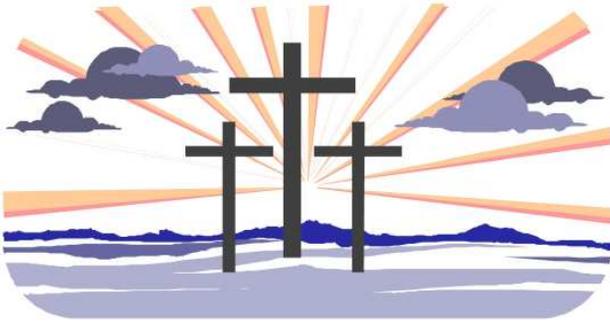


Services at the Parish Church

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 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 |



Holy Week and Easter

We shall be observing the last days of Lent in our customary manner with a number of Services as we prepare to commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Palm Sunday, 13th Holy Communion at 8.00 am (Book of Common Prayer)

We remember the joyful anticipation of the Jerusalem crowd as they welcomed Jesus into the holy city with shouts of acclamation. Our Palm Sunday procession starts at the War Memorial at 9.45 am as we march up the High Street to church for the Sung Eucharist at 10.00 am (Common Worship).

On **Monday, 14th** we shall be holding a Passover Meal at Berrycroft Methodist Church Schoolroom, starting at 7.00 pm. During the meal we shall remember how the ancient people of Israel left their slavery in Egypt for the freedom of the promised land. Much of the symbolism in the meal speaks very strongly to us as Christians as we remember the life and death of Jesus.

On **Tuesday, 15th** and **Wednesday, 16th** we have our services of Holy Communion and Meditation in the chancel at 7.30 pm. These are quieter and more reflective than some of the other services of the week and we have a chance to be still in each other's company in the presence of God.

On **Maundy Thursday** there is a service in the Cathedral at 10.30 am, the Chrism Eucharist, when people from across the diocese gather to re-affirm their calling to serve God. **There is no 10.00 am service at St. Andrew's.**

At St Andrew's at 7.30 pm the Institution of Holy Communion with the washing of feet recalls how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the last meal he ate with them - the Last Supper.

Good Friday The Walk of Witness at 10.30 am starts at Berrycroft Methodist Church. The mood of this procession is markedly different from that of Palm Sunday. We shall be carrying a very large wooden cross and walking in silence as we remember how Jesus had to carry his own cross to the place of his execution.
2.00 pm The Last Hour in St Andrew's with a reading of the St John Passion.

9.00 pm Tenebrae - a service of readings, silence and music in candlelight.

Easter Day, 20th begins with our 8.00 am service of Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) with the Parish Breakfast at 8.45 am followed by our Easter Eucharist at 10.00 am.

Sunday, 27th 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00 am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)

Dates for your diary.

We have a number of dates of which you might like to make a note in your diaries:

- April 29th Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church
May 3rd Quiz with Fish & Chips to be held in Wicken (please note this a revised date)
May 17th Teddies on the Tower
June 6th/7th A production of Joseph in church by KD Productions
June 14th Church Fête
June 26-28th A production of Pride and Prejudice in church by Viva
July 6th Strawberry Tea (Wicken)
July 27th Tea (Wicken)
August Duck Race (Soham) - date to be announced
August 24th Teas (Wicken)
August 31st BBQ (Soham)
Sept 20th Pudding Night (Soham)
October 5th Soham Harvest
October 11th Ceilidh in Soham
October 12th Wicken Harvest
October 13th Harvest Auction (Wicken)
October 19th Wicken Harvest Lunch



PARISH REGISTERS



Baptism

23rd Mar

Lewis Mark Daniel Read
Jack Adrian Daniel Read

Funerals

19th March
26th

Sue Gilbey
George Smart

From Sue Simpson

All good things must come to an end, apparently, and so it is with my time here as Curate of St Andrew's Soham and St Laurence's Wicken. A curacy is a time of ministry and training under the guidance of an experienced Minister – in my case Tim - and generally lasts between three and four years. After that you must move on to lead your own church, or in my case churches. After being here just over three years, I will be taking my last service in Soham on the 10th August 2014.

It has been a real blessing living in this community and being part of both church families. As a family we will all miss the friends we have made over these years, but we leave enriched by all our relationships and experiences we have had here.

