

The Three Towers

March 2013

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



New e-mail address for notices or other contributions

Please note the new e-mail address for the editor for any notices or other contributions is **the3towers1@gmail.com** - as usual the contact e-mail addresses are printed at the bottom of each page.

.....

Welcome to Jim and Jo Handley and their daughters, Frankie and Nia who have moved into Dairy Cottage, Grimsthorpe. Jim has joined the Grimsthorpe Castle garden team as assistant head gardener.

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VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Closing date for applications is 10th March 2013 at 6pm

Witham on the Hill Parish Council has a vacancy for a Councillor. If a bye election is not called, the Parish Council will be able to co-opt at the meeting on 11th March 2013 at St Andrew's Parish Hall. If you feel that you would like to become involved in the village, please contact the Clerk, Rosemary Woolley, The Old Hall, Barholm, Stamford, PE9 4RA. Tel 01778 560634, Email: wothparishcouncil@msn.com or visit the parish website: www.parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/WithamontheHill for further details.

THE VICAR'S WRITES

'You would have no power', said Jesus to Pilate, at his rather poor excuse for a trial, 'if it had not been given you from above.' Jesus could have meant two things – he could have meant 'whether you like it or not, God's in charge now,' or he could have meant 'the power you have is only devolved from the empire, you have very little room to choose, you are as imprisoned as I am.' Power is not always what it seems: people lie for it, kill for it, cheat for it and then, once they hold it, they find themselves powerless and all that they hope and yearn for slips through their fingers. 'In the morning I saw a powerful man, strong and luxuriant like a tree by the waterside, and when I passed by in the evening he was gone' – observes one of the Psalms.

By any judgment, the death of Jesus was one of total and absolute powerlessness. The naked blood-streaked and abused body was the picture of utter humiliation. The power of the state

and the religious establishment forced its full weight on him to crush him into oblivion. The record of Easter says they failed and the Christian faith proclaims that Christ was raised from the dead 'leading all captivity captive'. The man with the crown of thorns is now King of a new kingdom whose notions of power and wealth are entirely different.

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we know that true power lies in service and loving self-giving, and wealth is found in what can be given away not what can be hoarded up. This is the kingdom that Jesus taught us to pray for in the Lord's Prayer. This is the kingdom where forgiveness replaces condemnation and where life is stronger than death.

To enter this kingdom all that is required is for each of us to acknowledge Jesus as our King, to enthrone him in our heart. It is in the depth of our being that we will know him as the Lord of life – King of Glory – it is to him that, in the end, all rulers will bow. He will

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THREE PARISHES LENT COURSE

Each Wednesday evening in Lent there will be an opportunity to find out more about Christian prayer and meditation. On Wednesdays 20th, 27th February, 6th, 13th and 20th March, members of our parish ministry team, The Revds Pickett and Bratley, Canon Hawes and Mrs Heather Lee will explore one tradition or practice of prayer. Evenings begin at 7.30pm with Holy Communion and end by 9.00pm. All will take place at the Vicarage. For transport please phone the Vicarage.

THREE PARISHES CHOIR

Would you like to join a friendly bunch of people from all over the area who like to sing? Could you be a member of the 'Dibley Singers'? There is no audition, and the music has been specially written to suit our talents. We meet in Lent on Sunday afternoons from 4.15-5.15pm in Edenham Church and we learn music to sing at the services in Holy Week. We have

sung at Weddings, Ordinations, Confirmations and Baptisms but usually we meet to learn music for Easter and Christmas. If you would like to know more please contact the Vicarage or just turn up!

REGIONAL HOUSE EVENTS

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH: FASTING AS PRAYER

The author, Canon Arthur Middleton, introduces the wisdom of St John Chrysostom, the most renowned of Byzantine preachers, who urged his flock to fast and thus 'cut away the thorns and sow the seed of godliness' and also that fasting doesn't just mean food and drink! Suggested contribution, including lunch £12.50. To book or enquire, phone 01778 591358 or edreghouse@tiscali.co.uk

FIVE QUIET EVENINGS FOR LENT

- 'SEEK AND FIND GOD IN ALL THINGS' Exploring Ignatian Spirituality. Each evening will stand by itself and will cover the following aspects of The Spiritual Exercises: first principles, place of penitence, knowing Jesus, discernment of spirits, attaining the

love of God and methods of prayer. Led by Canon Andrew Hawes.

