

# The Three Towers

August/September 2021

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## Parish News

**Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Annual Wheelbarrow competition** was another great success. Junior winner was Harriet, runners up were James, George, Harry, Imogen and Carys. The adult winner was Carol from Manthorpe - 2nd prize went to Juliette from Toft.



The success of this annual day is all down to Alison Whitehead who organised it once more, to the Parish Council who helped to finance it, to Richard Hartley and his team for all the work setting-up and taking down the event, to Gary for the BBQ, to everyone who donated the cakes, to Anne and her Quartet "Saxology" band who entertained us with some amazing music and, of course, to everyone who took part.

Alison wishes to thank everyone who helped raise £250 in aid of MIND (Mental Health) by purchasing raffle tickets. The winner is Lucienne who will receive a cake of her choice which will be made by Jodie Whitehead (Pastry Chef from the Ritz).

**St. Peter's Singers' forthcoming concert 'EVENING HYMN' 18<sup>th</sup> September** in St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill, at 7.30 pm. This will be their first 'in-person' concert for 18 months and the choir are very much looking forward to sharing some diverse and beautiful choral music with a live audience. The programme includes Rheinberger's 'Abendlied' and Mass for Double Choir, anthems by Parsons, Byrd, Parry, Wood, Balfour Gardener and Dubra, plus organ solos. **Tickets £10** (includes interval refreshments) are available from Sue Nicholls [suelnicholls@hotmail.com](mailto:suelnicholls@hotmail.com) and Ian Lawrie [ianglawrie@icloud.com](mailto:ianglawrie@icloud.com). Seating will be limited in order to comply with social distancing: please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

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# The Vicar Writes

## Time for renewal?

My previous two articles for the Three Towers may not have appeared wholly positive. Whilst the planned restructuring of Parish ministry that is soon to befall us shouldn't be ignored or taken lightly, the easing of COVID restrictions and the new confidence of mass vaccinations poses serious questions for the Churches. Can we recover? We've weathered the storm faithfully, so, is it just now a case of trying to get back to where we were? Well, I would say 'NO'!

The post-lockdown reality has caused us to examine carefully the way that things were before COVID emerged.

An honest appraisal reveals a general slowing down of things together with a loss of momentum. Here at the Vicarage, I can see it for myself as the screensaver on the desktop shows me photos of previous years' Harvest Festivals, Baptisms, Patronal celebrations, weddings and such like. There are more people present, more life and more energy.

It's easier to see it from the vantage point of our current situation and perhaps fortunate that we can do something about it.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for St Michael's back in May we committed ourselves to try to have the Vicarage Garden Fete in July. To say that confidence was brimming would be something of an overstatement! But we needed to do something, we needed to have something to aim for (together with the harsh reality of needing to raise money to pay our way with the Diocese).

As time drew on and the scheduled lifting of restrictions became a reality, we began to realise that we would have to honour our commitment to the Fete! The response was at times hearty and, at others, possibly a little tentative! But by pulling together, and with some stout organisation from experienced and persuasive individuals (thank you Ruth!), we got there.

Fortunately, a week worrying looking at various weather apps proved ill-founded! The sun shone and people came.

Folk played games, bought raffle tickets, ate cake, drank tea and it honestly felt like one of the most positive moments of the last eighteen months (together with Remembrance Sunday and outdoor carol services). It was so good to see the Vicarage garden full of people

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(many of whom I was meeting for the first time). Even though we were due to finish at 5pm, I think most people would have stayed for longer (**I'll bring the G&Ts out at 5pm next year!**).

As well as a good time being had by all, the takings were up on the previous two Fetes with nearly £900 raised. I'm so grateful to everyone for their time, dedication and generosity.

The success of the Garden Fete puts me in mind of another conversation we had at the last Edenham PCC. For some time now I've been wondering if the next twelve months could be something of a 'year of renewal' in the Parishes.

Could we not seek to inject new life and vigour into our particular events and celebrations for the good and benefit of all? Could we put a little more planning, preparation and

publicity into things like Harvest, All Souls, Christmas and Easter? And might we not try some new things?

Around the time of the VE Day celebrations last year, I thought about having a service that would allow married couples to renew their wedding vows all together at one big celebration service (perhaps with a glass of fizz and a photographer to follow?).

It's the kind of thing I would dearly love to see happen. So, if you're minded to help and support us in turning these aspirations into something real or if you have ideas to share, do drop me a line at [edenhamoffice@gmail.com](mailto:edenhamoffice@gmail.com).

