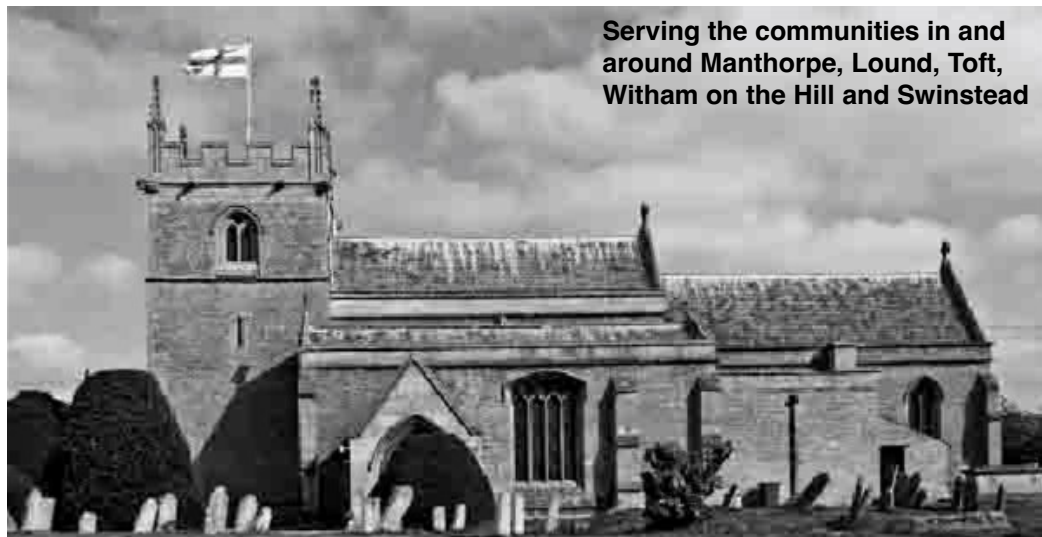


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Parish News

CONFIRMATION of Agatha, daughter of David and Clarissa Hawes, and George, son of Ben and Michelle Hawes, at St Andrew's on 22 June by Bishop Luke of Richborough. Congratulations and welcome to our Church family.

CONGRATULATIONS to Harriet and Grant Lyon of Manthorpe on the birth of their daughter, Maddison Isla, who was born on 9 July. We wish them all the best.

SWIFT AWARENESS WEEK Thanks to all 31 people who attended the inaugural Swift Awareness Week event at Glen House on 1 July. Paul Toseland gave an 'Introduction to Swifts' talk. Covering the life of a swift, habits, our colony and what we can all do to ensure its future.

It was a very enjoyable and social evening with the swifts putting on a fantastic aerial display (as if playing to their audience). The event will be repeated next year. If you would like to get involved in helping conserve our swifts, please contact Paul at mail@paultoseland.co.uk.



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 2 August, 7.30pm – Swinstead Village Hall - Darts Knockout Tournament. Polish up your darts and come down for what will be an eventful evening of skill and competition. £5 per player with 1st prize of £100 cash plus prizes for 180's highest check out. Doors and bar open at 7pm and darts from 7.30pm.



Swinstead Village VJ Day Beacon Lighting
9.30pm Friday 15th August 2025



*Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the formal end
of World War II after Japan's surrender to the Allied forces*

*To commemorate this historical day,
Swinstead's Beacon Brazier will be lit 9.30pm sharp
on The Green on Bourne Road
(situated next door to 6 Bourne Road)*

*Raise a glass in the Village Hall Bar
to give grateful recognition for the sacrifice of those
who served and to honour those we lost*

- Bar Open 7pm -

Wednesday 13 & 27 August and 10 & 24 September, 10.30am to 12pm – Swinstead Village Hall - Social Coffee Mornings. Come and meet some new friends, 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 15 August, 9.30pm - Swinstead Village VJ Day Beacon Lighting - Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the formal end of World War II after Japan's surrender to the Allied forces on August 15, 1945. To commemorate this historical day, Swinstead will light the Village Beacon Brazier at 9.30pm sharp and afterwards raise a glass in the village hall bar. The bar will open at 7pm for anyone wishing to drop in prior.

Saturday 23 August, 2pm - Petanque, Pimms and Picnic on the village green, Witham on the Hill. Bring your own drinks - 1st glass of Pimms is free.

Saturday 6 September, 8.30am onwards - Steam Action 49th Annual Produce Show, Edenham Village Hall. See schedule in May edition or in the August/September online edition.

