

The Three Towers

March 2021

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



Parish News

FOODBANK Thank you for all your gifts - the Foodbank are always very grateful. We are still taking donations to the Bourne Foodbank regularly. Please give if you can. Non-perishable goods can be left in the Foodbank box in St Andrews church porch or at Manor Cottage, Witham on the Hill, in the cupboard part of the log shed. Or contact Frances Plummer on 590308.

BOOK AND JIGSAW EXCHANGE A book and jigsaw exchange has been set up in the church porch at St Andrews. There are now 3 plastic boxes full of a good range of books and several jigsaws. Please help yourselves. If you bring books and the boxes are full PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THEM as we need to keep to the 3 boxes. Please do not leave magazines as space is limited. Thank you.

NEW WEBSITE Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, the Clerk to the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council, has undertaken the huge task of developing the new parish website. Rosemary asks for any photographs or other historical information that may be useful to upload. Please send anything you have to Rosemary at: tlampc2@gmail.com

EDENHAM CHURCH A big thank you to everyone who helped to decorate Edenham church for Christmas time,

it looked absolutely beautiful and lifted everyone's spirits in a very difficult time. So, please can we do it again for Easter time. There is a list in church of the places around the church that need decorating but without the candles this time! Please, please put your name against one of the places on the list then I know who is doing whatever and I can fill in the blank spaces. Thank you for your help, I'm sure the Church will look beautiful for Easter.

NEW ROBE FOR OUR ORGANIST

Nice to see Gill in her new robe at St Andrews.



Wheelbarrow Competition

It's Time to Shine



Group 1 adults

Group 2 children up to 16

Prizes to be won

Your Display will be required on the Parish Playing Field in Manthorpe on July 10th 2021 for show.

Theme is colour of the rainbow. Thank you, NHS.

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Any Questions, please email: alison.whitehead45@btinternet.com

Further information to come

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The Vicar Writes

Fasting wasn't something that ever happened in our household. There was always a deep suspicion whenever someone failed to eat what was on their plate and if you wanted more, well, that was a sign of a healthy appetite! Things were very different at school. There were eight children on each table in the dining hall at the school I went to. The two oldest were the designated 'servers' who would dish out the food and clear the table afterward. The servers were also in charge of portions. When asked how much we wanted the standard response was "titch" (meaning 'titchy' or 'small'). As long as you tried a tiny amount of everything (a titchy amount) then you would avoid the watchful gaze of the dinner ladies. What anyone would have done if one of the children had declared, "No thank you. I'm fasting" I can't imagine (although I have a sneaking suspicion that "Don't be cheeky" would probably come into it somewhere).

I didn't get to try fasting until I went away to University. I have to admit that it wasn't high up on the agenda of many students but there was an admirable, if not unusual, piety among those of us who were

members of 'Ang Soc' (the University Anglican Society). In many ways, I found it somewhat anticlimactic (I was just hungry). It wasn't until I realised that the idea wasn't to sit around endlessly thinking about it but, rather, to carry on whilst eating less and to try and do a bit more in the way of reading, praying and helping that I began to feel the benefits.

I'm told that fasting is now a recognised tool for those pursuing a healthier lifestyle (fasting once a week is said to have all kinds of benefits). Still, it isn't something that comes up regularly in conversation and, if it does, there can still be a bit of stigma attached. This is nothing new. Even the followers of Jesus had to face questions about fasting. In St Matthew's Gospel the disciples of John the Baptist ask them why they don't fast (as the followers of John clearly did). Jesus replied by saying "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast." The answer that Jesus gives doesn't relate to the practice of fasting but rather to the timing. At that time it wouldn't be appropriate for his disciples to fast as he – the

bridegroom – was still with them. But after he's taken from them, then the time will be right. But what exactly does he mean? Most people think that when Jesus speaks of being 'taken away' he's most likely speaking of his death and burial but there's also a sense that he may be speaking about the Ascension (the time when he was lifted up into heaven and taken away from their view of his disciples). Once Jesus had ascended the Church was left without his human bodily presence until he comes again. He remains with us in and through the Scriptures, the Sacraments and most of all through the action and work of the Holy Spirit but we still long for the day when we shall see him face to face.

