

**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF EDENHAM WITH  
WITHAM ON THE HILL AND SWINSTEAD**

**EDENHAM REGIONAL HOUSE**

**LINCOLN CEMES**

19 April 2018



## Whoever wants to be my disciple ....'

In St Luke's Gospel (9.23), Jesus issues the invitation to follow him. Having called his first disciples, he now calls us: 'Take up your cross daily and follow me'.

We would like to invite you to consider whether Jesus is now calling you to South Lincolnshire, to the parishes of Edenham, Swinstead and Witham on the Hill, to the Edenham Regional House and to the new Church of England Ministerial Experience Scheme that we are establishing here. If He is, you will find committed Christians who wish to grow as disciples with you as their priest, a house of prayer and retreat that is seeking a new Warden and guide and an opportunity to shape young lives as they in their turn listen to God's call to them.

For some years now the people of the Diocese of Lincoln have been renewing their commitment to God in three ways: in worship, as disciples and in service. We have found this threefold framework to be a fulfilling way of picturing who we are and what we do. God the Father creates us and we respond to our creation in faithful worship. God the Son calls us to follow him and we are seeking to be ever more confident in our discipleship of him. God the Holy Spirit sustains us in our daily living, and it is in this living that we seek to serve His people with joy.

The retirement of Canon Andy Hawes from the Regional House and the Benefice of Edenham opens a unique opportunity to focus this threefold response to God in a new ministry of worship, discipleship and service: three parishes in need of a priest, a Regional House in need of a new spiritual guide and a diocese in need of someone to stimulate vocations among young people and especially those who in a rural setting may have hitherto been poorly served by the Church as a whole.

We hope that in reading this you might be this person.

This is a rare opportunity to bring many things together: parishes who are steeped in the Catholic faith of the Church of England; a house of prayer that offers hospitality to women and men of all traditions and denominations; a scheme that we believe will inspire young Christians, deepen their faith, and equip them to be leaders in the Church, whether as priests and ministers or as committed lay people.

In the overlap of worship, discipleship and service, the Diocese of Lincoln is being renewed. We are seeking to establish at Edenham a similar overlap which will be a well for the thirsty, a crucible of creativity and a loving community in which lives are transformed and the Lord's call is heard.

+ Norman Richborough  
See of Richborough

+ Nicholas Grantham  
Diocese of Lincoln

## About the Parishes and their prospective Priest

The United Benefice of St Michael and All Angels Church, Edenham; St Mary's Church, Swinstead, and St Andrew's Church, Witham on the Hill is a traditional Catholic Anglican Eucharistic community of three parishes. The parishes have passed resolutions requesting (on the grounds of theological conviction) that arrangements be made for them in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. As such, pastoral care will be provided by the Bishop of Richborough, with administrative ties to the Diocese of Lincoln. It is expected that the new incumbent will continue to guarantee a parochial ministry in the historic, apostolic succession, whilst at the same time demonstrating commitment to the mutual flourishing of all traditions in the Church of England in his role as Warden of Edenham Regional House and Leader of the CEMES.

The parishes are very diverse, and a new Incumbent will need to respect the identity of each Parish whilst building even closer cooperation across the Benefice. He will also need to maintain the excellent relationship between the parishes and the Grimsthorpe and Drummond Castle Trust, remembering that Lady Willoughby de Eresby is the patron of the Church at Edenham<sup>1</sup>.

In relation to worship and liturgy, the parishes have enjoyed a service of Holy Communion every Sunday in each of the three churches of the Benefice. We hope that a new Incumbent will be able to continue this pattern, will maintain orthodoxy in teaching and liturgy, and preach the Gospel precisely, in clear and inspirational language. The ministry of musicians and singers in worship has been built up over the years, and needs to be encouraged and supported together with the endeavours of the small but enthusiastic teams of bell-ringers.

Strong parochial ministry will provide the foundation for his work as Warden of the Regional House and Leader of CEMES. The incumbent will be a collaborative leader of the existing Ministry Team and someone who can draw out and encourage the gifts and ministry of others across the Benefice. He must also be able to motivate, inspire, challenge and develop people in their Christian service, through teaching, education and Bible study. The village schools also provide opportunities to specifically nurture children's understanding and wonderment of Christian life and the incumbent will be an ex-officio Foundation Governor at Edenham Church of England school.

We want to encourage worshippers to be more committed and to attend their own church regularly as well as attending combined benefice services held at other churches. We need to strengthen the church community and let it be seen as a beacon of hope and inspiration to others in the wider community by being a community of Faith and Witness.

We are particularly aware of the needs of rural communities with ageing populations, single households and concerns about people feeling isolated and unconnected. The Incumbent will need to enjoy rural ministry and village life and be empathetic in engaging with these issues. He will also need to be committed to pastoral visiting, outreach and mission in the community, and be able to build new relationships across the benefice, the deanery and the Diocese.

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<sup>1</sup> The Patron of the Church at Swinstead is the Lord Chancellor.  
The Patron of the Church at Witham on the Hill is the Bishop of Lincoln.



## About the Regional House

Edenham Regional House is based in a large Queen Anne property, set in a beautiful landscaped wooded garden immediately adjacent to Edenham parish church. The property is owned by the Grimsthorpe and Castle Drummond Trust but has been leased to the Diocese of Lincoln for many years as a parsonage house, with the lease specifying that the House is to be used both as a home for the Incumbent and as a Regional House, being a centre for 'education, training and ministry'.

The Regional House welcomes a wide variety of individuals and groups for quiet days, retreats, spiritual direction, workshops, training events, individually guided retreats and other meetings. The House is very much a part of the life of the parishes with strongly established patterns of volunteering and lay ministry, and runs around an established pattern of prayer offered either in the Chapel or in Edenham Parish Church.

Although the parishes have asked for pastoral oversight from the Bishop of Richborough, the policy of the House is to be open to everyone. Visitors of any Christian denomination or tradition are welcome to use the House and Chapel for prayer and worship and women are welcome to preside. Groups or individuals who use the House on a Friday and Saturday are invited to attend the Chapel Eucharist at noon, presided by one of the team. The Friday Eucharist is followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch to which all are welcome.

In 2017 the number of people using the House was:

Organised groups	658
Programme event	449
Number of Bed nights	168
Individual Quiet days	54
Sessions of Spiritual direction	129
Others (including parish use)	1246

### Governance

The House is overseen by a Board of Trustees, which includes the Warden, and is run on a day to day basis by the Warden and a Management Committee.

The Trustees, who normally meet twice a year, employ the staff (except for the Warden), set the budget and overall direction of the House and are responsible for ensuring that policies are in place governing such as areas as Health and Safety. The finances of the House are on a sound footing.

