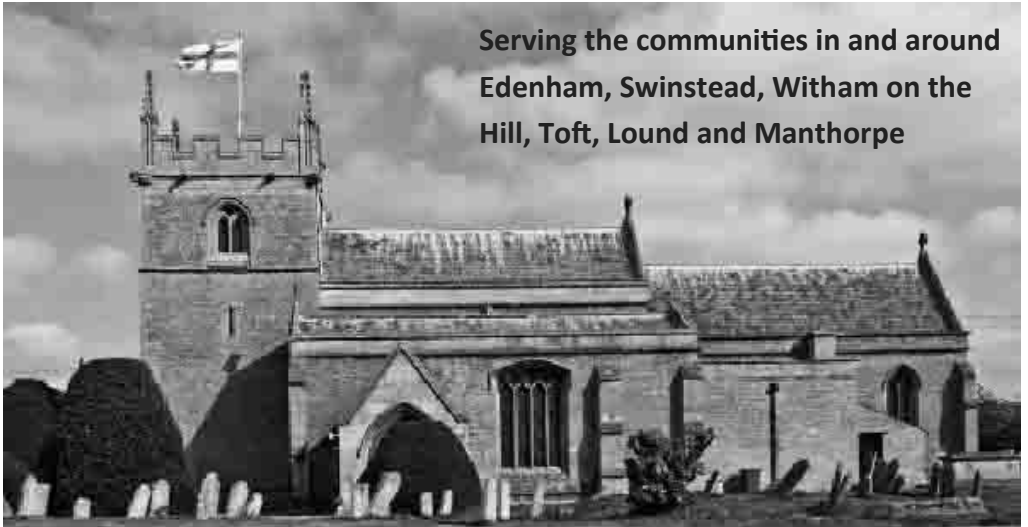


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February 2025

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## **Do you read your Three Towers online or do you prefer a hard copy?**

Discussion is currently underway considering the future financial viability of The Three Towers magazine. We would really like to hear our readers' and our advertisers' views.

As a reminder, the magazine does not run at a profit, all income goes towards the printing of the magazine. Any other costs in producing and getting the magazine to your door are carried by our volunteers.

It would be helpful to know if you:

**A. You would be happy to move to an electronic copy**

or

**B. You would rather stick with the printed copy**

Please let your production team know your view by contacting one of the following:

Tom McWilliams (Editor) - by email: [the3towers1@gmail.com](mailto:the3towers1@gmail.com)

Jane Clark (Advertising Manager) - by phone: 01778 590232

Your opinion matters.

Jodie Whitehead Miss Lincolnshire 2025  
invites you and your friends to a  
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Where and When?

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- 2.00pm – 4.30pm
- Thurlby Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Thurlby, PE10 0EE
- For more information email – [thurlby.repair.cafe@gmail.com](mailto:thurlby.repair.cafe@gmail.com)

# Parish News

**CAN YOU HELP?** - Helpers are required to clean St Michael's Church, Edenham. If you are able to join the rota please contact Ruth Atter, Jane Bradley or Marion Marshall. Help is also needed to clear twigs and nesting material in the belltower. Please contact Denis Murray 07769 660397.

**CONDOLENCES** to family, friends and neighbours of Grace Strutt of Swinstead, who passed away in December.

**CONDOLENCES** to Charles, Isabel and Emily Henriques, friends and neighbours of Briony Henriques who passed away on 22 December. She will be greatly missed by all in Witham on the Hill.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Lizi (nee Hawes) and Tom Robinson on the birth of Ernest on 11 January. May Ernest bring you all much happiness.

