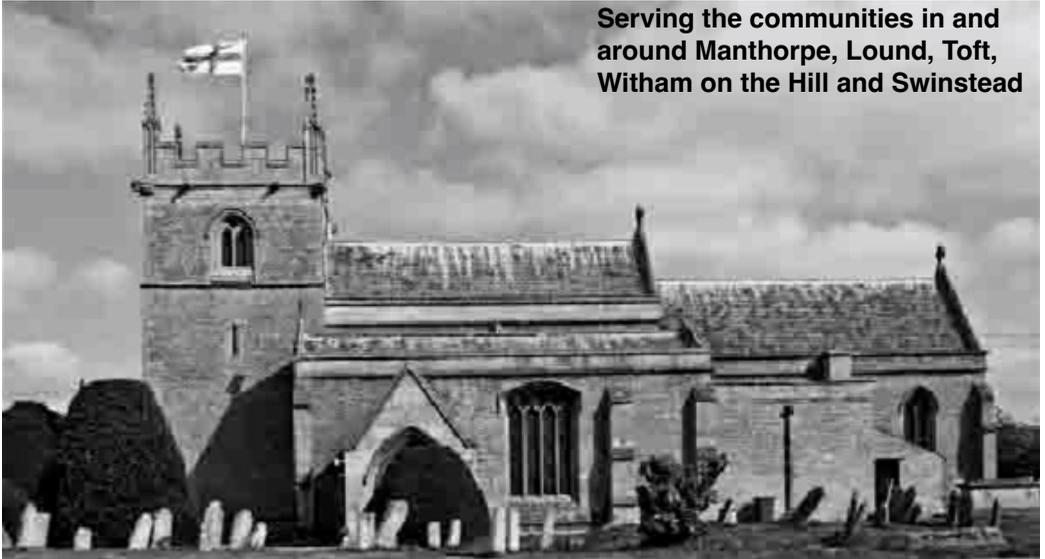


THE THREE TOWERS

March 2026

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



Edenham, Grimsthorpe, Scottlethorpe & Elsthorpe Parish Council Councillor Casual Vacancy

There is a Casual Vacancy for a new member. Therefore, if any parishioner is interested in becoming involved in Local Government they should contact the Parish Clerk, for further information/details of a member's role etc.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Carole Sands e-mail: edenham.pc@gmail.com

Parish Council Meetings: usually held on the second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, November at 19:30 hours in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Edenham.

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

Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council

Have Your Say: Shaping the Future of Our Parish

The Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council is keen to hear from residents about ideas, projects, activities and initiatives that could benefit our community and local environment.

Whether it's something small that would make daily life easier, or a bigger vision for the future of the parish, we'd love to know what matters to you. Your insight and ideas will help us understand local priorities and plan for improvements that reflect the needs and wishes of the whole community.

We welcome thoughts on anything, including:

- Community events or social activities
- Environmental or wildlife projects
- Local facilities and green spaces.
- Support for young people, families or older residents
- Road safety, transport or accessibility
- Heritage, culture or village identity
- Any other ideas that would strengthen our parish

How to share your ideas

Please send your suggestions to Parish Councillor Alan Whitaker - alan.whitaker1954@gmail.com

We're also happy to hear from local groups, businesses and volunteers who may want to get involved.

Together, we can help our parish thrive.

