

The Three Towers

August/September 2024

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



Parish News

DOG MESS - Sadly, the occasional dog-walker is not picking up the mess that their dog has made on the footpaths around our villages. May I remind those who do not clear up after their dogs that this is a fineable offence under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

BAPTISM Isla-Mae Harrison Stockdale on 30 June at St Michael's Church Edenham.

WELCOME to Jenny and Sam at RagRose. We hope you will be very happy in Witham on the Hill.

GOODBYE to Jo Stimson who has moved to Kettering to live with her daughter Abigail. Jo had lived in Witham on the Hill for many years.

BOULES, ROUNDERS AND VILLAGE SOCIAL Sunday 4 August 2pm onwards on the village green, Witham on the Hill. Bring a picnic and share in the fun and games. All welcome.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 3 August, Eyes down 7.30pm - Swinstead Village Hall Bingo. Get your two little ducks in a line and come on down to win some prizes, including a £20 Full House CASH prize! £10 per person for 6 books/10 games.

Sunday 4 August, 2 pm - Witham on the Hill village green, Boules, Rounders and Village Social. Bring a picnic and share in the fun and games. All welcome.

Wednesday 14th & 28th August and 11th & 25th September – Swinstead Village Hall Social Coffee Mornings from 10am. The fortnightly Wednesday Coffee Mornings are fundamental for our community and are a great success - pop in and enjoy a cuppa and cake. Beverage, cake & raffle for £3.00

Monday 26 August, 2:30 to 4:30 - Swinstead Hall Garden Fete - see advert on page 17 for details.

Saturday 31 August, 3pm - Edenham Church Garden Fete. Teas, cake stall,

tombola, games, raffles, plants, book and bric-a-brac - **see advert on page 20**. All are welcome.

Saturday 7 September—Edenham Village Hall, 48th Annual Produce Show. See previous editions of The Three Towers for the full schedule.

Friday 6th September , 6-7pm – Please bring your entries to the hall.

Saturday 7th September, 8.30-10.30am - Please bring your entries to the hall. **2pm** - Viewing and refreshments; **3pm** - Presentation of trophies; **3.30pm** - Auction of produce

Saturday 14 September - Lincolnshire Church Trust Bike, Ride and Stride. See advert on page 14 for full details.

Friday 27 September, 6pm - Harvest Service in St Mary's followed by Harvest Supper and Quiz in the Swinstead Village Hall. For tickets to the quiz and supper, please call Louise on 07484 715067.

Saturday 28th September , 10:30 am – Swinstead Village Hall - Macmillan Coffee Morning – Come and join us for refreshments and cakes to raise monies for the Macmillan Charity. Macmillan nurses provide emotional, practical, physical, and financial support for people living with cancer at every stage of their cancer experience. Or you may simply wish to donate some pennies/pounds www.justgiving.com/page/mark-woodruff-swinstead

Sunday 29 September, 6pm - Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill. Followed by supper in the Parish Hall.

Saturday 5 October, 7pm - Edenham Village Hall, Quiz Night. Full details will be in the October edition.

Saturday 9 November - Witham Hall School Open Morning. Please register your interest: admissions@withamhall.com.

Saturday, 12 October - The Big Sing! Community choir, Oswald Elliot Hall, Stamford School. A community choir will be created in a day with a celebratory concert that evening. Rehearsals will run from 10am to 5pm, followed by the concert at 7pm.

All levels of ability and experience are encouraged to join in what promises to be a fantastic day. All profits will go to charity Mindspace Stamford, which works to improve the wellbeing of people living, working and learning in

The image shows two slices of carrot cake on light-colored plates. The cake has a moist, orange-colored interior and is topped with a thick layer of white cream and a generous amount of golden-brown crushed nuts. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the same cakes on a table.

Coffee

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Morning...

Tea'rific!

This years Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning hosted by Mark Woodruff and the Village Hall Committee, starts at 10.30am on 28th September in the Village Hall.

Tea'rific morning with great raffle prizes - please pop by for some lovely cakes and refreshments, and show your support.

More than ever Macmillan, needs help to raise as much money as possible to help people living with cancer.

If you are unable to join and wish to donate a few pennies or pounds, a charity page has been set up online at

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/mark-woodruff-swinstead>

Stamford through a community approach.

The aim of the event is to bring people together, to celebrate the power of music and to support a wonderful charity working to support mental health and wellbeing.

Tickets to take part in the choir and for the concert are available at www.singschoirs.co.uk. Keep up to date on more news from The Big Sings! via Instagram [@stamfordbigsing](https://www.instagram.com/stamfordbigsing) and Facebook.

