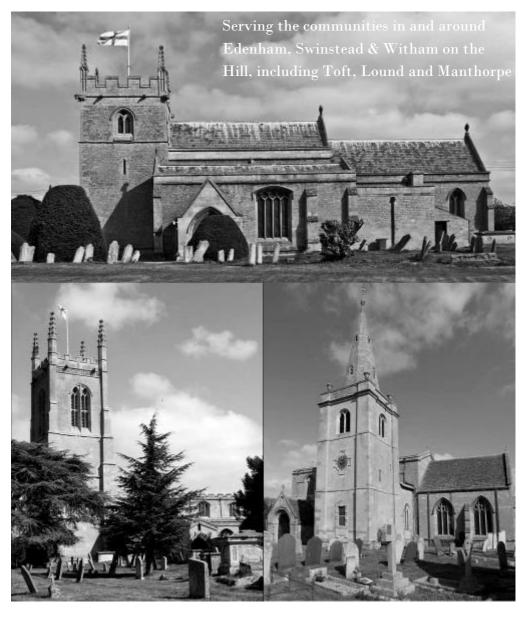
The Three Towers

May 2013



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.

Sympathies to all who will miss Mrs Eileen Woolley of Manthorpe who sadly died on the 11th April after a short illness.

Congratulations to Victoria Spratt and Rob Hague on the birth of Rosalind on 14 March, weighing in at a magnificent 10 pounds 4 ounces! First grandchild for Christine and Tony Spratt.

Get Well Soon Jill Ray after your recent visit to hospital. Wishing you a speedy recovery.

Happy 90th birthday Madge Maile on 11 April. Hope you had a joyful day.

Happy 80th birthday Rosemary Sismey on 15 May.

Happy 60th birthday Frances Plummer on 26 April. Hope you enjoyed your day too!

Coffee Morning Saturday•27• April•10am ••12•noon•in St Andrew's •• Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill, to raise funds for the Church roof appeal. Cake stall, book stall, bric-a-brac, raffle and refreshments. Everyone very welcome – do come for a coffee and chat!

Clothing. Collection. to raise funds for St Andrew's Church roof appeal. Wanted: good clean clothes, new/unwanted or used, in good condition, suitable for resale. Also bed linen, towels, paired shoes, handbags, belts, hats & accessories. The last collection raised £123.50 (sold by weight), so please have a good spring clear out and bring your clothes to Jane Clark telephone 01778 590232.

THE VICAR'S WRITES

Could we do without our church buildings? Should they be mothballed to become landscape architecture? What is their value in the community? What purpose do they play? Do they 'add value' to life? These are all vital questions. It has come to the point, I fear, when communities of our size are struggling to sustain or justify the expense of time, effort and money in keeping white elephants going. The 'Three Tower Villages' have an adult population of just over eight hundred, nearly half the houses have only one person living in them, nearly half are retired, over a third of church attenders in two of the parishes are non-resident in the parishes. These three medieval buildings would seem surplus to requirements. The smallest would convert to a very nice house and one of the biggest to a fine gallery for a local art collection. The other would make a very fine chapel for an independent school! The total energy bill for the three churches last winter was well in excess of £10,000! Do you see what I'm

driving at?

But if any suggestion is made that the church be closed or even shut from October to April, my phone line would melt! Communities seem to want it both ways; enjoy the sight of the church in the village, benefit from the services on offer when it suits and then not contribute towards stopping the roof falling in! These buildings are a community responsibility; not one penny of public money is available to help without the community paying for the major part of the cost. Furthermore, if any suggestion is made that would improve the building (rather than smother it in aspic) or to alter one aspect of its layout to improve its use for the current generation, someone puts a petition through the Vicar's door! How do you think that feels? The Vicar is the one who has the legal responsibility to find £210,000 for the three churches this year – just to keep them water tight and safe. He asks himself is it all worth it? Is this what he was ordained for? Should he take early retirement and write poetry? Does anybody really care?



