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December 2025 and January 2026

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Parish News

Edenham, Grimsthorpe, Scottlethorpe & Elsthorpe PARISH COUNCIL -

There is a **VACANCY** for a new Parish Council member. If any parishioner is interested in becoming involved in Local Government, please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs Carole Sands, for further information and details of a member's role - e-mail: edenham.pc@gmail.com

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A GUID NEW YEAR to all our contributors, advertisers and readers. Let's look forward to a healthy one. From Jane, Tom and Fr Ed

A BIG THANK YOU to Dick Mundy of Manthorpe for all the wonderful historical articles that he continues to provide for us. Being both interesting and informative, they help to bring the history of our local area alive.

A BIG THANK YOU to Simon Lawton and his team for yet another fantastic Bonfire Night on the Jubilee Playing Field in Manthorpe. A wonderful show and great food and drinks. Your team's efforts are very much appreciated.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE Thank you to the WI ladies and others who packed shoe boxes of gifts for children in countries where war, famine and natural disasters have caused much suffering. 12 boxes were sent from Witham on the Hill. Thank you all for your generosity.



WITHAM ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE is now up and running. Many thanks to Dave Haydon. If you would like events included on the site please contact Dave: davehaydon@btinternet.com

CONGRATULATIONS to Lauren and Josh Bentley on the birth of Jed.

CONDOLENCES to Zoe, her family, friends and neighbours on the loss of her mum, Zoe Wilson, who passed away on 12 November. This very sad loss of her mum was less than 2 months after the loss of her father.

CONDOLENCES to all the many family, friends and neighbours of Jenny Stanton who passed away on 13 November.

BAPTISM Gwen Wood, baby daughter of Lawrence and Abi Wood at St Andrew's Witham on the Hill on 23 November.

HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT thank you to all those who supported this event in the St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Great fun was had by all –



**Test your knowledge for a chance
to win a Cash ££ prize at our**

December Quiz Night

**£2 per player / max 6 per team
£1 raffle tickets**

**Swinstead Village Hall
7. 30pm - Sat 13th December
Bar Opens 7pm**

Great raffle prizes, with monies raised donated to
local charity, Bourne Food Bank

A food donation box will be in the hall foyer - please feel
free to bring a can of non perishable food ie meat, fruit,
vegetables, pasta, jam, coffee, teabags, etc.

Donations greatly appreciated in helping support those
in need over the festive season - for more info
visit www.bournefoodbank.org.uk

Thank you & we look forward to quizzing!

some excellent costumes, a very good quiz set by Dave Haydon, with some entertaining games, a raffle and a fish and chip supper from Georges Fish Bar. £151 was raised for the Parish Hall funds.

CAROL SINGING will take place around Witham on the Hill on Sunday 21 December, starting from the Church at 6pm. Do come and join us to make a joyful noise and bring a musical instrument if you have one! Refreshments enroute would be most welcome!

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 30 November, 5pm - Switch-on Christmas Lights St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Hot dogs, mince pies and mulled wine. Numbers to Debra 07716 965856

Wednesday 3 & 17 December and 14 & 28 January from 10.30am to 12pm – Swinstead Village Hall - Social Coffee Mornings. Come and meet some new friends and enjoy some company, accompanied with coffee, tea, scones, cakes and bakes, and a chance to win a prize with one free raffle ticket, all for £3.00.

Saturday 6 December - Swinstead Village Hall Rocking Xmas Party – featuring Live Band 'Idle Hands', a high energy indie / pop / rock band. Over 18's only, wear your best party outfit, bar opens 7pm. Tickets are limited £8 each – email to book online <https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/swinstead-village-hall/rocking-xmas-party-with-live-band-idle-hands> - or scan the QR Code on the advert.

Sunday 7 December, 7pm - A concert in St. Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill. A delightful evening with a selection of songs from films, theatre and Christmas performed by the Just Sing! Ladies choir. Tickets are £10 and include a glass of wine. Tickets from Suzy Grigson tel no 07970 784668 / email: suzygrigson@msn.com. All proceeds will go to St. Andrew's Church.