But endings are also new beginnings and we leave Soham to move to Somersham. I will be licenced on 10th Sept as the new Rector of Somersham, Pidley cum Fenton, Oldchurch and Woodchurch – four villages on the outskirts of St Ives. I am pleased to be able to stay within the Diocese of Ely and, barring Earith flooding, we will be only about 35 minutes away. Although it is always hard to leave a place which has felt like home, I trust that God has called me to work in these villages and I take with me the good training and encouragement I have received from Tim and all those I have worked alongside.

Luckily, we still have plenty of time to say our goodbyes and certainly after my service on the 10th August there is a plan for a bring and share lunch at Wicken Village Hall – so do come! With love, *Sue Simpson, Curate.*

School Report

Weatheralls School



Thursday 6th March 2014, provided a very exciting day for the children at The Weatheralls, as the children all came in dressed up, we had Wallys to Aliens! Even the teachers came dressed up as an assortment of characters! The question you are asking is why? The reason being, of course, it was World Book Day!

The day began with an assembly to look at the wonderful range of characters who had arrived at school earlier that morning. We had characters from Aliens Love Underpants, Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants, Handa's Surprise, Zoo, Where's Wally?, Myths and Legends and How to train your Dragon! As you can imagine, this brought much excitement in the school hall. The



children were very excited to learn about a competition to design a book mark and the prizes they could win as the best dressed! They even had a challenge to nominate a member of staff as the best dressed!

The rest of the day comprised of different activities

such as designing bookmarks, front covers, writing book reviews and writing character descriptions of who we had come as, besides much, much more! There were many photos taken of the day, which showed the children having a great time and remembering what books are all about and the pleasure they can bring to learning and that reading can be fun!

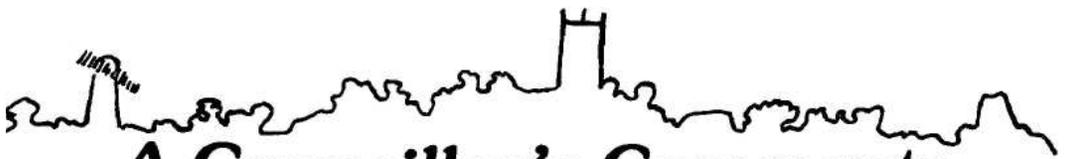
At the end of the day, we had another assembly to announce the



winners of the competition. This included Mrs Layfield aka Medusa! All of the children received a £1 book voucher, which they were able to spend either in a book shop or at our very popular book fair.

It was a fantastic day, enjoyed by all!

Mrs Rebecca Bell - Library Leader, Year 2 Teacher



A Councillor's Comments

At our March meeting Mr Geoffrey Woollard used Public Comment time to express his concern about the proposed extended opening hours of ASDA who will be taking over the food store in Clay Street. This will include selling alcohol up till midnight. He has already asked questions of East Cambs., and he was asking our council to support his concern. The present store closes at 9pm and if it was open until midnight it could have a disturbing effect upon those living close by.

Minutes of Standing Committees: On the Allotments Committee we had considered insurance cover for those attending the wild life garden at Berrycroft Allotments, and we were pleased to learn several groups had made use of this facility. On Communities Committee there was a request from East Cambs., for a list of buildings of local interest in Soham, as they are compiling a register and any suggestions should be given to the clerk by 17th April.

Road Crossing: Some time ago there was concern over the danger to children crossing the road in Sand Street when leaving school. The council put in a bid for minor improvements to highways and we have just been told that our bid has been successful, so in due course a crossing will be put in place, for which we will have to pay.

Annual Town Meeting: This is a meeting where councillors report to the public what has been done in the past year and at the close there is an open forum when the general public can have their say and raise any issues they may have. We were asked to set a date for this meeting which we set on the 7th May, but as this was not convenient for some the new date is set for the 19th May. *Councillor Ginn*

Wicken Coronation Band

Have you ever thought of learning to play a brass instrument? Or joining a brass band? Then come along to the Wicken Coronation Band Taster Day on Saturday 17th May! People of all ages and abilities are invited to the Mission Hall in Wicken anytime between 10 and 3 to take part in a range of activities. These will include trying an instrument and, for the more experienced, playing with the Coronation Band. Don't worry if you're a beginner, we intend to start a weekly training band. This will give you an opportunity to learn to play an instrument, or improve your standards of playing in a fun and informal way. The Wicken Coronation Band has over 100 years of history, and we would love for you to become a part of its future. For more information please contact Robert on 01353 723804 (evenings).

An Assistant Head Speaks!