**CAROL SINGING Witham on the Hill** - Thank you to all who contributed in cash, food and drinks to the carol singers in Witham on the Hill. **£148.88 was raised for Church funds. Well done all!**

**CAROL SINGING Manthorpe** - Despite the weather, it was great to see so many gather together once more to join in with the annual Christmas carol sing throughout the village. Thank you to all who sang, to those who fed and watered (???) us and everyone who so generously donated. **The total sum collected was £240.05. The 2 charities that benefited** from your kindness are **Marie Curie and St Andrew's church.**

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU** to everyone involved in the annual Darts 12-hour Charity Marathon held every year in Swinstead Village Hall. 2024's **final figure is in and a massive £2,551.46** was raised thanks to the kind donations received from those supporting the players and support and donations through various local services and companies. The money will be donated to The Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance; a charity dedicated to providing pre-hospital critical care to the people of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

**THANK YOU** to Mrs Cheryl Robinson who organised a recent Charity Sew Along day in the Village Hall, to those who donated materials and to the amazing women who gave up their time bringing in their machines, sewing away producing around 14 quilts. The hall was a hive of activity with a team

# SWINSTEAD RACE NIGHT

PLACE YOUR BETS! KICK OFF AT 7.30PM



**SATURDAY 22ND MARCH  
FROM 7.30PM**

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of sewers, cutters, ironers and tea-makers preparing refreshments for the ladies making quilts for children undergoing gruelling cancer treatments and others less fortunate at end of life. These quilts can be a warm hug on a bad day providing a security blanket and are truly loved by those and their families that receive them. They will be going to the local NHS Oncology, Palliative and Bereavement team for distribution.

## Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 12 and 26 February, 10.30am to 12pm – Swinstead Village Hall Social Coffee Mornings.** Come and meet some new friends and enjoy some company, accompanied with coffee, tea, scones, cakes and bakes, and a chance to win a great prize with one free raffle ticket, all for £3.00.

**Friday 14 February, 7pm - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Valentine Quiz night with fish and chip supper (veggie option available) .** £10 per person. Tickets must be booked and paid for in advance as numbers are limited. Contact Debra McMillan 07716 965856. Bring your own drink.

**Saturday 2 March, 2pm onwards - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Afternoon Tea** charity event in aid of OCD-UK. See advert on page 4 for more details.

**Saturday 22 March, 7:30pm - Swinstead Annual Race Night –** a firm favourite on the Village Hall's Social Calendar. See advert on page 6.

**Saturday 22 March, 10am to 12 noon - Witham Hall School Charity Easter Egg Hunt** in aid of the Willoughby Foundation, Bourne. Tickets - £5 per child, adults are free. To purchase tickets, please visit [www.withamhall.com](http://www.withamhall.com) - Click on "What's on" then click on "Charity Easter Egg Hunt". See page 11 for more details.

**Sunday 13 April, 3pm - Puddings in St Andrew's Parish Hall.** Details to follow.

**Monday 5 May VE Celebrations on the village green, Witham on the Hill.** Do you have a big barbecue set up we can use? Volunteers please to Debra McMillan or Frances Plummer.

**Sunday 6 July, 2pm - village green, Witham on the Hill, Petanque, Pimms and Picnic.** Details to follow.

## The Vicar Writes

I don't know about you but I have occasional bursts of being 'organised' (those who live and work with me will testify to this). I try to plan ahead, to cover all the bases and very occasionally it works! But for the most part, I just muddle along (perhaps you do too?).

Planning is a big part of all our lives. From planning our families, to taking out a pre-paid funeral plan, we plan our way from cradle to grave. But do we ever worry that there's a danger we're becoming over-prepared? What do we do when things don't go according to plan? Are we still able to cope with something unpredictable, something that we can't organise or prepare for?

We often think of God as being constant and never-changing so it may come as a surprise to find Jesus apparently tearing up the running order and changing his mind in chapter six of St Mark's Gospel. Jesus steps ashore in search of some much-needed time off, but instead he finds himself surrounded by huge crowds of people hungry for his message. So, rather than following his intended plan and heading off for some me-time, Jesus takes pity on the people. He changes his plans, and he

preaches to them (and at some length too!). Unprepared for this encounter and carried along on a wave of enthusiasm, the crowds haven't brought enough to eat and find themselves hungry and a long way from home. But Jesus steps in and provides enough food for all who are there.