The Management Committee meet four times a year and are responsible for the day to day running of the House, initiating programmes of events and proposing future developments.

There are two employed members of staff - a Housekeeper who caters for groups of visitors and residents, and a part-time Administrator who works ten hours a week. Both members of staff are paid the Living Wage.

The House is also supported by the Friends of Edenham Regional House by way of prayer, fund raising, physical help in the garden and kitchen, and by a programme of speakers and craft and activity days.

## Facilities

There are several rooms available to retreatants and visitors. These include a large sitting room, a dining room, the Stable Chapel and the entrance hall. The Stable Chapel is a flexible space which can seat up to 25 in a 'circle' style layout, and is heated by a log burner. It is fully equipped with resources for prayer and worship. There is also a small room, 'the Snug', adjacent to the Chapel, which is used for worship preparation and one to one conversations with the Warden.

On the second floor of the House there are four bedrooms and one sitting/kitchen/dining area for those who are self-catering. Hospitality and shared meals are a strong tradition in the House and are overseen by the housekeeper. Breakfast, lunch and evening meals can be provided. Two of the bedrooms (one twin and one single) are fully en-suite, having toilet, washbasin and shower. Two bedrooms (one twin, one single) are en-suite having toilet and washbasin. There is a separate shower room and bathroom. It is anticipated that the CEMES students would have accommodation provided in this part of the House

The Coach House on the Ground Floor has also been converted to provide disabled accommodation and is wheelchair accessible.

The Regional House web site is at [www.edenhamregionalhouse.org](http://www.edenhamregionalhouse.org).

## Development

The Trustees are aware that the House has little divide between 'public' and 'private' space, with the property having very much the feel of an 'open house' in which the Parish Priest and his family offer hospitality. Although this situation was welcomed by the current Warden thirty years ago, it is recognised that this is now unacceptable. Consequently, the Trustees have commenced work to ensure that there is better reconfiguration of the space within the House and building work is anticipated later this year.



The Stable Chapel

## About CEMES

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND MINISTERIAL SCHEME

The Church of England Ministerial Scheme (CEMES) is a national scheme for young people aged between 18 and 30 to explore ministry within the Church of England. The 9 month long scheme (from September through to June) offers an opportunity for young people to develop practical experience, to undertake theological training and to take time for personal development. There are currently 16 different schemes running, in dioceses as diverse as Truro, London and Newcastle. We plan for Lincoln to offer the 17<sup>th</sup> scheme.

What will make the Lincoln scheme distinctive?

The first base for the scheme will be at Edenham Regional House and in the Deanery of Beltisloe. Together they offer:

- An established worshipping community, in which students can find their own place.. (There is a community day on Fridays, the Office is said daily, the Stable Chapel is open at all hours for prayer and contemplation).
- The opportunity to live with other students in a shared house in beautiful surroundings but with easy access to Stamford, Peterborough Lincoln and London.
- Rural parishes and clergy who are keen to work with students – to offer all kinds of practical opportunities for ministry, including in schools, with the young people of the area, in social action schemes, and with local farmers and landowners.
- An academic partnership, in the first instance with the Lincoln School of Theology, which runs a well-regarded vocational exploration programme that offers academic accreditation for Diploma Level study.

While there are other schemes that offer rural experience, we believe that what we are establishing at Edenham will offer a unique and creative mix. These are traditional parishes that are grounded in catholic worship and spirituality. The House itself is welcoming of and affirming about the ministry of women and men and has long been a place of nurture for minorities and the vulnerable. The geographical location itself will expose members to both the beauty and the challenge of life and ministry in the countryside, while incorporating experience of our urban centres in Lincoln, Boston, Grantham and Grimsby. CEMES members will be part of the team that welcomes retreatants and that develops the House's ministry to Christians of all denominations and to those who are perhaps exploring faith for the first time. For centuries, Edenham has been a point of 'overlap', between Heaven and Earth, between Saxon and Norman, between rooted rural and transient incomer. – Here is England, and the Church of England, in miniature.

It will be clear that the Leader of the CEMES at Edenham is being offered an extraordinary opportunity to help to develop a context in which the Church's next generation of leaders and clergy can be nurtured. He will need to have strong theological and spiritual capacity, excitement about working with people who may be very diverse (and who may be very different from him), and an ability to inspire young hearts and minds. He will be supported by a diocesan team, including the DDO and the Bishop of Grantham, and by colleagues at churches such as St George's, Stamford and St Swithin's, Lincoln. The post is structured so as to allow development work for the CEMES launch to begin during the first months of the incumbency/wardenship, with the intention of welcoming the first CEMES members in autumn 2019.

For further information about the CEMES element of the role, please contact the Bishop of Grantham.

## Person Specification

We are looking for the following essential and desirable characteristics for the combined roles of parish priest of the United Benefice of Edenham, Witham on the Hill and Swinstead; Warden of ERH and Leader of a Lincoln Diocesan CEMES:

### Essential:

- A priest who is comfortable with maintaining orthodox parochial ministry under the alternative pastoral oversight of the Bishop of Richborough, but nevertheless committed to the mutual flourishing of all traditions within the Church of England in relation to the roles as Warden of ERH and Leader of CEMES.
- An experienced parish priest able to gain the trust and confidence of a diverse group of parishes
- Demonstrable love and interest in rural life and community
- A person of prayer with proven ongoing commitment to his own theological development
- Proven ability to discern and help people to grow in their discipleship and find their vocations
- Clear experience of adult learning and ability to model this to others
- Committed to support young adults and understand their particular needs
- A track record of overseeing and promoting spirituality, training and personal development
- Ability to network, make connections and build partnerships
- A person who understands and values the ministry of hospitality

### Desirable:

- Ability to use all opportunities to develop and nurture children in the Christian faith
- Ability to manage staff and volunteers in a collaborative manner
- Welcomes and values the ecumenical dimension
- Entrepreneurial and open to new ideas
- A priest who is a member of The Society under the patronage of Saint Wilfred and Saint Hilda

## Further Details about the parishes

### **THE UNITED BENEFICE OF SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EDENHAM; SAINT MARY'S, SWINSTEAD, AND SAINT ANDREW'S, WITHAM ON THE HILL**

