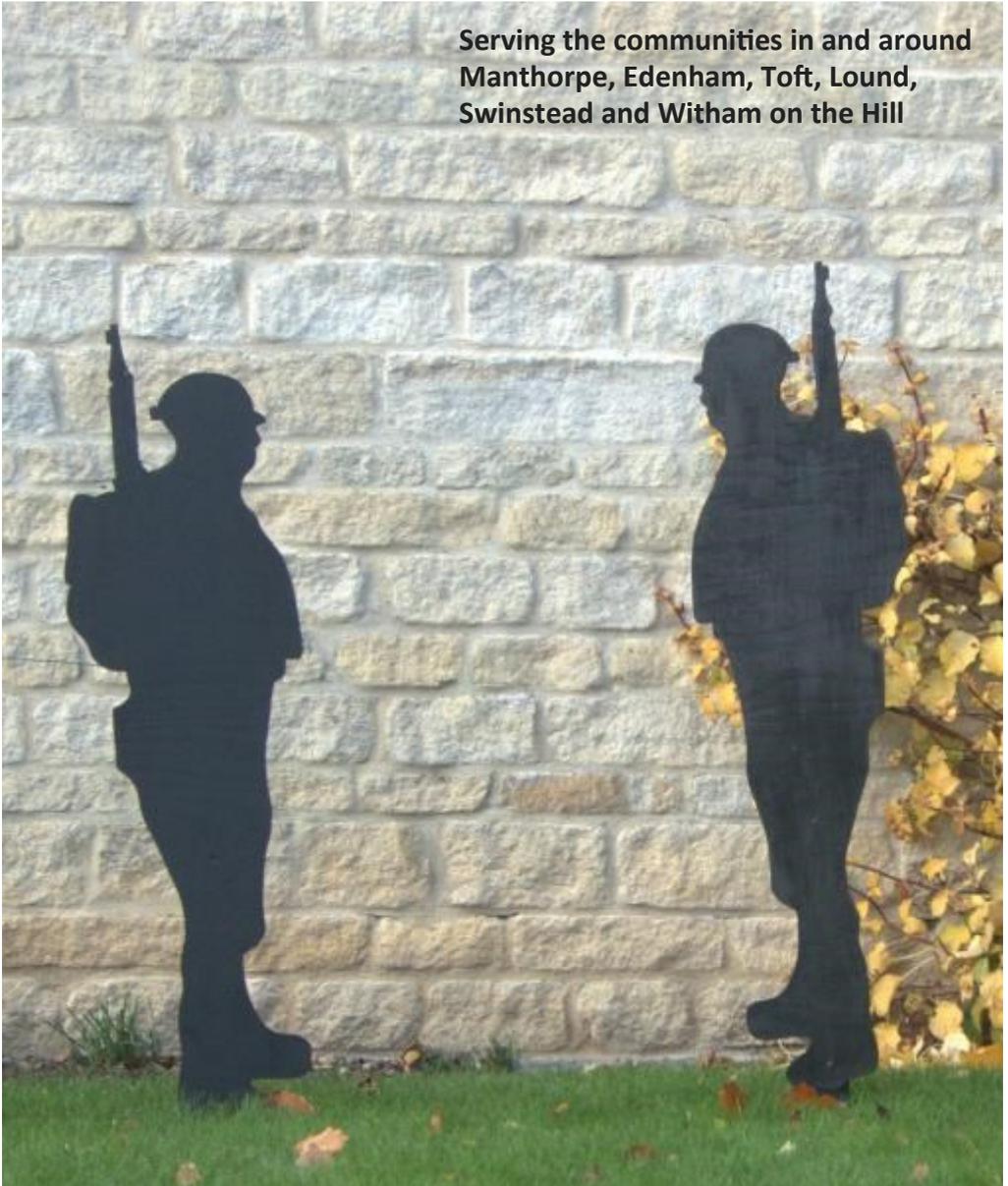


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Parish News

THANKS - to Lizzie Baggott, her team and all who put their hand to help to create the Toft cum Lound and Manthorpe Coronation Mural. The artwork is now in place on the side of the Jubilee Playing Field pavilion in Manthorpe.



SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX CHARITY The filled boxes can be delivered to Melton Building Society, 1 North Street, Bourne or Melton Building Society, 49 High Street, Stamford, between 13 and 20 November. For further information or help please contact Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

BLACKBERRY VINEGAR - Made and Bottled in Manthorpe, 100ml each bottle. If you would like a different taste for your meat or gravy for your Sunday Dinner or make a delicious pancake topping or simply on toast , you can purchase a bottle for £3.50. When its gone, its gone, until next Autumn.

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CLIVE LUNN RIP - Sadly, on 20th September, Swinstead gathered to send off a true stalwart of Swinstead's community, Mr Clive Lunn. Born in 1934, Clive is survived by his wife, Mollie, 2 children, Tonia and Robert, and his 2 beloved granddaughters, Zara and Niamh. Clive loved spending time with his granddaughters, even if it was just talking or being in the garden with them, it brought a great joy to his life.

Clive and Mollie married on 4 July 1966 at Skillington church and recently celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary. Clive was very active in the church community and tirelessly worked in the St Mary churchyard for over 36 years making sure the grass and trees were always immaculate and turning the grounds in to one of the best kept churchyards in Lincolnshire. He also served on Swinstead Parish Council for over 33 years, was a member of the Village Hall Committee and a member of the Grantham Rotary Club, where he was President from 1993 to 1994. Clive helped create and maintain the Jubilee Orchard where he planted many fruit trees and was honoured to have an oak tree planted to mark his retirement from the Parish Council.

Clive was an incredibly hard-working man. He would often say, "Enjoy yourself you are only here once". A famous writer once said, "We make a living by what we get: we make a life by what we give". If that is true, then Clive made a great life. May he rest in peace.

WELCOME to Kenny and Samantha at Stonecot, Witham on the Hill. We hope you will be very happy here.

GOODBYE to Judith and Adrian Childs as they leave The Barn in Manthorpe to be closer to their family near Bury St Edmunds. Stalwarts of our wider community for over 20 years, they will be much missed. We wish them all the best in their new abode.

GOODBYE and good luck to Toni Marlow, moving from Witham on the Hill to Christchurch. We wish you much happiness in your new home.

BAPTISM baby Winifred Mary Robinson-Hawes, daughter of Lizzie and Tom on 24 September at St Michael's Edenham.

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THANK YOU to all who helped, contributed and attended St. Andrew's Harvest Festival and Supper. The Church looked beautiful with all the lovely flower arrangements. Thank you to Father Ed for the very interesting interactive Harvest service and thanks to Gill for the music. The Supper was a lovely sociable event with lots of delicious food on offer, enjoyed by all. Also many thanks to all who continue to contribute to the Bourne Food Bank. This collection continues all year round. A special thank you to Frances who regularly takes the items to the Food Bank.

CANDLE ARRANGEMENTS - EDENHAM CHURCH If you would like to do a candle arrangement for Christmas in Edenham church, the colour this year will be red. Please have red or cream candles that will last for several services and be in church for the Christingle service. Thank you, Ruth Atter

ADVENT WINDOWS - Anyone wishing to decorate their window in Witham on the Hill, as part of the Advent Calendar, please contact Frances Plummer (francesplummer@btinternet.com) or Jane Clark (nobby236@gmail.com) for your specific date. Make the window as simple as you wish but it would be really good to have it lit up and numbered with the date of your window. It will start on 1 December with the lights in the Parish Hall. A new window will be displayed each day through to 24 December, when all 24 windows will be decorated and lit to welcome in Christmas.

VEG AND PRODUCE SHOW On Saturday 9th September Steam Action held its annual Veg and Produce show. We were sadly quite a few entries down from last year, but we still had a good selection of entries. The Judges were very impressed with the categories that had entries and in some classes the judging was tricky. The craft section had a wonderful upcycled child's kitchen. After the judging was complete the best in each category were put together and judged to award the best in show. The points were then added and trophies were awarded and there were some new names this year being awarded trophies which was great to see. At the end of the day everything was auctioned off and all money made will be used by Steam Action to fund other events.