With prayers and best wishes for the summer.

Fr Edward

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## James McCrae Makes British Championships

Some of you may have seen Manthorpe resident James McCrae out pounding the local roads, particularly whilst he has been working from home during lockdown. James ran in the British Athletics Championships at Sportcity in Manchester at the end of June. Having recently lowered his personal best for 1500m to 3.45.62, it gained him entry to the championships, which this year were doubling as the Olympic Trials. James formerly ran for local club Peterborough and Nene Valley AC but now competes in the red shirt of Hallamshire Harriers, the club of Olympic great Sebastian Coe.



The distance, known as the metric mile, was made famous by the likes of Coe, Ovett and Cram back in the 80's. However, the current crop of athletes are no less talented with Jake Wightman having gone under 3.30 and 5 others having the Olympic qualifying standard of 3.35 or lower.

James said, "It's an honour to get to compete against such talented athletes and, with it being Olympic year, it adds a bit of extra spice to the races. With the differential in times I realistically had little chance of making the final but the experience was great and hopefully in the next few years I can close the gap to the top runners."

With the heats always run tactically, James was 10th in a time of 3.52 behind the UK's best Jake Wightman with just 3 to qualify automatically for the final. Jake Wightman and Josh Kerr went on to get the 2 automatic spots for the Olympics with Jake Hayward getting the selectors' pick.

For James it's onto the England Seniors Championships and more miles on the local roads.



## Witham on the Hill WI

The speaker for the July meeting was Steve Seacroft, a retired Kent Police Inspector, who told us all about police procedures to "Find Missing Persons". Elaine Brock, President, gave the vote of thanks for a very informative talk. It was our joint meeting with Carlby WI and hosted by them. The competition for 3 cupcakes, judged on appearance by the speaker, was won by Elaine Brock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jane Clark and 3<sup>rd</sup> Frances Plummer. The NHS afternoon tea, hosted by Elaine and Duncan, raised £195 for NHS charities. It was a very sociable afternoon in the garden and

a great opportunity to catch up with members after the prolonged lockdown. Carlby WI is planning an afternoon tea on Wednesday 18 August, proceeds to Breast Cancer Now. All welcome.

Hopefully, this was our last Zoom meeting as games on the village green are planned for the next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August; and it is hoped that normality will resume in September when Mutts Nutts, the dog charity, will give us a talk in the St Andrew's Parish Hall. For more information on the WI contact Secretary: Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

### Sue Hagan

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## **Witham on the Hill Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The following summarises matters discussed. The full draft minutes are available on request from the Clerk, Bernard Champness, [wothpc@gmail.com](mailto:wothpc@gmail.com)

Those attending were Cllr Charles Henriques (Chair), Cllr Janet Kirkwood, Cllr Paul Smith and Bernard Champness (Clerk). Cllrs Lynne O'Hara and Sue Pennant-Jones were absent and there were no representatives from LCC or SKDC nor members of the public in attendance.

Although Cllr O'Hara was not present, she sent a report on her meeting with SKDC concerning matters on The Green.

The area around each piece of play equipment has now been resurfaced.

Further improvements to the fort/slide will be looked at by SKDC's contractor.

SKDC disclaim ownership of the stocks and surrounding area. Would the Parish Council consider the assumption of responsibility? However, funding of future maintenance would be a concern.

SKDC is to provide two replacement trees (one blossom and one nut) for the village green in the autumn.

The question of the Stocks and Bywells would be added to the September agenda for further consideration. School children had been seen playing in the Stocks and climbing on the timbers so it was agreed to raise this with the school as an item of concern.

Banking arrangements with Lloyds were discussed and it was agreed that access arrangements would be brought up to date.

Although the defibrillator is now installed at the village hall by the side of the entrance door, additional signage is to be organised.

### **New Planning Applications:**

S21/1272 - Proposal: Removal of maple tree at New Home Farm, Main Street. Response by 14 July 2021. Resolved: No comments.

S21/1362 Proposal: T1 - ash - 4 lowest limbs to be removed overhanging the footpath at Rag Rose, Bottom Street, Response by 23 July 2021. Resolved: no comments.

### **Planning Applications now approved:**

S21/0841 - **Proposal: Reduce height of ash tree** (T1) to 8m Reduce height of ash tree (T2) to 1m at Park House 2 Home Farm Lane.