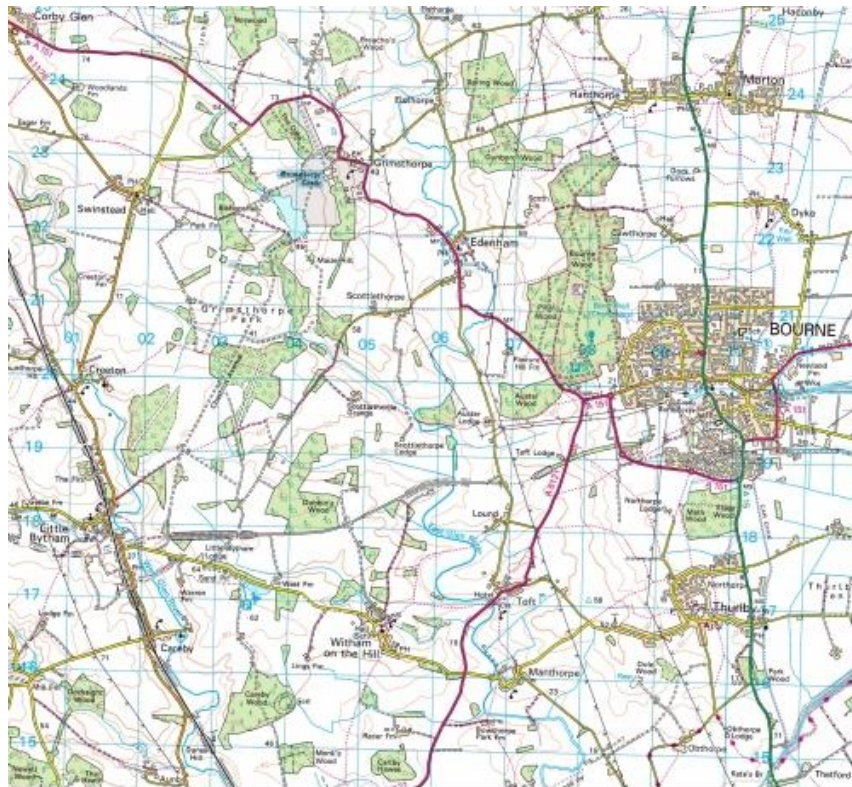
The United Benefice is set in the rich countryside of Lincolnshire, some 100 miles north of London, 35 miles south of Lincoln, 20 miles from Peterborough and 12 miles from Stamford. The Benefice is in the Beltisloe Deanery and falls under the responsibility of the Archdeacon of Boston. The Churches at Edenham and Swinstead are Estate Churches, being on the Grimsthorpe Estate, and the Vicarage (the Edenham Regional House) is next to Edenham Church. The Patron of Edenham Church is Lady Willoughby de Eresby; the Patron of Swinstead Church is the Lord Chancellor, whilst the Bishop of Lincoln is Patron of St Andrew's, Witham on the Hill.



The Benefice is set in the most beautiful rural landscape of mixed agricultural farmland, ancient woodland and rolling hills, just above the flat lands of the Lincolnshire Fens – some say that, traveling due east, the next hills are the Ural Mountains of Russia! The 3 Churches of the Benefice are all in attractive stone built villages that surround the extensive parkland of Grimsthorpe Castle.



Despite being in a very rural setting, with few buses, the area has excellent transport links by road and rail. The A1 is some 8 miles to the west, and, with the A15, A16 and A52, the cities and towns of Grantham, Nottingham, Sleaford, Lincoln, Spalding, Boston, Stamford, Leicester, Peterborough and Cambridge can be accessed by car within an hour's drive. The railway stations at Grantham and Peterborough serve large numbers of commuters – Peterborough to London is 50 minutes, Grantham to Leeds is 67 minutes – and Stamford station links Stansted and Birmingham. East Midlands airport is also with an hour's drive.



There is an excellent choice of schools, including grammar, comprehensive, mixed and single sex schools, maintained and independent. Edenham Primary School, with around 110 pupils, is part of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust ([www.edenham.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.edenham.lincs.sch.uk)). Bourne has 2 primary schools of 650-700 pupils, Bourne Abbey ([www.bourneabbey.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.bourneabbey.lincs.sch.uk)) and Bourne Westfield ([www.bournewestfield.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.bournewestfield.lincs.sch.uk)), plus the new Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy with 150 pupils, sponsored by Bourne Abbey Church ([www.elseaparkacademy.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.elseaparkacademy.lincs.sch.uk)). Also in Bourne is the Willoughby School, which is an all age (2-19) special school for pupils with moderate, severe, profound and complex learning needs. There are 2 secondary schools in Bourne: Bourne Academy with 1300 pupils ([www.bourneacademy.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.bourneacademy.lincs.sch.uk)) and Bourne Grammar School, ([www.bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk)), a co-educational selective school of about 1000 pupils including a large 6th form which was rated as outstanding in its last Ofsted inspection. Corby Glen has a primary school of 115 pupils ([www.corbyglen.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.corbyglen.lincs.sch.uk)) and The Charles Read Academy ([www.charlesread.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.charlesread.lincs.sch.uk)), which is a co-educational school for about 200 pupils aged 11 to 16 years (part of the David Ross Education Trust).

The local market town of Bourne, 3 miles to the east, provides a choice of supermarkets and individual shops and cafes, a leisure centre and outdoor swimming pool, a full range of sporting activities at all levels, excellent primary and secondary schools and a bus service. Corby Glen (to the west) has a couple of shops and pubs, a good secondary school, an art gallery and hosts the annual Sheep Fair in October. To the south, just outside of Stamford, is Burghley House, which hosts a variety of events throughout the year as well as the world famous 3 Day Event Horse Trials in September, there are also attractions at Belton House, Easton Walled Garden and Isaac Newton's House.

## GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE

Grimsthorpe Castle is at the centre of the Benefice. It lies within a 3,000 acre park of rolling pastures, lakes and woodland, landscaped in the style of Capability Brown. Whilst not a castle in the strict sense of the word, it has been the home of the de Eresby family since 1516; the present head of the family is Lady Jane Heathcote-Drummond-Willoughby, 28<sup>th</sup> Baroness Willoughby de Eresby.



It is now operated as a charitable trust, with rents from some 22 farms and much of the surrounding property being used to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of the Estate. The castle is open to the public during the summer season and the adventure playground, cycle trails, tearoom and shop are well-used local resources. The local playgroup and nursery is situated within the grounds and are able to make full use of the parkland and gardens.



Both the nursery and the local Church of England Primary school at Edenham use the Vanbrugh Hall for concerts and shows – an amazing experience for children and parents alike.



A joint “3 Parishes” family service is held in the Chapel on the last Sunday of the school summer term, where the cobwebs are sung away, and is followed by a picnic in the gardens and the annual inter-parish Rounders match. The Chapel is used for Evensong on Sundays in the summer, whilst on Christmas Eve, a carol service is held in Vanbrugh Hall for families living on the Estate. The Benefice provides chaplaincy to the Castle.

## EDENHAM VICARAGE



The Vicarage is situated in Edenham and shares the beautiful Queen Anne building with Edenham Regional House. The House provides good four bedroom family accommodation in addition to the public rooms used by the Regional House which were detailed earlier. There is a garden office, summerhouse and extensive landscaped gardens.