Ever since Jesus was taken up into heaven we've been living in the time between his Ascension and the second-coming. In that sense what Jesus says about fasting is directly relevant for us today. Why? Because we have the freedom to fast! Living without the physical human presence of Jesus with us it is entirely appropriate for us to fast. But note that Jesus doesn't say that his followers must fast, but rather that they *will* fast while we await his return. So 'when' and 'why' will we fast? We will fast in order to practice

self-control, to avoid that which is damaging to us both in body and soul. We will fast as a mark of our repentance, to say that we are sorry for the times when we've let ourselves down. We will fast as part of a discipline of prayer so that we can try to hear the Lord apart from the distractions of the world. We will fast as we await his return and long for the time when our joy will be complete. Above all, we have the freedom to fast! To do so is part of our freedom in Christ (it can be part of our response to him). It's a million miles away from fasting to try and gain God's approval, to show how righteous we are (or how unrighteous others might be). Fasting should never be legalistic, ostentatious, or manipulative. It is a mark of our freedom and a precious one at that.

So, this Lent, let us rejoice in our freedom to fast! Try it and see if it makes a difference. I can't promise that you won't feel hungry (I'd be surprised if you didn't). But you may just find, that it helps you to think, to focus and, if nothing else, it will certainly help you to appreciate the good things that you have.

Fr Edward

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Walks Whilst Litter Picking

My normal walk from the first lockdown last March has been from home in Manthorpe along the Wilsthorpe road to the old railway line and back, in sunshine and occasional downpours, I watched the seasons change and enjoyed taking photos of all the wild flowers.

I did not enjoy the amount of rubbish on the verges and thrown in the hedges! So, during the summer I bought myself a litter grabber on-line and have been regularly picking up rubbish ever since.

The variety of discards have been surprising; some have obviously fallen from dustbin lorries, like cat food pouches and dishwasher tablet containers, but the rest has just been tossed by passers-by. There are the wine bottles, beer bottles coke and beer cans, fast food containers and sandwich and sweet wrappers. This you might expect from people with no concern or respect for the countryside but, shockingly, there has been large amounts of energy drinks and sports drinks - the sort used by the many cyclists and joggers who use the road, especially during nice weather.

There are things that you would not expect: masks, rubber gloves, condoms (in the snow!) and even money - the latter went to charity. The amount of plastic of all kinds has been rather depressing and I have picked up more of that than anything else. Lately there have been more used dog poo bags just left on the verge, and a word of warning - be careful if you have to step off the road for a passing car, there is so much dog poo it can be hard to avoid. This is one thing I do not intend to pick up, maybe the dog owners could please bag it and take it home?

Sue Cork

Litter Picking in Edenham

And, of course, the growing problem of litter in our villages is not restricted to Manthorpe. Here are some photos of Vincent and Isabelle Bradley who were out with Jane Bradley, their grandmother, litter picking around Edenham village hall and Church/School Lane areas.

Like most villages we are seeing an increase in litter dropping and fly-tipping so it was very thoughtful of them to go out during half term to litter-pick.





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History of the Welland Gliding Club at Witham-on-the-Hill

(Extract from “50 years of the Welland Gliding Club 1955—2005”

www.wellandgc.co.uk/pdf/History.pdf)

Did you know that there used to be a gliding club in Whitham? The original club was brought into life in 1955 by John Knight, an employee of F. Perkins. At that time, the Perkins Sports Association funded their employees to undertake all kinds of sport. John collected 100 names of his work colleagues and made a successful application to the Sports Association for a grant to start the club and fly from Polebrook Airfield. And so the Perkins Engines Gliding Club was formed.