S21/1149 - **Proposal: Copper Beech** (T1) - reduce by 1.5m in height/width

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Weeping Ash (T2) - Prune or fell at The Old Vicarage Main Street.

S21/0917 - Proposal: Submission of details reserved by condition 4 (materials) of S20/1620 at Meadowside, Bottom Street.

The purchase of a **reactive speed sign** with data gathering capability was still being progressed in accordance with the mandate previously approved by the Council.

The question of **employing a consultant** to assist the Clerk with updating the **website** was discussed and deferred for consideration at the next meeting. The Clerk also asked the Council to consider the **purchase of a dedicated laptop** and associated software which would have benefits for the security of data and make any future handover of the clerk's role easier. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the meeting in September along with considering updating the Clerk's legitimate expenses.

The Clerk had received a written request for information on a number of issues from Gene Plews and a response was discussed. He wanted to know when and where the reactive speed sign would be installed and why only one, given they are not expensive. Cllr Henriques said that

the sign is moveable so it can be located in different places. The cost of this and the defibrillator amounted to approx £4,500 which has been met out of reserves but the council did not feel any additional expenditure was justified. Another question related to redecorating the public benches around the village. Although SKDC is responsible, they will support local initiatives to organise such work and the Parish Council has previously covered the cost of materials if volunteers wish to do this. The final question related to the damaged surfaces in the play area, now repaired, as confirmed by Cllr O'Hara.

A local contractor dealt with the earlier mole problem on The Green and as this involved the churchyard as well, should the question of sharing costs with the Church be raised? It was agreed this matter be left in abeyance for the time being and perhaps revisited if the moles return.

**The date of the next meeting** will be Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 starting at 7.00 pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill.





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## Edenham Parish Council

### Meeting 13 July - Clerk's Notes

**Attendees** - Parish Councillors Mrs Cranfield (Chairman), Mrs Treacy, Mr Wilson, Mrs Marshall, Mr Hawes, Mrs Sands (Clerk) and Councillor Hill of Lincolnshire County Council

**Public Open Forum** - Three members of the public were in attendance.

The members of the public have asked if the Parish Council would consider purchasing the telephone kiosk in Edenham so that it could be used as library/book swap. The Chairman raised concerns about the potential costs that this ownership could potentially put on the Council due to a lack of maintenance in recent years. The Parish Council agreed to review this again at the meeting 14th September 2021.

### Lincolnshire County Council

**Councillor Mr Martin Hill** - The Boundary Commission for England initial proposals for the East Midlands region has been published. This proposal suggests that we become part of Rutland and Stamford if accepted the changes are planned for 2023. Councillor Hill confirmed that the main change for us would be a change of Member of Parliament (MP), however, all other services

would remain the same.

**Local roads repairs** - Councillor Hill confirmed that Highways is continuing to work on potholes throughout the parishes and other local areas.

**Culvert Works Edenham A151** - Work started on Monday 12th July and the road has been closed to allow works to be carried out safely.

**Councillor Casual Vacancy** - The Councillor Casual Vacancy was advertised with a closing date of 9th July 2021. We have one person who is interested in joining the Council.

**Speed Indicator monitor** - The Parish Clerk shared the graphs from the speed monitor with the Councillors. It was reported that the volume of traffic for 10th May 2021 to 4th July 2021 was 145,724 vehicles, the number of speeding vehicles (35 to 80mph) was 49,034, with four vehicles recorded at 80mph

### Openreach/BT Exchange

**Grimsthorpe - tree cutting.** BT has not currently approved the funds for this work. Parish Clerk to continue chasing for confirmation.

**Flower Beds** - Mr Des Bradley has kindly agreed to continue to maintain

the flower beds on behalf of the Parish Council. The flowers and plants in the tyres are all looking really good as does the new grass on the verge by Copy Lawn Farm.

Following discussions at the previous Parish Council meeting in relation to the issues on the frontage of the Coal Yard, Main Street, Edenham. Mr Coups, Grimsthorpe Estate asked if we would consider putting tractor tyres on the coal yard frontage as this has clearly helped with the issue at Copy Lawn Farm.

**Waste Water Issues** Pillarwood Farmhouse/A151 - Mr Coups, Grimsthorpe Estate, confirmed there is a meeting planned week commencing 19th July and has kindly agreed that a member of the Parish Council can attend.

**Street Lighting** on Church Lane - Parish Clerk confirmed that there are different types of street lighting in this area and SKDC/Highways have been made aware. They have confirmed that works are planned in the future. It was also noted that there are trees obscuring a light near the Vicarage and the Cottage opposite. It was agreed that this be raised with both parties.