Stamford Stitchers

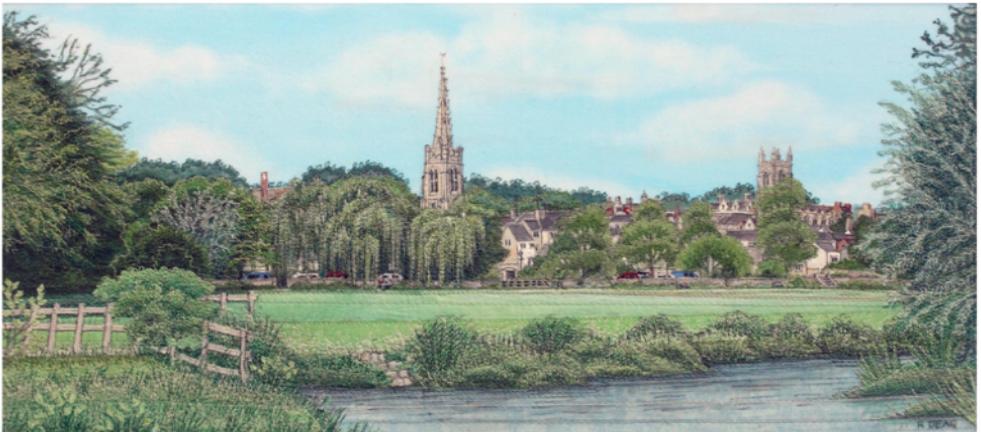
Life's Rich Colours



An inspiring exhibition of embroidery, needle craft and textile art by a diverse group of local textile artists.

Stamford Arts Centre

Tuesday 10th
March 2026 –
Saturday 21st
March 2026



Parish News

WELCOME to Lauren and Jon Hickey who, with their children Austin and Josie, have moved into Ashley House in Manthorpe. We hope that you will enjoy being part of our community.

WELCOME to Katie Fuller and Harrison Forsythe who, along with their 2-year old son Barney, have moved into Honeysuckle house in Manthorpe. We hope you enjoy village life.

WELCOME Jessica and James Tarver and children to Pillared Cottage, Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

WELCOME Ellis, Sarah Ellis and family who moved from Manthorpe to Palace Farm, Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

VACANCY The Trustees of Edenham Retreat House are looking to recruit a new house-for-duty warden to manage the House and to develop a new vision for the future. <https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs/warden-of-edenham-regional-house-and-assistant-priest-of-edenham-and-witham-on-the-hill-with-swinstead-house-for-duty/3337>

LOCAL HISTORY As a reminder to those who enjoy reading Dick Mundy's local history articles, the whole collection is available to read on the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe parish website. Just like the Three Towers Recipe booklet, we keep the Our Local History booklet up to date each time we publish another article from Dick. <https://toft-lound-manthorpe.pariah.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/43/our-local-history-booklet>

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 7 March 08.30-10.00 Big Brekkie in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. All welcome. Donations to Christian Aid.

Tuesday 10 March to Saturday 21 March - Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford Stitchers' Exhibition. An inspiring exhibition of embroidery, needle craft and textile art by a diverse group of local textile artists, including many items made by members of our Three Towers community. See poster on opposite page.

CORBY MALE VOICE CHOIR



Friday 20th March 7.30pm
St Stephen's Church, Careby
Ticket price £15

Tickets from

Mary Hoyle: 01780 410305

Jonathan Hill: 01778 590637

Wine available

Proceeds to St Stephen's church

Wednesday 11 and 25 March 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.

Friday 13 March, 10.00-12.00 Community Café, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Coffee, cake, board games and chat. Part of the WI campaign to alleviate loneliness and improve mental well-being.

Saturday 14 March, 10am to 4pm - The Gifts We Bring, Edenham Retreat House with Rev Clay Roundtree. £16 pp (BYO lunch). Email - edenhamoffice@gmail.com / Tel: 01778 591358

Thursday 19 March, 7pm - Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Annual Parish Meeting - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. This is the parish residents' meeting where we can raise any subject we wish to discuss with the parish council.

Friday 20 March, 7.30pm - St Stephen's Church Careby, Corby Male Voice Choir. Tickets from Mary Hoyle / 01780 410305 or Jonathan Hill / 01778 590637. See the poster on opposite page for details.

Saturday 21 March, 7:30pm, St Andrew's Church Witham-on-the Hill - 'Hymn to St Cecilia' a concert of enchanting music provided by the St Peter's Singers. Britten's famous choral piece performed alongside works by Byrd, Rutter and Tippett. Tickets £15 (under 16s free) including refreshments, available from Frances Plummer 07919 288799, Sue Nicholls 07913 296247, <https://www.stpeterssingings.org.uk/> or on the door.

Saturday 18 April, 10am to 4pm - Contemplative Prayer & Contemplative Ministry, Edenham Retreat House with Rev Ian Cowley. £16 pp (BYO lunch). Email - edenhamoffice@gmail.com / Tel: 01778 591358

Saturday 18 April, Swinstead 's Annual Race Night – a firm favourite on the Village Hall's Social Calendar, lock the date in with booking details to come next month.