Over the next 22 years the club grew, moved from Polebrook to Westwood to Spanhoe then Crowland, owned at that time by a certain Mr Banks. It was here that the club split in 2—one section remaining at Crowland whilst the original Perkins Club moved to a farm strip in Witham on the Hill.

The following is an extract from the club’s history—full story is available on their website (see the link above).

Witham on the Hill 1977 - 1980 - The hanger, which was owned by Perkins was once again dismantled and moved to Witham. This site had 2 runways, lined up at right angles similar to a sword. The short cross runway was near the top and was also used as the approach to the hangar. The longer runway had a sharp slope in the middle, effectively making two short runways with a steep slope in the middle. The most common set-up was with the single drum winch at the top of the longer run, with the launch point at the bottom. This was surrounded by trees on three sides, making the approach rather interesting. A small caravan was used as launch control, and signalling was by a large bat. Owing to the slope the winch could not be seen from the launch point, so the signaller stood on a platform about 5 feet high.

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The club fleet consisted of a Ka 4 and a Bergfalke 11/55.



The Ka4 was written off during a heavy landing accident and was replaced by a Specht. Privately owned aircraft included two Skylark 2's and an EoN Baby. Roy Taylor was CFI, and Horace Bryant, Doug Phythian, Ernie Taylor

and Keith Tinker were Instructors. Alan Bushnell and Dick Short became members in 1980, and Dick went solo on the last day of flying at Witham.



The hangar was dismantled and everything put in store until a new site could be found.



Mr Banks is mentioned also on the Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club (PSGC) website. Its history section mentions Mr JWE Banks and his hangar at his other airfield at Witham on the Hill. As this references 1970, it suggests the airfield was in use well before that...?

Sue Cork

WHAT 3 WORDS

AN APP THAT ALL SMART PHONE USERS SHOULD USE

Note: This is not an advert - this is a suggestion from your editor

What is what3words? What3words is the simplest way to describe your location anywhere in the world.

Street addresses weren't designed for 2021. They aren't accurate enough to specify precise locations, such as building entrances, and don't exist for parks and many rural areas. This makes it hard to find places and prevents people from describing exactly where help is needed in an emergency.

So, who uses this? Just about every UK emergency service uses this way of finding people. It is increasingly used by couriers as well as outdoor enthusiasts who want to give precise positions to each other.

The developers divided the world into 3 metre squares and gave each square a unique combination of 3 simple words. The app uses your smart phone's GPS to give you your position on the earth in their 3-word code.



Get help faster in an emergency

When it is hard to describe where you are in an emergency (maybe upside down in a ditch) you only need to read out the 3 words to the 999 operator and they will know exactly where to send help.

Overleaf are 2 examples of real-life incidents:



Northamptonshire...



@FCR_CallHandler

📞 999 📞 call comes into the FCR, I'm upside down in my car in a ditch and I don't know where I am and I can't move.

We struggle to get location, quick thinking we send the caller a text with @what3words and within 30 seconds we pin point her location so we can send Police & Fire.



3:09 AM · Jan 7, 2021 from Northampton, England



🤍 58 💬 15 📤 Share th...



Peter John Bromley



about 2 months ago

Last night whilst on duty in Fire Control, we had 2 separate 999 calls where callers used the app 'What 3 Words' to help us locate them. One of them was an onlooker to a person stuck in flood water and the other to a remote part of Cambridgeshire for a fire out of control.

This app is a must have. It is lifesaving, it's as simple as that. The app divides the world into 57 trillion, 3m x 3m squares, and if you come across an emergency, you can dial 999 and tell the call handl... [See More](#)

How much does What3Words cost? What3Words is free to use for those who download the app. The company says it "will always be free for individuals to use on our own site and apps, and there will always be ways to use our business software packages for free".

What phones do the What3Words app work on? Any smart phone (iPhone IOS and Android operating systems) can use the What3Words app—download from the App Store and Google Play.