The evenings begin with Holy Communion at 7.30pm and end with Night Prayer by 9.00pm.

Thursdays 21st and 28th February, 7th, 14th and 21st of March. No need to book, please just turn up to one or all.

PARISH CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

This year all Parish Churches have to renew their Electoral Roll. This is the foundation for governance in the Church of England. All members of this roll can vote at the Parish Annual Meeting and can stand for election to the Parochial Church Council and any other office in the Parish Church. You qualify if you are:

Over Sixteen
Have been Baptised
Live in the Parish.
Or are
Over Sixteen
Have been baptised
And regularly attend the Parish Church as a non-resident of the Parish.

Members of all denominations, in full communion with the Church of England, are entitled to apply.

Application forms are available in Church and in some villages will be delivered to every home.

Please contact the Vicarage if you require help or clarification.

WALSINGHAM

This year the **day pilgrimage** will be on **Saturday 5TH October** leaving Edenham at 8.30am and returning at 6.00pm. The cost is £10 per adult, £5 for the first two children in a family, thereafter children are free.

The **weekend pilgrimage** is from **Friday afternoon 15TH November** until **Sunday 17TH November** (returning around 4.00pm) the cost is £80. If you would like to know more please speak to the Vicar.

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Annual General Meeting Steam Action

Monday 4th March at Edenham Village Hall 7.30pm. This is an open invitation for anyone who would like to join Steam Action, comment, or give ideas for future fund-raisers, or simply come to see what we are all about. We welcome new faces and look forward to seeing you all!

Swinstead News

Bingo will commence once again in the Village Hall on Monday 11th March. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Good prizes plus a snowball.

On Easter Saturday 30th March 2.30pm the Easter Fayre, tombola stall, Easter egg stall and other attractions, plus light refreshments will be held in the village hall. Come early to avoid disappointment.

There will be no flowers for the Church in Lent; however the Church is open to anyone who would like to decorate the Church with flowers for Easter Sunday.

Congratulations to Peter and Elsie Kiely on their Diamond wedding

anniversary on 7th March. Hope you both have a lovely day - and they said it wouldn't last.

The Parish of Swinstead is very grateful to the renowned local choir **'Woven Chords'** who have offered to perform a concert in aid of St. Mary's Church (which had its roof lead stolen just over a year ago). To optimise the audience capacity, the concert will be held in Edenham Church on Saturday 16th March commencing at 7.00pm. Tickets are priced at £8. Please contact the Vicarage for tickets and further details.

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WITHAM ON THE HILL WI February 2013

Ann Burbidge, President, welcomed members and 4 visitors to this month's meeting. The speaker, Julian Carter, Master Baker of Hambleton Bakery, enthralled all by explaining just why his bread is so special. Finest local ingredients, a long fermentation and absolutely no additives produce superior bread which, not only endears this product to the general public, but also ensured his winning Britain's Best Bakery TV competition. The bakery has outlets in Stamford, Oakham, Oundle and Exton. Sarah Lambert gave the vote of thanks, and the ladies were then invited to try a delicious array of breads, savoury buns, muffins, pies, tarts and various cakes. A real treat!

Julia Haynes is considering becoming our new President for the coming year and we all look forward to welcoming her. Our next walk is on 21st February starting at Clipsham with lunch at the Olive Branch. Birthdays were acknowledged for several members and the competition winner was Susan Peskett. Sarah Lambert was the lucky raffle winner.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, when Carole Bonney will talk about foot care. President and members will give a very warm welcome to any new members and visitors. For further information contact Ann on 01778 590132.

