

The Three Towers

February 2014

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



Parish Notices

CHARITY AUCTION DINNER in aid of Cancer Research on Friday 21st March 2014 in the Toft Hotel. £15 per head for a two course meal and a bar will be available (profits will also go to cancer research). Contact Pamela on pamela.adams123@icloud.com or 01778 590544. Places are limited to 100.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jayne and Miles Webb (son and daughter in law of Steve and Jane Webb) on the birth of their son James Douglas on 8th January. Miles and Jayne were married at Edenham Church on 19th May 2012 and now live in Hampshire.

CONDOLENCES to the family, friends and neighbours on the very sad loss of Arthur Bone on 6 December.

BAPTISM baby Grace Lily Basden, great grand-daughter of Annie and the late Alec Blanchard at St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill on 19 January.

CONGRATULATIONS Hannah and Patrick King on the birth of Elijah in November; and to Lizzie and Rob Muirhead on the birth of Angus on 27 December. Two more grandsons for Andy and Sian Hawes!

SMALL VILLAGES – BIG HEARTS

THANK YOU to all the generous people of Witham on the Hill. Carol singing around the village on 22nd December raised £65.25 for St Andrew's Church funds. Thank you to the people who invited us in for eats and drinks, and well done all the singers!

WELL DONE MANTHORPE! The collection raised during carol singing was a record £180.04. The village choir met on December 22nd and with kind refreshments along the way sang their socks off.

GET WELL SOON Janet Brudenell. Wishing you a speedy recovery from your recent break.

GET WELL SOON Jenny Stanton after your operation.

GET WELL SOON Eileen Parsons after your recent stay in hospital.

THE VICAR'S WRITES

This New Year has seen a new beginning for me. After sixteen years and seven months of being Rural Dean, I was finally replaced by Fr Chris Atkinson of Bourne last September. This has meant that the torrent of emails has finally dribbled to a halt, the regular regional and diocesan meetings have disappeared from the diary, and the task of managing the administration of vacant parishes and the pastoral care of them has passed to my successor. The role had become so integral to my life that I had forgotten what life was like without it! The usual term of office for a Rural Dean is five years and I am still not quite sure how I managed to outstay my welcome for so long. The Deanery was kind enough to present me with a gift and we now have a very smart sound system in our kitchen, as well as a very splendid walking stick!

My New Year has seen the inauguration of a new pattern to my week. After over twenty-five years of having Monday as my

day off, I now have Tuesday. This is taking some getting used to. The reason for the change is primarily due to my involvement with Edenham School on a Monday morning, but it also true that Mondays seem to be the day when details for the coming week are sorted out. As my ministry is shared equally between being a Parish Priest and Warden of Edenham Regional House (ERH) – which itself has wider diocesan responsibilities in the area of spirituality – I have divided my diary thus: Monday morning Parish, Monday afternoon ERH; Tuesday day off; Wednesday morning parish (Swinstead), Wednesday afternoon Edenham School followed by ERH; Thursday morning parish (Witham etc.) afternoon ERH. Friday ERH all day, Saturday is flexible, Sunday is parish. I am also trying to keep evening meetings to the minimum – I put this down to age! None of this will run like clockwork as events soon take over, but my intention is to have more time to visit homes in all the eight villages within the Parishes. I am acutely

aware that this is the area of ministry that was sacrificed in the sixteen years as Rural Dean. Previously, this was an aspect of parish life I cherished, and I am already enjoying spending time with people in their homes.

It is often forgotten (or never realised) that traditionally the Vicar's ministry is to the whole of the community. It has never been and never should be only to the 'church community'. I understand that the last thing some readers will want is the Vicar knocking on their door but, on the other hand, there will be some who will be wondering why he has not done so already. Be warned, I am now going to be loitering with a good intent in a street near you. If you would like me to visit for any reason whatsoever, please contact me.

NOT ON A SUNDAY

Life is changing and Sundays are not the oasis of quiet and rest they once were. It is very difficult for many to attend church on a Sunday. There are now two midday services in the Stable

Chapel at Edenham Vicarage. The Friday service of Holy Communion is at 12 noon and is followed by a bring and share lunch for those able to stay. There is now a similar service at 12.30 on a Saturday (but without the lunch). As with all the services in these parishes, if anyone requires transport please contact the Vicarage.