Find more: [what3words app | Find, share and navigate to precise locations | what3words](#)

LOCAL LOCKDOWN WALKS

Manthorpe-Braceborough-Carlby-Witham Round Walk

Distance: 6.8 miles / 10.9 Km **Start Point:** hidden/alternate/back

Difficulty: Easy with stiles & gates - well-signposted

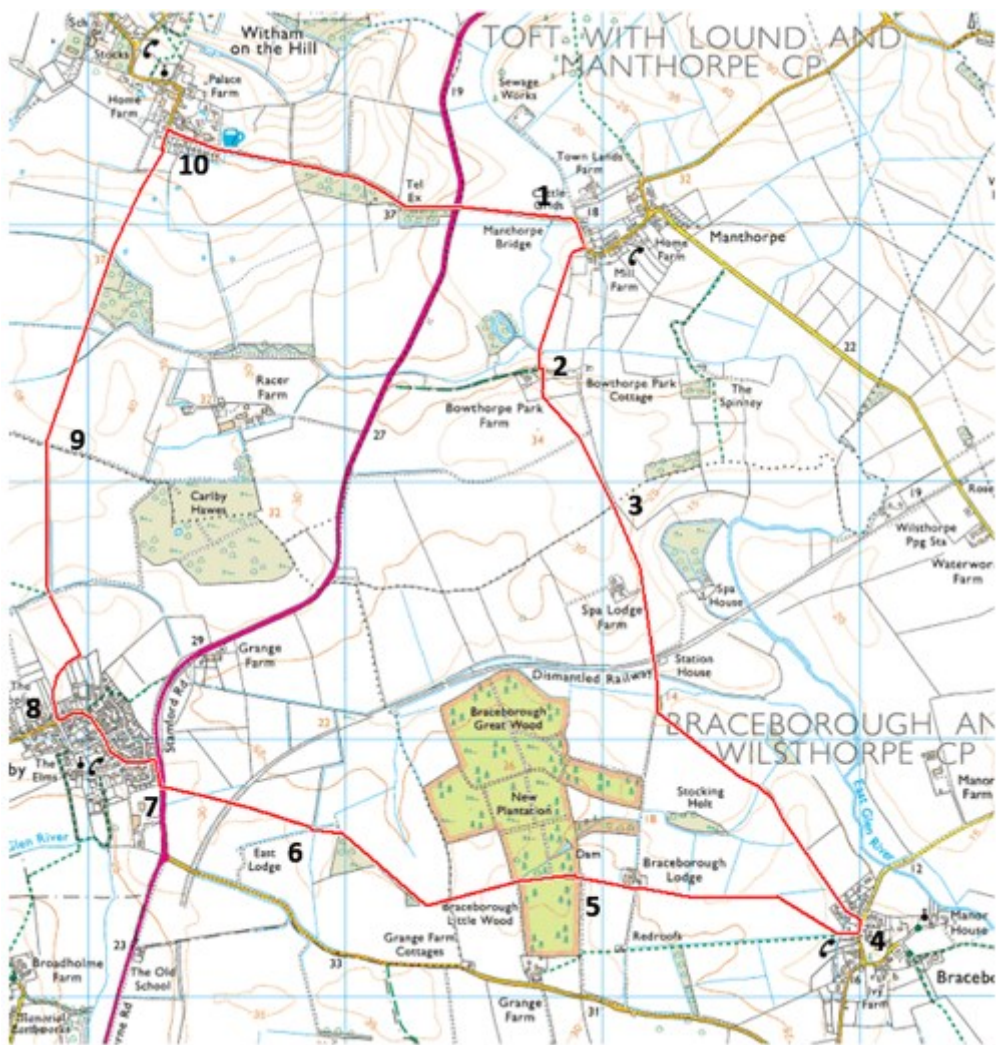
This is a round walk that is easy to follow in either direction and from any start point. This description starts from the bridge over the river in Manthorpe. The route is generally well-signposted throughout by the yellow Lincolnshire County Council markers.