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MEMORIALS

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It would seem that they do. Something rather marvellous has happened in the midst of all this frustrating red tape, nit-picking paper work and fretting over balance sheets. Some individuals have been generous in their time and expertise, many households have put pen to cheque book, others have baked their cakes and spent their cash to make things happen and share the burden. We have had wonderful evenings of music with proceeds towards the costs. Nobody on any of the Church Councils has walked away, no lay officer has resigned the money will be found, the worship goes on surrounded by scaffolding and wheel barrows. I wonder why that is? No doubt there will be a mixture of motives. but underlying them all is the fact of God; source of all truth, beauty and goodness. Our forerunners in faith sacrificed much to make a house of worship to honour Him, and there are people of faith in this generation too. It is the same house for the same God. Thank Him for that. As St Paul said 'The faithful witness of the few is a cause of thanksgiving for many.' (and that Includes the

Vicar!)

Pentecost Picnic and Praise! 19th May 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Everyone of any age is invited to join in this event at Pentecost (Whit Sunday) which will take place in the lovely gardens of Witham Hall School from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Bring your own picnic and chairs, take part in the singing accompanied by the brass band and soak up the sun (hopefully)! Plenty of parking at the school.

Regional House News

The Trustees and Management committee have been digesting a very important report called 'A place God has put His hand on'. The report commissioned by the Bishop of Lincoln is a review of the work of the Regional House and its place within Lincoln Diocese. The author of the report was The Revd Philip North Rector of Old St Pancras in London, and formerly Administrator of the Shrine at Walsingham. The report was very positive about the ministry of the house and made eighteen recommendations. One was to upgrade the website – see www.edenhamregionalhouse.org ·

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some concerned the relationships with the Diocese of Lincoln, and there were some challenging recommendations about the provision of accommodation for the future Vicar and Warden. It was recommended that the staff be increased in the area of administration and networking. There is a much wider discussion about the constitution of the Regional House as some form of religious community. All these are very complex areas for discussion over the next months and years and will determine the long term viability of what is a unique institution in the Church of England.

Coming up this month!

Saturday 11th May: 'May is Mary's month and I' (G.M. Hopkins) 10.00am – 4.00pm. This quiet day is an opportunity to develop your own prayer, and reflect on the special place that Mary has in the redemption story. We will use different Scripture reflections, along with poetry, simple writing, pictures, objects and surroundings, to help us respond to what is in our hearts. Led by Rosey Fuell and Wendy Smith. Suggested Contribution including lunch £12.50

To book or enquire phone 01778 591358 or email edreghouse@tiscali.co.uk

Confirmation Congratulations
To all those who were confirmed in the Edenham Parish Church by the Bishop of Richborough on Sunday 21st April: Grace Burrows, Lauren Camamile, Leo Cox, Barney Fox, Clare Hallam, Sophia Hallam, Will Knight, Katie Rawlings, Giles Rawlings, Tim Schoutsen, Jenny Scott, Toby

Edenham Teas

Sumner. Karen Wilmot

Thank you to everyone for your support at the Afternoon Tea on bank holiday Monday. £326 was donated for the Raise The Roof fund and Village Hall. The next tea will be held at the Village Hall on

Monday May 6th 3pm - 5pm. Any offers of help would be most welcome.

Hazel and Andrew Stubbs

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Edenham Parish Wheelbarrow competition update

The theme for the 2013 competition will be 'At the heart of the community'. It is hoped that decorated barrows will be displayed from July 22nd to August 5th inclusive for visitors and parishioners to enjoy. Judging will take place during the week commencing July 22nd. To take part you will need to register your entry with Ray Biggs (01778 591205 or ray@grimsthorpe.co.uk). Entry fee is £5 per wheelbarrow. Please consider taking part.

Edenham Church will welcome The Stamford Singers who will perform a Concert on Friday 17th May at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8.00 adults and £4.00 for children under 14yrs available from Ruth 01778 591328. Refreshments will be served during the interval so if anyone would like to make something delicious, please tell Ruth. Programme will include music by Byrd, Handel, Vivaldi and Gershwin with a selection of English folk songs. All proceeds to the Edenham Raise the Roof appeal.