FRONT ROOM Edenham: A new community meeting space for creativity, learning and play. Baby and Toddler group, local drop in for all members of the parish and the surrounding area; kitchen is open for hot/cold drinks and more. Every Tuesday 8.45am – 12 noon. **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

EDENHAM REGIONAL HOUSE LIVE LOUNGE WITH SMUGGLER JACK!

On Saturday 22nd February at 7.30pm the vicarage band (David Hawes –piano and vocals, Aidan Hawes – guitar and vocals, Andy Hawes – Double Bass) will be playing in the Vicarage lounge.

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THE NAME OF JESUS

The year begins with the feast of 'The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus.' The name of Jesus is the Lord's first gift to us. The giving of the name is the heart of the Annunciation Gospel and an integral part of the message of Gabriel to Our Lady 'and thou shalt call his name Jesus.' Jesus is the diminutive of Joshua and means 'God saves'. That the name is the familiar or colloquial version of the name of Moses' successor as commander of the Israelites is significant in itself. It is entirely consistent with Jesus teaching us to call God Almighty 'Abba' or 'Dad'. These are the names that are used when we call out for someone we love in fear, or in moments of joy we need to share.

We are given this name as the chief means of enabling a personal and intimate relationship. My barber (a Baptist lay preacher) once remarked to me that 'many men sit in this chair and talk about Christ, but they seldom talk about Jesus.' In naming Our Lord Jesus we are immediately drawn into the mystery of the Incarnation – God with us – sharing every aspect of our humanity. The name Jesus roots our relationship in the every day. In its most refined and yet powerful expression, prayer is the simple spending time with Jesus and opening our hearts to him. We must always remember the proclamation of St Peter in the Pentecost sermon (Acts 2): 'this [risen] Jesus is the same one you crucified.' The one who is 'God saves' is the one wrapped in cloths both in the manger and in the newly cut tomb. The name 'Jesus' is a constant proclamation of the whole Gospel.

There have been in past times a great devotion to the name of Jesus and we partake in this devotion through the poetry which has made its way into our

hymnals. This tradition, which flowered in the twelfth century, had a profound effect which was felt by succeeding generations and is expressed in both the 'Revelations' of Julian of Norwich and the 'Cloud of Unknowing.' Take for example the verse 'No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find, a sweeter sound than Jesu's name, the Saviour of mankind.' Hymns are a terrific means of closeness to Jesus; these include Newton's 'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds and drives away his fear.' There is the hymn of praise 'At the name of Jesus!' which is the fruit of contemplation on Philippians Chapter 2.

The Jesus Prayer is a powerful use of the name of Jesus to draw the one who prays into the presence of Christ. It uses some of the titles of Jesus and compounds them into both a declaration of faith and an act of adoration 'Jesus Christ, Son of God', then comes the petition 'take pity (or have mercy) on me

a sinner'. This one sentence repeated with attentive and loving devotion grafts the name of Jesus into the consciousness, opening one to the activity of God's love in its reconciling and healing work. This is exactly why Gabriel gave this precious name to Mary.

On behalf of the British Legion and all who helped with the collections for the Poppy Appeal in November, a great big thank you. The amounts collected were: Edenham £145.97, Edenham school £69.82, 5 Bells £19.83, Grimsthorpe £55.75

A terrific effort, well done and thank you.

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Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 16th May 2014

Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting Spinal Injuries Association's (SIA) vital services. You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the SIA offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family". We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack

call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email:

fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit

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View from the Pew

New start at St Andrew's.

How wonderful! The beginning of a new year, with fresh possibilities, challenges, surprises and the invitation to turn over a new leaf, to start again. We are over the brow of the hill, we have seen off the shortest day and we can look forward.

We may well have to face some very cold days, icy pavements and all the obstacles created by snow on our roads but we know that it cannot be too long before the trees are clothed with the first signs of spring. The snow drops have appeared in the garden, nodding their approval at the promises to come.

We have welcomed Jesus into the world and now we seek him in our hearts. Can it be that all we need to do is turn to Him and all will be well? Can it be that if we are willing to accept him we will be set free? Pain will be soothed and hurts will be healed? Does He really hold the secret of peace and joy of which we have been

singing in our carols?

