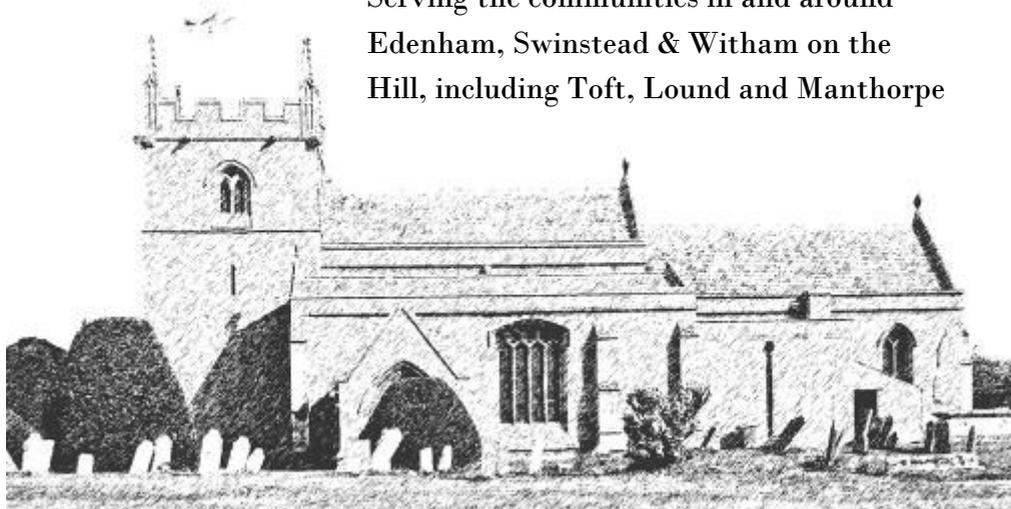


The Three Towers

November 2012

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



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mon 5th Nov 6pm Bonfire, & fireworks, Manthorpe Playing Field.

Tue 6th Nov 7.30pm Witham on the Hill WI, speaker: Julian Carter of Hambleton bakery.

Sat 10th Nov 7pm Steam Action's "Whodunits" Edenham Village Hall.

Mon 12th Nov 7.30pm Witham on the Hill Historical Society talk by Alastair Goodrum "Balloons,

Bleriot's and Barnstormers" at St Andrew's Parish Hall.

Fri 23rd Nov 8pm Choir Invisible - The Desmond and Leah Tutu Peace Choir UK at Witham Hall School.

Fri 30th Nov 8pm St Andrew's Day Supper, Toft House Hotel.

Sat 8th Dec 10am Christmas Fair, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill.

FOR SALE Mahogany round dining table which extends to an oval, complete with 4 matching chairs, 2 of which are carvers, £80. Also matching shelved bookcase with 3 drawers, £30. Ring Bryan Lynch on

01476 550429 or

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THE VICAR WRITES

As a child, and then as a teenager, I could never understand why on Remembrance Sunday the Gospel reading from St John proclaimed 'greater love has no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends'. The juxtaposition of love and war struck me as odd, and I could not imagine how the soldiers of the Great War, slain in their thousands, could be said to have 'lovingly laid down their lives.' This all changed for me when our son became a soldier, and I was introduced to life in the Army and came to know the family of his company and his battalion. His colleagues often come and stay at Edenham and indeed on their first tour of Iraq in 2006, I took some of them back to camp on the eve of their departure. I also knew and shared their grief when their friends were killed. I saw that they did indeed 'love one another'.

Part of the problem in understanding this kind of love is that love, as a concept, has been debased in our culture. Unless it is fluffy, feel good and pretty it is not love. Love that is hard work and sacrifice, that gives no thought for the self, but only cares for

the person who is loved, is not the kind of love that people seek or is headlines. There is a huge section of the media that is dedicated to 'love' that is not worthy of the name.

Remembrance Sunday is about love; the deepest most mysterious aspect of love. Some of the First World War poets wrote about this. They could see in the soldiers something of the innocent, self-giving love that we see in the suffering and death of Jesus. Studdart Kennedy (Woodbine Willy) wrote about the 'unutterable beauty' of the deepest love and friendships made in the most inhuman of contexts.

One of the features of public life of the past thirty years is that very few involved in government, or responsible for the formation of public policy in other areas, have had any experience of war. Up until this point in national life, the reality of armed conflict and civilian involvement in war, was a significant element in the make-up of the 'national psyche'. Values in family and community life were certainly affected by the 'easy luxury' of a peacetime mentality. As someone who was born nine years after the end

of the Second World War, and whose grandparents were veterans of the First World War, I was always aware that my 'world' was very different to theirs. No one could have predicted how different it would become and that even the meaning of love would be affected.