Saturday 12th October – Swinstead Village Hall - 12 Hours Charity Darts Marathon. All proceeds will go to the **Lincolnshire Air Ambulance**.

Come along throughout the day and night to support the dart players. For participation, please email villagehallswinstead@gmail.com. Cakes and refreshments will be available to buy.

Saturday 23 November 8.30am to 10am - Big Breakfast, St Andrew's Parish Hall. Helpers required please, names to Frances Plummer.



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Fri 12:00-23:00
Sat 12:00-23:00
Sun 12:00-20:00



Eating

Weds - Sat 12:00-14:30
and 17:00-20:30
Sun - 12:00-17:00

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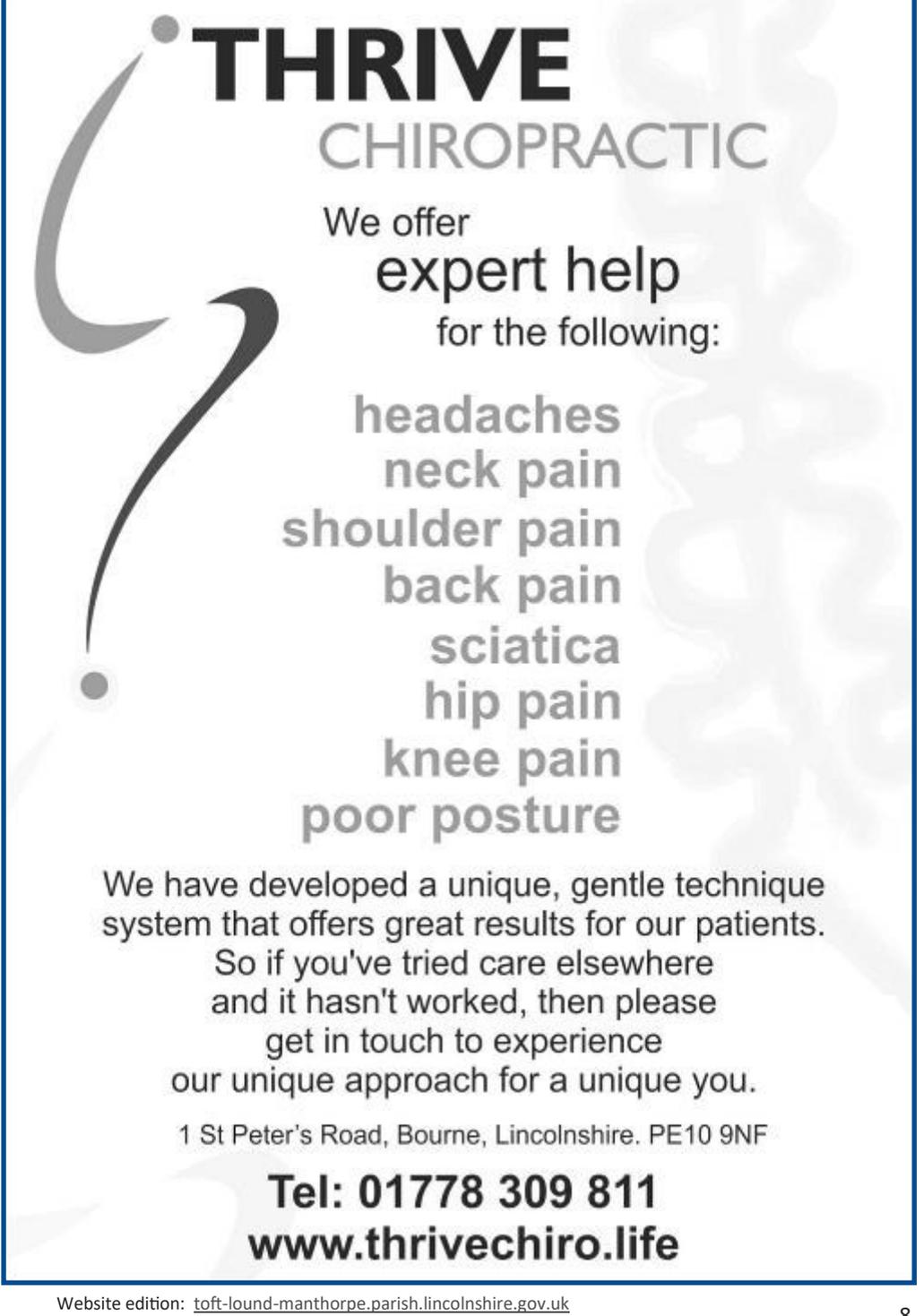
Bowland's Gibbet

The traditional image of the highwayman is a masked and cloaked figure on horseback on a lonely road at night, pointing a large pistol at the occupants of a stagecoach and saying "stand and deliver". Often his victim was the mail coach which carried large amounts of cash. But mail coaches were not introduced until 1784. Before that men on horseback carried the mail. They were known as post-boys and wore scarlet livery. Because of the poor condition of the roads the journey was slow and hard on the men and horses. The riders travelled at barely more than three miles per hour, and as they were alone and undefended they were very vulnerable.