The Vicarage is used for various events, not just singing:



The Dibley Singers



Caroling Tea Party

## WORSHIP

The pattern of Worship in the Benefice has developed over the years; it has become quite a complicated weekly pattern which has enabled the incumbent to balance the two roles of Vicar of the three Parishes (with eight separate villages) and warden of the Regional House. Each day has Morning Prayer with Holy Communion, and Evening Prayer. On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings the Vicar is in the parishes and schools. Tuesday is normally the Vicar's day off, with Friday and Saturdays being based at the Regional House. Each Sunday, there is Holy Communion at Swinstead at 0845, at Witham on the Hill at 1000 and at Edenham at 1115. Evensong is celebrated at 1600 at one of the churches. When there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in a month, a Three Parishes Service is held at one of the Churches at 1030. There are various other services throughout the week. On certain occasions, such as Candelmas and Palm Sunday, joint services are also held. In mid-May, there is normally a Confirmation Service, which alternates between Edenham and Witham on the Hill.



Confirmation May 2017

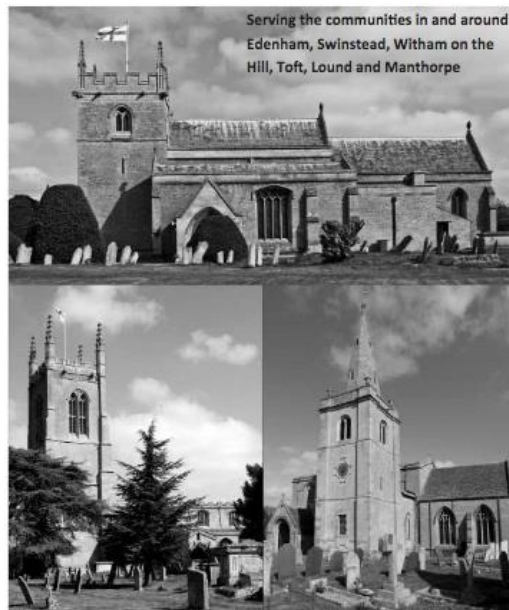
The Benefice is fortunate to have an experienced Lay Reader and an Authorised Lay Minister who provide considerable assistance, especially in carrying out pastoral visiting of people, on behalf of the Church, in their homes or Care Homes; this can involve taking Holy Communion to them. In addition, there are some retired clergy living in the local area who are happy to assist when necessary.

## THE THREE TOWERS

The Three Towers Parish Magazine is published 10 times a year and is delivered free of charge to every home in the parishes. The Magazine can be accessed on-line at: <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ToftcumLoundandManthorpe/>

# The Three Towers

February 2018



PARISH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2018			
	Swinstead	Witham	Edenham
4 <sup>th</sup> February Candlemass		10:30am Three Parishes Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer
11 <sup>th</sup> February Sunday next before Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 4pm Evening prayer and benediction	11:15am Parish Eucharist
14 <sup>th</sup> February Ash Wednesday	9am Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes		7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
18 <sup>th</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Deanery Evensong – Bourne Abbey	11:15am Parish Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist 6pm Deanery Evensong (yes at Swinstead!)	10am Parish Eucharist	11:15am Parish Eucharist
4 <sup>th</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Lent	8.45am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist 6pm Deanery Evensong Corby Glen	11:15am Parish Eucharist

## EDENHAM PARISH

The Parish comprises the villages of Edenham and Grimsthorpe with the hamlets of Scottlethorpe and Elsthorpe, about 270 houses, all but about 10 owned by the Estate.

There is a thriving primary school of 110 pupils which draws from a large number of surrounding villages and Bourne. It also has an historic tie to take pupils from the sister parish of Witham on the Hill. There is an active Friends of Edenham School group who use the school, church and village hall to fund raise, socialise and integrate the school into the wider community.



The Five Bells pub in Edenham has a good dining reputation; unfortunately, the Black Horse pub in Grimsthorpe is currently closed but the Estate is working hard to attract new tenants.

Bourne-To-Care is a residential and day care centre for adults with learning difficulties.

There is a very active and well used Village Hall where dog training, Morris dancing, yoga and meditation take place each week. It is well booked for parties of all sorts including wedding receptions and wakes.

Steam Action is a long standing committee who work to 'foster a community spirit' by holding an annual Extravaganza on the village playing field and an annual Vegetable and Produce Show. They provide birthday and Christmas treats to the over 60's and produce the pantomime every year.

The Parish Council oversees the village play equipment and organise the Christmas Tree and carol singing around it.

There are several businesses within the parish, as well as farming, including a multinational farm machinery dealership, a coal yard specialising in steam coal and a competition standard clay pigeon shooting ground.

This could be classed as a community with unique challenges, with no public transport (the railway came to Edenham in 1856 but was abandoned in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century), a high proportion of rented accommodation with many elderly people and people living alone. The majority of the school population live outside the parish. Of the 104 on the electoral roll, 50 do not live in the parish. So, people continue to be drawn to Edenham for all sorts of reasons.

## SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EDENHAM

The worship at St Michael and All Angels expresses the richness of the tradition of the Anglican Church. Christianity has been in the village since at least Saxon times and now the Church serves a very mixed community of all ages. The Church is a warm and well-kept building in the centre of Edenham village. Its tall tower houses 10 bells and has a long standing ringing tradition. Bell ringers come from miles around to ring and many records have been set and peals rung and written in the Tower.



The average Sunday attendance is 38, which does not include numbers attending the 9 Baptisms in 2017. There were 3 Marriage Ceremonies and 4 Funeral Rites in the last year. The PCC is fully staffed and there are 2 dedicated and hard-working church wardens. The Parish Share is always paid in full. The PCC is engaged in organising a funding programme for Easter 2018. A £225,000 restoration of the Chancel Roof has just been completed and a further £300,000 project to include a servery is planned. The church is used regularly by the primary school and draws school families into our congregation.

Vestments are worn, the Sacrament is reserved, the Peace is exchanged and there is Eucharist service every Sunday. There is a rota for sides persons, intercessors, lesson and Bible readers, chalice assistants, organists and cleaners. The Three Parishes shares an occasional choir for special services – known as the Dibley Singers.



The Church building is listed Grade 1; the official listing is at Annex A.



Edenham hosts “Super Messy Saturday” once a month – a morning of all age activities in preparation for Worship with around 40 children and 10 adults attending.

In addition there is a Youth Group usually attracting ages 10 to 16 which enjoys such activities as film and pizza nights.