CONFIRMATION Next year's Parish Confirmation will take place on Sunday 21st April at 1030 in Edenham Parish Church. Preparation for this will begin in the New Year. There are usually two separate groups that prepare for confirmation; one for adults and one for youngsters (10 -13 years old). If there are any 'inbetweeners' there is usually a separate group for them. The aim is to have at least ten sessions before the confirmation. In addition, there are follow up meetings to this that run on until the summer holidays. The minimum age is 10; there is no maximum. It is often the case that some candidates are also baptised at the same time as Confirmation or sometimes on a separate occasion. The sessions assume that candidates are approaching the Christian Faith with an open and enquiring mind, and the assumption is that we will 'start from scratch'. Anyone who is at all

interested should contact one of the clergy. If you are confirmed and would like a 'refresher' you are welcome to join in. Taking part in the course does not commit anyone to confirmation – so if you are at a stage in life where you would like to find out more about being a Christian, this might be helpful. Do pick up the phone or email if this is something you would like to know more about.

WALSINGHAM This year's annual pilgrimage on the 6th October had the usual age range – six months to ninety five years! There were thirty six pilgrims who were blessed with the most wonderful weather. Some of the party were dropped off at the Slipper Chapel and walked the last mile into the village, whilst others followed the Stations of the Cross in the grounds – praying especially for our family and friends. All joined in the Pilgrims Service at noon and the prayers for healing in the afternoon. There was plenty a free time to enjoy the Shrine, Village and the Abbey Grounds, and we all gathered for the 'Last Visit' before returning home around 6.30pm.



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FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO STAY AT

WALSINGHAM the Vicar has booked some rooms, with full board, from the afternoon of Friday 23rd until Sunday 25th November after lunch. This will enable a full participation in the Shrine Programme, and also Parish Communion in the Parish Church on Sunday. The cost is £80; for more details or to book, pick up an application form in Church or contact the Vicarage.

ST ANDREW'S DAY is 30th November and the Patronal Festival of the ancient parish of Witham on the Hill which includes Manthorpe, Toft and Lound. This year it falls on a Friday. There is to be a Patronal Festival Service at 6.45pm which will allow plenty of time to get to the Toft House Hotel for a two course supper at 8.00pm (fishy in nature as St Andrew is patron saint of fisherman) which will cost £11. To book a meal, please pick up a form from church. It is possible to go to either/or service and supper.

SERVICE OF LIGHT This will take place at St Andrew's Witham on the 2nd December at 6.00pm. This will

be the traditional service for Advent Sunday – the first day of the four week season in preparation for Christmas. It anticipates the coming into the world of Christ the Light. The service begins in darkness, and as the carols and readings unfold the fulfilment of God's promises throughout history, the church becomes filled with light as the flame of one candle becomes the source of light for hundreds. This service will be ticket only. This is for two reasons: first, the layout of the building and the preparation of the candles will depend on the numbers attending. Secondly, seasonal refreshments will be served afterwards and tickets will determine how much baking is done! Tickets from the Vicarage, or after any service. Tickets are £2 for adults and free for children – who will still need a ticket!

*****SPECIAL NOTICE*****

For contributions to The Three Towers, please send ALL contributions for the December edition to BOTH Jane and Tom at:

member@witham2001.fsnet.co.uk

& steynings@tiscali.co.uk

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EDENHAM REGIONAL HOUSE

Established in 1989, as a charitable Trust (no 1058116), situated in the Vicarage, Edenham Regional House is a residential Christian retreat house and conference centre. It is an ancient and living church, in a beautiful working landscape, with deep traditions of worship and service, a living community of home and village, warmly welcoming all who seek peace and renewal. Rooms can be booked for individual quiet days, for meetings, for bed and breakfast or for an individually guided retreat. The house is very flexible and will cater for individual needs. The Upper Rooms consist of 4 bedrooms: 2 singles and 2 twin-bedded rooms, all en-suite; with a kitchenette for self catering if required. The Coach House accommodation, on the ground floor, next to the stable chapel, provides twin bedded en-suite accommodation which has been adapted for wheelchair use, and also has kitchen facilities. Please telephone if you would like a tour of the facilities. For photographs and details see www.erh.org.uk

The Regional House has a programme of days of reflection, open to all. They

begin at 10am with registration and refreshment. A simple lunch is provided. Please notify the house of any special dietary needs. Suggested contribution is £12.50, but participants may give more or less, according to will or circumstance. For booking or further information ring 01778 591358 or email edreghouse@tiscali.co.uk.