According to the Empingham local history website, early on Saturday 17th March 1769 a post-boy set out from the General Post Office on Lombard Street in London carrying mail bags. He was the first in a relay of carriers positioned along the Great North Road. By Sunday evening the mail had reached Stamford Post Office where the local mail was removed and the bags were handed back to the local post-boy who packed them onto his horse and left for Colsterworth at 10.00pm.

The post-boy rode through Great Casterton, passed Tickencote and was about a quarter of a mile from Bloody Oaks wood when he was accosted by a highwayman at pistol point. The robber selected one of the bags with the mail for Boroughbridge in Yorkshire and rode back towards Stamford. The post-boy also returned to Stamford and gave a good description of his assailant to the authorities. The stolen bag, without its contents, was later recovered from Empingham Common close to the scene of the robbery and was returned to Stamford Post Office.

Newspapers reported the robbery and speculated that the highwayman targeted the Boroughbridge bag because he knew it contained a large amount of banknotes, possibly the huge figure for the time of £10,000. In Stamford the description of the highwayman and his horse were widely



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circulated and soon brought in information that enabled the authorities to identify him as John Bowland. Apparently, he was recognized in the town by his distinctive blue greatcoat. From this description Bowland was arrested by constables on the quayside at Greenwich in Kent in the evening of 29th March half an hour before he was due to take ship for Holland.

Bowland was taken before a magistrate and questioned. He was found in possession of eight promissory notes from a bank in Lombard Street, along with money drafts and legal documents, but no banknotes. He confessed to the robbery but denied taking cash. He was later transported from Maidstone jail to Oakham prison and on 6th July he was tried in Oakham Castle by Justice Sir Edward Clive. Justice Clive found Bowland guilty of highway robbery and sentenced him to be executed on the 20th, his body to be hung in chains on a gibbet.



Bowland was duly hanged at a gallows in Oakham. His body was then taken to a newly built gibbet on Empingham Common and there hung in chains. The gibbet was placed at the scene of the crime to deter the increasing frequency of highway robberies. The

gibbet post was covered in tar, and spikes were driven into it preventing relatives from climbing up and recovering the body or from ghoulish souvenir collectors.

The location of Empingham Common is uncertain. However, the site of "Bowland's Gibbet" appears on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map (inset above) published in 1824 located between Tickencote Warren farm



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and the Great North Road, about six miles north-west of Stamford. It is indeed just south-east of Bloody Oaks wood which most historians claim was named after the place where many rebels were slain after the battle of Losecote Field in 1470.

However, Rutland County Council produced a leaflet at the millennium for the Rutland Heritage trail which says that on a map of 1645 the wood is shown as "Royal Wood" but was changed following the execution of John Bowland. Local legend says a gibbet was still there in 1900 and that the last man hanged there stole sheep.



Unfortunately, there is nothing to be seen. If the 1824 map is correct the location of the gibbet is now on private farmland behind a thick hedge overlooking the dual-carriageway. The only access is along a private lane to Tickencote

Warren farm. The photograph above was taken from this lane. The story of Bowland's Gibbet is just another small and fascinating part of our rich local history.

Dick Mundy

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&

The Witham Church and School Estate Educational Foundation

The Witham Church and School Estate charity was set up in 1548 to provide education and care for the children of the Witham Church (St Andrew's) ecclesiastical parish. The charity funds were gathered through legacies and charitable gifts. In 1692 a deed was drawn up and a board of trustees put in place to manage the trust and its assets. The funds originally provided for schoolhouses and paid for children's education and a schoolmaster prior to the introduction of government-provided education.

Today, the Trust funds are used to maintain the Parish Hall and, where necessary, St Andrew's Church. Additionally, the Trust runs and funds the Witham Church and School Estate Educational Foundation. This sister charity is used to assist students within the Parish with furthering their education usually by way of a cash grant to help them during their time at university, college or on an apprenticeship.

Have you considered leaving a legacy in your will or making a charitable gift?