- 1** Leave the bridge and walk into Manthorpe. At the top of the hill climb over the stile on your right. Keep close to the fence on your left and, at the brow of the hill, head down the middle of the field aiming for the gate at the bottom. If wet, climb over the stile just to the right of the gate.

Continue across the next field to the foot bridge. Cross the bridge and walk up the bank keeping close to the fence line on your left. Go through the gate and turn left onto the track in front of the barns at Bowthorpe Farm. Please remember to tie up the gate after you.

- 2** Take the first right between 2 barns aiming for the gate at the top of the short steep incline. Go through the gate across the field, exiting at the top left-hand corner by another gate. Continue straight ahead keeping the hedge line on your left.
- 3** Go to the left of the hedge line crossing your path and cross the foot bridge into the next field. Walk straight ahead on leaving the bridge for about 5 metres then turn left into the field heading downhill for fence line to the left of the Spa Lodge Farm buildings. (When wet, this can be a very muddy section). At the end of the field, carry on straight ahead down the road towards Braceborough. Turn right keeping to the paved footpath on the right.
- 4** Look for the Public Footpath sign after about 100m, take this narrow path between a fence on your left and a coniferous hedge on your right. Cross the footbridge at the end of the gardens and aim for the gap into the field ahead. As you enter the field there are 2 footpaths. Take the one that

- angles slightly to the right. The route bends to the left at the dyke. Continue along the dyke to Braceborough Lodge ahead. Walk straight ahead keeping the farmhouse and buildings on your right. Cross the field and enter the plantation ahead over a small footbridge.
- 5** On entering the plantation turn right then take the track to the left after a few metres. On leaving the wooded area, aim for the gate in the middle of the field ahead. (Note that the gate was impossible to open when I last walked the route. It is safest to climb through the fence rather than over the gate.) Continue straight ahead across the next field. The route bends to the right along the left edge of the next field.
 - 6** A quick left then right at the end of this field, follow the signs, turn right across a small footbridge then back on to the track across the field to style leading to the disused railway line. Down and back up the steep cutting crossing the next style into another field. Follow the obvious path straight ahead towards Carby.
 - 7** Cross the road and turn left into Carlby keeping on the paved footpath to your left. Walk through Carlby and ignore the first footpath sign just before the left-hand bend. Continue around the bend and look for the small footpath sign on the right just before Church Street.
 - 8** Go along this narrow footpath with the wall on your right. At the end of the wall, head for the far end of the hedgerow along the righthand edge of the field. Keep tight to the next hedge on your right and then turn left at the corner of the field again keeping the hedge on your right. Cross the footbridge and go straight ahead across the next field.
 - 9** The route bends slightly to the right heading for the left edge of the wooded area ahead. Take the path to the left of the wood, keeping the hedge line on your right. Cross another couple of footbridges heading straight ahead towards Witham. Go through the gate between the houses and turn right onto the main road.
 - 10** Cross the road onto the paved footpath and follow the road down the hill out of Witham, crossing the A6121 and heading back to the start point bridge at the entrance to Manthorpe.



What3Words coordinates:

Map courtesy of OS

1. simple.vintage.partner

6. bank.yesterday.bandage

2. mulls.socialite.work

7. payback.help.hillsides

3. takes.aunts.envisage

8. river.label.masses

4. stiffly.stitch.recovery

9. wasp.bordering.shout

5. idea.tall.plugs

10. villas.thumb.workshops



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STEAM ACTION AGM

2nd February 2021, by Zoom

Matters Arising: Pat has 8p left from the committee fund. Lucie to buy any gifts necessary for special events, committee to keep her informed. Lucie not to be called Chairman, settled on Chair.

Chair's Report: We started 2020 on a massive high, raving about the Christmas party, with only 18 declines out of 80 invites. High on adrenaline from a fantastic and hilarious performance of Peter Pan, we had planned an amazing celebration for VE day, along with our afternoon tea, veg & produce show, planned the Christmas party and panto, and even our annual dinner for 2021. Then COVID hit, and what we thought would be a few weeks of hiding indoors, turned out to be a whole year of our lives turned upside down, hitting our Steam Action members the most.