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QUIZ NIGHT On Saturday 30th September Steam Action held a quiz night in Edenham Village Hall. It was incredibly well attended and everyone was eager to get started. Before the quiz though everyone enjoyed Bangers and Mash cooked by the lovely Steam Action Committee. Then it was on to the main event. Each team was asked to come up with a Team name and Spike our Quiz master took charge. There were 100 questions including rounds on sports, science, food and drink and Television. It was neck and neck with a few teams right up until the final round but in the end 'The Dark Horses' were the winning team. The atmosphere of the evening was really good and lots of people asked when the next one would be as they left. I can let you know that another event is in the pipeline! Watch this space for updates!

Dates for your Diary

Friday 3 November 8pm onwards on Bourne Green - **Swinstead Annual Village Fireworks**. A great night of **free** entertainment for the whole family. Last year our Chilli Dogs and Hot Dogs were a huge hit with kids and adults alike, so these will be back and available in the Village Hall Bar opening from 6.30pm through until late.

Friday 3 November 7.30pm Quiz night with fish and chip supper, St Andrew's Parish Hall Witham on the Hill. £10 bring your own drink. To book your supper call Elaine Brock 07801 417776 or Debra McMillan 01778 590639.

Tuesday 7 November 10.15am to 11.30am (and again on the first Tuesday of every month until further notice), 41 Edenham Road, Edenham (the Old Post Office) '**Bourne2Care' Coffee Morning**. Entry is by donation and includes a small raffle. Everyone is welcome.

Saturday 11 November 10am to 4pm - Witham Hall School Sports Centre - **Winter Fair** - all are welcome. See page 25 for full details.

Monday 20 November 2.30pm - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill Historical Society, **David Bond 'Villages of South Lincolnshire'** talk. Members £2, visitors £4, on the door. All Welcome.

Saturday 25 November 7.30pm - Swinstead Village Hall - '**Movember' Open**

STEAM ACTION PRESENTS

Snow White **and the** ~~**Seven Two**~~ **Dwarves**

Sunday 3rd December at Edenham Village Hall

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Adults £5 - Children £3 (Babes in arms go free)

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Price includes wine and a mince pie. Sweets and drinks are available to purchase

Mic & Chilli Night. We are calling out for anyone and everyone to come along and crack your best stand up jokes or share your talent. If you fancy just coming along to cheer the brave entertainers on and enjoy a bowl of homemade Beef Chilli, a £5.00 donation will be collected on the evening. And for those fellas who fancy spending the month of November growing a patchy, lopsided, itchy or epic moustache, whatever Mo you grow for Movember, we will have a raffle prize for the best tach. Monies raised on the evening will be donated to 'Movember Foundation' – raising funds for health projects across mental health, suicide prevention, prostate and testicular cancer. Cold beers on tap and an array of wines and drinks are available in the bar. The aim is to have fun and be entertained whilst at the same time, raise monies for this important charity. To register your place email: swinsteadvillageevents.com

Sunday 26 November 1pm to 5pm - Edenham Village Hall & Field - **Christmas Craft & Gift Fayre.** See advert on page 18 for details.

Friday 1 December 6pm Switching on the Christmas Lights, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Refreshments will be served. Numbers to Elaine Brock or Debbie McMillan before Tuesday 28 November please, to ensure there are enough hot dogs, mince pies and mulled wine.

Sunday 3rd December - Steam Action presents Snow White and the 2 Dwarves at Edenham Village Hall. We are looking for donations for the raffle; contact Pat Smith on 01778 591004. See advert on page 10 for details.

Saturday 9 December 7pm - Swinstead Village Hall - **Rocking Xmas Party 2023** - Following on from last year's party with live band 'Black Out UK' playing 60's music right up to modern chart hits, they are back again. Dust down those dancing shoes and come along to the Village Hall. £8.00 – over 18's only. Tickets can be purchased via swinsteadvillageevents@gmail.com

New Year's Eve Sunday 31 December 7pm onwards – Swinstead Village Hall. Bring in the New Year with some music, Auld Lang Syne and a celebratory glass of bubbles in the Village Hall. Bring your family, children and friends, and BYO party food and snacks. Drinks can be purchased at the bar.