Steam Action have set the date for this year's Produce Show on Saturday 31st August.

As usual there are some changes to the schedule and the new classes are:

arrangement of flowers on a 6" plate; collage of leaves on sheet of A4 paper; 3 leeks with leaves; adult knitted garment; handmade pincushion; postcard size photographs: wintery scene, British bird

Hope you find something here to suit you all. We look forward to lots of entries and lots of people at the Auction spending lots of money that will help towards the Senior Citizens Christmas party. Schedules will be delivered in June/July. Good luck!



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e-mail mnightingale@uk2.net BWY Dip (British Wheel of Yoga)

Note of the Witham on the Hill Parish Council

Meeting held on 11th March 2013

Susan Pennant-Jones was coopted onto the Parish Council after the resignation of Neil Rogers.

The clerk had spoken Lincolnshire County Council who had agreed to pay for the seeds Nectar towards the Meadow. Unfortunately, with weather conditions. it had made impossible for any work to be undertaken to date.

The clerk was asked to contact other parish councils to enquire if there was any interest in arranging a joint meeting with Alan Hardwick, Police & Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.

It was agreed that the Parish Council adopts a Complaints Procedure based on Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils recommendations.

Concern was again expressed about the number of trees which had been removed from Witham Hall School and loss of hedges in the parish. It was also mentioned that some people were experiencing difficulty in using cross county footpaths.

the meeting that Peterborough & Stamford Hospital NHS Trust had reviewed its nursing rosters to ensure that their staffing levels were adequate. East Midlands Ambulance Service are looking at increasing the numbers in South Lincolnshire, and there could be extra hubs based at Grantham and Market Deeping; but their Chief Executive reported that he could not hit the Government targets with the finances he had. The County Council had received an extra £6.4 million from the Government over the next 2 years to repair potholes. It is estimated that it will cost £100 million to repair all potholes in Lincolnshire and £300 million to bring the roads up to standard. Grammar School is to increase their intake in September 2013. D.Cllr Miss Channell understood that there to be was replacement when the Willow Tree is removed at East Green. Cllr Pennant-Jones informed the meeting that residents had told her that they would be happy to see a replacement but not those offered by the District Council. D Cllr Channell was also concerned that the District Council had not contacted the Parish Council in regard to an extra light at East Green especially as it has

C.Cllr. Trollope-Bellew informed

been agreed that the tree will be

removed.

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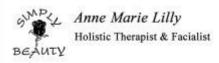
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will include the Annual Parish *meeting*. Meeting which is an occasion for electors to raise any concerns they may have.

Next meeting to take place on Application at Warren Farm for Monday 13th May 2013 at St change of use to motorcycle dirt Andrew's Parish Hall at 7pm. This track will be discussed at the May Rosemary Woolley

Swinstead News

that

Planning

Bingo in the Village Hall on Monday 13th May 2013 - eyes down at 7:30pm.

note

Please

Every Easter church service was well attended and St Mary's Church, Swinstead was beautifully decorated for the event. A big thank you to everyone who helped.

Many congratulations to Mrs Margery Lynch who will be 90 years young on 17th May.

Do you play whist? If so, come and join in the whist drive at Swinstead Village Hall held on the first Monday in each month, commencing at 7:30 pm. Have fun, keep the brain active and win prizes. Next session is on Monday 6th May.

A packed audience enjoyed a concert of popular songs performed by Liz Underhill and her choir which was held recently in

Edenham church. A great time was had by all and the grand sum of £700 was raised in aid of the roof fund for St Mary's Church, Swinstead. A heartfelt thank you to Liz and all the singers.