**Dog walking** on the playing fields -

Councillor Wilson confirmed that new signage has been placed around the Village Hall and the playing field which requires dog owners to keep dogs on leads and to clean up dog poo.

**Mobile Library** - Details are currently being worked on with the service provider. There is a possibility that the service may commence Monday 7th September 2021. Once agreed, details will be shared with everyone.

**Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** of Queen Elizabeth II June 2022. Review at the next meeting 14th September 2021.

**Play Area Refurbishment** - The work included the replacement of the junior swing seats, a number of wooden sections and reseeding of some grass areas. The Parish Council agreed that the invoice be paid.

#### **Planning Decision Notices:**

S21/0641 - The installation of a 20m monopole supporting 3 antennas, 2 equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto including 1 GPS module - rejected

S21/0679 - Install a green bedding system comprising a 5m x 5m piece of plant equipment adjacent to slurry

store and construction of a 30m x 30m dirty water lagoon - approved

S21/0633 - Extended programme of various (ongoing) masonry repairs to walled garden - decision awaited

## Financial Matters

### Receipts:

Community Street Cleaning Grant	
Apr/Oct	£463.32
VAT Refund 2020/21	£ 42.00

### Expenditure:

Zurich Insurance	£313.51
Street Cleaning Salary	£181.52
Parish Clerk Salary	£162.36
HMRC PAYE	£ 45.20

### Due for payment:

Play Area refurbishment	£1368.00
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### Bank Reconciliation Report:

Treasurers Account	£3889.23
Business Account	£3440.27

**Next Meeting Date** - 14th September 2021 at 19:30 hours

Full details from the meeting can be found on the Edenham & Grimsthorpe Parish Council website

<https://edenham.pariah.lincolnshire.gov.uk/?catId=26224>

## Steam Action - 44th/45th Annual Produce Show

### Saturday 11th Sept. 2021 | Edenham Village Hall

Who can enter? Residents of Edenham, Swinstead & Witham parishes. Relatives of those who live in Edenham Parish. Eligible members of Steam Action. Pupils of Edenham School, Edenham Pre-School & Pillarwood Farm Pre-School. 25p per entry

**Please bring your entries to the hall on** Friday 10th September, 6-7pm and Saturday 11th September, 8.30-10.30am

**Saturday 11th September:** 2pm - Viewing and refreshments; 3pm - Presentation of trophies followed at 3.30pm by the auction of produce

Winners trophies are given but need to be returned before next year's show  
Scoring - 1st = 3 points & 50p prize money, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point