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8 December – ‘Fundraising Supper with Stories’

Rev Simon Airey (Priest and professional storyteller)

7pm / cost and details tbc

9 December – Storytelling Retreat Day

Rev Simon Airey (Priest and professional storyteller)

10am-4pm / £16pp / BYO lunch

27 January – ‘The face of love: seeing and being seen’

Sr Rachel Overton

10am-4pm / £16pp / BYO lunch

17 February – Day Retreat

Nicolas Stebbing CR

10am-4pm / £16pp / BYO lunch

8 March – ‘Edward King Day’

Rev Dr Robert Beaken

10am-4pm / £16pp / BYO lunch

3 May – ‘Mary Bearer of Life’

Christopher Cocksworth (Bishop of Coventry / Dean of Windsor)

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Baby Sensory at Witham Hall School

Witham Hall School and Baby Sensory Stamford have established a new partnership with weekly classes taking place in the Witham Hall dance studio. Babies from birth to 13 months old take part in sensory activities specifically designed and structured to aid babies' development whilst also having lots of fun! Witham is delighted to welcome families from the local community onto the school site and looks forward to this partnership continuing to grow. Classes are run during term time on Fridays at Witham Hall School. For further information, please visit www.babysensory.com/corby or contact Aduké Thomson on 07521 040465.



The Vicar Writes

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, two church evangelists were going ‘door to door’ to speak to people in their village. When they knocked on one door a rather fierce-looking woman answered. “Hello!” they said, “We’re here to ask you, if you have faith?” said one of the evangelists. Well, the woman told them in ‘no uncertain terms’ that she did not ‘have faith’ and before they could say anything else, she slammed the door in their faces. But to everyone’s surprise the door didn’t close; in fact, it bounced back open... “Are you sure you don’t have faith?” enquired the evangelist. “Yes!” said the woman (as she tried to shut the door only for it to bounce open once more). “Are you really sure you don’t have faith?” continued the evangelist (wondering if God himself might now be intervening). “Perfectly sure!” replied the woman, as she reared back to give the door a slam that would put the question beyond all doubt. Just then, the other evangelist, silent until now, chipped in: “Madam, I’ve been going to Church all my life and I can assure you that even a little faith goes a long way; however, before you try to close the door again, I really do think that you should move your cat.”

When we think about faith most of us probably think of some people having more of it than others. So, at the top you’d expect the Saints and Martyrs to have lots of faith, then after them would probably come Church leaders, monks and nuns with a fair amount of faith and then (somewhere near the bottom) the likes of you and me – the ones who could always use a little bit more...

While this could all be seen as being rather humble and pious, we can end up using it as an excuse; convincing ourselves that we’ll never amount to much because we lack faith. But Jesus isn’t having any of this! In chapter seventeen of St Luke’s Gospel, he tells the apostles that even faith the size of a mustard seed can help them to achieve extraordinary things. What they need isn’t more faith. They just need faith in the first place.

But hang on a minute! How can this be? Surely there are sometimes when we all feel a bit stronger in our faith and other times when we don't. Can't our faith be a bit up and down like all our other feelings? But for Jesus this won't do! The faith that Jesus describes isn't about how we feel. It is, quite simply, a matter of will.

Ultimately, faith is about deciding something and acting upon it. If we sat around waiting to feel ready to love our enemies or to pray for those who persecute us, we'd probably never get round to it. Likewise, if we sit around waiting and hoping, asking God to give us enough faith, ambition or drive to make a difference, then we'll be waiting for very a long time. In fact, we'd probably wait for ever.

At the end of the day, we either believe that God has called us to be the Church, to be his people in this place or we don't. We can't 'kind of' be the Church. Faith doesn't do half measures!

Regardless of how strong or fragile our faith might feel just now, we shouldn't lose heart or hope because Jesus assures us that our faith is a thousand times more powerful than we imagine (and has a lot more potential than no faith at all). We must never doubt this. We can do many wonderful things when we take the faith and determination that we do have and turn it into action. We only have to look around us to see amazing examples of faith working; just think of the people we admire, or people on the news who have shown great courage and daring, in all kinds of situations.

The world is full of people who've found that will, that drive and determination to overcome a problem or to strike out into new territory. Somehow, they discovered the belief that they had the power and ability to make a difference and then they did something with it. That is faith. That is what faith is all about. Faith gives us the power to realise our full potential (our God-given potential we might say).