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Witham on the Hill WI Meeting 2 April 2013

Ann Burbidge welcomed members, Janet Turner, from LSFWI and Louise Allen to our April meeting. Louise started the meeting with a demonstration of belly dancing! Dressed in a colourful red skirt with gold metal trimmings and a brief black top she shimmied beautifully! The invitation to 'have a go' was irresistible to our members and a rare spectacle followed - a sight to behold! I am thankful, however, that our ladies were not in costume!!!

The Annual Meeting followed with the minutes, approved and signed and the audited accounts duly adopted. The Committee's annual report and the Presidential address were read. The new committee for 2013 is Ann Burbidge, Jane Clark, June Dandridge, Julia Haynes, Jean Mathams, Margaret Rine, Julia Thompson and Jenny Wellard. After supervising the ballot for President, resulting in Julia Haynes's election, Janet Turner gave a talk on the history of the WI from its conception in Wales to the present day, showing its development and growth. We were reminded of the 100th anniversary in 2015.

Gift tokens and cups were awarded to the winners of the annual competition - with Sue Cork 1st. Frances Plummer and Sue Renner joint 2nd place and Jane Clark 3rd. Jenny Wellard thanked the out-going president, Ann Burbidge for her work over the last 4 years with the presentation of a beautiful salmon pink rose "With Thanks". Refreshment were served by Madames Whittaker and Rine with a brief committee meeting following. Julia Haynes was very warmly welcomed by the committee as the new President. The various offices were confirmed and the meeting closed on an enthusiastic and optimistic note for the coming year.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 May at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. The speaker will be Nic Lance talking about "The Young Tennyson in Lincolnshire". Visitors and new members are always most welcome. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary, tel 01778 590232.



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

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

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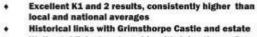


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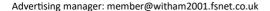
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JANE'S SEASONAL RECIPE

It has been a long cold winter and we have had plenty of soup to keep us warm. This has been my favourite soup recipe this season – using up the last of our carrots and onions from the garden.

LENTIL & CHORIZO SOUP (SERVES 4)

★ 50g chopped chorizo

- * 1 large chopped onion
- * 3 finely chopped large carrots
 - 125g red lentils

- 2 1/4 pints veg stock
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin seeds

* Heat a large saucepan and gently fry chorizo for 5

* mins until it gives up some of the oil. Remove

* chorizo – set aside in a bowl. Gently cook onions &

* carrots for 10 mins in the chorizo oil. Add rinsed

* lentils & stock. Bring to boil & simmer until lentils are

* soft – about 20 mins. Liquidise until smooth. Reheat,

* stirring in the chorizo. Check seasoning. Serve in

* warmed soup bowls, sprinkle pumpkin seeds on the

* top.

* top.

**

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Rachel Marshall Roberts - 01476 550 609 (home) 420 (work) rachel@hampers.co.uk

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to talk to Anne or Heidi at NFU Mutual Office, Holt House Business Centre, Cherry Holt Road, Bourne PE10 9LH



We do right by you

Editor: the3towers1@gmail.com

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

PARISH SERVICES FOR MAY 2013

	SWINSTEAD	WITHAM	EDENHAM
May 5 th Easter 6 Rogation	08:45 Parish Communion	10:00 Parish Communion	11:15 Parish Communion
Sunday	4:00pm Meet at Swinstead for Rogation Walk to Edenham		5:30pm – 6:30pm Bring and Share Tea followed by Evening Worship
May 9th Ascension Day			7.30pm Sung Eucharist
May 12th	08:45 Parish Communion	10:00 Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	11:15 Parish Communion
May 19 th Pentecost	08:45 Parish Communion	10:00 Parish Communion 4.00pm – 6.00pm Pentecost Picnic and Praise at Witham Hall School	11:15 Parish Communion
May 26 th Trinity Sunday	08:45 Parish Communion	10:00 Parish Communion 6:00pm Evening Prayer	11:15 Parish Communion

FOR BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, CONFESSIONS, OR ANY OTHER PASTORAL OR SPIRITUAL NEED CONTACT :VICAR: THE REVD CANON ANDREW HAWES SSC 01778 591358 - athawes@tiscali.co.uk

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