So, there is much about the life of the Church at Edenham that is praiseworthy. In recent years, efforts have been made to make sure that the House and Temple of God is fit for worship. The worship offered is heartfelt and warm. The Church Community has been generous in providing for the needs of the building but this in some ways has created challenges which need to be overcome. Although the membership of the Church is relatively large, it is dispersed and it is very difficult to have a sense of family and community. Church attendance for the majority is very erratic, as people's lives seem frantic and stretched. In turn, this permits individuals and families to have a loose connection with the life of the Church that is not always live. People lose touch with what is needed and it becomes increasingly difficult to fulfil regular tasks from cleaning to reading the lessons. There is now a tradition of meeting after the Sunday service over a coffee.

Edenham Church must become more of a community of Faith and Witness. This is essential to secure its future. The old relationships and patterns of village life everywhere have broken down. Fewer people need the church or have any connection with it. What matters now is a need to refocus the life of the Church on Jesus and build his kingdom.

In building a community of Faith and Witness there has to be a renewal of personal commitment to the Lord and a greater commitment to life of the community. Simple and sustainable ways must be found to welcome new people and build new relationships.

## ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWINSTEAD

St Mary's stands at the heart of this beautiful stone-built village. The life of the Church is integral to the life of the whole community - not only in the marking of seasons of the year but also in the key moments in the lives of families and neighbours. The main provision of weekly worship is traditional in flavour, but there are regular services for the whole family. The worship expresses the richness of the tradition of the Anglican church. Average Sunday congregation is just under 10; the parish church council has active churchwardens, a secretary and a treasurer. The Parish Share is paid in full and finances are healthy; there is widespread financial support for the church in the community. There are no building issues and the PCC are planning for a toilet, kitchen and a vestry meeting room to be in place by the Autumn 2018. There are four bells in the Tower.

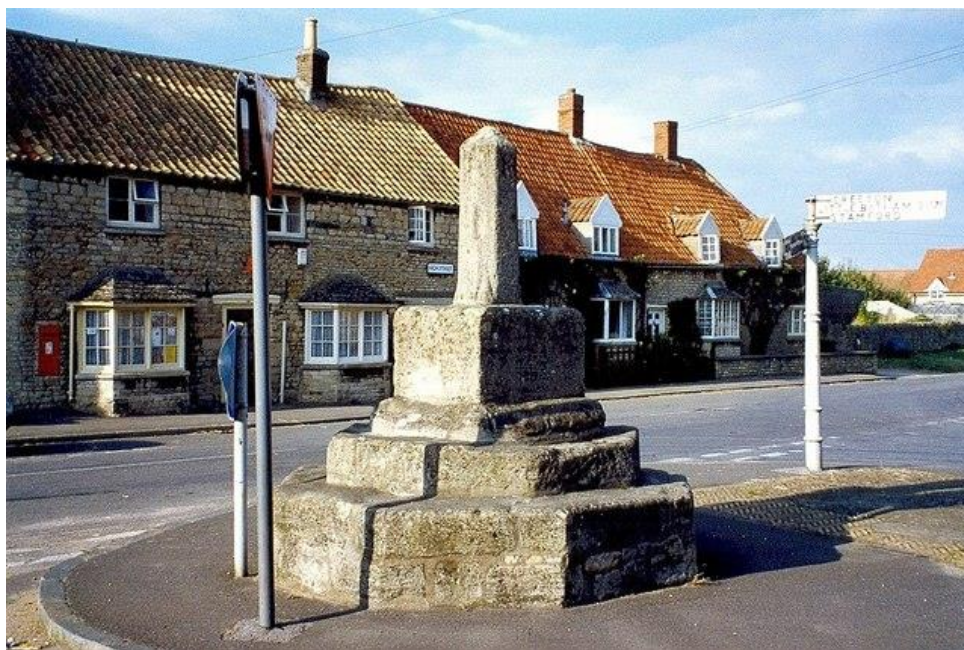


Vestments are worn, the Sacrament is reserved, the Peace is exchanged and there is Eucharist service every Sunday.



The village is situated 5 miles west of Bourne, 9 miles north of Stamford and 11 miles south-east from Grantham. It is a village of 120 households, the population of the civil parish being measured at 234 in the 2011 census.

The area is gently undulating except in the west where the River Glen has carved a valley through the limestone. All the land in the area is owned by the Grimsthorpe and Drummond Trust and they let the land out to tenant farmers. The farming is mixed (arable and grass for milk cows) and there are several woods. In the village, two-thirds of the properties are owned by the Estate, whilst there is social housing in the form of 24 two bedroom bungalows and 8 three bedroom houses, in addition to some private housing. The children tend to go to the Corby Glen primary and secondary schools. The Post Office Shop and the Windmill Public House have closed, but there is hope that the Windmill may re-open again. Travelling shops come to the village. The Village Hall runs bi-weekly coffee mornings and social events, and there is a Summer Garden Fete, held at Swinstead Hall. There is an allotment society. There is an international company, "Liberator Ltd", in the Village, that provides digital speaking aids for the disabled.



The Church building is listed Grade 1; the official listing is at Annex B.

The Congregation is wonderfully faithful for Sunday worship, and they make the Church and churchyard truly glorious. On the down side, they do not engage enough with the rest of the Benefice and more effort is needed to strengthen their lives as disciples.

## WITHAM ON THE HILL PARISH

The village and parish, at one time known as “Witham le Hill”, is 5 miles southwest of Bourne and 8 miles north of Stamford. The parish covers about 2,150 acres and includes the village of Manthorpe and the hamlets of Toft and Lound. The East Glen River flows southward through the parish.

The population of Witham on the Hill was 260 at the 2011 census. The village houses are a combination of owner occupier, council and estate properties. The attractive local stone from which many of the houses are built and the local co-educational preparatory school, Witham Hall, make this village a popular choice for commuters. There are strong family histories within the village, with some families having been connected to the village community for many generations past. Sadly, with a few exceptions, the village community would appear to be largely disconnected to the life of the confessing church.

St Andrew's Parish Hall, next to St Andrew's Parish Church, is an old building, formerly a Victorian school. It was renovated in 2000 with a Millennium grant of £50,000, creating a new kitchen, a disabled toilet, and removing the false ceiling to reveal a wooden beamed roof. The hall is owned by Witham on the Hill Church and School Estate. Authority to run the day to day organisation of the hall is handed to St Andrew's Parish Hall Management Committee – a group of volunteers, drawn from all villages and community groups within the ecclesiastical Parish. The Committee organises regular Parish Social and fundraising events. The Hall is used for St Andrew's Sunday School, for charity lunches and coffee mornings and a variety of suppers to mark church celebrations. This is seen as an opportunity to build networks between the church community and the village community.

The Parish Hall acts as a venue for the Witham on the Hill Historical Society and the Witham on the Hill Women's Institute; Whist Drives are also held there, which help bolster the Church funds. On Wednesday mornings, a group of women meet to sew, knit and natter! Wedding receptions and wakes are sometimes held as well.