ALL SOULS DAY Friday

2 November Fr David Mackenzie leads a day of reflection on living in the hope of the resurrection, in the face of the fact of death.

FOR MARY MOTHER OF OUR GOD Friday 7 December

Sister Rachel leads a day for Advent, reflecting on the place of the Virgin Mary, in the story of salvation and in Christian spirituality.

THREE QUIET EVENINGS FOR ADVENT: ISAIAH—THE GREAT SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR Tuesday

4, 11, & 18 December starting at 7.30pm with Holy Communion and ending at 9pm with Compline. The book of the prophet Isaiah, provides practical and pastoral advice as to how to keep faith in times of darkness, and to live in peace in times of conflict.



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EDENHAM NEWS

GEG ATTER says many thanks for a very good collection for **Marie Curie** which raised £23.44 plus a washer!!

BAPTISM Elias Apollo, son of Amy (nee Green) and Duncan Goff, on 30th September at Edenham Church.

CONGRATULATIONS to Walter Bugg and Patricia Harrison on their marriage at Edenham Church on 13th October.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

If you would like to take part in the world's largest Christmas project, run by Samaritan's Purse, you can do this by filling a shoebox with various gifts as suggested in the enclosed leaflet that you should have found with your October parish magazine.

Shoeboxes can be given to: Jane Clark (Manthorpe and Witham), Elsie Kiely (Swinstead) or Lynda Wilson (Grimsthorpe and Edenham). Shoeboxes should be handed in no later than the 18th November. If you need any more information please contact Lynda on 01778 591309 after 3pm Monday to Friday.

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Do you have any old tools or sewing machines that you could donate to help trades and crafts people in Africa? Tools and sewing machines are refurbished by volunteers in the UK before being sent to training organisations in a number of African countries.

If you can help please contact Andrew Greenwood on 01778 590482

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For details of the charity and the type of tools required see: www.tfsr.org

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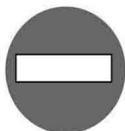
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In November we need help in the warehouse to pick, pack and despatch wine and food gifts from

12th November till

Christmas week Mon-Fri 9-5

A fork lift truck driver.

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Email: jeremy@hampers.co.uk

Could you be our new Musical Director?

The **Swayfield Handbells Team** are looking for a new Musical Director to join us when our current Director retires next year after 10 years of sterling service.

Are you musical (essential), enthusiastic, with a sense of humour? Do you enjoy working as part of a team? Although practical experience of leading a music group and/or previous experience of ringing handbells would be useful, it is not essential – a good ear and the willingness to learn to ring are more important.

We welcome everyone, whether they can read music or not (perhaps unusual for an instrumental music group), and aim to offer one and all a chance to enjoy playing music together as a group.

We practise on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.00pm in Swayfield Village Hall, and entertain at occasional concerts (some in the pub) and at local church services.

On the practical side, we would consider helping with travelling expenses if you live some distance away.

Please contact **01476 550826** for

more details. We look forward to hearing from you.

SWINSTEAD NEWS

The Annual Harvest Festival was held in St Mary's church on Friday 5th October. Father Andy took the service assisted by Father David Pickett. Lessons were read by Elsie Kiely, Phillipa Lane and Father Andy, the organist being Steve Webb. A big thank you to all those who did the flower displays; they were beautiful. The service was followed by the traditional Harvest supper in the village hall. A superb spread of cold meats salads and sides, followed by a too tempting array of puddings, prepared by Yvonne and her team; plenty for seconds all round. A huge thank you to Yvonne for a super supper. Father David hosted a mind-bending quiz which was enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, there will be no more bingo in the village hall.

The last one was held on Monday 8th October. A big thank you to everyone who has supported this worthwhile event over the years. The monthly whist drive will continue as usual.

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Swinstead Church

pre-Christmas Clean

In order to make St Mary's spick and span for Christmas there will be a working party to reach those parts that otherwise are not reached. Please come to church on Saturday 24th November from 10am -12noon. Please bring your own equipment. We are particularly interested to hear from anyone willing to climb a ladder and clean the gutters! There is a suitable ladder available in church. Any volunteers ring Phillipa Lane, Churchwarden on 01476 550017

Mrs Heather Henson and family would like to thank everyone for the cards and flowers, which they received regarding the sad loss of Brian, who passed away on 26th September 2012.