We walk down the path, edged by lavender, open the bird gate and push the heavy but yielding wooden door. The scene is familiar and it is easy to take it all for granted but in that building, which dominates the village yet makes no demands, in that building, so familiar and yet so strange, miracles do happen. Let this be a year full of happy surprises and encounters, come and see.

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Fire Station News

2013 turned out to be a very busy year with the crews responding to 203 emergencies. These have ranged from road traffic crashes, house fires, agricultural building fires, animal rescues to removing rings from swollen fingers.

Flooding has obviously been a major concern lately and, although we have not always been as badly affected as other parts of the country, the recent high tides saw crews working round the clock to pump away flood water in Boston.

With the bad weather forecast a long time ahead, the various authorities had time to plan their response to the impending emergencies. Things did not always go to plan when the intended site for operations – Boston Fire Station was itself affected by flood water. This meant moving the marshalling point for everyone involved to the Council depot on the outskirts of Boston. Fire, Police, Ambulance, Environment Agency and Council workers all gathered at this

central point.

The fire and rescue plan was to send spotters out around the town and then to send in appliances as and where needed. We were called out to standby at the Council depot and had to make our way through deep flood water in the town centre. Along with about 25 fire appliances, we made a formidable sight lined up in the depot along with all the other emergency and council services.

We are now equipped with dry suits and are trained after a memorable day at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham, to work in deep flood water. With so many calls coming in, the site had its own control room that turned out the appliances to emergencies ranging from house fires, caused by the deep flood water affecting domestic electricity supplies, to pumping the flood water away from houses and streets.

We sat for a long four hours before we were eventually called to pump away floodwater affecting properties in several streets in the

town. We backed the appliance into the flood water and set in the main pump and just did what we could to get the water into the River Haven, a tidal arm of The Wash. Other duties saw us helping stranded people back in to their houses or helping get them out of their properties and on their way to work.

A long night was followed by a long day where we were again stationed at the Boston Council depot. This time we were called out to Boston Docks to help the Long Sutton crew pump water out of warehouses containing millions of pounds worth of rolled steel, waiting to make its way to the Honda car factory. The crews here are very resourceful at coming up with ways around difficult situations, and soon came up with a plan to use the Light Portable Pump, setting it up in such a way that at low revs it was working to its maximum pumping capacity to the delight of the warehouse managers.

This article gives me a chance to thank all the people who sent us

lovely cards, boxes of biscuits and chocolates at Christmas, they were very much appreciated. Also, thank you to everyone who brings their unwanted clothes to the station charity vault; please keep donating. The Firefighter's Charity is very grateful for all your donations.

Watch Manager Bryan Lynch


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Clerk's notes of the Parish Council Meeting at Witham on the Hill, 12th January 2014

Charles Henriques was co-opted onto the Parish Council to replace Simon Bonney.

It was agreed to pay £100 to Careby with Holywell Parish Meeting to help cover the costs of professional fees incurred during the Motocross planning application at Warren Farm. It was agreed that a further £400 towards the cost would be discussed in the next financial year 2014/15. It was agreed that the Precept would increase by 2% from £1800 to £1836. Money raised from the Halloween Party was placed in the Council bank account to go towards a permanent BBQ on the Village Green but the Councillors decided not to go forward with the idea.

The Clerk reported that a fruit tree had been planted at East Green, the applicant for the vacancy of Clerk had declined the position, various highways issues had still not been dealt with.

The following planning applications were discussed and Councillors decided that there was no objection:- Six Bells – erection of a timber clad biomass boiler container; Witham Hall School and South Cottage, Bottom Street – work on trees. The following had been approved since the last meeting:- Mr Maile, The Old Rectory & Mr Westwood, Ashridge – tree work. Mr Thompson, Motocross had been refused.

Lack of access for dog walkers using cross country footpaths was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council was unable to provide dog friendly stiles as they belonged to the landowner.

D.Cllr Miss Channell asked if residents still require a street light at East Green. She also enquired about the Parish Council's position on the removal of trees at Witham Hall School.

C.Cllr Trollope-Bellew reported that it seemed that County would accept the 1% from Government which meant zero increase in their part of the council tax. He also

reported there had been less gritting than previous years to date. The government wanted County to make savings of 80 million over the next two years. There had been lots of expressions of interest in running Libraries including The Deepings.