Show secretaries Nikki Gunn 01778 591197 & Lucie Wilson 07715 843387

**PLEASE SEE the July edition of The Three Towers for entry schedule.**

# LOCAL WALKS

## Manthorpe – Toft – Lound – Witham - Manthorpe

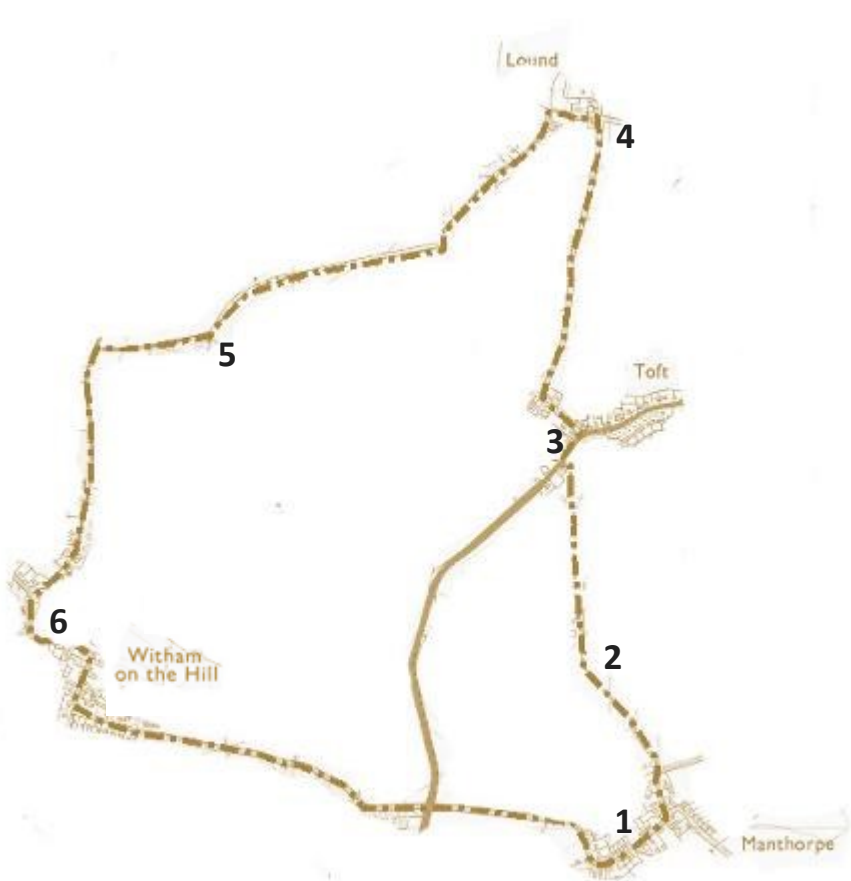
**Distance:** 4.7 miles /7.5 km

**Going:** Short walk – not too well signposted, damp under the trees and path through the wood slightly overgrown in summer.

**Start:** Manthorpe telephone box.

1. Walk NE along the pavement through the village keeping the main road on your left. Follow the main road as it bends left. As the road bends right again, go straight ahead through the gap into the field towards the golf course. Aim for the stile on the far side of the field.
2. Climb over the stile onto the 16<sup>th</sup> tee and go straight ahead. Follow the yellow triangle signs up the hill keeping off the green. The track bends slightly right between the trees then left again over the rise and down towards the lake. Go past the lake to the main gate.
3. Out through the gate and cross over the A151 and turn right. Turn left around the Toft House Hotel and follow the road up to Lound.
4. Turn left into Lound and take the road downhill following it as it bends to the left. Continue ahead past all the houses into the field ahead. Go past a small building on your left and through a, normally open, gate. Over a wooden bridge, through the second gate and straight on keeping the fence-line on your right. Turn right following the fence-line and head up towards the top right corner of the field.
5. Exit the field through a gate and take the path straight ahead. Continue on this path through the wood, ignoring the path to the right (often damp and muddy here). Turn left at the bridleway and follow this down onto Bottom Street in Witham.

6. Turn left past the stocks. Walk past the church and the pub along the road down to the Witham/Manthorpe crossroad. Cross over the A6121, straight ahead and over the bridge. Follow the road to the right up the hill, then left back to the phone box.



Map based on OS

GPX file available on Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe website

[Local Walks - GPX Files – Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council \(lincolnshire.gov.uk\)](#)

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## THOUGHTS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Warm weather (at last) enfolds us this time of year. We lounge in gardens, parks and possibly by the sea. It's time for that delightful pastime of **afternoon tea** introduced, apparently by the Duchess of Bedford, in 1840 as a snack twixt lunch and dinner. Delicate sandwiches, cream scones, chocolate eclairs and lemon drizzle cake with a mouth-watering choice of teas: green, black, herbal, fruit, etc, accompanied by the laughter and chatter of friends. **The first of August brings Lammas Day.** A time for thoughts of a suitable marriage and custom was to "try out" any likely partner.

**Grasmere Gingerbread** is eaten in the Lake District to celebrate St. Oswald's Day on the 5th and the 12th August. **The Glorious Twelfth**, is the beginning of the Game season. Roast grouse is favourite with a dram of whiskey.

**Mid month St. Bartholomew** is remembered. Flayed alive it is said and patron saint of butchers as a consequence. (I shall go vegetarian on the 24th)! **Toffee apples** made an appearance in 1133; windfalls dipped in honey, which was appropriate as this saint is the patron of bee-keepers and honey-makers. A fair arrived in Smithfield's at this time but was finally barred in Victorian times due to raucous behaviour. Not much changes!

**September brings the Harvest Festival** we all love. Our opportunity to give grateful thanks for generous crops. A **Corn Dolly** is made to sit atop the final sheaf to be kept safe during the winter months, ready for sowing in the spring. "Hip! Hip! Hip! For the harvest load, now we've taken the last load home" a familiar chorus once heard throughout the land.

I'm looking forward to **Nutting Day on the 3rd** as visiting squirrels have done a fine job in depositing hazel nuts all over my garden! Result? Two fine hazel trees (v.small at the moment of course) so I may have to wait a while to harvest. **St. Matthew's Day** on 21st is also known as The Devil's Nutting Day - so please, no gathering of these little beauties then. On the **Feast of St.**

**Michael and All Angels**, 29th September, protection was sought against the angels of Satan through the dark months of winter. The glorious Michaelmas Daisy, with its vibrant blue will stand shining in our gardens until next month when we say our fond farewell to this productive year and welcome the one to come.