Saturday 13 December 08.30-10.00 Big Breakfast St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Donations to Christian Aid. All welcome.

Saturday 13 December – Swinstead Village Hall Quiz Night - test your knowledge for a chance to win a Cash ££ prize at our December Quiz Night - £2 per player / max 6 per team. Bar opens 7pm / **Quiz starts 7.30pm**. A great raffle will be run on the night with monies raised donated to Bourne Food Bank. A food donation box will also be in the hall foyer - please feel free to bring a can of non-perishable food ie tinned meat, fruit, vegetables, dried pasta, jam, coffee, teabags, etc. Any donations greatly appreciated in helping support those in need over the festive season. Thank you and we look forward to quizzing!

Tuesday 16 December, 6.30pm - Edenham Carol singing Come and sing

carol's with us in the field on the corner of Church Lane, after the traffic light bridge. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to welcoming you all.

Saturday 3rd January 2026, 10am to noon - Coffee Morning at St. Mary's Cottage, 46 Scottlethorpe Road, Edenham, the home of Jane and Des Bradley. All proceeds in aid of St. Michael and All Angels Church, Edenham. Tea and coffee and home-made cakes, raffle and maybe a glass of fizz to wish Ruth Clarke on her way to her new home in Essex.

Friday 16 January 2026, 10am-noon - Community Cafe, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Come for a drink, cake, chat and board games. Sponsored by the WI to alleviate loneliness and aid mental health. Open to all - male or female!

Friday 20 March 2026, 7.30pm - St Stephen's Church Careby, Corby Male Voice Choir – wine available.
Tickets £15 from Mary Hoyle: 01780 410305 and Jonathan Hill: 01778 590637. All proceeds to St Stephen's Church.

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

Witham-on-the-Hill Church and School Estate Educational Foundation is able to make grants to those residents of Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound who are undertaking courses at colleges and universities and also those who are on apprentice schemes.

Applications for educational grants can be made by submitting a request via email. The request should explain the type and duration of your course and how you would propose to use the grant during your studies.

Applications to:

The Clerk to the Trustees

Email: withamtrust@gmail.com

Auld Lang Syne

Lyrics: Robert Burns - Tune: Traditional Folk

It is normal to sing verses 1 & 2 only and end both with "for auld lang syne"

Burn's full lyrics are given below.

Just in case you might wish to appear smug at a Hogmanay party this year

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?

Chorus

For auld lang syne, my jo,
for auld lang syne,
we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint-stoup!
and surely I'll be mine!

And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

Chorus

We twa hae run about the braes,
and pou'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,
sin' auld lang syne.

Chorus

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
frae morning sun till dine
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
sin' auld lang syne.

Chorus

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
and gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak' a right guid-willie
waught,
for auld lang syne.

Chorus (Twice)

Meaning of unusual words:
Auld lang syne - Former days and friends
jo - dear
stoup - tankard
gowans - daisies
braid - broad
Gude willie waught - friendly draught



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Notes from Edenham, Grimsthorpe, Scottlethorpe and Elsthorpe Parish Council Meeting 11th November 2025

Present: Parish Councillors: Mrs P Cranfield (Chairman), Mr A Wilson, Mr D Hawes (Vice Chairman) Mrs A Treacy, Mrs E Unwin and Mrs M Avis.

In Attendance: Mrs Carole Sands (Parish Clerk) and Councillor Mr M Hill (Lincolnshire County Council).

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting 11th September 2025 were approved.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Mr A Wilson Agenda item 2526/5/72

Parish Clerk & Councillors Update from Previous meeting:

Councillor Vacancy: To date there has been no interest shown, the vacancy will continue to be advertised.

Annual Carol Singing: The date is confirmed as 16th of December 2025 commencing at 6:30pm, in the field on the corner of Church Lane, after the traffic light bridge. The event has been advertised in the Three Towers Magazine. Chair to confirm delivery date for the Christmas tree which Grimsthorpe Estate have kindly agreed to donate, the Parish Council will supply the refreshments.