The village has no shop; the Post Office closed in the early 1990s. The bus stop is on the A6121, about ½ mile away, although there is the Stamford Community Transport Scheme. The village does have the newly refurbished “Six Bells Pub” – an “Inn with Rooms” – the pub restaurant is popular with people from the surrounding towns and villages.

The Parish Council oversees the village green with its play equipment and the Christmas Tree. The Carol singing around the village is organised by a congregant of St Andrew's. The local community always supports the carol singers with victuals and good humour.



The village Stocks and Whipping Post are at the North West corner of the village green.

The village of Manthorpe has a thriving family-run butchers shop with locally sourced meat and produce. The family also offers an outside catering service and have strong family connections with the St Andrew's church community.

Toft is a small hamlet and part of the civil parish of Toft with Lound and Manthorpe. The population of this civil parish was 333 at the 2011 census. The Toft House Hotel supports St Andrew's Church, hosting some suppers and church celebrations such as Harvest Suppers. The thriving golf course and club that are part of the Hotel characterise the village. There is also the Haddow's Stables outside Lound.

#### Witham Hall Preparatory School

Witham Hall is a happy and thriving boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 4 to 13 years. In the Pre-Prep Department, there are approximately 90 children aged 4 to 8. The Prep Department has 160 pupils between the ages of 8 and 13. The extensive use of specialist teachers ensures high academic standards and the timetable encourages all children to experience art, music, drama and sport at the highest levels. The Learning Support Department offers valuable help to children requiring additional support.



The School has a highly impressive record of children progressing to the school of their choice, and many gain scholarships. In addition to the day-to-day pastoral care of the teaching and support staff, the children benefit from the weekly presence of the vicar to the parish of Witham on the Hill.

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, WITHAM ON THE HILL

The church is full of light and peace with a well-founded tradition of worship in the beauty of holiness. There is an open door policy, welcoming people from all traditions. The Church provides an essential meeting place for the whole community.



The worship expresses the richness of the tradition of the Anglican Church. There is a Sunday School every week; the work is complimentary to the RE provision at Edenham Church School and the School's Collective Worship.

Vestments are worn, the Sacrament is reserved, the Peace is exchanged and there is Eucharist service every Sunday. There is a rota for intercessors, lesson readers, flower ladies and cleaners. The Dibley Singers make guest appearances. In addition to the weekly Sunday Eucharist, Evensong with the Benediction is said on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month (except in the Summer when Evensong is said at Grimsthorpe Chapel).

For many years now, on Thursdays in Lent there have been lunches held in the Parish Hall (next to the Church) in aid of Christian Aid. This evolved to having a Eucharist at 1015 followed by an hour of Bible Study (or discussion of next Sunday's Gospel – in case people were put off by the term, "Bible Study") then lunch. The same format is now held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. In addition, BigBrekkie events are held once every 3 months on a Saturday morning when the culinary skills of the clergy are put to test (there are support staff!) – proceeds going to Christian Aid.



In 2017, some £1600 was raised through such events. The breakfasts and lunches are intended to attract individuals and families to the Church – and they do.

There are 53 persons on the electoral roll. The average Sunday attendance is 27. In 2017, there were 7 Baptisms, 6 Weddings and one Funeral. Midnight Mass has been celebrated at St Andrew's for many years; numbers vary, with only 33 attending in 2017. Of note, however, is that the Christingle Service, held in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve, had around 180, of which 30 were young children. The choirs of Witham Hall School attend the Candelmas and Remembrance Sunday services, and there are 8 or 9 Witham Hall School services a year in the Church.

The Church is always beautifully decorated with fresh flowers – except in Lent and Advent. The Parish Share is paid in full. In 2012, the North Aisle roof was re-leaded at a cost of £55,000, which was funded through grants, savings and fund-raising. The funds were just beginning to recover when in July 2016 the lead was stolen from the North Transept and part of the Nave (the culprits were apprehended but were not taken to the Stocks). Despite temporary roof covers being in place, water ingress occurred and damaged parts of the internal fabric. Work is due to commence to replace the lead and to completely re-decorate the interior. This will cost at least £100,000. Again, grants, savings and fund-raising activities have succeeded in almost achieving the expected cost of the refurbishment.

There are 6 bells in the Tower; there are currently 4 ringers though for weddings and festivals others in the Benefice help out.



The Churchyard is well-kept; generally twice a year after the Sunday Eucharist the Churchyard Working Party assemble and tackle various tasks, which have included the clearing and cleaning of War Graves.

There is much to commend the faithfulness, hard work and generosity of the congregation of St Andrew's Church. But ...

This Church community is set in a wider community that appears largely disconnected to the life of the confessing church. Many people seem to have misplaced their need for God elsewhere. In looking at the core of the congregation, it is apparent that very few actually live in the communities that St Andrew's was built to serve. It is the 4 villages that are the

primary mission field. The congregation has to accept the call to be missionaries and evangelists. There has to be a greater and more prayerful awareness of the call to worship and intercession. There has to be a greater confidence in all that St Andrew's has to offer. Individuals and families need to be invited – repeatedly – to join in. There has to be a change in emphasis in the life of the church family. It must always be looking outward. It must grow in awareness to how it appears both negatively and positively to 'outsiders'. It must imagine how it appears to those who feel 'excluded'. There must be a deliberate taking down of obstacles and a building of bridges. It will mean building up the confidence and tools to 'bear witness to the hope that lies within'.

So, work in progress.



**SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EDENHAM – GRADE 1 LISTING**

The Church is listed Grade 1; the detailed listing is as follows:

EDENHAM MAIN STREET TF 02 SE (east side)  
7/134 Church of St. Michael and 30.10.68 All Angels  
G.V. I

Parish church. C8, C12, C13, C15, early C16, 1808.



Ashlar, squared and coursed limestone rubble, lead roofs, battlemented parapets and stepped buttresses throughout.  
Western tower, clerestoried nave, aisles, chancel, south porch, vestry.

The 4 stage C16 ashlar tower has stepped, clasping corner buttresses, shields in quatrefoil frieze to parapet, grotesque and human head chutes.  
To the belfry stage are tall 2 light louvred openings with cusped transoms and heads, quatrefoils over, rounded head and hood mould.

The west doorway has a C13 base but was recut C16 with deeply recessed 4 centred arch set in a heavily moulded rectangular surround with quatrefoils to the spandrels. Above is a large 5 light 4 centred arched headed window with panel tracery. Immediately below the string course to the third stage is the matrix of a brass, now inside the Church, to St. Thomas of Canterbury. To the second stage is a 3 light window with shallow 4 centred head and hood mould.  
The north aisle west window is C15 of 3 lights with cusped heads to the lights. In the north wall are 3 tall 2 light windows with cusping below the transoms and ogee heads

to the lights, with quatrefoils over, and a similar blocked light in the east wall. The 2 western most windows are set in full height openings.