Saturday 13 September, 3pm to 7pm – Pig Skittling for Charity - Swinstead Village Hall. Enjoy an afternoon of family entertainment while supporting Macmillan Cancer Research. The event features a Best of Day Knockout competition with the winner receiving £100 worth of pork and other fun prizes. Each skittle costs £2 and all proceeds will be donated to the charity. Come along for fun, community spirit and a good cause.

Saturday 13 September - Help the Lincolnshire Churches Trust maintain Lincolnshire's fabulous churches. Get sponsored for the Bike, Ride and Stride. You can cycle, walk, run or even ride your horse between churches, raising money for your local church and the Lincolnshire Churches Trust. Join your friends or family or have a peaceful day on your own, visiting Lincolnshire's beautiful churches, and be sponsored for every church you visit.



Friday 26 September, 8.30 am until 12 noon. Please come to a Macmillan Coffee Morning at Witham Manor, Witham on the Hill. The event is being hosted by Suzy Grigson and the Just Sing! Ladies choir. There will be a raffle and a wonderful selection of delicious homemade scones and cakes.

Sunday 7 December, 7pm - A concert in St. Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill. A delightful evening with a selection of songs from films, theatre and Christmas performed by the Just Sing! Ladies choir. Tickets can be purchased from Suzy Grigson tel no 07970 784668 and the proceeds will go to St. Andrew's Church.

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.

Applications to:

The Clerk to the Trustees

Email: withamtrust@gmail.com

Steam Action

49th Annual Produce Show

Saturday 6th Sept. 2025 | Edenham Village Hall



The Vicar Writes

I often wonder how many of the people who read this monthly message are regular churchgoers. In my family there are two weekly attenders, myself and my mother (she's a Churchwarden in Durham Diocese). I don't really know what it's like for others to have a churchgoer in their family or household – I've pretty much always been one. Some of my relations are quietly dismissive of what I do, one or two have objections to Christian faith (and that's fair enough, it's their choice and I respect it).

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke we hear about the family of Jesus attempting what we would now call an 'intervention'. They've become worried and concerned for Jesus, his ministry and the attention he's been attracting. So they try to reach out to him but he's inside a house preaching and teaching and the house is so full that his family can't gain entrance. According to some scholars, the fact that members of Jesus' biological family were outside of the body of people who are listening to him might suggest that they were on the periphery of those who were following him. Now, just to be clear, I'm not necessarily putting the Blessed Virgin Mary in that category. We know about her faith and devotion. We know about her keeping vigil at the Cross and with the disciples at Pentecost. But the Blessed Virgin Mary apart, where are the others? Or what, we may wonder, was their status at this point in the ministry of Jesus? We don't hear from them, nor do we hear much about them.

What's even more interesting is that when Jesus is told that his family are outside and anxious to have a word with him, he responds not to them but to the messenger and asks "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Now, again, just to be clear, Jesus is not being sarcastic or ignorant here. He's not suggesting that he fell from the sky and landed in the manger at Bethlehem! He knows that Mary was his mother, he knows that he has sisters (mentioned but not named in St Matthew's Gospel) and brothers (possibly cousins or half-brothers) who are named, James, Joseph, Simon and Judas (Matthew 13.55). But what we can see is that the family of Jesus are spatially and possibly theologically 'outside' i.e. they haven't been following him like others have.

So, what can we learn from this? Well, if the family of Jesus could show confusion or even hostility towards him then it shouldn't come as any shock to any of us if we experience something similar. The second thing to consider is time. We know that Mary was there at the foot of the Cross, and we read in Acts that the eleven "together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers" (Acts 1.14) were altogether in the upper room at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured-out upon them. More than that, we also know that James, the brother of the Lord, became a leader in the Jerusalem Church

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and began his epistle "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ". How's that for a turnaround?

So, when it comes to our own families and churchgoing, my advice would always be to show courtesy and respect. But I would also encourage prayer (nobody in my family seems to mind me praying for them!). Occasionally, when my family are complaining about how terrible I am, I remind them that I would probably be much worse if I didn't go to Church and, strangely, they agree! Above all, don't give up hope, persevere and know that, whatever happens, as long as we seek to do the will of our Father in heaven, we will be counted among brothers and sisters of Christ.

Fr Edward



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Steam Action

49th Annual Produce Show

Saturday 6th Sept. 2025 | Edenham Village Hall

Who can enter?

