

Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW)
Thursdays 10.00 am Eucharist (BCP) 3rd Sunday 10.00 am Family Service

Foodbank in Soham - in partnership with Ely Foodbank

The Foodbank in Soham started on the 11th July we have fed 261 adults and 183 children from the parishes south of Ely up to the end of 2013. The Foodbank in Soham covers the Three Rivers Group and Burwell and our volunteers will do home deliveries, if required.



The food collection points in the town have been a bit variable although specific events such as the collection outside Soham Budgens and the Pumpkin Fair were really good and the contributions from local schools and colleges around Harvest Festival and Christmas have been exceptional. It was a delight to welcome St Andrew's School to the Church Harvest Festival and their rendition of "Old MacDonald had a foodbank" was quite wonderful.

All food items given by local people will be passed on to those in our local community who are in food crisis at this time, and so far the partnership has fed more than 3,000 local people.

People who are in food crisis should ideally be in contact with their doctor, social worker, housing officer or other professional care worker in order to receive a Foodbank Voucher in order to access food from the Foodbank. In emergency, staff at the Foodbank will issue a Voucher to people who are calling in for the first time, since the aim is to ensure that anyone in crisis has access to emergency food supplies.

Ely Foodbank vouchers can be redeemed in Soham at the Salvation Army centre in Bushel Lane from 9.30 -11am every Thursday, or in Ely at The Lighthouse on Tuesdays 1.00 - 2.30 pm and on Fridays at The Forum in Barton Road 1.00 - 2.30pm. Each voucher provides people with at least a 3-day supply of nutritionally balanced food.

The Foodbanks aim to serve people in food crisis in our local towns and villages. Foodbanks, in partnership with Ely Foodbank, have opened in Littleport, Chatteris and March, with another planned for Sutton in the near future. In this way agencies, organisations and all of us as individuals can play our part in working together to ensure that we can look after local people who are going through difficult times, and enable them to get the help they need to get through their crisis with revived hope and dignity restored.

Gifts of non-perishable food, finance and time by volunteers are always needed (and appreciated !) Donations of money are always gratefully received, and ideally if you are a tax payer the Gift Aid scheme allows us to claim an additional 25%.

We are blessed with the most wonderful group of volunteers who perform the various roles with dedication and enthusiasm, but we could always do with a few more so if you can spare a couple of hours on an occasional Thursday morning why not call in and see us, or call 01353 662396.

In the meantime, for further information: <http://www.elyfoodbank.org.uk>, e-mail: info@elyfoodbank.org.uk or telephone: 01353 662396 (to speak to Karl Relton, Chairman of Ely Foodbank)

SCHOOL REPORT

Richard Liddington, Headteacher of St. Andrew's School



First News!

St Andrews are competition winners

St Andrew's debating team (Talk to the Elbow) won their first competition run by First News! The four lucky children, Rhianna, Jacob, Megan and Caitlin, earned a trip to London to have a debate with some MP's in Parliament.

During our excursion we had a quiz about what we learnt in the workshop, Caitlin won! We then discovered how democracy works and how laws and bills pass through both the House of Commons and House of Lords.

We finally had a real debate and Betty Boothroyd was our speaker. 2 MP's and Malorie Blackman (the Children's Laureate) discussed the questions that we had previously sent in. Although no final answers were given, it was very interesting to hear other people's opinions.

After a visit to the Houses of Parliament shop, we caught our train home.

Jacob Stoodley

On the 21st of November we travelled to London on the train. First stop was to 10 Downing street to have a look at the famous front door. Following that, we travelled to the Houses of Parliament to met the other competition winners from all over the nation.



Here we are outside the front door of 10 Downing Street. We might look calm, but we have just run through the streets of London to get to the security gate in time!

We learned all about how laws are debated and passed in Parliament. Here we are about to vote on a law about renewable energy.





We are having a go at sitting where the two MPs, the Children's Laureate and Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House, sat a moment before during their debate.

We're just about to go into the Palace of Westminster! We had a tour of the medieval St Stephen's hall, saw the MP's post office and the beautiful lobby, full of statues of past Prime ministers.