If this is something you are thinking about, then do please consider making this gift to our local Parish charities. By doing so, you can be assured that the funds are being used to improve and assist with the continued education of young people in our Parish and/or to help ensure that our community retains its Parish Hall and Parish Church as hubs of the local community.

If you wish to leave a legacy in your will or make a charitable gift to our local charities, or would like further information, then please contact the Clerk by email: withamtrust@gmail.com.



Saturday September 14th 2024

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The Vicar Writes

“So, you’ve got three months off then?”

Not quite. As I write this missive for the August / September double-issue of The Three Towers I do so ensconced in the guesthouse of the Community of the Holy Cross (CHC), a group of Benedictine sisters based in the Nottinghamshire village of Costock. The guest accommodation is a converted 18th-century farmhouse with a vast hearth and the remainder of an ancient bread-oven in the corner of one of the kitchenettes. I’ve almost reached the midpoint of my two weeks stay here. It’s intended to be an opportunity for me to begin my three-month sabbatical – a period of study leave granted to clergy every ten years. This year I clocked up twenty-one years of service and this is my first sabbatical.

Back in June I added another string to my ‘ministry bow’ in that I became the Rector-designate of St Mary’s Stamford. This is in addition to my regular Three Towers ministry responsibilities and duties and those of the Retreat House at Edenham.

When I was first ordained over two decades ago it was still the case that, if you worked hard, you could pretty much cover all the bases. That would mean three to four services on a Sunday, a weekly appearance in several schools, a gaggle of midweek services together with multiple Harvests, Remembrance Sundays, Christmases and Easters. It was do-able, but not always sustainable (one or two were guaranteed to fall by the wayside unless they had the help of a Reader or a retired Priest living locally).

Fast forward to today and clergy now find themselves in jobs that are, well, impossible – impossible to cover in their entirety at least. It means that we cannot do everything that needs doing and it requires our being re-cast in the role of organizer and manager. You may have noticed that clergy are not always the best organized people (step forward Exhibit A) nor necessarily the best at managing things and people (step forward Exhibit B). However, that’s

Garden Fete

August 26th
Bank holiday Monday

2:30 - 4:30

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the situation I now find myself in and, rather than enjoying three months of study, prayer and rest, I've spent the first week here at Costock planning and producing resources that will, hopefully, allow me to divide my time equally amongst all concerned and also highlight the gaps where my kind and generous retired colleagues will be able to continue their Priestly ministry without having to worry too much about the logistics and admin.

So, there's change afoot I'm afraid. This will mean a slight tweak in service times for some (sorry!) but it will (hopefully) make it possible for me to appear in at least two Churches every Sunday morning, travel to Stamford without needing to break the speed limit and even stay behind at Witham for an after-Church-cuppa more often than not. The easiest way to show how it'll work is to show you in table form...

Draft Monthly Sunday Service (cunning) Plan

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Swinstead		<u>9.30am</u>			<u>9.30am</u> (<u>Group service rotating around the Churches</u>)
Witham	<u>9.30am</u>	9.30am**	<u>9.30am</u>	9.30am*	
Edenham	11.15am**	<u>11.15am</u>	<u>11.15am</u>	11.15am**	
Stamford	<u>11.15am</u>	11.15am**	11.15am**	<u>11.15am</u>	<u>11.15am</u>

Fr Ed = 9 regular Sunday services per 5 week month

Retired Clergy** = 5 regular Sunday services per 5 week month

Fr Ed or Retired Clergy* = 1 additional Sunday service per month

So, there you have it. I've yet to figure out weekdays (and please don't ask me about Christmas just yet), but if I can make this work then we should be able to guarantee weekly worship in all but one of our Churches and a pastoral ministry that continues to uphold the classic model of a Priest living amongst his flock and being counted as part of the community.

In the meantime, do pray for me and for those who are covering the next few months. I'll still be around at the Vicarage (and in the Churchyard at Edenham!) so feel free to stop me for a chat. I'll also be appearing at two summer weddings and the Gig in the Garden in August.

Enjoy your summer!

Prayers and best wishes, Fr Ed.

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

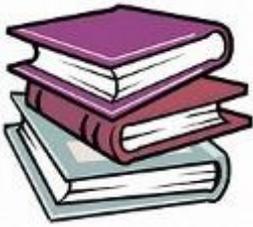
Witham-on-the-Hill Church and School Estate Educational Foundation is able to make grants to those residents of Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound who are undertaking courses at colleges and universities and also those who are on apprentice schemes.