- Residents of Edenham, Swinstead & Witham Parish
- Relatives of those who live in Edenham Parish
- Eligible members of Steam Action
- Pupils of Edenham School, Grimsthorpe Castle Day Nursery & Pillarwood Farm Pre-School



Friday 5th September

6-7pm - Please bring your entries to the hall (No food items)

Saturday 6th September

8.30-10.30am - Please bring your entries to the hall

2pm - Viewing and refreshments

3pm - Presentation of trophies followed by

3.30pm - Auction of produce

* 50p per entry

* Winners trophies are given but need to be returned before next year's show

* Scoring: 1st - 3 points & £1 prize money, 2nd - 2 points, 3rd - 1 point

* Show secretaries Nikki Gunn 01778 591197 & Amanda Treacy

07984427799

SECTION A - FLOWERS (Grown by the exhibitor for at least 2 months)

- 1 One rose (any variety)
- 2 Vase of six roses (any variety)
- 3 Vase of mixed flowers cut from open border (any variety)
- 4 Tallest Sunflower (judged on premises)
- 5 Flowering pot plant
- 6 Vase of five dahlias
- 7 Vase of five chrysanthemums
- 8 Foliage pot plant
- 9 Hanging basket (judged on premises)
- 10 Cactus or Succulent

SECTION B - DECORATIVE (Completed in the last 12 months)

- 11 Arrangement of flowers (not to exceed 24" overall)
- 12 Button hole used for a wedding (man or woman)
- 13 Pressed flower (A5 size)
- 14 A flower or foliage arrangement in an unusual container
- 15 Decorative door wreath (12" diameter)
- 16 Decorative headdress
- 17 One vegetable and one bloom (open to any interpretation)
- 18 Greenery arrangement not to exceed 18" overall

SECTION C -FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (Grown by the exhibitor for at least two months)

- 19 Box of mixed vegetables (maximum box size 18" x 12")
- 20 Cucumber
- 21 Three potatoes any colour
- 22 Three quality carrots with 3" tops
- 23 Pepper (any variety)
- 24 Three onion sets (cut and tied)
- 25 One large onion (cut and tied)
- 26 Three greenhouse tomatoes
- 27 Three pods of runner beans
- 28 Unusual shaped, or sized, fruit or veg
- 29 Pair of marrows, courgettes, squash or pumpkins
- 30 Five shallots
- 31 Three beetroot with 3" tops
- 32 Tied bunch of three herbs
- 33 Three dessert apples
- 34 Three cooking apples
- 35 Bowl of dessert fruit

SECTION D - HOMEMADE (Completed in the last 12 months, wrapped in Clingfilm)

- 36 Homemade beverage in a bottle (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)
- 37 Jar of curd any flavour (must have cellophane top)
- 38 Jar of jam any flavour (must have cellophane top)
- 39 Jar of marmalade any variety (must have cellophane top)
- 40 Jar of chutney any variety (must have cellophane top)
- 41 6 cheese straws (any size)
- 42 Victoria sponge (jam filled, sprinkled with castor sugar)
- 43 Victoria sponge baked by a man (jam filled, sprinkled with castor sugar)
- 44 Six squares of flapjack
- 45 Lemon meringue pie (foil container)
- 46 Four fruit scones
- 47 One rich fruit cake
- 48 Savoury quiche in foil container
- 49 Apple pie in foil container
- 50 Loaf of bread (any size)
- 51 Decorated chocolate cake
- 52 Banana cake- "Bake off cake" (see recipe on last page)
- 53 Five pieces of shortbread
- 54 Five decorated cupcakes
- 55 Five pieces of lemon tray bake
- 56 Six sausage rolls

SECTION E - HANDICRAFTS (Completed in the last 12 months)

- 57 Drawing or Painting (oil or watercolour)
- 58 Sewing machine item
- 59 Wood crafted item
- 60 Hand knitted or crocheted item
- 61 Item of patchwork
- 62 Wind chime (any size)
- 63 Article of embroidery or cross stitch
- 64 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)
- 65 Upcycled/recycled item (include the item origin and what it has transitioned into)
- 66 An item of homemade jewellery

SECTION F - CHILDREN Under 7 years (key stage 1)

- 67 Item of cookery
- 68 Vegetable model
- 69 Self Portrait- (any media) (A4 max)
- 70 Miniature Garden (maximum size 12" x 18". Traditional or modern. Be creative!)
- 71 Home grown fruit, flower or vegetable
- 72 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)

SECTION F - CHILDREN 7 - 15 years (key stage 2 -4)

- 73 Item of cookery
- 74 Vegetable model
- 75 Self Portrait (A4 max)
- 76 Miniature Garden (maximum size 12" x 18". Traditional or modern. Be creative!)
- 77 Home grown fruit, flower or vegetable
- 78 Veg & Produce Show themed bunting flag (any material, triangle, A5 size)