People often describe the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand as being about God blessing the little that we have in order to provide for many (and I would heartily agree). But it's also about Jesus finding that extra spiritual strength and determination to meet the demands of those around him. Just when he felt that he needed to take a break and recharge his batteries, he somehow found the strength to nourish and transform thousands of lives.

God doesn't always stick to plans and this is something that we need to bear in mind as the shape of ministry changes in our locality. How is it changing? Well, from the beginning of this year we have been left with just two stipendiary Priests in the Deanery (myself and Rev Stephen Buckman at Bourne Abbey). When I arrived here just six years ago there were six (including me), now there are only two (and I now have an extra



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Parish in Stamford to look after).

As you might imagine, the remaining clergy, the Archdeacons and Bishops have all been thinking and trying to plan for the new situation we're encountering. But as we do that, it's also worth remembering that even when things don't work out in quite the way we'd hoped they would, God will always provide us with what we truly need.

Even if we only have what appears to be limited resources at our disposal, God can still transform what seems like a little and help it to become a lot. Even if what we end up with isn't what (or who), we expected it would be; we should know and trust that God is in charge and that the same spiritual determination and resourcefulness that was at work in Jesus can also be at work in us through the gift of his Holy Spirit.

With all my prayers and best wishes for 2025.

Fr Edward



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## Witham Hall School

Our first Old Withamian's Christmas Drinks was an enormous success and a wonderful start to the festive season! Held at The George in Stamford, former pupils, parents, and staff enjoyed reminiscing over old school photographs whilst enjoying champagne and canapés. To help us build our OW Community, please stay in touch via [www.withamhall.com/alumni](http://www.withamhall.com/alumni).

We are also immensely proud to announce further Sports Scholarships have been awarded to: Alfie and Emma for Uppingham School; Nancy for Rugby School; George for Gresham's School; and Olivia for Oundle School.

Coming up, is our Charity Easter Egg Hunt in support of the Willoughby Foundation, Bourne. The event will take place on Saturday 22nd March from 10am - 12 noon and is open to the public. Families will follow the bunny trail through Witham Hall's historic grounds, collecting clues along the way to earn a treat at the end of the adventure. Why not enjoy coffee and cake in the pop-up café too, cash and card accepted. Tickets - £5 per child, adults are free.

To purchase tickets, please visit [Easter Egg Hunt](#).





WITHAM HALL

**Saturday 22nd  
March 2025**  
10am - 12 noon

For children aged one to six  
Please visit [withamhall.com](http://withamhall.com)  
to book, *tickets £5 per child*  
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## The Protector's Widow

King Charles I remains the only English King in history to be tried and executed for treason, a judicial murder which caused outrage and horror throughout the British Isles and Europe. Charles was beheaded in 1649 after the defeat of his armies by Parliamentary forces in the English Civil War. Parliament's army was commanded by Oliver Cromwell, arguably the most capable soldier in England at the time. He was also a Member of Parliament and a radical politician, bitterly opposed to the King, and it was largely at his instigation that Charles was put on trial. Realising that the country needed a head of state, Parliament declared that Oliver Cromwell be the Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland, a King in all but name.

But away from politics and the battlefield he was a dedicated family man. In 1620 he married Elizabeth Bourchier, daughter of a London merchant. Theirs was a long and stable marriage which produced nine children of whom eight survived until adulthood. Cromwell died at Whitehall on 3 September 1658. A violent storm wracked England on the night of his death, said by his enemies to be the Devil carrying away his soul. He was buried in Westminster Abbey following an elaborate funeral service.

His son Richard, known as "Tumbledown Dick", took on the duties of Lord Protector, but he was not the man his father was. In 1659 the Protectorate was dissolved, the army took over the government and the country became a military dictatorship. Parliament was rudely known as The Rump, and was a shadow of its former self.

Elizabeth Cromwell, known as the Lady Protectress, was well-provided for at her husband's death and given an annuity and lodgings in St James's in London. When the Protectorate fell, the ruling Council of Officers urged the Rump Parliament to treat her generously. In spring 1660, on the eve of the Restoration of the Monarchy, she left London, but was accused of purloining jewels and other goods belonging to the royal family. She strongly denied the

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charge. Elizabeth went to live in the Manor House in Northborough, Cambridgeshire, with her son-in-law John Claypole, where she spent her last years in quiet retirement. After a period of declining health, she died in November 1665 and was buried in Northborough church.