Just imagine how the world could change for the better if we took to heart

this message and decided to go for it, to find that thing that could make a difference and to just do it. The list of extraordinary works would be endless: the hungry fed, the homeless housed, the refugee welcomed, swords beaten into ploughshares and pruning hooks, ecological disaster averted, and wars ended. What a world we would make, a world worthy of the Son of God, a kingdom of justice, mercy, and peace. Then jokes about religious people and cats that get stuck in the door would become redundant (and perhaps that's as good a reason as any). Sorry Trudy!

Fr Edward

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Trying to make sense of everything that is happening in Israel and Palestine is difficult at any time but even more so this month. Western governments and their peoples face an extremely confusing atmosphere of sympathies.

Following the deadly attack by Hamas on 7 October, there is sympathy for all those innocent murdered Israeli families. Western governments, including our own, have shown their support for Israel's right to defend itself from terrorism. At the same time, many people across the globe (including within Israel) oppose the way in which the Israeli government is now prosecuting its retaliation against Hamas' barbaric attack.

Of course, "an eye for an eye" is also barbaric and "2 wrongs never make a right". This is the dilemma facing our leaders today. How do we support Israel in its fight against Hamas terrorism but also support the poor innocent Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, caught in the middle? As I write this, Archbishop Welby is in Jerusalem showing the Church of England's support for all faiths living in Jerusalem. Tragically, there is no easy answer.

One book I can recommend that helps to explain the many competing forces in that troubled region is Jeremy Bowen's "The Making of the Modern Middle East - a Personal Story". Chapter 8 is entitled "Gaza". If nothing else, the 13 pages in that chapter paint a picture that is sad but very informative.

Editor



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October 2023

Ten ladies had a very busy enjoyable evening assembling shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse Charity. June Dandridge and Veronica Calabrese kept members supplied with tea and cake as they worked. 21 boxes were completed, including some from absent members. It will be interesting to hear which country our shoe boxes go to. An excellent effort, well done ladies.

Future events are: a fascinator making workshop led by Anne Lawtey on 11 November and a fused glass workshop in April 2024. The Witham on the Hill WI quiz team came 3rd in the LSFWI quiz at Scredington. The felt picture workshop was a great success – 11 members made some

excellent landscape pictures.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7 November** at 7.30pm in the St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. Members will be having a go at various crafts including crochet poppies, sewing Christmas decorations, painting pebbles and printing paper. Should be fun. New members and visitors are always most welcome. For further information, contact Jane Clark tel 01778 590232.

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In addition to the prizes awarded by the judges, Gallery visitors are encouraged to vote for their own favourite works and the most popular will be awarded the Visitors' Choice Prize at the end of the show.

The gallery will close on the 24th November and reopen on 20th March 2024

www.willoughbygallery.com

Jane's Seasonal Recipe

An abundance of courgettes resulted in this very quick and easy recipe, that I adapted from a Waitrose newspaper – ready in the time it takes to cook the spaghetti!

Courgette pasta

2 medium sized grated courgettes
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons capers
toasted pine nuts
grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons crème fraiche
2 tablespoons pesto (green red or chilli)
100g rocket
fresh basil leaves
spaghetti
parmesan

Fry the grated courgettes in olive oil for 2 mins. Add drained, rinsed capers, cook for 1 min. Add crème fraiche and pesto. Stir in pine nuts, lemon juice and zest. Warm through gently. Toss in rocket and basil. Stir in cooked spaghetti, sprinkle with grated parmesan.

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PARISH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2023

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
5 th November <i>All Saints Sunday</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm All Souls Service
12 th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	6pm Remembrance Service	10am Parish Eucharist & Act of Remembrance	11am Act of Remembrance & Parish Eucharist <i>No Evensong</i>
19 th November <i>2 before Advent</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
22 nd November <i>Christ the King</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)
30 th November <i>St Andrew</i>		7pm Patronal Eucharist & Fish n' Chip Supper	

For Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Confessions or any other pastoral or spiritual need contact:

Vicar: The Revd Fr Edward Martin SSC 01778 591358 - Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org

Associate Priest: The Revd Fr Peter Lister SSC 01778 423730 - pwr.lister@btinternet.com