Notes of the Witham on the Hill Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2013

During the Public Forum various street lights were reported as not working. Concern was expressed about the loss of habitat after the removal of hedge type material around the village and parishioners enquired if these would be replaced with hedge/trees in the near future. There was also a report about the on-going problems regarding overgrown Public Rights of Ways, especially the one which goes to Toft. Finally, moles were again causing problems on the Village Green around the children's play area.

The Clerk had been informed that SKDC had no plans at present to replace the Willow Tree at East Green. The street light had finally been repaired & the blocked drain had been dealt with opposite the Old Vicarage. Written confirmation had been received for the Nectar

Meadow on the Green and the ladder on the slide had been repaired.

It was agreed those Councillors present be granted a Dispensation in regard to discussing and setting the precept until May 2015. It was agreed that the precept would be reduced for 2013-14 from £2,000 to £1,800.

The following planning applications had been approved by SKDC: Mr Cooke - reduction in height of beech tree; Mr Higgins - fell line of cypress trees; Mr Thompson - removal of stems from alder/sycamore trees etc; and Mr O'Hara -approval of details of conditions.

County Councillor Martin Trollope-Bellew informed the meeting that East Midlands Ambulance Service would be reporting to Lincolnshire County Council in the near future with the results from their consultation. LCC Concessionary Travel Scheme can be used outside the county as long as the journey starts in Lincolnshire. He reported that the salt stores were full and more waiting at the docks for collection. Finally, the Government expects LCC to cut £42 million from its 2013-14 budget; this will not be so easy to achieve.

Next meeting to take place on Monday 11th March 2013 at St Andrew's Parish Hall at 7pm. All welcome.

Community Lincs Bulk Oil Buying Scheme for domestic heating

This scheme aims to save members money through their joint buying power to reduce the price of oil. The scheme is open to households, businesses and community organisations that use oil to heat their premises.

The scheme is already helping Lincolnshire people cut the cost of their domestic heating bills. Over the last 7 months members have saved an average of just over 4.2p per litre. This gives an average saving of £21.00 on 500 litres and £42.00 on a 1000 litres. Members pay the same low price whether buying a 1000 litres or just ordering the minimum 500 litres.

There are two ways you can become involved in the Oil Buying scheme. One is by signing up as a member; the second way to be involved is to consider becoming a local co-ordinator for the scheme.

For more information please go to <http://www.communitylincs.com/bulk-oil-buying-scheme/> or telephone 01529 301980

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FIRE STATION NEWS

The wet weather certainly caused us to have a very busy Christmas. With incidents on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and the day after, it was certainly a hectic festive period. I had to rush from the carol service in Grims-thorpe Castle on Christmas Eve after my alerter sounded and was first in attendance at the incident on the A151 near Irnham cross-roads. A car had hit deep flood water coming off farmland and ended up at right angles in the hedge. Thankfully, the occupants were out of the vehicle by the time I arrived, so I contacted the station and waited for the guys to attend in the appliance. We managed to get the car started and pushed out of the flood water, sending the driver back on their way home, as we emptied our own boots of flood water. You can't beat a welly full of cold water on Christmas Eve!

The alerters sounded at 6am on Christmas morning – flood water was entering a house near Stamford just inside our patch! On attendance, we found a property surrounded by sandbags that was in imminent danger from water rising from a dyke that carried water from as far away as Clipsham, which was now over-coming the culvert running across

the garden.

In the dark, it was difficult to work out what to do first to alleviate the problem, but we decided on a plan of attack by setting the light portable pump into the garden pond. This gave us a good depth to pump from, and it took several hours before the water level dropped to a point where the property was not at risk. We swapped tactics then, setting the main pump into the swollen dyke and pumping the water to a dyke on the other side of the road and away towards Carlby. Christmas Day breakfast was bacon sandwiches outside on the picnic table, and very nice they were too!

By 12 noon it was obvious that the sheer volume of water demanded a relief crew to carry on with the pumping operation, a decision that made me very popular with the following crew. However, they all understood that we can't let people's homes flood, just because it was Christmas Day!