The blocked north doorway has a deeply moulded 4 centred surround. To the west of the door, beneath the parapet is a small blocked C14 niche decorated with a small cat's head and fleurons. The 2 pointed north windows of the chancel are blocked.

The east window is C19 in a C15 opening, of 5 lights with panel tracery. C19 vestry with 3 light east window and 2 doorways to south.

The south aisle and porch have ornate friezes of quatrefoils and lozenges. In the south wall 2 three light C14 windows and in the east wall a single window with cusped ogee heads to the lights and pointed surrounds.

West of the porch a 2 light window, also with ogee heads and a rectangular surround. C14 gabled porch with floriated buttresses, pointed outer arch with octagonal responds and capitals with shields to either side. Above a nodding ogee. Early C13 pointed inner doorway has angle shafts with floriate capitals and heavily moulded head with dogtoothing.

Interior: Early C13 4 bay nave arcades having quatrefoil piers having slender collared shafts to the angles, annular capitals and heavily moulded arches. Tall C16 tower arch having circular responds with tall faceted splayed bases, octagonal capitals and double chamfered arch. In the south aisle at the west end is an C8 relief carved foliate roundel resting on a contemporary projecting plain string course. This feature was cut by the insertion of the early C13 nave arcade and appears to be in situ.



At the east end of the aisle at the same level is a similar roundel and string course suggesting that there was originally an entire scheme of external decoration to the Anglo Saxon nave.

Nave roof is C16 with moulded arch braced cambered ties, supported by octagonal embattled corbels. Although restored the roof retains much original wood and some contemporary angel supporters. The aisle roofs are also C16 and have moulded principals, and carved bosses.



Early C13 chancel arch with rounded responds and capitals with 2 orders of quirked roll moulding to the head, possibly recut in 1808.

In the chancel side walls are 2 C16 4 centred arched doorways with moulded surrounds.

C15 chancel roof having arch braced cambered ties and to the spandrels and ridge are pierced friezes of triskeles and trefoil headed panels.

In the north aisle is the west doorway of a C12 chapel of ease built at Scottlethorpe by the Huntingfield family, it was re-erected here in 1967. The doorway has paired angle shafts with simple cushion capitals and 2 orders of roll moulding. On the keystone of the inner order is a crudely carved face. The tympanum has a sunk panel bearing lightly incised zigzag and geometric figures.

**Fittings:** A complete set of C16 pews, restored C19 having pierced quatrefoils to the back and side panels and carved cusped blank arches to the ends with 6 carved poppy heads. At the east end of the nave are C18 Gothick pulpit, readers desk, and Ancaster family pews to north and south, having pierced trefoils and quatrefoils and cusped blank arches to the panels.

Above the chancel arch a handsome carved alabaster set of the Royal Arms c.1808. C12 circular font having engaged shafts with scrolled capitals to the sides, joined by paired arches, with foliage to the decoration of the upper parts.

At the west end of the nave is a C8 morticed base of an Anglo Saxon cross shaft, tapering rectangular shape. The sides are ornamented with tight interlace and on one front is a seated female figure beneath a panel containing interlacing foliage.

C19 stained glass in the north aisle by Baille and Mayer 1865.

Miniature brass originally on the external west face of the tower, now reset on the west wall of the chancel depicting a mitred Bishop reputedly St. Thomas of Canterbury.

**Monuments:** In the tower are 2 pairs of C14 effigies, one a civilian and his wife much abraded, the other a knight with chain and plate armour and close fitting helm. She with a nodding ogee canopy with crockets and figure of the Virgin, now

supported on a C15 tomb chest, with shields to the side panels. Also 7 white marble monuments to members of the Heathcote family removed from the church at Normanton in Rutland in 1972.

At the east end of the north aisle is a large wall monument to Robert Bertie, First Earl of Lindsey, killed at the Battle of Edgehill, 1642, and his son Montague. The 2 memorial tablets have moulded base and cornice and are surmounted by the cartouche of arms and the Ancaster cannon.

To the sides are military trophies in high relief and at the base, arms, anchors and helms. Also a wall monument to Richard Bertie, d.1686, consisting of large swagged and scrolled cartouche surmounted by an urn and cornucopia and bearing 2 scrolled inscription panels, a shield of arms with palms supported by 2 putti. On the north wall are 3 C20 wall monuments to members of the Willoughby family in early C18 style of coloured marble.



In the chancel a huge marble monument by Scheemakers and H. Cheere to Robert Bertie, First Duke of Ancaster, d.1723, in the form of a classical aedicule with Corinthian capitals supporting open dentillated pediment with garland, urns and putti. Before the aedicule a rounded pedestal supports a marble image of the deceased attired as a Roman General.

A monument to Peregrine, Second Duke of Ancaster, died 1741, by Roubiliac, flat obelisk before which stands life sized carving of the deceased leaning on an urn, in Roman dress, a putto holding a medal lion of the Duchess Jane.

On the south side a monument to the Third Duke of Ancaster, d.1778 and Fourth Duke, d.1779, by Charles Harris of London. Pointed back panel of black marble before which is a carving of the deceased seated in ducal robes, holding a cameo of the Duchess, beside him stands the fourth Duke in Roman dress. The figures are flanked by urns. The base is carved with flutes and paterae and to the centre are bronze plates bearing the memorial inscription.

Above the north door is a semi-circular headed wall plaque with acanthus corbels to the Hon. Fred. Burrell, d.1819, depicting the deceased, a babe, being borne to Heaven by angels against a background of palm trees. Nearby a freestanding square marble shaft bears a bust of Peter Burrell, the First Lord Gwydyr, d.1820 by Nollekens. Finally, a large, semi-circular headed sideboard tomb supporting a black sarcophagus with gadrooned top and lions feet, erected 1738. Commemorates 7 members of the Bertie family. The rear has a marble surround with egg and dart moulding and scrolled imposts with cartouche of arms to the top. Within are 7 classical busts, supported on moulded corbels.