River Vegetation Management: Following the PC meeting in September, as agreed the Parish Clerk contacted the Environment Agency to ask about silt removal in the local river. The agency has stated that the field teams will remove vegetation as deemed appropriate working in accordance with Environmental Guidelines and Flood Risk Management standards. This work may also assist with the natural movement and reduction of silt in the river but will not remove it all.

New Parish Council Matters:

Mid-Year Internal Audit Report: Audit report was accepted and an action plan has been formulated to close out points raised.

Parish Clerk holiday May 2026: The May 2026 meeting will be bought forward to Tuesday 5th May 2026 due to the Clerks holiday plans.

Play Area:

Internal Inspection & maintenance: Councillor Treacy's inspection report has not identified anything that is not already detailed in the annual external report



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Sue prepared a wonderful spread for our gathering. Everything was beautifully presented and delicious. Thank you for making our evening so special and worry-free. (Nicola L)

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(August 2025).

Long Term Future of the Play Area: The trim trail near the Village Hall requires refurbishment. However, the Parish Council currently faces a significant funding gap, which prevents the necessary works from proceeding.

- Total cost of refurbishment: £2,981.92 (excluding VAT £596.39).
- Budget allocation for FY 2025/26: £1,500.
- Resulting shortfall: £1,481.92 (excluding VAT).
- Previous year's expenditure: £3,391.96 (excluding VAT £678.41) was spent on replacing wooden posts, other structures, and refurbishing grass areas.

The trim trail is currently rated at amber level in the ROSPA safety inspection (August 2025). This status requires ongoing monthly monitoring to ensure the equipment does not deteriorate further and reach a red level, which would indicate a safety risk for children.

Decisions and Next Steps:

- If monthly inspections identify further deterioration and the equipment becomes a safety risk, it will be removed. Should the removal require external contractors, additional costs may be incurred.
- The Parish Clerk will notify the key local stakeholders about the potential removal of the trim trail play equipment. The two sets of swings will remain unaffected.
- The Parish Clerk is to continue seeking potential funding sources to support refurbishment works, noting that grants are more readily available for new installations than for refurbishment.

The Parish Council agreed that the priority must be the children's safety and agreed to take prompt action if the condition of the equipment worsens.

Village Hall: The engrossed document is expected from Grimsthorpe Estate soon. Once available this will be forwarded to the Village Hall committee.

Planning Matters:

Western Marsh to East Leicestershire Grid Update EN0210007: The Parish Clerk received an email (7/11/25) from the Planning Inspectorate confirming that the Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for the Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Parish Council are invited to submit comments by 5th December 2025.

Financial Matters Income: The Parish Council members noted this receipt as

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confirmed by the community bank account statement.

SKDC Community Street cleaning grant £463.32

Financial Matters: Expenditure agreed:

Village Hall Grant £350

December Salaries & HMRC Payment (estimated) £597.

Microsoft software £84.99

Black Ink cartridge £21.47

Salary & HMRC Payments September 2025 (4/60/3): £606.18

The Council members noted the error on Parish Clerk salary letter which had the incorrect hours of work. The hours of work remain at 72 hours per year and, therefore, the salary and backpay paid in September 2025 was correct. A full contract review take place in the next FY.

Financial Matters Bank Reconciliation:

Community Bank Account (31/10/25) £4,538.79

Business Bank Account (09/10/25): £500.36

All payments made via the Community bank account and interest received on the Business bank account to end of October 2025 are detailed on the website and are displayed on the notice boards.

The Parish Clerk provided an overview of budgeted expenditure to the end of the FY year 2025/26. The Parish Council agreed to finalise the draft budget proposal for 2026/27 at the Parish Council meeting on 13th January 2026. The Precept also must be confirmed in January 2026.

Parish Council Policies & Procedures:

Review list of documents required: The Parish Clerk is working to amalgamate policies and procedures where duplication is noted. This will help with the management and review process.

The Members accepted the updated Standing Orders, Financial Regulations documents. Parish Clerk to publish these on the Parish Council website

Asset Register: The bus shelter is missing from the Asset Register. Parish Clerk was asked to update this document before publishing it on the website.