Why does anyone work in education? I believe it is to give our children a brighter future, something which goes beyond 'just' the academic, because our children matter. My name is Laurence Ball and I'm pleased to have recently joined the Senior Leadership Group here at the Weatheralls School. We have a great team of staff and as we, like other schools in the area prepare to deliver the new National Curriculum, we will be looking to give children the enjoyment, knowledge, skills and understanding to be successful lifelong learners. I look forward to getting to know you and hope you will join with us to continue to support your local schools.



St Andrew's Fête

St Andrew's Annual Church Fête will take place on Saturday, 14th June from 10am until noon. We would like anyone - charity, business or individual - who would like to run a stall to contact us as soon as possible. Anything they make on the day is theirs, we just ask for a small donation towards the running of the church. There will be all the usual attractions - trips up the tower, children's activities, old fashioned games, bootless car boot / bric-a-brac, tombolas, crafts, refreshments and so on.

We'd love people to support us. The fête - in the church and church yard - has been running for many years and has raised thousands of pounds both for the church and for many local organisations, charities, craftspeople and so on who have benefited.

For more information or if you would like to book a pitch for a stall/ bootless car boot call Alison or James Palmer on 01353 720572.



LodeSTAR

Items for the September edition of LodeStar should be submitted by Friday, 25th April. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Towards the end of last month St Andrew's was privileged to have hosted a special service to mark 'Lady Day' when we remembered the visitation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary with the news that she was to bear a special child. The service was attended by Mothers' Union members from the whole archdeaconry of Cambridge. Below is an extract of the sermon that was preached at the service.

As I was thinking about this popular reading of the Annunciation which we hear every year at Christmas as well as on Lady Day, the word that came to my mind was potential. I was really struck by the enormous potential that came from the angel's greeting and message. From his salutation to his departure the angel doesn't actually give a particularly long speech and yet his words – and Mary's acceptance of God's intention – will change the world. It's a tiny seed that is planted that will go on to bear fruit that is still with us today. Mary's 'yes' is still resonating down the pages of history to this very day as we meet in the name of her son and celebrate her assent. Who can have foreseen such an astonishing outcome from this one encounter? Certainly not Mary.

And that got me thinking about the potential that is present in some of our encounters with each other – not to mention our encounters with God. When we meet someone for the first time we have no idea how the meeting will go or what the outcome will be, but the potential is enormous. We have the potential to change the lives of everyone we meet and they have the potential to change ours.

We really have no idea how God can use our words and actions or what effects they may have. And, sadly, we know that harsh and cruel words have exactly the opposite effect. How easy it is to put someone else down rather than build them up. The old saying of 'give a dog a bad name' has so much truth in it. So think about that casual encounter or that chance meeting and think about how a gentle word of encouragement might make all the difference to someone.

The potential in any given situation is terrifyingly huge; if we thought about some of the outcomes of our meetings with others, we might actually never be brave enough to get out of bed. But we are sociable creatures who need each other, and so we conduct our daily lives with all their hundreds of interactions with others and the way in which our lives intersect in myriad ways with others. This is what makes us human. We don't get it right all the time, and sometimes we are hurt, sometimes we are the ones who hurt others, but we have to keep on trying because that's who we are and what we do.

I was really encouraged to hear a little about the Mothers' Union theme of sowing the future together so that we can continue to work for a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. I read that you are planning to sow the future together so that, through our Christian faith, communities worldwide can be transformed, family life and children can be protected.

As we consider this theme, we are all encouraged by the communal nature of the challenge. God has made us to live and work in community; God models community relationship through the Trinity. So as the MU looks to build itself up and expand, it does this by exploring the potential offered by reaching out as "hands across the world" and also to drawing in our neighbours.

I have been talking about potential, and what better symbol of potential is there than a seed? In the tiniest seed lies hidden the potential for who knows what? In the NT Jesus uses just this image in his parable of the mustard seed; and St Paul in his first letter to the early church in Corinth draws on the same metaphor. So as you think about your theme of sowing the future together, I would urge you to think about the potential that lies dormant in every chance encounter and every planned meeting; for God is at work in his world today just as much as in the pages of Scripture. Following the example of Mary we need to be awake to the possibilities that lie within us for God to use us as he sees fit. And we need to be willing to say 'yes' to God; for when we do that, we are unleashing our God-given potential to build up his Kingdom here on earth and to serve him as we were designed to do. With every good wish, *Tim Alban Jones*