. Toss potatoes, parsnip wedges and cored pear quarters in tin, coating with oil. Cover with foil and roast at 180ºC for 30 mins. Mix in thyme, sage and ¼ pint cider. Spread steaks with mustard and sprinkle over crumbled cheese. Place in tin with veg and roast, uncovered for 35 mins until pork is cooked through. Stir in rest of cider and crème fraiche.

Serves 2

Advertising Manager: nobby236@gmail.com Editor: the3towers1@gmail.com

PARISH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams
1st November *All Saints Sunday*		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham) 4pm All Souls Service (Little Bytham)
8th November *Remembrance Sunday*	6.30pm Remembrance Service	10am Parish Eucharist & Act of Remembrance	10.55am Act of Remembrance followed by Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Careby)
15th November *2nd before Advent*		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
22nd November *Christ the King*		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little Bytham)
29th November *Advent Sunday*		9.30am Combined Group Eucharist		

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

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