Correspondence:

Anglian Water Pipeline Update: The company have confirmed that work is progressing well, the focus is on reinstating the land, and where, possible this is



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being returned to landowners. Pipe laying work is expected to be complete by Summer 2027, with reinstatement works to be completed late 2027. The A151 works in Edenham were completed early as part of the recent road closures.

Local Government Reorganisation: Structural changes to how local councils are organised or operate.

Lincolnshire County Council: Consultation document regarding speed limit reduction to 30mph along the A151 in Grimsthorpe. The Parish Council welcome this change. Road Safety Partnership have requested this change following the Archers study.

Lincs Reservoir Project: Following an adjustment to the project programme, work restarted early in 2025 to further develop Anglian Water’s proposal. Full details can be found on their website www.lincsreservoir.co.uk

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) H5N1: The Parish Council received notification that this has been confirmed near Donington, South Holland and Corby Glen. Bird keepers need to be aware of their legal responsibilities and the current restrictions. Lincolnshire Trading Standards provide full details on their website www.Tradingstandards@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Next Meeting Date: 13th January 2026



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THE VICAR WRITES

I love science fiction and fantasy stories. One device you often find in such stories is 'the portal' (i.e. the gateway that transports you from one world or one time frame to another). You can find it in everything from 'Stargate' to 'Goodnight, Sweetheart' to 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The portal can be anything – a door frame, a mirror, a key, a rabbit hole, a tear in the fabric of space. By going through the portal, you resurface in another dimension or a magic world that changes the way you see things for ever.

That's precisely where the Christmas story takes us, it is a portal to another dimension! But before you start thinking that the other dimension it takes us to is a Christmas-card-picture of a family in a cosy-stable with the animals looking dewy-eyed at the baby in the manger, let's take a step back and consider the reason for it all...

It begins with a problem. God has a problem. He has created this beautiful world and humankind in his own image. He cares for them all individually, and he cares about the world they live in. Sometimes, you might look at humanity and wonder why God bothers but he does. God wants to show them how much he

loves them and wants to teach them how to relate to him, and how to live and live well. He says to himself, "If I go and live among them, then I can show them what I mean. I can show them what I am, that I am love." Now, for God to become human is a truly radical thing and it's going to take some planning but God has plenty of time. So, over several thousand years, God engages with one particular tribe. He communicates with them and gives them instructions and, more than all that, he forges a bond with them, a covenant, a relationship. He sends prophets to give them warnings and insights, and he slips in signs and hints about what he's planning to do later.

Time goes by and, finally, God is ready to put his plan into action. He sends an angel (one of his messengers) to a young girl called Mary who lives in a hamlet in Galilee to invite her to bear a child and, not unreasonably, she asks how this will happen as she's currently unmarried. The angel assures Mary that "the power of the Most High will overshadow you." God can do this! God can make something out of nothing, just as he did at the beginning of time. God can create the

extra human chromosome to bring about a human being, growing in the womb of Mary.

Mary is 'the portal'! She's the doorway from God's world into ours. God comes through and with her to be born as a human child. Mary was a full and willing participant in this work of incarnation. Incarnation – it's one of those theological phrases you hear a lot at this time of year. It's from the Latin meaning 'en-flesh-ment' or 'putting on flesh'. It's what God did to be born as a human, he put on flesh. So, Mary, the portal, goes with Joseph (her husband) to Bethlehem because of the census and it's there in Bethlehem, in a cave used to house animals, that the Son of God was born.

God comes into our world to show us what he's like, so that he can show us love, a love that's so great he'll risk everything for us (even death on a Cross). No wonder the angels rejoiced in heaven! Something magnificent was accomplished here. God left his own realm, the glory of heaven, to come and be with us (you and me). He left the security of being almighty and stepped into our fragile story with its ups and downs, its joys and pains. It reminds us that our story isn't the only one and that there's an unchanging truth and reality far beyond the limits

of our comprehension.