M.



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## Which is the Real Jesus' Tomb? (and does it really matter?)

Did you know that there are 2 places in the Old City of Jerusalem that claim to be the site of the tomb where Jesus was laid after he was crucified? In addition to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, there is the less well-known Garden Tomb.

Back in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Emperor Constantine established the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. An alternative site of the crucifixion was postulated much later, in fact 15 centuries later through the work of Otto Thenius, a German scholar, in 1842. This site is known today as "Skull Hill" and was close to the old northern gate and the main road leading to Damascus.

Interestingly, the word skull in Latin is *Calvaria*. Could this be why we use the name Calvary for the crucifixion site?

If you look behind the adjacent bus station today (yes, the bus station) you can see a part of an ancient stone quarry. A photograph of the area

clearly shows why the locals would call this Skull Hill.



Local oral tradition has it that once the quarry was worked out, the Jewish authorities used it as their place of execution by stoning. It is not unreasonable to imagine that the Romans continued to use the same site for their executions by crucifixion.

It should be remembered that these executions were not just a punishment, they were public events through which the authorities demonstrated their power over the population and served as a warning to others to stay in line. As such, crucifixions were usually conducted not in some remote place but along busy roads.

The Bible records (John 19:41) that *“at the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden, a new tomb in which no-one had ever been laid”*.

Apparently, that tomb, and presumably the garden, belonged to a rich Jerusalemite and secret disciple of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea.

The tomb in the garden was unearthed in 1867 and was first proposed to be the tomb of Jesus in 1883 by no other than Major General Charles Gordon, aka “Gordon of Khartoum”. The exact dating of the tomb remains in dispute; however, it appears to be as old as the days of Jesus and it fits the description given in the Gospel.

The tomb area was used by Christians both in the Byzantine and Crusader periods. Visitors can still see a Byzantine cross painted inside the tomb and a Crusader cross carved on the outside wall.

Like all the holy sites in Jerusalem, there are no definitive records to prove or disprove the claims of “this is the tomb of the Virgin Mary” or

“this is the site of the Last Supper” or even “this is the place where Mary gave birth to Jesus” in the manger in the neighbouring town of Bethlehem.

So, does it matter whether the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the Garden Tomb is the real site of Jesus’ death and resurrection?

On one hand, yes. Surely, it is important to know that you are walking over and touching the actual stones of the place where Jesus was laid after his crucifixion? On the other hand, no. According to the British volunteer guides working in the Garden Tomb, the Garden Tomb site is a place of meditation and reflection. What is important is not the place but what the place gives to us today.

From my visit, I was impressed by the simplicity of the Garden Tomb area. Nowhere was to be seen the gold and silver icons or magnificent orthodox chandeliers of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Rather, it was a place where you can sit and contemplate the meaning of your own life and how it fits with others.

Tom





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# 106 years ago this month

(From entries made by the Rev L H Cooley into the Parish Magazine—reproduced by kind permission of The Witham on the Hill Historical Society)

## August 1915

**A Year of War.** - August the 4th will be the anniversary of the declaration of war with Germany. A whole year, and the end is not yet. A year ago we wrote in the Magazine the following words, and events have fully justified their truth, "It behoves us all to be prepared for a gigantic and protracted struggle, in which the utmost might of England must be put forth in defence of our very existence as a nation. Never has this country fought with a clearer conscience, or drawn her sword for a juster cause than she has now, and it behoves us all to do everything that lies in your power, and give the utmost that we can in this hour of our country's need. We must everyone of us be true patriots".

**What are we doing to help?** - Three great duties lie before us, prayer, service, sacrifice. As to prayer, we have grown slack and neglectful in our intercessions. Let us make a fresh start with the new year of the war. "Prayer moves the Hand which moves the World." As to *service*, what is our bit? Are we doing it? All honour to our brave fellows from Witham, Toft and Manthorpe who have answered the call of arms. They are a goodly number, and we are proud of them. But are we doing our best? Are they to make the great sacrifice, while we stand idly by? It is a question we all ought to face, and the National Register which is to be



made this month will help us to face it. Lastly, *sacrifice*, a voluntary giving up of all which is not necessary, a strict economy in our expenditure, no waste of any kind in our households. The nation has got to save £1,000,000,000 a year to pay for the war and we must all help.