COFFEE MORNING & LUNCH CLUB

All are welcome to enjoy a few hours of convivial chat and laughter followed by a delicious lunch every Wednesday in the Swinstead Village Hall. Yvonne has started to run a coffee morning followed by a lunch in the Village Hall every Wednesday. Doors open at 10am for coffee, followed by lunch at 12 noon. Whilst having your coffee, you may indulge in a light hearted quiz and take part in a raffle.

Please come along for the Coffee Morning or the Lunch Club or, even better both!

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CHOIR INVISIBLE The Desmond and Leah Tutu Peace Choir UK, return to Witham Hall School, Witham on the Hill, with Musical Director Sally Brown, featuring soloist Abi Moore on Friday 23rd November at 8pm. Doors open 7.30pm. Interval refreshments.

Choir Invisible is an acapella choir with more than 85 members from all walks of life who, through the choir, support Archbishop Desmond Tutu's humanitarian work around the world, raising funds and performing songs of hope in the African spirit of *Ubuntu*, celebrating our common humanity.

Singing songs that will capture your heart and soul and ignite your imagination, they will be premiering here, at the school in November, the songs which the choir will be performing live on December 10th 2012 for Desmond Tutu and 1,000 international guests at UNESCO HQ in Paris, in celebration of the Declaration of Human Rights Day. Expect to enjoy the heart songs of South African Gospel, alongside

unique arrangements of African-American Gospel and sweet soul music—all sung in the gloriously rich unaccompanied harmony that is the trademark sound of this wonderful choir.

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) now available from Mrs Claire Paylor, the school secretary 01778 590222 or online from www.wegotickets.com/event/187891

ACCORDING TO ST MATTHEW – nativity play with an adult cast! Following last year's successful production of 'According to Luke' – a nativity play with an adult cast; it is hoped to produce something similar based on St Matthew's account of the Nativity of Our Lord. The performance will be at Edenham Parish Church on Thursday 20th December at 7.30pm, and will include carol singing by the audience. For anyone interested in taking part, simply turn up at the Vicarage on Monday 26th November at 7.30pm for a read through. Other rehearsals will be Monday 3rd, Monday 17th and Wednesday 19th December.



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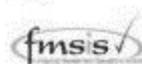
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EDENHAM HARVEST SUPPER

There was a rumour circulating that this year's Harvest Supper might not happen. So many regular helpers were away, and the initial response for tickets non-existent. It was decided, however, to press on in faith and faith was rewarded! Edenham has a 'hostess system' for the Harvest Supper. Hostesses and (one host) provide potatoes, salad, pudding, and crockery to lay a table for twelve, drink is BYO and the Church charges a fiver to cover the cost of the Hall and the cold meat. This means that there is a little competition between the hosts to provide table decorations and other goodies; consequently the Hall is alight with candles and coloured with flower arrangements. In the end there were over seventy present, of all ages. The Vicar provided a short, challenging and entertaining quiz, Aidan Hawes providing the answers in an interesting range of politically incorrect accents. The last guest left at about 11.00pm. Accidentally the sum of £386 was raised for Church Funds.

Short ones

How do you make Holy Water? Boil the Hell out of it!

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

Jokes about German sausages are the wurst.

The girl said she'd met me in the vegetarian club but I'd never met herbivore.

The fattest Knight at King Arthur's table was Sir Cumference.
He got his size from too much pi.



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WITHAM ON THE HILL NEWS

A Whist Drive was held on Friday 21st September at St Andrew's Parish Hall; when, due to lack of support, only £32 was raised for church funds. Hopefully, this may have been because some people were away/illness and that attendance will pick up. If we are to continue, future dates are: Friday 16th Nov, Friday 14th Dec, Friday 18th Jan 2013, Friday 15th Feb, Friday 15th Mar and Friday 19th April. Hope to see you all next time.

CHRISTMAS FAIR at St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, on Saturday 8 December from 10am to 1pm, to raise funds to repair St Andrew's Church roof. Lots of stalls and refreshments. Please come along and enjoy the festivities. Donations of cakes, books, bric-a-brac, tombola and raffle prizes gratefully received. Contact Ann Taylor Manthorpe, Sue Renner Toft, Jean Croft Lound or Jane Clark Witham.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING on Saturday 20 October raised £442 Many thanks to Jean Croft and her helpers.