Next meeting Monday 10th March 2014 at St Andrew's Parish Hall at 7pm.

Vacancy for Parish Clerk at Witham on the Hill

Witham on the Hill Parish Council is looking for an experienced person to take over the duties of the Clerk: 9.5 hours per month, salary calculated by SCP.

For more information please contact Rosemary Woolley, email-wothparishcouncil@msn.com or telephone 01778 560634.

Closing date for return of application:- Sunday 2nd March 2014 at 6pm. For further information please go to the website <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/WithamontheHill>

Valentines Gift Fayre at Edenham Village Hall

Sunday 9th February 10am - 1pm
Stalls include woodturner, jewellery, homeware, cakes and pastries, and creative mosaics.

This will be the first of monthly Gift Fayres being held at the hall, each with a different theme. Future days will be Saturdays. The next two are March 22nd and April 19th both 10am - 1pm. Each event will include a charity raffle. Phone 01778 425821 for details
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Notes from the Edenham Parish Council Meeting 14th January 2014

New Councillor: Mrs Amanda Whadcock of Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham, was welcomed as the new co-opted member of the council.

Planning Application: for the conversion of the barn adjacent to Mill Leys, School Lane, Edenham, to a residential property has now been granted.

Highway Matters: Drainage gullies by Walnut Cottage, Grimsthorpe, and the traffic lights in Edenham have been reset and re-surfacing works carried out on Scottlethorpe Road adjacent to Vine Cottage. Several potholes throughout the parish and the blocked drainage gullies on Main Road, Grimsthorpe and Main Street, Edenham, are to be reported to the Highways Dept.

Children's Play Equipment: It is hoped that the remedial work on the play equipment will be carried out before March 2014. After discussions with the manufacturer

over the warranty issues, they have agreed to do the work for a significantly reduced cost compared with initial quotation.

Annual Budget and Precept: The parish clerk presented a provisional budget for the forthcoming year 2014/15. The Precept raised against SKDC for the year will be £2,750 (includes £228 Grant Allocation). This equates to a nil % increase over the last financial year.

Dog Fouling: All dog owners are reminded that it is their duty to clean up after their pets.

The next meeting of the Edenham Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 7:30pm in Edenham Village Hall.

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov in Edenham Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Parishioners can register for e-mail reminders of forthcoming meetings by e-mailing the parish clerk at:

edenham.pc@btinternet.com.

SWINSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL Clerk's Notes 2nd January 2014

Public Forum: A number of local residents attended the meeting to discuss Machams Close. Despite local concern, SKDC has conducted a survey and determined that the buildings are not classified as "derelict". Mr and Mrs Whitelam had requested a meeting with the Chief Executive of SKDC to identify a new course of action but this was turned down. Original questions about the site also included issues surrounding rodent control but there appears to be little or no involvement from the Environmental Health Dept. It was decided that the Parish Council would write to Cllr Martin Hill to see what guidance he could provide to enable further action to be taken in this matter.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting: It was noted that the Allotment Association had begun work on ploughing the far end of the playing field in preparation for the establishment of the allotments.

Financial Report: A report was circulated and approved.

Neighbourhood Watch: There were no new incidents to report. It was agreed that this item would

be removed from the standard agenda unless a specific incident arose.

Butter Cross: Cllr Somerville reported that problems still continue in obtaining delivery of the right quality of stone. Stone will now be sourced from Clipsham quarry instead as it is likely to be better quality stone, and was hoped work would commence as soon as the weather improves. In the meantime, the Council remains in receipt of Lady Willoughby's generous donation toward the project and a letter will be sent to keep Lady Willoughby informed of developments.

Highways and Flooding: The Highways Department re-surfaced Forstedd Hill following the poor quality of the tarmac recently put down. A dislodged signpost at the junction with Irnham Road has been reported. Work on the sewers will resume during January.

The Diamond Jubilee Community Wildlife Orchard: Cllr Lunn reported that, following discussions with a number of organisations and obtaining their estimates, progress had been made on the design and supply of a sign and it was agreed that this should now be purchased. The

sign will contain green lettering and measure 600mm X 300mm.

A further 30 tree guards had now been purchased and delivered to the orchard and further cable ties will be obtained.