The Manor House had provided a comfortable residence for the Protector's widow. It is at the south end of the village, a small stone-built fortified hall of two storeys under a gabled roof.



A gatehouse stands

by the road with a magnificent arched entrance and added on to the west is a large, early seventeenth century barn into which a row of circular gun ports was cut during the Civil War. (Pictured).

There appears to be dispute over who originally built the Manor House. Either by Geoffrey De La Mare in the early fourteenth century and renovated and extended in the seventeenth, or built between 1333 and 1336 by William de Eyton - the Master Mason and Architect of Lichfield Cathedral.

The Manor House was owned in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Claypole family. John Claypole, was born on 21 August 1625, the eldest son of John Claypole and his wife Mary. John Claypole the younger was a Parliamentary soldier, politician, and great friend of Oliver Cromwell. He married Elizabeth, Oliver's second and favourite daughter, at Holy Trinity Church, Ely, on 13 January 1646. John first appeared in arms for Parliament at the siege of Newark in the winter of 1645–6, and rose to become a colonel of a regiment in July

## **The Witham Church and School Estate Charity & 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](mailto:withamtrust@gmail.com).**



1651. On 11 August 1651 he received a commission from the Council of State to raise a troop of horse in Northamptonshire to oppose the march of Charles II into England. At the Restoration of the Monarchy John returned to Northborough. But John had financial difficulties and had to sell the Manor in 1681 to a Lord Fitzwilliam. John died on 26 June 1688. John and his wife Elizabeth seem to have spent most of their married life in London rather than Cambridgeshire. Elizabeth sadly died in August 1658. Their children, three sons and a daughter, all died young.

St. Andrew's in Northborough is along Church Lane which turns off the main road between the Manor House and the Packhorse pub. The church has a late 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century nave and a very large south chantry chapel known as the Claypole Chapel. The chapel contains the graves of some of the Claypole family. John and Elizabeth were both buried in London, but at least two of their children were laid to rest in the chapel. Elizabeth, widow of Oliver Cromwell, is buried in a vaulted charnel house beneath the chapel. Although no contemporary monument survives, a large broken, and repaired, floor slab is traditionally said to mark her grave. The Cromwell Association have set up an inscribed tablet in her memory on the east wall.

Unfortunately, I have always found St. Andrew's church locked thus preventing a visit to the Claypole chapel, and the old Manor House is a private dwelling so it must be admired from the outside. Northborough was on the main road into Peterborough until February 1989 when the A15 Glinton bypass opened, but the road through the village is still a bit busy, so street parking is risky. However, the landlord at the Packhorse pub, close to the Manor House, will allow use of his car park if politely asked. Visiting these places in Northborough is not always easy, but like most things in life, putting in a bit of effort makes the experience most rewarding.

Dick Mundy



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# Witham on the Hill WI

## December 2024

The speaker, Wayne Asher, of Redsmith Distillery, told us he is the founder of the only distillery in Nottingham. From an engineering background, playing with steam engines as a child, he worked for Rolls Royce. With the downturn in aircraft after 9/11 he was made redundant, so set up a plumbing repair business.

He got fed up and decided to do something he enjoyed. He looked at Sipsmiths of London, who challenged the government and got laws changed so that small-scale distilleries could be set up.

He took a year to build his own still – which holds 70 litres, 100 bottles. The first gin went on sale on 11 May 2016, beginning with London Dry Gin, which is still the most popular and has won awards.

The botanicals are warmed left to stand for 24 hours, boiled then distilled, 84% APV then diluted with water. Severn Trent water is used with reverse osmosis to remove impurities. Various botanicals are used: bay, rosemary, coriander, angelica root, citrus zest, according to the flavour required.