Upright piano "free to collector" contact Jenny Stanton 01778 590271

Bebecar pram free to a good home. Approx 14 years old but good condition. Contact Jane or Bob 01778 590232

ST ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP SAF has been established to foster and develop links between the community of Witham Hall School and St Andrew's Parish Church. It has already planned a joint service for Candlemass 2013 in the Church and a Pentecost picnic with an outdoor service at the School on 19th May next year. Anyone who agrees with SAF's objects will be welcome at the next planning meeting, which is on November 8th at 8.00pm at Witham Hall School.

Thank you to everyone who has helped tidy the Churchyard over the past 3 months. A magnificent job. Well done!

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Witham on the Hill WI October 2012

The Willoughby Group Meeting at Rippingale Village Hall on 27 September was hosted by Witham on the Hill WI, and welcomed 5 other Institutes. Delicious spiced tomato soup was served with herby cheese scones. The tables, decorated in green and yellow with centre piece bowls brimming with herbs, set the scene. Nick Hamilton entertained us with anecdotes of his father, Geoff Hamilton, the much loved TV gardener. Well done to Ann Burbidge for masterminding this wonderful evening.

17 Members attended the October meeting at Witham. Peggy Shrobbree, a self-taught florist, was a fascinating speaker. The knowledge and love of her art resulted in an amazing career - working for the Japanese Embassy, Jackie Onassis, Barbara Cartland, the Royal Family and many others. This delightful lady enthralled us all with tales of her family and her own life experiences, whilst all the time producing a very effective, but simple display of white gladioli. Sue Hartley gave the vote of thanks.

The next walk is on 16 October along the riverbank at Market Deeping followed by lunch.

The next meeting is Tuesday 6 November when Julian Carter, of Hambleton Bakery, will talk about artisan bread.

New members and visitors are always most welcome. For further information contact President, Ann Burbidge 01778 590132.

ST ANDREW'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Church was beautifully decorated with fruit, vegetables and flowers for the Sunday morning service; with a bring and share lunch to follow in the parish hall. On Monday at the Toft House Hotel we thanked God with songs and prayers, in a short service before supper. Chicken in mushroom and bacon sauce, with vegetables, and rhubarb and apple crumble to follow, was enjoyed by all. An auction of harvest produce, expertly done by David Kreutzberger, raised £78 for St Barnabas's Hospice.

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* **JANE'S SEASONAL RECIPE** *

* *Blackberrying is a wonderful pastime in the autumn; this pudding makes a change from blackberry crumble.*

* *Blackberries for this recipe can be used straight from the freezer*

* **BLACKBERRY PUDDING (SERVES 4)** *

* **500g blackberries**

* **1 tablespoon caster sugar**

* **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**

* **150g butter**

* **150g caster sugar**

* **150g plain flour**

* **150ml milk**

* **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**

* **3 eggs**

* *Heat blackberries gently in a pan with 1 tablespoon of sugar until just soft. Add vanilla. Place in a buttered baking dish.*

* *Cream butter & 150g caster sugar until soft & pale. Add flour, milk, vanilla & 3 egg yolks. Mix well. Whisk 3 egg whites until stiff. Fold gently into mixture, & spoon over blackberries. Bake at 160c for approx 1 hour until brown and slightly puffed.*

* *Serve with cream, crème fraiche or vanilla ice cream.*



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PARISH SERVICES NOVEMBER 2012

SUNDAY OR FESTIVAL	ST MARY SWINSTEAD	ST ANDREW WITHAM ON THE HILL	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EDENHAM
4th November 4th before Advent	8.45am Parish Communion 11.00am Village Service: Commemoration of the faithful departed	10.00am Parish Communion 4.00pm Commemoration of the faithful departed	11.15am Parish Communion 6.00pm Commemoration of the faithful departed
11th November Remembrance Service	8.45am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	10.00am Parish Communion	11.00am Remembrance Service
18th November 2nd Before Advent Trinity 24	8.45am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	10.00am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
25th November CHRIST THE KING	8.45am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	10.00am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion with Holy Baptism
30th November FRIDAY St Andrew's Day		6.45pm Patronal Festival Eucharist followed by supper at the Toft House Hotel (8pm)	
2nd December Advent Sunday	8.45am Parish Communion	10.00am Parish Communion 6.00pm Service of Light, Carols and readings for Advent, followed by seasonal refreshments Tickets £2 (children free)	11.15am Parish Communion

VICAR: The Revd Canon Andrew Hawes MA SSC, The Vicarage, Edenham PE10 0LS 01778 591358

athawes@tiscali.co.uk, is available at any time. His usual day off is Monday. He is happy to receive enquiries about Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and Banns of Marriage, Confession and any pastoral or spiritual need.

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