We did manage to squeeze in our annual meal out in March 2020, with Lynda stepping up to Vice Chair duties and delivering what I heard

was a magnificent speech. What followed was 'Operation Glow worm'! Those of us who weren't shielding, met at the Vicarage for cider and fizz to decide our next steps. We pulled together, ordering in bread flour, pasta, and that elusive yeast. We called our Steam Action members for weekly chats, shopping lists, prescription pickups, we even baked and dropped off treats on doorsteps. We managed to have private garden parties for VE day which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Summer offered up some normality and we were able to organise a teddy bear hunt which was well received. Sadly, no veg and produce show or Christmas party and panto, and I know those involved will echo my thoughts when I say panto rehearsals were greatly missed. We then pulled off the greatest Christmas hamper delivery the world has ever seen! Delivering 98 hampers in total, we received some wonderful feedback and even gained some new members. I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their involvement last

year, we really pulled it out of the bag raising.

and nailed our motto – to foster a community spirit. What a strange first year in the Chair I've had!

Kim Lowery will sadly be leaving the committee this year, as she moves up north with her family. Kim joined Steam Action in 2005, when committee numbers were dwindling. Incidentally, this was the same year that Jane resurrected the pantomime, of which Kim has been an integral part ever since. And I must say a massive thank you to Kim for lending us the Village Hall to rehearse on Thursday evenings after her Pilates class. Kim has been a fantastic addition to the committee, always willing and eager to help out, welcoming new members with a friendly face. She will be truly missed by all, but we thank her, and Ray, for all their hard work with Steam Action and we wish them well for the future.

Treasurer's Report: £3777 in bank, down from £6250 at last AGM.

Lucie thanked Pat for her work and said that we have sufficient funds for another year but must do some fund

Election of Officers: Lucie reminded everyone that she is in place as Chair until 2023

Vice Chair – Lynda happy to continue 2021-2022

Secretary – Emma happy to continue 2021-2022

Minute Secretary – Jane happy to continue 2021-2022

Treasurer – Pat happy to continue 2021-2022

Veg & Produce Sub- committee:

Amanda, Gill, Lucie, Nikki and Pat, all happy to continue 2021-2022

Election of Committee: All 16 members of the committee all agreed to stand for another year until 2022.

These are: Lucie VonCarthy, Lynda Wilson, Emma Aque, Jane Bradley, Pat Smith, Doris Bee, Richard Coote, Nikki Gunn, Caroline Haver, Clarissa Hawes, David Hawes, Father Edward Martin, Glenys Peeling, Gill Stanford, Amanda Treacy, Andrew Wilson. As Kim is sadly stepping down from the committee, she sent in a lovely message which was read out by the Chair.

Jane said well done to Lucie for producing the scrapbook for Kim and Ray, recording their many and various parts in Parish Life.

Dates for 2021:

Afternoon Tea – Saturday 12th June 2021

Veg & Produce Show – Saturday 11th September 2021

Final Dress Rehearsal – Friday 3rd December 2021

Christmas Party – Saturday 4th December 2021

Pantomimes – Sunday 5th December 2021

AGM – Tuesday 1st February 2022

Note: Nikki reported that although the Village Hall is not open for bookings, as Steam Action is a community group, it will be able to use the facility. She also said that

Kim's class had been replaced by someone doing circuit training – we may be able to make a similar arrangement regarding panto rehearsals.



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Witham on the Hill WI

The February Annual Meeting was held by Zoom. All of the reports were emailed to members to make things easier. The annual report showed a very different year due to COVID but contact was maintained with members and they received treats in lieu of the usual meetings. The financial statement showed a healthy balance. The President thanked everyone for all their efforts through the year. Ann Burbidge gave Elaine a vote of thanks and presented her with a pot plant. The committee remains the same for the coming year and Elaine was re-elected as President. A tricky quiz taxed members' brains but Vicky Cox managed to get 15 out of 20! Social time followed with plenty of chat -

members telling what they had been doing during lockdown. Members had been given wooden hearts to decorate and show their support for "Show the Love" Climate Change Campaign to be put on trees in the villages. The next meeting will be on 2 March by Zoom, when the speaker will be Ruth Brock, CEO of the Shakespeare School Foundation.