Wayne explained that London Dry Gin cannot have any additives after distillation. The apple gin uses local Bramley apples from Southwell. He experiments with flavours.

Most of the gin can be bought in Nottingham or online. Some is sold to various restaurants and bars in London and Liverpool.

After answering lots of questions, including how long gin will keep (indefinitely!) we all sampled some of the gins!

We enjoyed a festive bring and share supper, then took presents from Santa's sack.

Members look forward to a Christmas Lunch at the Bertie Arms and to a Lincs South lunch at Belton Woods Golf Club with speakers: Peter Butcher (dentist) and Denise Aitken (Olympic volunteer)

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 4 February at 2.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill. It is the annual meeting when the new President is elected and will include an upcycle table – bring preloved and unwanted items for rehoming! Visitors and new members are always very welcome - entry fee £5. For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary, tel 01778 590232.

# 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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# Jane's Seasonal Recipe

*A glut of sprouts, made me look for different ideas to use them up! These muffins are tasty, and with lots of healthy ingredients, very good for you. Perhaps children who won't eat sprouts might eat them in this form! Other greens could be substituted.*

## **CHEESEY SPROUT BREAKFAST MUFFINS**

***2 tablespoons olive oil***  
***1 red onion***  
***1 teaspoon cinnamon***  
***¼ teaspoon nutmeg***  
***115g Brussels sprouts***  
***250g sr flour***  
***1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda***  
***2 eggs***  
***250g natural yogurt***  
***100g grated strong cheddar cheese***  
***1 grated carrot***  
***4 tablespoons pumpkin seeds***  
***2 tablespoons pine nuts***

Heat the oil in a fry pan, cook finely chopped onion over a medium heat, until softened. Stir in spices and finely shredded sprouts, cook for 3 mins. Leave to cool. Mix flour and bicarb in a large bowl. Beat eggs and yogurt, stir into flour, with cooled sprout mixture. Fold in cheese, carrots and seeds. Divide mixture into 12 paper muffin cases. Bake in oven at 200c for 20 mins until risen and golden.

Best eaten warm, but will keep for 2 days and can be reheated.

**MAKES 12**

# Safe Phrase

## A Simple Way to Better Protect Yourself

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Voice Cloning is increasingly commonplace.** We should all be aware of the scam text messages that claim to be from a friend or family member stating that they have lost their phone and are now using a new number. They then ask for money and, of course, it is not them but a scam.

AI Voice Cloning takes this type of scam to a new level; this is where the scammer will call you or send a voice message that sounds just like the person they are claiming to be. **One very simple way to combat this type of scam is to have a pre-arranged "safe phrase" with your family members and maybe another with very close friends.**

If your son/daughter/mother/father calls you and explains that they urgently need money, simply **ask them to give you the safe phrase.** If they cannot, or say they have forgotten but will give it to you later, **hangup!**

**Do not send any money or get into discussion with them. It is a scam.**

The cloning is so good that you will not be able to tell the difference between the real person's voice and the cloned voice. According to the Home Office, it only takes 3 seconds of hearing your voice to create a clone of it.

The advice is to agree on a safe phrase in person. Do not discuss and agree to it online, certainly not on Facebook or even via WhatsApp. It is advised that we don't record this phrase on any digital device. Put it down on paper.

Keep the phrase simple but do not include anything personal like a pet's name, your address or a child's name. Daft things like: "Pink Olive Trees" has been given as an example. I am sure you can think of your own.



# THRIVE

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## PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2025

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	Stamford
2 <sup>nd</sup> February <i>Candlemas</i>		9.30am Benefice Service	4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	11.15am Parish Mass
9 <sup>th</sup> February <i>4 before Lent</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	11.15am Parish Mass
16 <sup>th</sup> February <i>3 before Lent</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	11.15am Parish Mass
23 <sup>rd</sup> February <i>2 before Lent</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist  4pm Evensong (Stable Chapel)	11.15am Parish Mass
5 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		7pm Sung Eucharist		12pm Low Mass  7pm Sung Mass

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](mailto:Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org)