**Red Cross Fete at Grimsthorpe.** - On Monday, August the 2nd, a Fete is to be held in Grimsthorpe Park, in aid of the British Red Cross Society. We trust that all who possibly can will go and support this good and noble cause. Tickets (6d. each) can be had of the Vicar.

**Obituary.** - Just as we are writing for the press comes the sad news of the death of Mr. Ernest Carr, fourth son of Mr. R. W. Carr, late of Witham, and now living at Fletland Mill. He had recently joined the Motor Transport Service, was expecting to go to the front in the course of a few days, when he was taken ill in Hertfordshire where he was stationed, and died in Hospital at St. Albans, on July the 24th. Ernest Carr was for years a member of our choir and also a ringer. His genial and kindly nature won him many friends, and his early death will come as a great shock to us all. We venture to express our deepest sympathy with his stricken parents and family. He and Ernest Jackson were always the closest of friends, and now he has followed him to rest, only one year later in life, for he was 26 years of age.

**August 5th** The Germans captured Warsaw from the Russians

## **September 1915**

**Sunday, August 15th** will ever be memorable as the date when the National Register was taken. In the event of compulsory service, which in the opinion of many is not far distant, the register will prove an inestimable help to the Government. The remarkable point about this vast undertaking is that the whole of the work is being done voluntarily, and tens of thousands have willingly given their services in distributing and collecting the papers, and in tabulating the results.

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**Our Intercession Services.**- We most earnestly appeal to those who seldom or never attend the special intercession services on Sunday mornings, to reconsider the matter, and make an effort to use and value this solemn service during the time of war. A heavy responsibility lies on those of us who are not using the power of prayer to the utmost for our beloved country in this time of peril and trouble. "But why have it in the morning?" some may ask. Because that is the time when we may offer to GOD the Intercession which He has *commanded*, by shewing forth before Him the Sacrifice of the death of Christ. That is the highest form of prayer, and avails beyond all other forms of intercession. Sunday after Sunday, with hardly an exception since the war began, the Vicar has been at great pains to prepare and deliver a suitable address on some subject connected with the war, and so to centre and focus our thoughts during that one service on the one all-absorbing topic. He has thus studiously refrained from dealing with the subject again at the evening service, in conformity with the expressed desire of the Bishop, who has requested the clergy not to preach on war topics too frequently.

**September 25th** Start of the Battle of Loos

## A Great Treasure from a Small Village

It is a surprising fact that one of the greatest medieval treasures of England originated in Irnham, a small village tucked away in the back roads north-west of Bourne. I refer to The Luttrell Psalter, a beautifully illuminated 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscript, the finest work of art to come out of Lincolnshire and which is ranked nationally alongside the Domesday Book and Magna Carta.

A psalter is a book of psalms, about 150 ancient songs that appear in their own chapter in the Old Testament, but are often in a book of their own accompanied by prayers and a calendar of church feast days. Many people learnt to read using a psalter. From medieval times to the present day, the psalms form a fundamental part of Christian worship for laymen and ecclesiastics alike. But the Luttrell Psalter is not just a religious work. It is famed for its rich illustrations of everyday rural life in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, exceptional in their number and in fascinating detail. There are lively, sometimes risqué, and often humorous scenes of corn being cut, a woman feeding chickens, food being cooked and eaten, portrayals of wrestlers, hawkers, dancers, musicians, an archery tournament, a mock bishop, scary monsters, and a wife beating her husband!



The Luttrell Psalter was commissioned by Sir Geoffrey Luttrell (1276 – 1345), Lord of the Manor of Irnham. It was illuminated and written in Latin on vellum from about 1320 and took ten years to complete. Art historians have

confirmed that the style of the illumination points to this date. Sir Geoffrey was a rich man. He owned the village and the manor house, Irnham Hall, near the parish church of St. Andrew's. As well as Irnham he held estates across England thanks to a distant ancestor who shrewdly married a wealthy heiress and whose loyal service to King John had been rewarded by numerous land grants. Sir Geoffrey was summoned for military service by Kings Edward I and II and fought in the Scottish wars between 1297 and 1319. Following on from a property dispute, he conducted a private war with a neighbour, one Roger de Birthorpe, against the monks of Sempringham Priory, although only de Birthorpe was censured. Sir Geoffrey was supposedly buried in St. Andrew's churchyard. The Psalter contains his portrait, fully armed and mounted on a warhorse.