Councillors' Reports: It was noted that people are disgusted that incidents of dog fouling on pavements, particularly along the High Street, were increasing. It was recommended that SKDC be approached again to see if their leaflets, which had been out of print when they were requested last year, could be obtained and delivered throughout the village.

In the meantime, it was suggested that residents who notice incidents could inform the Clerk or any of the Parish Councillors, preferably with a name or at least a description of the miscreants. This information will be treated in the strictest confidence. It was agreed that the best way to prevent this nuisance was for someone to be fined for their offence.

The hole in the roof of the bus shelter reported at the last meeting was fixed the following day.

It was noted that next January's meeting date would need to be held on 8th Jan 2015 (the 1st

being a Bank Holiday)

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th March 2014 at 7.00pm.

Swinstead News

Whist Drive on the 3 February in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Easter Bingo - 3 March in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Good prizes.

All three Christmas Services were well attended. Approximately 60 people attended the Group Service. During the service Father Andy presented Elsie with a vase engraved with St Mary's Church and her name, in recognition of her being a Church Warden for 50 years, a position she had thoroughly enjoyed fulfilling.

The Musical Hall on 22 November was well attended and much enjoyed. £300.00 was raised for Church Funds, out of which a donation was given to the Entertainers for their favourite charity, Rutland Sailability.

Thank you to all who helped to make a successful evening. Jill Barry, PCC Secretary.

JANE'S SEASONAL RECIPE

As in most years, we have plenty of sprouts in the garden this winter, and with a huge joint of cooked ham to eat over Christmas, this proved a very popular dish.

Brussels Gratin (Serves 4)

500g Brussel sprouts

4 slices of pancetta, smoked streaky bacon, or chopped cooked ham

150ml double cream

50g gruyere cheese

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

50g breadcrumbs

2 tablespoons grated parmesan

Cook the sprouts until just tender. Drain really well. Fry the bacon until golden, stir in cream, grated gruyere & mustard. Add sprouts and stir well. Put in a shallow baking dish. Sprinkle over the breadcrumbs & parmesan. Bake at 200c approx 20 mins until golden & bubbling.

Can be served as a supper dish on its own, but good with sausages & jacket potatoes. For vegetarians, omit the bacon.

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WITHAM ON THE HILL WI

Two more new members were welcomed to the Christmas party in December when our President opened the meeting to a packed hall. In the spring we are introducing a "short amble" for those who enjoy a more leisurely stroll followed by lunch. Table tennis has recommenced on one Saturday morning a month, from 10am till noon in Manthorpe. The flower arranging day was a huge success, with magnificent blooms and greenery designed to grace any table. Thanks from all go to Susan Peskett. A goodly collection of tins was donated for the Bourne Food Bank. Stewart and Peter entertained us with music, monologues and songs from the music hall era, much to the delight of our ladies. It was a really fun evening with plenty of laughter

and applause! These jolly gents gave all donations to Rutland Sailability, a truly worthwhile cause that provides sailing for people with disabilities. Supper, provided by members, was quite delicious with an enormous array of dishes to choose from - wine was included! Jane Clark won the raffle prize and Frances Plummer won the competition for a 'wrapped gift'. These beautifully prepared presents given by each lady, were placed in Santa's secret sack and each of us had a lucky dip, taking home a surprise parcel. At the next meeting on Tuesday 4 February at 7.30pm, Mr Vic Lilly will be telling us about wind farms. As usual, visitors are always welcome. For further information contact Secretary: Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

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PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2014

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
2 nd February Candlemass		10.30am Three Parishes Eucharist	6.00pm Evening Prayer
9 th February 4 th Before Lent	08.45am Parish Communion	10.00am Parish Communion 6.00 pm Evening Prayer	11.15am Parish Communion
16 th February 3 rd before Lent	08.45am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	10.00am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
23 rd February 2 nd before Lent	08.45am Parish Communion	10.00am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	11.15am Parish Communion
2 nd March Sunday next before Lent	08.45am Parish Communion	10.00am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
5 th March Ash Wednesday	09.00am Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes	7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes	2.00pm Edenham School Service – all welcome

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

ASSISTANT CURATE; THE REVD DAVID PICKETT 01476 552 457 – daipicket@hotmail.com

LICENSED READER: MRS HEATHER LEE 01778 591338 - hmleevine@talktalk.net