Having made it through the portal, God is keen to share this 'good news' with others, so much so that he sends a group of angels to spread the word. Seeing an angel isn't an everyday occurrence. Angels are creatures of light. They're not the souls of dead people or anything like that (angels are another species entirely). They have a number of roles, including acting as God's messengers. When the baby is born, they sing and dance in the skies. And to anyone who is willing to listen, they call, "Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

The angels point the shepherds (and us) to the scene in the stable, not to the aforementioned sentimental picture of a cosy stable with the animals looking dewy-eyed at the baby in the manger. No! They point us to the portal, a place where heaven and earth have met. That's why we celebrated Christmas. We want to touch the mystery of God becoming human and to be touched by God's living reality (here and now). This is good news of great joy! Heaven and

earth have met! God's holy presence has touched our ordinary lives. We can rejoice and know the God who made us, who loves us and who has opened for us the way to know him and to dwell with him for ever in that greater reality that lies far beyond the limits of the world we know.

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Monastic Houses

In our modern secular world, the idea that men and women would voluntarily withdraw from society to live in seclusion under strict religious vows, and reject the rewards, comforts and pleasures of normal life, is a concept almost impossible to grasp. Yet for almost a thousand years, up to the 16th century, thousands of men and women became monks and nuns, and did exactly that. And all for faith in God. Their faith must have been very strong, far stronger than we can imagine.

Monks lived in monasteries, abbeys, priories, preceptories and friaries, which were sets of buildings comprising a chapel or church, living quarters, kitchens and refectories. A convent or nunnery is the equivalent for women.

Preceptories are monasteries which belonged to the military monastic orders, such as the Knights Templar, founded during the 12th century crusades to the Holy Land. Friars originally lived among poor people to whom they preached and on whom were dependent for support. Thus, they were called monks without a church. Friaries where they could live were only established in the 13th century.

Monks and nuns followed several different religious orders, each with a basis in the Roman Catholic faith. These orders differed mainly in the details of their religious observation and how strictly they applied their rules. The major orders in England were the Benedictines, Cistercians and the Carthusians. Friars belonged to the orders of Dominicans, Franciscans and Augustinians.



There were over 100 monastic houses in Lincolnshire each following their respective orders, with at least twelve examples in our local area and another five in Stamford alone, three of which were Friaries. There was the Greyfriars, a Franciscan friary, the Blackfriars was a Dominican Friary, and the Austin (Augustinian) Friary. This latter site was first occupied by a small house of Friars of the Sack, an order suppressed in 1317. Their land was eventually granted to the Austin Friars.

The first monastery in England was founded by Augustine in Canterbury in 598. Augustine had been sent to England by Pope Gregory to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons to the Christian faith. Many more monasteries followed. However, the English monasteries were devastated by the Viking raids of the 9th century. Yet King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings and revived the monastic movement by founding new houses in Somerset. Their numbers increased rapidly up to the 16th century when King Henry VIII ordered their dissolution.

In addition to a life of work, prayer and study, monks and nuns fed the poor, ran hospitals where they helped the sick, and provided hospitality for pilgrims and travellers. Monasteries established schools, preserved learning and created libraries. The monks were by far the best-educated members of society, often they were the only educated members of society. Monks laboriously copied ancient texts and created new versions, often with beautiful hand painted illustrations called illuminated manuscripts. Examples are the Luttrell Psalter probably created in Irnham by scribes from Lincoln in 1320, the Lindisfarne Gospels of about 700, produced on Lindisfarne off the coast of Northumberland and the 12th century Winchester Bible held in the Cathedral. These manuscripts are justly famous throughout the world.

By the 16th century over 850 religious houses existed in England and Wales. Many were rich and held vast estates. In 1534 King Henry VIII broke with Papal authority by the Act of Supremacy, making him and his successors, the

Supreme Head of the Church in England replacing the Pope. Between 1536 and 1541 Henry dissolved Catholic monasteries and convents in England, Wales and Ireland and helped himself to their wealth. A few of the abbey churches near centres of population survived as cathedrals or parish churches, but most of the others were demolished. The remains of the buildings were used by local people as a source of building material. Monasteries did not return to England until the late 18th century.