Sunday 19 April, 3pm Puddings in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill Have your main course in your own home, then join us for dessert. Bring your own drink. Financial donations welcome. Numbers limited - contact Debra to book your place 07716 965856

SWINSTEAD RACE NIGHT

PLACE YOUR BETS! KICK OFF AT 7.30PM

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

£10pp including £1 free bet
Fish or Sausage & Chips included
Booking details to come

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Bourne Road, Swinstead, Grantham, NG33 4PQ

THE VICAR WRITES

Only a few weeks in and we may already be asking ourselves what are we going to do about Lent? What can we do with Lent? Every year it seems to require yet more imagination. Will we give something up or try to take something up? Perhaps we should say more prayers? Should we pray before meals, pray before bed or even pray before praying? And then we might ask if we have enough momentum to sustain such efforts? Are Cadbury's or McVitie's really troubled by the prospect of our good intentions for Lent? Perhaps not! After a few days of getting up an hour early to spend some quiet time will we begin to feel 'spiritually refreshed' or maybe just tired and a little irritable?

Sometimes Lent can seem like a hard slog before it's even begun. But then our thoughts turn to Christ; alone in the desert, forty days and forty nights without food or water, tempted by the devil with visions of food, power and glory. It can leave us all feeling more than a little underwhelmed by the biscuits and chocolates we've put to one side. Yet the Jesus who stumbles through the barren and rocky terrain of the wilderness can seem so far removed from our reality and humanity. When we think of him in the desert going for so long without food or water Jesus can seem like some super-human rather than someone just like us who faces the trials and

temptations of everyday life – the same wants and desires.

What then are we to do about Lent? What can we do with it?

For me, the closest I have ever come to an answer to this question came during the days before Lent in my first year of Theological College at Mirfield some twenty-five years ago. The College was summoned for an extra choir practice in church for Fr Peter (the monastic Choirmaster) to take us through Lent. I have to admit the thought of yet another hour pretending that I could read music (dots or squares – we had both!) filled me with dread. With a bit of luck, I could get to sit next to someone with a good voice and just mime and on top of all that it was cold, it was raining and it was Yorkshire! But in his soft and well pronounced tones Fr Peter informed us what a privilege it was to experience the joy and beauty of Lent. Joy? Beauty?

That hour we learnt and practiced every antiphon, office hymn and setting for the Eucharist for the coming season. Ever since that moment I've been hooked on Lent. Fr Peter was right. The music we sang during Lent was some of the most haunting, searching and beautiful I have ever heard. The melodies were strong and simple; even with my musical limitations I found I could

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memorise and repeat them. The words and phrases seemed to capture the frustration, unworthiness and uselessness I felt inside as I thought of Lent.

Each Friday in Lent Evensong would end with the College and Monastic Community singing the 'Lent Prose'. There in the monastery Church, kneeling on the stone floor each week we implored God 'in glory seated' to 'bow down and harken' to his weeping children. But it was the fourth verse that's been my mantra for Lent ever since I first heard it: "Sins so oft committed now we lay before thee; with true contrition, now no more we veil them: grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution."

I don't think I have ever felt so 'free' in my faith since I first heard and sang those words. Lent is so often a time when we find ourselves covering or veiling our most frequent, everyday failings behind some great outward

and pious gesture for a season. Yet here God was asking us not to hide them away, not to cover up our true selves. Here was the invitation expose and reveal the 'real you' to the Redeemer who offers not begrudging forgiveness or harsh punishment, but loving absolution.

Come as you as you are, keep nothing back. Just as the veil of the Temple was torn in two signalling unrestricted access to God in the heart of the Temple, so now we are asked to trust and to risk opening the fullness of our hearts to God. If we can do that, then we may well find the season doing great things with us this year (and not the other way around), and maybe, just maybe, by the time we get to Easter, we'll look back with the conviction that we might just have succeeded in observing a truly holy Lent.

Every blessing.