SECTION G - PHOTOGRAPHY (Taken in the last 12 months)

(Maximum size of photo 7" x 5")

- 79 Funny photo
- 80 Bridges
- 81 Sunrise or sunset
- 82 Farming
- 83 Triangles

SECTION H - DISASTER

- 84 Planned entry that ended in disaster

Show Rules

1. Children may enter any class, but this must be clearly stated at time of entry.
2. The organisers reserve the right to alter or omit any classes.
3. Care will be taken to safeguard exhibits, but the organisers cannot be responsible for
loss or damage, or for exhibits left after 3.30pm on the day of the show.
4. "Not for sale" cards are available on request and should be placed with any item entered but not for the auction.
5. The judge's decision is final.
6. Bunting in E64, F72 and F78 is to be kept and hung at future shows.

SECTION D - HOMEMADE Class 52. Bake off cake recipe

Cake

345g mashed bananas	375g all purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder	1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp ground cinnamon	½ tsp salt
170g unsalted butter	200g granulated sugar
100g light or dark brown sugar	3 large eggs
2 tsp pure vanilla extract	360ml buttermilk

Cream Cheese Frosting

226g full fat brick cream cheese	113g unsalted butter
360g confectioners' sugar	1 tsp pure vanilla extract

WITHAM ON THE HILL WI

JULY 2025

This was a joint meeting with Carlby WI in the Carlby village hall. The speaker, Jeff Woods, aka Pavanotti, began by saying he was Salford born, in a singing household where his mother was always singing – on car journeys they sang “Seven Little Girls”, which was very familiar to most of us, so we joined in.

Jeff went to Cardiff University, worked at Butlin’s in Pwllheli. Aged 30, he took singing lessons, learned classical arias in foreign languages, how to breathe, stand and strengthen his diaphragm. He thought he was a baritone but was told he was a tenor. He then sang “Mama” in Italian to us. He went on to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He didn’t have much money and drove around in an old ambulance, painted green, converted into a campervan.

In the 1990s he joined an agency, doing “kissograms” singing and giving out flowers and chocolates. He was spotted by Granada TV and for a programme sang in St Helens shopping centre, giving out flowers. It took off, became popular, doing 10 or 12 “kissograms” at the weekends.

Jeff performed for Pebble Mill, cabaret, cruise ships, opera and Gilbert and Sullivan. He did an amazing rendition of “If I were a Rich Man” from Fiddler on the Roof, with the audience providing the animal noises.

On his first cruise with Saga, he met Valerie Singleton who was then a reporter. He met Princess Diana when he did a Devon primary school show with singing and dancing for her. Her comment was: “I normally get the recorder group.”

Jeff finished with Nessun Dorma, then sang Sorrento and O Sole Mio for the encore. His talk was presented with humour and charisma, greatly enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5 August at 7pm on the Witham on the Hill village green (in the Parish Hall if wet) for games. Bring a small plate of food for supper. On 2 September the speaker will be Sharon Hall, Lincolnshire Police Fraud Prevention Officer. Visitors and new members are always very welcome - entry fee £5.

For more information contact Jane Clark, Secretary: tel 01778 590232.

The Three Fonts

At a risk of stating the obvious, all Christians know that a font is a piece of sculpted stone found in a church for holding Holy water for use in the baptism ritual, which represents admission to the Church of England. The service of baptism involves water being poured into the bowl in the font, blessed by the vicar, then poured or sprinkled onto the recipient's head, or used to make the sign of the cross on the forehead. Baptism for babies and young children takes place in a service called a Christening. There is no reason that an adult cannot be baptised. Some churches will perform total immersion as the act of baptism for adults.

Fonts have existed for many centuries. In fact, the oldest ones are over 2,000 years old, shallow pools cut into the soft tufa rock in the floor of baptismal chapels in the Roman catacombs. In England, fonts come in many shapes and sizes and are often made by local craftsmen, with decoration ranging

from non-existent to elaborate. Late Saxon and early Norman fonts are often built in a simple tub shape, while other variations have the bowl supported on four corner pillars or a single central column. Eight-sided fonts were common from the 13th century and the norm for the 14th century. This is of religious significance for in Genesis, the world was created in seven days. The "eighth day" is the day after the completion of creation and is also the day of Christ's resurrection. Each of the sides of the font could be elaborately carved with religious symbols, figures of saints, green man variants and heraldic shields. Fonts would have been paid for by the parishioners, and so the richness of their decoration was determined by the funds available and the prevailing architectural fashions of the time. Some of the more extravagant have elaborate multi-tiered covers, raised for use via ropes or chains and

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pulleys.