With no let up in the wet weather, we returned to the property ourselves on Boxing Day afternoon, and again the next day.

Although not our busiest year, the fire appliance and crew had attended 168 incidents by the 31st December and we had managed to be one of the top performing

retained stations in Lincolnshire based on the number of hours the appliance was on the run - a task for which we need to have four people on call at anyone time. A 99% on call figure is a testimony to the dedication of the ten man crew at the station.

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WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Chairman Peter Cork, Bantry House, Manthorpe, PE10 0JE

12 members attended the meeting on the 4th of February 2013. All membership is payable 1st January; it is still only £5 a year per household.

After a report on the last talk and a recap of the upcoming talks, it was decided to arrange a trip to Spalding to visit Chain Bridge Forge for July. A date is to be fixed for a guided tour outside and inside St Andrew's Church later in the year led by Dave Mainwaring using and promoting the new St Andrew's Church Guide. There was an update on Historical Society Publications. There has been a reprint of the Graveyard Surveys; these are on sale at £3.50 each. There is also a stock of the History Walk booklets and copies of A Piece of the Puzzle CD.

Additions to the Archives

Members enjoyed looking at a wide variety of articles purchased since the last meeting including 6 books, a map, old postcard images and CD's of the Enclosure Map and old OS Map which were shown on a laptop. After several items of any other business, the date of the next meeting was fixed and the meeting closed, at which point several members adjourned to the pub.

Dates for your Diary - all in the Witham-on-the-Hill Parish Hall unless detailed.

Monday 22nd April 2013, 7.30pm, Sheila Berrell "The French Prisoner of War Camp at Norman Cross".

Monday 20th May 2013, 7.30pm, Nic Lance "The Young Tennyson in Lincolnshire & Beyond".

Monday 24th June 2013. 7.30pm, David Bond "Peterborough Cathedral".

Monday 14th October 2013. 7.30pm Paul Scott (or another speaker from the Society) "Sir Joseph Banks".

Next Members Meeting is the AGM: 7.30pm, Tuesday 14th May 2013.

New Publications from Witham on the Hill Historical Society

Witham on the Hill Historical Society has produced two new publications. The first is "A History of Manthorpe, Toft and Lound" and the second is "A Short History of St Andrew's Church Witham on the Hill". Both may be downloaded from the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish website as PDF files for you to read enjoy :

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ToftcumLoundandManthorpe>

and click on the booklet graphic on the bottom left hand of the home page. There is no charge for this, but any donations to the WOTH Historical Society would be gratefully received. Hard copies are also available - these are printed A4 size and mounted in comb binders for a nominal charge.

A History of Manthorpe, Toft and Lound

This 75 page booklet, put together by Sue Cork, is an attempt to gather into one place all the historical information contained in

the many files and bundles of records, notes, photographs, postcards, books and personal research in the archive of Witham on the Hill Historical Society concerning the three villages of Manthorpe, Toft and Lound.

Sue has tried to include items to make it an interesting read and has, wherever possible, given only information from before the 1970s in order not to invade the privacy of current residents.

We hope you find, in this small publication, a mix of very local history, social history observations and a few items to make you say "Well, I never knew that".

A hard copy of the booklet, printed A4 size and mounted in a comb binder can be obtained from Sue or Peter Cork for £7.50.

Alternatively, if you want to print off your own copy, we can bind the pages for a £1 charge.

A Short History of St Andrew's Church Witham on the Hill

This booklet, written by Dave Mainwaring, is a 17 page guide to the history of the church and

contains a number of colour photographs. It is designed to be read while walking around the church - first round the outside of the building and then inside - and provides information and background history on what can be seen there. A laminated copy will be placed in the church, for visitors to use and enjoy, once the renovation work is complete.

If you would like your own hard copy of the booklet, printed on A4 card and mounted in a comb binder, these can be obtained from Sue or Peter Cork for £5 each. Alternatively, if you want to print off your own copy, we can bind the pages for a £1 charge. The PDF version of the document also contains an appendix giving information from the Lincolnshire County Archives & other sources which was used in preparing the booklet and which we hope you will find interesting. The appendix is not included in the hard copy of the booklet.