For more information on the WI, or to join the Zoom meeting, contact Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

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A History of Witham Hall

Like many school buildings, Witham Hall was a private residence long before it was 're-purposed' for education. The Reverend Woolsey Johnson built Witham Hall as a family home in 1752. He and his wife Jane moved in 4 years later but he sadly died shortly afterward. Jane put a brass plaque over the main entrance in honour of Woolsey. It is known as 'The Curse'. Legend says that the plaque blesses anyone who keeps it safe and curses anyone who harms it.



The Johnson family were descendants of the Archdeacon Johnson who founded Oakham and Uppingham schools. Witham Hall was owned by the Johnson family for 150 years until, in 1902, Walter Fenwick bought the Hall and its estate. The house was rebuilt in the Queen Anne style. The garden was redesigned by Thomas Mawson and 19 gardeners were employed to put

his vision into place. The stables and the Ice House were 2 of the new additions and are structures still in existence today. The Walled Garden Gates once led to a formal rose garden. These gates were awarded the Premier Prize for ironwork at the 1914 Brussels Exhibition. Fenwick and his wife Millicent also built the chapel and the squash court which is still in use but was modified in the 1980s to the correct dimensions for the modern game.



When Walter Fenwick died in 1914 his son Keld inherited the house. In the years after the First World War he held fashionable parties and summer fetes. The house had one of the first outdoor swimming pools in England. Keld hosted Noel Coward as a guest in 1919 and this was Coward's rather grand description of his stay:

'Witham-on-the-Hill was one of my pleasanter excursions. It was a lovely old house, richly ordered and to the Keld Fenwicks. I was invited there, oddly enough, for a 'shoot,' I forget now exactly what was being shot but it was probably duck. At least 20 people were staying in the house and some of them wore velvet smoking jackets in the evening and there were 2 very large grey hounds, which fortunately took a fancy to me. The food was delicious, and I found several volumes of Marie Antoinette's secret memoirs in the library, which I read luxuriously during the day, while the 'shoot' was at its height.



The evenings might have been a trifle dull for me if I had not been so enchanted with the authenticity of the atmosphere. The setting and the

dialogue were perfect, the character performances superb and there seemed to be, only every now and then, a suspicion of over-acting among the smaller parts.'



During the Great Depression, Keld fell ill and the house went up for sale but with no buyer. Fortunately, in 1930 Commander Coventry Makgill-Crichton -Maitland bought Witham Hall and saved the house from being demolished.

His wife and daughter were very musical and held recitals and concerts at the Hall. Sir Malcom Sargent the conductor and Dame Myra Hess the pianist were guests. What is now the School Library used to be the ballroom in the Maitland's time. They rented it out for tap and ballet lessons taught by Mrs Vera Edwards from Stamford. Local children, some of whom later became Witham School staff, used to attend these classes.

The Commander died in 1958 and, once again, the house faced an uncertain future. There was no keen buyer until Mr J W E Banks agreed to purchase the building to save it from being knocked down but Mr Banks had no idea what to do with it. A friend suggested it would make a good preparatory school and in 1959, with just one teacher and six pupils, Witham Hall School was established. Today the School educates 250+ boys and girls aged 4-13.

This is an extract from The History of Witham Hall by Steve and Sue Weatherill published in 2009 to celebrate 50 years since the School's foundation.

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Church Notices

(Not from any of The Three Towers churches!)

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours."

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the Church Hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5pm –prayer and medication to follow.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference - includes meals.

The sermon this morning will be: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight will be: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off -let the Church help.