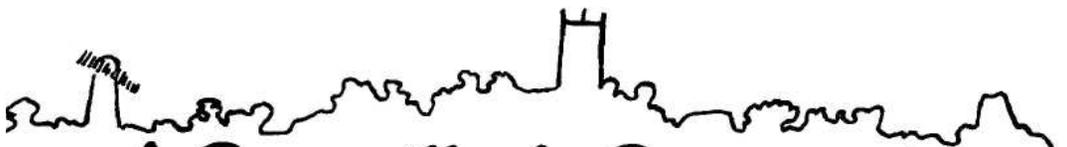


Pictured with us are Malorie Blackman, (the Children's Laureate) and the editor of First News, the children's newspaper, who ran the competition that our debating club won.



Catching up with a copy of First News on the train home from Westminster...





A Councillor's Comments

At our December meeting Ken Cranfield used the slot for Public Comment Time, and he questioned why the minutes of the council meeting are not on the website. The answer given was that the minutes are only approved as a correct record at the next meeting. There was discussion as to whether they could be presented with the proviso that they were not yet validated. But this was not considered a good idea.

Soham Community Land Trust: Presentation by Mr. M. Warner and Councillor Aitchison. For some time a steering group have been working their way towards setting up a community land trust, it is a scheme whereby the trust can use land available to them to develop & build houses, and allocate them at affordable rents to local people. The houses so obtained will remain within local control. Councillor Aitchison outlined the scheme to the meeting and Mr. Warner explained the situation as to where we are. ECDC have supported the scheme and have provided £5,000 towards setting up the trust and the presentation was seeking £5,000 to establish the trust. The meeting was open for councillor's questions and they were fully answered by the speakers. There are various ways in which the scheme can operate, but the end result could be that the trust could use land available to them to provide homes for local people because, without such a scheme, any affordable housing may well be allocated to people on a list who currently live at a distance. The request was successful.

Lest We Forget: Councillor Woodbridge gave an update on the preparations they have done so far.

Brook-Dam – Anti Social Behaviour: Councillor Webb spoke to the meeting about what was happening at Brook Dam mainly on summer evenings with gatherings with the drinking of alcohol. This creates a lot of disturbance and is quite frightening for people would like to use the pathway past that spot. The police have been informed and have made visits, but it was suggested that we apply for Brook Dam to be an alcohol free area. The clerk is going to make inquiries. If people want to drink there are places in our town which would welcome their patronage.

At our January meeting there were four people ready to use the facility of Public Comment Time. First Mr. Ken Cranfield who spoke about the council keeping the public updated on various issues such as the Eastern Gateway. Mr. Geoffrey Woollard on two issues: street cleaning, and also asking the council to support the effort to keep the Cromwell Museum open. Mr. Williams and Mr. Brown together, representing the Pumpkin Fair, were very anxious to know if the Pavilion would be available to them at the time they hold their event at the end of September, in the light of the pavilion re-modelling. No assured answer could be given as various things have got to be worked through before we get the green light to start. Mrs Laws, representing the residents of Staples Lane Crescent, wondered if the council could arrange for a notice to be put in place to prevent vehicles entering the crescent thinking it was a route to by-pass the town. Some of these vehicles being large.

Soham Street Cleaning: A representative from East Cambs came to explain the street cleaning contract and how it is working and to answer our questions. He has been on site on different occasions to check how Veolia are doing their job. It has been noticed there has been an improvement and he will continue to see that the standard is kept.

Lest we forget: Councillor Woodbridge said the application for a grant has passed the first stage and is hopeful it will be successful.

Correspondence: There was an item of the proposed Wicken to Soham cycle route and it was hoping to arrange a meeting of the two councils to consider this.

Councillor Ginn



☆ **From Molyn Care:** We at Molyn Care would like to thank the organizers of the Christmas Fayre in the Church. It was vibrant and well attended, with a lovely atmosphere. Everyone appeared to enjoy it immensely. If anyone has any unwanted gifts to donate they would be gratefully received by Molyn Care for our next fundraiser. We can be contacted on 07414571078 or 07414780755. *Lyn Middleton*

☆ **Viva Theatre Company At St Andrew's.** A major production by our award-winning theatre group is to be performed in St Andrew's Church in the summer. An adaptation of Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice', produced by David Tickner and directed by Sarah Dowd-Crosby, will take place from Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th July.