Fonts are often placed at or near the entrance to a church's nave to remind the congregation, or visitors to the church, of their own baptism as they enter the church to pray, or just look around, since the rite of baptism served as their initiation into the Church. But they do tend to get moved around with church alterations, often finishing up near the west end.



Witham on the Hill

I have never seen fonts in different

churches that are the same. There must be no hard and fast rules for fonts. The fonts in each of the three churches in our benefice are all different, as the photographs show.



Edenham

At St. Michaels and all Angels in Edenham is a large drum-shaped font without a stem. Around the drum are shafts carrying unusually two-lobed arches. The font is carved out of one piece of stone and is possibly late 12th century. It has been moved around several times and its present



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position is a result of filling the nave with pews in the middle of the 19th century.

According to Rex Needle, a local historian, it is currently tucked away in a corner and crammed in by pews and other seating.

St. Andrew Witham on the Hill has an octagonal font of about 1660 sitting on a two-tiered octagonal 19th century base. It has carvings to all eight sides consisting of chevrons, foliage and a cross. Pevsner in his “Buildings of England – Lincolnshire” casts doubt on its age but offers no alternative. But he does describe St. Andrew’s as “a strange, alas, over-restored, church.”

There appears to be a dispute concerning the font at St. Mary, Swinstead. Whereas a notice in the church says it is the same age as the church building, which is early 13th century, the Historic England official listing says all fittings are 19th century including the early 14th century style font.



Swinstead

Fonts may be a smaller architectural feature of a church compared to, say, a great west window or a spire, but a font is a living part of a church which plays a role of greater religious significance than the others. That is their attraction. That and their variety, sculpture, carvings, and antiquity. It is always worth taking a good look at the font when visiting a church. You will find it very rewarding.

Dick Mundy.

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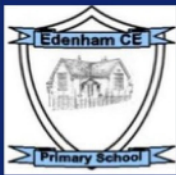
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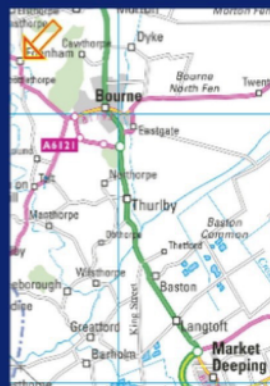


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Jane's Seasonal Recipe

I made this last Christmas, and when I defrosted my freezer recently, I found some cranberries, so I made this jam again along with strawberries from our garden.

Christmas Jam (not just for Christmas!)

12oz cranberries (fresh or if frozen defrosted)
16oz strawberries (fresh or if frozen defrosted)
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon mixed spice
1lb 12oz granulated sugar
125ml fresh orange juice
zest of 1 orange
1 lemon
small knob butter

Peel and section lemon, removing skin and pith. Put cranberries, strawberries, lemon pieces and spices in blender. Coarsely chop – **DO NOT PUREE**. Put in heavy bottom pan, stir in orange juice and zest. Add the butter (to reduce foaming). Bring mixture to rolling boil over a high heat, stir constantly. Add sugar and heat gently until melted. Simmer on medium heat until thickened. Remove from heat and test for set – cool a small amount on a saucer and leave to cool. Run finger over it, and if it wrinkles it is set. Ladle into hot jars and add lids while hot to form a seal.

Good as a sweet jam but can also be eaten with cold meats.



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PARISH SERVICE FOR AUGUST 2025

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	<u>Bythams</u>
3 rd August <i>Trinity 7</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (<u>Castle Bytham</u>)
10 th August <i>Trinity 8</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist	6pm Parish Eucharist (<u>Careby</u>)
17 th August <i>Assumption BVM</i>	11.15am Patronal Eucharist		4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (<u>Creeton</u>)
24 th August <i>Trinity 10</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Sung Evensong with Choir (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little <u>Bytham</u>)
31 st August <i>Trinity 11</i>			9.30am Group Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	

PARISH SERVICE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham	<u>Bythams</u>
7 th September <i>Trinity 12</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Castle <u>Bytham</u>)
14 th September <i>Holy Cross</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	6pm Parish Eucharist (<u>Careby</u>)
21 st September <i>Trinity 14</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (<u>Creeton</u>)
28 th September <i>Trinity 15</i>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.15am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evensong (Grimsthorpe Chapel)	9.30am Parish Eucharist (Little <u>Bytham</u>)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Confessions or any other pastoral or spiritual need, contact: The Revd Fr Edward Martin SSC 01778 591358 - Edward.Martin@lincoln.anglican.org