At the dissolution of the monasteries, Peterborough Cathedral survived, along with Abbeys at Bourne, Crowland and Thorney, where the remains of the churches were allowed to continue as Parish Churches. Nothing exists of the remainder. In Stamford, some of the buildings at St. Leonards Priory (pictured

above) still exist, as does the splendid gatehouse of Greyfriars. Witham Preceptory, near South Witham, was a Knights Templar house but nothing remains. Temple Bruer, north of Sleaford, was also a Preceptory, and its tower remains as a rare survival of this military order (pictured here).



Peterborough Cathedral, founded as a monastery in 655, was one of the first centres of Christianity in Eastern England. It was destroyed by Vikings and re-founded as a Benedictine Abbey in 966. The cathedral building itself was started in 1118. The magnificent ruins of Crowland Abbey, also a Benedictine House, was founded in the 8th Century, ransacked by the Danes in 870, restored, then destroyed by fire in 1091, rebuilt, then destroyed again by an earthquake in 1118. The Abbey was re-built, but suffered another fire in 1143

and was besieged by Parliamentary forces in 1643 during the English Civil War. The North Aisle of the Abbey is used as the Parish church today. St. Leonard's Priory met its demise in the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538. The nave of the Priory church was used as a barn up to the 19th century when the Marquess of Exeter restored all the remaining buildings.

The monks and nuns of medieval times were undoubtedly saintly people in all that they did. They were gifted builders and talented artists and have been called the social workers of medieval times. Monastic life may seem bizarre to 21st century people but at least the monks left us with a wonderful legacy and should not be judged by 21st century standards.

Dick Mundy

The advertisement features a red background with a white silhouette of a person's head in the center. At the top left, the text 'Christmas Cards 2025' is written in white. At the top right, the 'GRAYTONES PRINTERS' logo is displayed, consisting of four overlapping circles in blue, purple, green, and yellow, with the company name in white text. Below the title, a green horizontal line separates the header from the main text. The main text, in white, describes the service: 'Choose from our stock designs or supply us with a photo, drawing or image and we will produce your unique Christmas cards. Your company, or personal, details will be printed inside.' Below this, two columns of pricing are shown. The left column is for 'A6 Cards' and the right for 'A5/150mm sq Cards'. Each column lists four options: 25, 50, 100, and 150 cards, with their respective prices in green text. A central illustration of a yellow card with a white border and a small photo of a person is positioned between the two columns. Below the pricing, white text states 'All cards supplied with envelopes, delivery extra'. Further down, the text 'Also call us about Calendars & Personalised Wrapping Paper' is written in white. At the bottom, the address 'Unit 17 King Street Ind. Est., Langtoft, Peterborough. PE6 9NF' and contact information 'T: 01778 560261 E: mail@graytones-printers.co.uk' are provided in white.

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WITHAM HALL SCHOOL

STARTING THE TERM ON A HIGH NOTE

We are thrilled to announce a new partnership between Witham Hall School and The Vocal Club – an inspiring initiative that brings women together to sing, connect and unwind in a positive, healthy environment.

Weekly sessions now take place in the Witham Hall Dance Studio.

To find out more or to get involved, visit www.thevocalclub.co.uk.

The term continued with festive cheer as Witham Hall hosted its much-loved Winter Fair in November. The Friends of Witham were delighted to welcome more than 900 visitors, who enjoyed a wonderful day of seasonal shopping. The highlight for many families was, of course, meeting Father Christmas in his grotto! This year's fair raised valuable funds for Willoughby Academy in Bourne, supporting children with highly complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.



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Witham on the Hill WI

November 2025

The November meeting was a hands-on craft session. Ladies had a go at painting pebbles, making brooches with Suffolk puffs and fabric flower brooches. Some wonderful items were produced – great fun with lots of chat! It was good to welcome visitors from Carlby WI who we are hoping to merge with once voting has been completed.

There will be a Community Cafe in the St Andrew's Parish Hall on Friday 16 January at 10am. Come along for refreshments and a chat – board games will be available. All welcome – men and women! A scheme organised by the WI to aid mental health and alleviate loneliness.