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

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The Clerk to the Trustees

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Edenham Church Fete

Edenham Vicarage Garden

Saturday 31 August

3-5pm



**Teas, cake stall, tombola,
games, raffle
plants, books, bric-a-brac**



Witham on the Hill WI

July 2024

Melody Flyte entertained us with her lovely voice - a selection of wartime songs. Melody came dressed in an ENSA (Entertainment National Service Association) brown uniform, complete with cap and hair rolled in the 1940s style. With the help of slides and videos she explained how Basil Dean set up ENSA, which was formed from actors, musicians, dancers and comedians when the theatres and cinemas closed on 3 September 1939 as war started. Basil signed up lots of stars including George Formby, Gracie Fields, Vera Lynn, and Joyce Grenfell who sang in factories and hospitals in UK; eventually travelling to all theatres of war in Europe, Africa and the Far East, wherever forces were stationed to raise their morale.

Melody sang “When the Lights Go On Again”, “Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye”, “We’ll Meet Again”, “White Cliffs Of Dover” and finished with a medley of “Bless Them All”, “Hang Out The Washing on the Seigfried Line” and “Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant Major”.

Tommy Cooper and Spike Milligan performed for ENSA but Frankie Howerd was turned down! Melody

explained that Gracie Fields, from Rochdale, was a film star who married an Italian and had to escape to Canada with her husband, when Italy joined the war. “Wish Me Luck” came from the film “Shipyard Sally” starring Gracie Fields. Vera Lynn was singing professionally aged 15; and went to Egypt and Burma. Despite the awful challenges and conditions, she found the job very rewarding.

Margaret Hawkins, President of Carlby WI, gave the vote of thanks, as it was a joint meeting with Carlby WI. Vicky Cox won the competition for a record or CD with an LP of Doris Day!

On the day of the General Election our spirits were raised with an additional afternoon meeting – Eileen Dilley, the speaker, talking about afternoon tea traditions, which was followed by a strawberry cream tea which was enjoyed by our members. Many thanks to Witham Hall Prep School for the use of their dance studio, as the Parish Hall was in use for the election!

The next meeting will be on 6 August at 7pm with games on the village green (or in the Parish Hall if the weather is poor). The 3 September meeting speaker will be Jane E James, the Essendine author. Visitors and new members are very welcome. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary, tel 01778 590232.

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WITHAM HALL



Very many congratulations to Year 7 Witham Hall pupil, Charlotte, who took the U12 individual gold in the IAPS National Clay Shooting Competition, once again hosted at the West London Shooting School. Five pupils represented the School across three age groups, but Charlotte shot with impressive precision throughout the morning, dropping just four shots. It was also a pleasure to meet Old Withamian, Paul Whitton (OW '76), one of the WLSS coaches on the day - he reminisced about his time at the School, recounting fond memories.

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TREE CARE Pruning, Felling, Dismantling, Planting

CONSULTANCY Reports, Hazard Assessment, BS5837

City & Guilds
NPTC
Qualified

01780 460 111 • 07958 648 883

www.tpts.co.uk



Seasonal Recipe

August/September is blackberry season and this is our most favourite pud. I have been making these for years as we have blackberries in our garden and always have some in the freezer. Simple to make and a posh pud for a special dinner!

Individual Blackberry Puds

150g blackberries

100g caster sugar

1 tablespoon crème de cassis

100g sr flour

50g olive oil spread

150ml milk

Sprinkle the blackberries with 1 tablespoon caster sugar and cassis in a small bowl. Set aside.

Rub the spread into the flour until it looks like fine bread crumbs. Stir in the sugar. Pour in the milk and stir. The mixture will be a lumpy batter.

Divide the blackberries and juice between 4 x 200ml ramekins. Ladle the batter evenly between the 4 ramekins.

Bake on a tray at 180°C for 35 mins until well risen and golden (the mixture may bubble over slightly). Leave to cool for 5 mins.

Dust with icing sugar and serve with a big spoonful of clotted cream on top.

Serves 4

PARISH SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2024

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 th August <i>Trinity 10</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe)
11 th August <i>Assumption (transferred)</i>	10.30am Patronal Benefice Eucharist		4pm Sung Evensong with Choir (Grimsthorpe)
18 th August <i>Trinity 12</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe)
25 th August <i>Trinity 13</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)

PARISH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
1 st September <i>Trinity 14</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
8 th September <i>Trinity 15 / Nativity BVM</i>	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
15 th September <i>Trinity 16</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
22 nd September <i>Trinity 17</i>		10am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)
27 th September	6pm Harvest Festival		
29 th September <i>Michael & All Angels</i>		6pm - Harvest Festival Followed by supper in the Parish Hall.	10.30am Patronal Benefice Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)

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