To order a hard copy of either publication, or make a donation to the WOTH Historical Society,

please contact Sue or Peter Cork at Bantry House, Manthorpe,

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We would love to see you for a chat and cup of tea. We are all learning as we go along; so if you are an expert at cross stitch we would love you to help us, and if you cannot sew we will show you what we can do so far!

For further information contact:

Rachel Marshall Roberts - canvas and wools

01476 550 609 (home) 420 (work) rachel@hampers.co.uk

Francie Lygo - design ideas

01778 560 061 francielygo@btinternet.com

The Whist Drive held on 15th February in the Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, raised £61 for church funds. Among the winners were:

GENTS

1st Mrs G Stanford

2nd Mrs M Immink

3rd Mrs P Garrard

LADIES

1st Mrs B Carter

2nd Mrs D Bennett

3rd Mrs P Collier

Among the raffle winners were Mrs A Blanchard, Mrs M Immink, Mrs P Collier, Mr A Stanford, Mrs H Strickson, Mrs G Stanford and Mrs B Carter. Thank you to all those who support the evening and to all those who donated prizes, these are a tremendous help. The next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 15th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

∞ *R.J. Scholes* ∞
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(approximately 10 gardens)

Sunday 7th July 2013

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Visits to School

For Parents of NEW STARTERS, September 2013.

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School Lane, Edenham, Bourne, PE10 0LP





CAR BOOT SALE
Sunday, 17th March 2013
at
THE BYTHAMS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Creeton Road, Little Bytham
(in the school car park)

Set up at 9.00 am
10.00 am-1.00 pm
£5.00 per car &
£1.00 per adult for entry

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JANE'S SEASONAL RECIPE

This is an incredibly simple dish, filling and substantial, using butternut squash which is cheap, very nutritious, and abundant at this time of year. It should be adequate as a meal in itself, but could be served with a green vegetable.

ONE POT CHICKEN DINNER (SERVES 4)

8 chicken drumsticks

200g shallots, peeled

750g small potatoes, cut into wedges

400g butternut squash, peeled, deseeded, cut into wedges

1 tablespoon olive oil

30g pecan halves

fresh thyme leaves

100g St Agur cheese (or any blue cheese)

Put chicken, potatoes & squash in a large baking dish. Drizzle with oil, & toss to coat. Season with ground black pepper.

Roast at 200c for about 1 hour, turning halfway through. Stir in nuts & thyme leaves & cook for a further 10 –15 mins until chicken is cooked through & skin crispy. Crumble over cheese, and return to oven for a few minutes until just melted.

Serve garnished with thyme sprigs.

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PARISH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2013

	SWINSTEAD	WITHAM	EDENHAM
March 3rd Lent 3	8.45am Parish Communion	10.00am Parish Communion 6.00pm Deanery Evening Prayer at Stoke Rochford	11.15am Parish Communion
March 10th Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	10.00am Family Service	10.00am Parish Communion 6.00pm Deanery Evening Prayer Rippingale	11.15am Parish Communion
March 17th Passion Sunday	8.45am Parish Communion	10.00am Parish Communion 6.00pm Deanery Evening Prayer North Witham	11.15am Parish Communion
March 24th Palm Sunday	1030am Three Parishes Communion		
Monday Tuesday Wednesday in Holy Week	7.30pm Holy Communion and devotional address		
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Liturgy of the last supper followed by vigil until Good Friday		
Good Friday All in Swinstead	9.00am Matins and Litany 10. 30am Stations of the Cross for Children and their families 1.30pm Liturgy 6.00pm Prayers and readings (a short reflective time – lasting about half an hour) Litany		
March 31st Easter Day	8.45am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	10.00 Parish Communion	0500 Vigil Service (meet in Vicarage garden) followed by breakfast 11.15am Parish Communion