The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 2 December at 7.30pm, in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill - a Christmas party, when Val Calabrese will demonstrate making a pizza, and members will get a Secret Santa gift. Visitors and new members are always very welcome: entry fee £5. There is no meeting in January. The February meeting will be the annual meeting on 3 February at 2.30pm in the St Andrew's Parish Hall. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary: tel 01778 590232.



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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

This is a very special bread recipe that Bob and I absolutely love! I made it for the Harvest Supper and it proved very popular. It is good for a special occasion – Christmas brunch perhaps, as it can be made the day before, kept in the fridge overnight, then cooked in the morning and served still warm. The aroma is wonderful! The recipe came from a Waitrose weekly newspaper in June 2020.

CHEESE AND MARMITE MONKEY BREAD

75g butter
200ml milk
500g strong white bread flour
7g sachet instant yeast
1 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
oil for greasing

COATING:
125g butter
50g Marmite
125g Cheddar

Heat cubed butter with milk until just melted. Set aside to cool. Put the flour in a large bowl, add yeast to one side and salt to the other (if you put the salt directly on the yeast it may kill the yeast and dough will not rise). Beat eggs into lukewarm milk. Gradually add to flour stirring to form a sticky dough. Knead on a lightly oiled surface for 10-15 mins until smooth and elastic (you can use a stand mixer with a dough hook attachment). Place the dough into an oiled bowl, cover with cling film and leave in a warm place for 1-2 hours until doubled in size. Grease a large Bundt or Savarin tin (round with a hole in the middle).

For the coating - melt the butter and Marmite over a low heat. Divide the dough into 25-30 small balls – they don't need to be equal in size. Roll each ball in Marmite butter, then the grated cheese. Randomly scatter the balls into the Bundt tin, trying not to squash them down. They will touch and stick together as the dough proves. Tip any remaining butter and cheese over the top. Cover and leave to rise for one hour (or refrigerate until needed – it will rise in the fridge).

Heat oven to 200^O C, bake for 30 mins until well risen and golden. Leave to cool 5 mins then invert onto a serving plate and tap sharply to remove the bread in one piece. (I recommend a non-stick tin as mine always gets stuck!)

ENJOY!

PARISH SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams & St Mary's Stamford
30 November Advent 1				9.30am Combined Group Eucharist (Careby) 6pm Advent Readings & Carols (St Mary's Stamford)
1 December St Andrew		6.30pm Patronal Eucharist & Fish n' Chip Supper		
7 December Advent 2		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
12 December				7pm Nine Lessons & Carols (Careby)
14 December Advent 3	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 6pm St John Ambulance Carol Service (Grimsthorpe Castle)	4pm Parish Eucharist (Careby)
20 December	6.30pm Carol Service with Dibley Choir			
21 December Advent 4		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm All-age Crib & Christingle	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
24 December Christmas Eve		4.30pm Traditional Carols & Readings with Christingle 11.30pm Midnight Mass	6pm Carol Service (Grimsthorpe Castle)	12pm Eucharist (St Mary's Stamford) 4pm Crib Service (Little Bytham) 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Castle Bytham) 11.30pm Midnight Mass (St Mary's Stamford)

PARISH SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Bythams & St Mary's Stamford
25 December Christmas Day	8.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am BCP Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
28 December Christmas 1 / Holy Family			4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Three Towers & Bythams combined Group Eucharist (Little Bytham)
4 January The Epiphany		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 6pm Epiphany Lessons & Carols	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
11 January Baptism of Christ	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	4pm Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
18 January Epiphany 2		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
25 January Epiphany 3		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little Bytham)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Confessions or any other pastoral or spiritual need, contact: The Revd Fr Edward Martin SSC 01778 591358
Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org

Rocking Xmas Party

Sat 6th December

Swinstead Village Hall

Featuring Live Band : 'Idle Hands'

High energy indie / pop / rock band

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Dress Code: Party Wear - as Fancy as you Fancy

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