Fr Ed

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Witham on the Hill WI

February 2026

At the annual meeting in February Vicky Cox was re-elected for a fourth term as President. She gave an address thanking members for their support through the year, and looked forward to another busy year, with members from Carlby WI merging with us in April. Veronica Calabrese gave a vote of thanks to Vicky and presented her with a book voucher.

The new programmes for the coming year will be available very shortly. The annual accounts were presented and showed an improved year-end balance due to fundraising and careful monitoring of costs. Thanks to Wendy Wooldridge for all her hard work over the years. However, she has had to retire through ill health. Jackie Denial will be taking on the role. The subs, due in April, will be £50, a £4 reduction on the recommendation by NFWI.

The winner of the annual competition was Vicky Cox, who received the newly re-plated trophy. Jane Clark was second and Eileen Dilley came third. Members are busy knitting and crocheting poppies for the “Standing with Giants” project. The poppies will be going to France for a Remembrance installation in November.

After refreshments members enjoyed a word quiz – the winner was Kaye Mundy.

The next Community Café will take place at 10 am on Friday 13 March in the Parish Hall - all welcome!

The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 3 March at 2.30 pm, in St Andrew’s Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Visitors and new members are always very welcome: entry fee £5.

The speakers will be Helen and Beth: “The Wild Woolers” talking about various aspects of knitting, wool production, dyeing, knitting and crochet - all of which are closely aligned to the socio-economic history of women. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary: tel 01778 590232.

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12 – 5 pm. Tuesday – Sunday

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The first exhibition of the 2026 Season will open on
Wednesday 25 March and run until Tuesday 14 April

On Land and Sea
Paintings by Peter Wood



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Painting is central to Peter Wood's life and wellbeing. Working across media, his practice is rooted in an impressionistic response to light, mood, atmosphere, and texture. Shaped by extensive travel, teaching, and international residencies, his work reflects a lifelong engagement with place and experience and has been widely exhibited and award-winning in the UK.

www.willoughbygallery.com

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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

This recipe comes from the National Trust Book of Scones which I received as a Christmas gift. I am working my way through the recipes; and with Easter coming up chocolate scones seem a good one to try! This particular recipe comes from Acorn Bank in Cumbria.

CHOCOLATE and HAZELNUT SCONES

500g sr flour
100g caster sugar
125g butter
75g chocolate chips or small chunks from a choc bar
50g hazelnuts, chopped
225ml milk

Glaze: (optional)
50g icing sugar
½ tablespoon cocoa
15g hazelnuts

Rub butter into flour and sugar, until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in choc and hazelnuts. Add milk and mix to a soft dough. Turn onto floured surface and roll out to about 3cm thick.

Using a 7cm round cutter, stamp out rounds and place on baking tray.

Bake 190⁰ C for approx 20 mins. Cool on a wire rack. Toast 15g chopped hazelnuts for 5 mins and leave to cool. To make icing: sift cocoa and icing sugar. Add a little cold water, a few drops at a time, and stir until icing is a dropping consistency. When the scones are cool, drizzle or pipe the icing and sprinkle with toasted hazelnuts.

Makes about 10 large scones



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1 st March <i>Lent 2</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist 6pm Evensong & Sermon	11.15am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle Bytham)
8 th March <i>Lent 3</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist	4pm Parish Eucharist (Careby)
15 th March <i>Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday</i>		9.30am All-age Eucharist	11.15am All-age Eucharist 6pm Evensong & Sermon	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Creeton)
22 nd March <i>Lent 5</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little Bytham) 6pm Evensong & Sermon (Castle Bytham)
29 th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>			9.30am Whole Group Eucharist (Three Towers & Bythams)	6pm Evensong & Sermon (Creeton)

Saturday 14 March, 10am to 4pm - The Gifts We Bring, Edenham Retreat House with Rev Clay Roundtree. £16 pp (BYO lunch). Email - edenhamoffice@gmail.com / Tel: 01778 591358

Saturday 18 April, 10am to 4pm - Contemplative Prayer & Contemplative Ministry, Edenham Retreat House with Rev Ian Cowley. £16 pp (BYO lunch). Email - edenhamoffice@gmail.com / Tel: 01778 591358

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