Auditions will be held at The Brook on Thursday 13th February, 19.30 - 21.30 and on Sunday 16th February, 17.00 - 19.00. There are 7 male and 12 female roles, plus extras. Anybody who wants to audition can come along to either date. Backstage support for costumes, props etc will also be very welcome. For more information contact Viva on 01353 722228 or vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk

☆ **Items for the March edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 21st February. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

LENT COURSE 2014

What are you doing for Lent this year? Why not join us for "Not a Tame Lion" - a five-week Lent course based on the writings of C. S. Lewis. Using themes from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Prince Caspian and Shadowlands, over the five sessions we will look at a range of difficult issues including: suffering; doubt; God's absence; heaven and hell; love; and purpose.

Three groups are running, all following the same course: Tuesdays at 7.30pm in Soham; Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Wicken; and Thursdays at 2pm in Soham. All courses commence in the week beginning 9th March. For more details please contact Tim (720423), Sue (723229) or Ruth (664179).

Services for February

Sunday 2nd	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
Sunday 9th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
Sunday 16th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Family Service (Common Worship)
Sunday 23rd	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)

March

Sunday 2nd	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
Wednesday 5th	2.00 pm and 7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Services of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes in Wicken at 2.00 pm and in St Andrew's at 7.30 pm

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

This year Easter is almost as late as it can be so that means that Lent is also very late – Ash Wednesday is on March 5th. Lent is a time of growing – reflecting the lengthening of the days. It gives a chance to prepare for the great celebration of Easter.

We have a number of things happening for Lent. Elsewhere in Lodestar you can read details of the Lent courses that we are running both here and in Wicken. These will give a good chance for us to grow deeper together in our Christian journey. We will also be holding a service of Compline at 7.00 every Sunday evening during Lent (starting on March 9th).

Compline was originally one of the monastic ‘offices’ or services which punctuated the day; it was the last service the monks said before they retired for bed. It is a very simple and beautiful way of ending the day. I hope you will be able to join us at the end of the week for this service which will also have a short time of reflection. With every good wish, *Tim Alban Jones*

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

11th December	Edna Clements	15th	Kathleen Pope
18th	Margaret Palmer	16th	Hilda Barber
19th	Valda Clements	17th	Don Ross
20th	Bella Robinson	24th	Jean Strangward
9th January	Doris Taylor	27th	Geoffrey Fiebig
10th	Madeleine (Maddie) Fuller	31st	John Steedman

Bereavement Support Group

At the end of last year we started our regular Bereavement Support Group which meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We gather in the Meeting Room in Church for a chance to chat and, if you like, share stories in a safe and sympathetic space. We have been joined by councillors from Cruse. People are invited to come either as a one-off or more regularly. If you (or someone you know of) would like to find out more information, please contact the Vicar (720 423) or just come along. The next few dates will be: 26th February, 26th March and 23rd April.

Creative Minds

Creative Minds is a group that promotes Well Being through different creative media e.g. art therapy, music, creative writing. The group meets every Wednesday from 1.30-4.00pm at the Health Centre (next to The Weatheralls). Once a month, the charity MIND leads the group with a well-being course. For more details, please contact Dorothy Clark: 07799261923, Tim: 720423 or Sue: 723229.

Dates for your diary.

April 26th Quiz with Fish & Chips to be held in Wicken	August Duck Race (Soham)
29th Annual Parochial Church Meeting	24th Teas (Wicken)
May 17th Teddies on the Tower	31st BBQ (Soham)
June 6th and 7th A production of Joseph in church by KD Productions	September 20th Pudding Night (Soham)
July 3rd - 5th A production of Pride and Prejudice in church by Viva	October 5th Soham Harvest
6th Strawberry Tea (Wicken)	11th Ceilidh in Soham
22nd Tea (Wicken)	12th Wicken Harvest
	13th Harvest Auction (Wicken)
	19th Wicken Harvest Lunch