Various historians and scholars state with confidence that because Irnham is a tiny village there is no way the Psalter was produced there, and the work was certainly created in Lincoln by scribes who remain unknown. On a recent visit to Irnham, I met a local man who disputed this claim and said that the scribes may have come from Lincoln, and some work may have been done there, but it was almost certain that the Psalter was produced in Irnham. He told me that the original is in the British Library in London and is one of their top ten treasures. A facsimile copy is kept in the local church in a locked glass case for all to see (pictured). My informer praised the illustrations of medieval village life in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in the margins of pages in the Psalter. Not in towns and cities like York or Lincoln but in small villages like Irnham. There is a cutting from a newspaper dated 2006 in the church porch which mentions the publication of the British Library facsimile edition at a price of £295. A well-known secondhand book website now lists used editions at prices above £1400.

Before the British Library was a separate institution, all its works were held in the British Museum. It was this body who tried to buy the Luttrell Psalter in 1929 from Mary Angela Noyes, wife of the poet Alfred Noyes. But at the time

could not afford the then record asking price of 30,000 guineas (£31, 500). An anonymous benefactor stepped in and loaned the money to the museum, interest free. The benefactor was later revealed as the American banker and millionaire J. P. Morgan, who could have easily bought the Psalter himself, had he wished. To repay the loan, funds were raised by public subscription with thousands donating. There were collection boxes in museums, contributions from university colleges, even the Labour Government coughed up £7,500. It is fair to say that the Psalter belongs to the nation.

On another visit to Irnham, I found the church was closed. But I managed to collar a local man who was walking his dog. I asked him (the man not the dog) if he knew when the church might be open. He expressed surprise that it was closed and said that he would go and fetch Charlie to open it for me. It turned out that Charlie was in fact the churchwarden. A few minutes later this gentleman appeared wielding a large key. He apologised that the church was not looking its best at the moment because of all the cleaning and disinfecting the Church of England was imposing on local parishes due to coronavirus. He also politely asked me to complete the Test and Trace form. He unlocked the massive oak door, and allowed me in after I had added my signature to the register. I wandered around the church, snapping the Psalter and the exquisite Easter Sepulchre, thinking that they are very nice people in Irnham.

Although pages from the Psalter are reproduced on the British Library website, I always think it is far better to view the original manuscript, or failing that, the facsimile. To see an example of the latter, I recommend going to St. Andrew's. Parking is risky in Irnham, but if you can find a space by the roadside, and Charlie has unlocked the church, it will be a most rewarding visit.

Dick Mundy



## Jane's seasonal recipe

This is my adaptation of a Waitrose recipe. Raspberries are abundant at the moment but you could use tayberries or similar fruit later in the year.

### **Raspberry Tiramisu**

100ml strong coffee  
3 tablespoons brandy  
150g raspberries  
2 egg yolks  
50g caster sugar  
250g mascarpone  
100ml double cream  
1 pack sponge fingers  
4 tablespoons redcurrant jelly  
2 teaspoons cocoa powder  
grated plain choc to decorate

Mix coffee and 2 tablespoons brandy in a shallow bowl. Whisk egg yolks and sugar for 2 mins until pale and thickened. Whisk in 1 tablespoon brandy and mascarpone until smooth. In a separate bowl whisk cream into soft peaks and fold into mascarpone mixture. Dip sponge fingers in coffee for 3 seconds. Lay  $\frac{1}{2}$  fingers in base of 22cm square dish, cutting to fit. Spread 2 tablespoons jelly over fingers. Dot with  $\frac{1}{2}$  raspberries, squashing into any gaps. Spread  $\frac{1}{2}$  mascarpone mix over top. Sift over 1 teaspoon cocoa. Repeat layers of sponge fingers, jelly, raspberries, rest of mascarpone and sift over cocoa. Cover and chill for 3 hours or overnight. Before serving, sprinkle with grated choc and raspberries to decorate.

SERVES 6

## PARISH SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2021

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
1 <sup>st</sup> August Trinity 9	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
8 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 10	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
15 <sup>th</sup> August Assumption BVM	10.30am Benefice Eucharist		4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
22 <sup>nd</sup> August Trinity 12	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
29 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 13		10.30am Benefice Eucharist	4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)

## PARISH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
5 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 14	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
12 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 15	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
19 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 16	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
26 <sup>th</sup> September Michael & All Angels (Transferred)			10.30am Benefice Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)

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