Next Saturday the church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

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)

March 1915

Volunteer Training Corps - A well-attended meeting in support of this movement was held in the school, on the 15th February, and the first drill took place on the following Saturday. About 24 men signified their willingness to join. When the movement is better understood and appreciated, we hope that further numbers will come forward. It has certainly "taken on" in the country, and already numbers something approaching a million men. Volunteers must be outside the age for regular military service, that is under 19 or over 38, except in the case of those who have good and sufficient reasons for not joining the colours. The question of uniform and equipment need not deter any from joining, as the provision of these will be considered later. The main thing is for the greatest possible number of men to learn the rudiments of drill and musketry, so as to be of some service in defence of their homes and country in the event of invasion by the enemy, and not suffer the ignominy of being sent to a place of safety with the women and children as helpless non-combatants. The movement should also serve as a powerful incentive to recruiting, for the veriest "shirker" must feel some compunction as he sees the "old guard" turning out to "do their bit" while he stands idly by.

V.T.C. Uniform - The War Office has sanctioned a special uniform for the corps of green-grey rainproof drill, light and inexpensive, loose enough to be worn over civilian clothing, with a board brassard or armlet.



With the Colours. - The following names must be added to our Parish list of men on service - Harold Pell, Suffolk Regiment, Amos Buswell, Lincoln Regiment, William Archer, Motor Transport, Arthur Francis, R.A.M.C. (Royal Army Medical Corps).

Eggs for the Wounded. - In four weeks we have been enabled to send over 130 eggs for the use of our wounded soldiers in hospital. Now that they are becoming less scarce, perhaps other poultry keepers will send a few each Thursday to the Vicarage for this object. All eggs sent will be gratefully acknowledged.

Lent. - On the 1st Sunday in Lent the Bishop's Pastoral Letter was read. It certainly contained subject for much reflection, and was specially marked by vigorous advice on the question of Lenten self-denial. The ecclesiastical rule of abstinence from flesh meat however has been relaxed this Lent, owing to the war. We would especially plead for the support of the "Waifs and Strays" Society, whose needs owing to the war are more than usually urgent. Will you, dear reader, take a self-denial box or give a donation, however small, in support of this most deserving charity?



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Jane's seasonal recipe

Leeks are a staple veg in our garden, so this is a very popular recipe, as we always have plenty of leeks to use up before the spring planting starts. They freeze very well so a useful standby for a quick lunch with a few tomatoes.

Leek and cheddar rolls

1 large leek

115g mature cheddar

140g fresh breadcrumbs

1 large egg

40ml milk

250g puff pastry

egg to glaze

In a large bowl mix finely chopped leek, grated cheddar & breadcrumbs with beaten egg & milk, until it just holds its shape when pressed together. Roll pastry into a 40x30cm rectangle. Divide the filling in half & place each half along the 2 long edges pressing the mixture tightly into a sausage shape. Cut the pastry down the middle, brush the edges with beaten egg, then fold the pastry over each cheese roll & press firmly into place along the seam. Cut each roll into 4 even sized pieces & place on a tray lined with baking paper. Make diagonal slashes with a sharp knife, then brush all over with egg. Bake 25-30 mins at 210c until pastry is golden & puffed up. Cool on a wire rack. Can be eaten warm or cold.

MAKES 8

PARISH SERVICES FOR MARCH & HOLY WEEK 2021

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
7 th March Lent 3	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
14 th March Mothering Sunday	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
21 st March Lent 5	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
28 th March Palm Sunday			10.30am Three Towers Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
29 th to 31 st March Holy Week			6pm Evening Prayer 6.45pm Eucharist
1 st April Maundy Thursday			7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper
2 nd April Good Friday			1.30pm Liturgy of the Day 6pm Evening Prayer
3 rd April Holy Saturday			8pm Vigil Service (meet at bonfire in the garden)
4 th April Easter Day	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong & Benediction

***Please note: Holy Week & Easter Services will be livestreamed from St Michael's**