Listing NGR: TF0621321830

## ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWINSTEAD – GRADE 1 LISTING

The Church is listed Grade 1; the detailed listing is as follows:

SWINSTEAD CREETON ROAD TF 0022-0122 (east side) 15/213  
30.10.68 Church of St. Mary  
G.V. I

Parish church. c.1200, C13, C14, 1798, 1854 and 1859 restorations.  
Coursed limestone rubble, ashlar, lead and slate roofs.  
West tower, nave plus clerestory, aisles, chancel, south porch, vault and boiler house.  
C13 2 stage tower having corner buttresses, string course, embattled parapet with pinnacles and gargoyles. In the belfry stage are paired pointed lights in chamfered surrounds. In the lower stage are single lancets.  
C19 2 light west window and in the north aisle a C13 trefoil.  
C14 north aisle with stepped buttresses and plain parapet having contemporary moulded door, a pair of 2 light windows, a 3 light window, all with cusped ogee heads and moulded surrounds.  
Clerestory with 4 circular lights having cusped mouchettes.



C14 chancel restored 1859 with blocked ogee headed doorway and a pair of single chamfered 2 light windows, cusped ogee heads and triskeles.  
Fine 4 light east window with cusped curvilinear tracery. The single southern 2 light window matches those to the north.  
1789 vault and boiler room.  
In the south aisle a small rectangular fixed light and a 4 light C14 window with quatrefoils and in the west wall a further 4 light window with reticulated tracery.  
C19 ashlar gabled porch having pointed continuously chamfered outer arch, side benches and a C14 wave moulded inner doorway.

Interior:

c.1200 north nave arcade of 3 bays, circular piers and responds, annular capitals and double chamfered rounded arches.

C14 south arcade, octagonal piers and responds, double chamfered arches.

C14 double chamfered tower arch dying into the reveals. In the south aisle a

C14 piscina with chamfered square surround and a plain squint in the east wall.

There is a further squint in the north aisle and in the north wall a C14 statue bracket.

Early C13 chancel arch, circular reveals, moulded annular capitals, double chamfered arch.

In the south wall of the chancel a reset c.1200 double chamfered arch having circular reveals and capitals with hobnail decoration, also a C14 recut triple sedilia with ogee heads and human head stops with beyond a matching double piscina.

On the eastern pier of the north nave arcade are rare armorial paintings of c.1300 in red paint depicting coats of arms of the benefactors of the church.

All fittings are C19 including the early C14 style font.



Monuments.

At the west end of the nave a C13 recumbent effigy of a knight, cross legged wearing chain mail and a surcoat.

On north wall of chancel a handsome white marble wall tablet in Grecian style to Brownlow Bertie, 5th Duke of Ancaster, d.1809 by Westmacott. Depicting deceased and wife on a catafalque with mourning female figure, flanked by mother, children and angel. Above a scrolled cornice with Ducal coronet and palm. Beneath a rectangular inscription panel, flanked by scrolled brackets.

Also an elaborate Gothic aedicule of limestone to Priscilla Bertie, Baronness Willoughby d'Eresby, died 1828 but erected 1883 on the death of her daughter, by Forsyth.

Above the recessed inscription an achievement of arms of the Bertie's.

The vault of 1798 contains 5 fine coffins of members of the Ancaster /Willoughby de Eresby family. There is no access into the vault from within or outside the church.

Listing NGR: TF0185822455

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, WITHAM ON THE HILL – GRADE 1 LISTING

St Andrew's is listed Grade I; the extract from the listing is as follows:

TF 01 NE WITHAM ON THE HILL MAIN STREET (North side) 1507/2/285  
Church of St Andrew  
30.10.1968 GV I

Parish church. Late C12, C13, C14, C15, 1737-8 by George Portwood, restoration 1874, 1912.

Clerestoried nave, aisles, south porch, transepts and south tower, chancel.  
Ashlar, lead and Collyweston roofs.



The west end of the nave has moulded plinth and band, with short stepped and gabled buttresses having crockets and projecting heads. In the gable the steeper pitch of an earlier roof can be seen. Double moulded parapet. The C15 west window is of 5 lights with cinquefoil heads and panel tracery, hood mould with human head stops. The south aisle has 2 three light C 14 windows with flowing tracery and hood moulds.

The north door with continuously deeply moulded pointed surround.  
To the east is a small niche with triangular head and hood and an inscribed cross below. The north transept has a 4 light C15 window, recut C19, with panel tracery and in the east side a 3 light C15 window with moulded 4 centred headed surround and C19 panel tracery.



The clerestory has 4 C15 3 Light windows with cusped heads to the lights, panel tracery and linked hood moulds.

The chancel with Collyweston roof has in the north wall a 3 light C15 window with flat 4 centre arched head and cusped ogee heads to the lights. Beyond is a blocked doorway. The east window is of 3 lights with recut panel tracery. The south wall of the chancel has 2 C19 3 light windows and a small doorway.

The south transept has a single 3 light C18 window, with semi-circular head.

The C18 south tower is of 3 stages having clasping buttresses, 3 string courses, plain parapet and angle urns. Recessed spire with 2 tiers of ogee lucarnes with trefoils. The belfry stage has paired lancets in double chamfered semi-circular headed surrounds. In the south wall a window with an apron and Gibbsian surround with stepped keylock. In the middle stage is a cast iron faced clock set in a cruciform architrave. Above an inscription records the building of the tower in 1738. In the west wall is a doorway with plain chamfered surround and keylock. Clerestory matches that to the north.

In the aisle is a 3 light C19 window with C15 4 centred arched surround and a second C19 3 light window with C14 surround and moulded hood.

In the west wall is a small round headed Light.

The C18 gabled south porch in Romanesque style modelled on the inner doorway with a stepped and moulded outer round arch having paired 3 of 14 collared nook shafts with waterleaf capitals. Above is a round headed dogtoothed niche containing a statue of St. Andrew. Side benches. Late C12 inner doorway having stepped and chamfered rounded head with hood, and single nook shafts with waterleaf capitals. Above a later niche containing a fragment of statuary.

Interior:

4 bay south arcade, late C12, restored C19, with circular piers, tall moulded bases, waterleaf capitals, double chamfered rounded arches, chamfered hood with human and angel head stops.

4 bay C13 north arcade with double chamfered pointed arches, octagonal piers and responds, on large C12 circular bases.



In the aisles are double chamfered arches opening into the transepts, and in the north transept is a narrow squint to the main altar.

Nave has tie beam roof of crown post roof on C15 grotesque corbels.

C19 moulded and pointed chancel arch. In the chancel east wall a reset C13 pointed niche and an engaged octagonal column with stiff leaf foliage.

#### Fittings:

Largely C19 or C20 including oak rood screen of 1912.

2 chests, one dated 1683.

2 C15 painted panels, depicting St. Stephen and St. Laurence, formerly in the rood screen

c.1660 octagonal font, on C19 base, with foliage, chevrons and a cross to the panels.  
(19 tall elaborate font cover.

#### Monuments:

In the chancel east wall a small brass to Robert Harrington died 1558 and his wife Alice died 1565.

A fine brass in the centre of the chancel floor to Revd Canon Cooley, d.1953.