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<b>Services at the Parish Church</b>	<i>1st Sunday</i>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sundays	8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW)
Thursdays	10.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)	<i>3rd Sunday</i> 10.00 am Family Service

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## 1950s Reunion



In the dim, dark days of the 1950s the sexes of Soham were kept well apart, especially when it was judged that the hormones might be flowing. Consequently girls and boys were educated at separate schools once they had left the infants establishment in Clay Street, the boys going to the Shade School under the all-seeing eye of "Pop" Lovering while the girls were nurtured by Miss Loveley and her staff. All this changed when the Village College opened at the end of the '50s, but to the young ladies of 1955 on the photograph above this was all a mystery. Now, 60 years later, the school complement of 1955 are being invited back for a "Grand Reunion" at the Comrades Club on June 13th. Reminiscences will commence at 7pm and tickets, priced £5 each, are available from 01353 721649 or 01353 20489.

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## Services

Sunday 12th April	8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10.00am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
Sunday 19th	NO SERVICE AT St Andrew's at 8.00 am 8.00am at St Laurence's, Wicken 10.00am Family Service (Common Worship)
Sunday 26th	8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10.00am Sung Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 3rd May	8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10.00am Morning Prayer (Common Worship)

# Foodbank News

Here are a few facts regarding the Soham foodbank in 2014:

On average we had 11 clients a week from Soham and the surrounding villages.



- ☆ We fed 870 adults and 575 children.
- ☆ There were 150 individuals or families.
- ☆ This represents 1445 mouths with 3 meals a day for 3 days.
- ☆ We can hand out a quarter of a ton of food each week.
- ☆ We rely entirely on donations for our stock.

The numbers are big; if you multiply 1445 by 3 (for 3 meals) and then 3 again (for 3 days) this equals 13005; which means that everyone in Soham could have received one meal!

Our clients are from a variety of backgrounds and invariably have physical and/or mental issues themselves, or within their families. Money problems due to benefit delays, unemployment, and debt causes a short term crisis, which is where we give support with the foodbank.

To give an example; there was a couple with three young children who called us on the afternoon of Christmas Eve (Wednesday). They would normally get their benefit paid into their account on a Monday or a Tuesday, but for reasons unknown it hadn't arrived. We had a tearful phone call in the afternoon and were able to make a home delivery. They were not in the best of health, so we helped to unload the food into their kitchen. The cupboards and refrigerator were empty, and the neighbours had been feeding the children. When asked why they hadn't asked earlier, they said that they hadn't wanted to be seen as begging, and if the money had arrived on time they would have been all right.

We also see homeless and rough sleepers at the foodbank who often have shocking tales to tell.

We work closely with social services and schools, who refer people to us.

Do we get scroungers? Yes of course, and out of the 150 we can count them on less than two hands. Do we have foreigners? No, apart from one person who was sleeping in his car on one of the colder December nights, and the police asked us to deliver some food as they had concerns about his health.

We are free, confidential and totally non-judgemental.

We have some excellent volunteers but always could do with more.

If you want to donate, there are collection points at ASDA and the Co-op as well as the main supermarkets in Ely. You can drop off donations at the local churches or come to the Salvation Army Hall, Bushel Lane, Soham on Thursdays from 9.30 - 11.00am.

If you want to know more, our contact details are:

01353 468 626 or [info@elyfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@elyfoodbank.org.uk)

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## Soham Museum Coffee Mornings

Soham Museum holds a coffee morning on the first Saturday of every month, 10am – 12am at Soham Library. Recently acquired museum pieces will be on display and it's a great opportunity to share information about your own items or photos of local historical interest. Everyone is warmly invited to come along.

*Mary Burnside, Soham Museum Publicity Co-ordinator*

## SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

Here are more details taken from the work on St Andrew's Church and the History of Soham, presented to St. Andrew's by the Reverend J. R. Olorenshaw in 1889. He was Curate from 1882 - 1889. Parts are in my own words and those taken directly from his work are in quotation marks.

### SOME VICARS OF SOHAM - Part 1

The first Vicar of Soham is listed as Ranulph in 1102, only 36 years after the Norman invasion.

#### Nicholas Ridley 1547 - 1552

The most famous person, in a national context, to have held the living of Soham, is Nicholas Ridley. He was appointed in 1547 when he was Master of Pembroke College Cambridge and in the same year he was made Bishop of Rochester. In 1548 he helped Archbishop Cranmer compile the Book of Common Prayer and two years later he was appointed to the see of London, being known as the Bishop of London and Westminster. In 1553, following the death of Edward VI, Ridley supported the claim of Lady Jane Grey to the English throne. When this failed and Mary became Queen, he was sent to the Tower of London. On the 8 March 1554, Archbishop Cranmer, Hugh Latimer and



Ridley were transferred to Oxford to be tried as heretics. They were found guilty and Latimer and Ridley were burned at the stake on 16 October 1555. Thomas Cranmer followed them on 21 March 1556. The Martyrs Memorial was erected in 1842 to their memory, in the centre of Oxford, near to the spot where they were executed. It can be seen near to the Randolph Hotel and is an impressive structure. It is thought that Bishop Ridley spent very little time in Soham.

#### Humphrey Tindall 1577 - 1614

'1577 - 18 Oct - Humphrey Tindall B.A. Chosen Fellow 24 November 1567, Master of Queen's College 1579; D.D. and Vice Chancellor 1585 to 1614. He was descended of a very ancient and noble family which had its seat at Redenhall in Norfolk and was son of Sir Thomas Tyndall Knight, of Hockwold Norfolk. He was born in Norfolk in 1549 and died Oct. 12 1614 and was buried in Ely Cathedral. He was offered the kingdom of Bohemia. (There is a full explanation of Humphrey Tindall's claim to the kingdom in The Rev. Olorenshaw's work. It shows how he was descended from a cousin of the Emperor Bohemia's daughter, who was married to Richard II of England in 1382.) There is a brass to his memory in Ely Cathedral in a good state of preservation.' He was very young on his appointment to Soham, being 27 or 28.



The local paper referred to The Rev. Olorenshaw's work in an article following his death in 1927 and chose a piece about the reforms of Humphrey Tindall.

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## Broadening Horizons

How do our children perceive the world around them? What do they know of our town's past or its future? What do they understand about their potential role in it? At the Weatheralls School we believe that it is just as important to know where you have come from as it is knowing about where you are trying to get to. To support our children in learning more about their town we have entered into a research project with other schools run by the University of Cambridge called 'Pathways to Understanding the Changing Climate'. This is a multinational research project set up to answer the questions above and seek to understand how people recognise the ever changing world around them.

Our children in Years 3 and 5 have been on walks around Soham (you may have spotted us) discussing parts of the town that matter to them and what they know of its past and how they think it will change in the future. Our Year 5 children have taken this further and have made a video call with a school in Ixtlan, Mexico. The children are currently in the process of exchanging letters with these children (please see below) and will also be working with the museum in Prickwillow to learn more about Soham's past.

"Hi, I hope that when you read this letter you can imagine the wonders of Ixtlan. My name is Paola, I like playing soccer, reading books, spending time with my loved ones and music. Ixtlan was called in Zapotec 'Yetzi Laa.'" Part of one letter from Mexico, translated to English.

Our Year 3 children will be taking part in a archaeological dig set up by the University of Cambridge to learn more about Soham's distant past and they will also be meeting some town counsellors to learn more about Soham's future. What do we hope the end result will be? That our children will have answers to the questions above and will have a greater understanding about the town they live in and their role in it. *Laurence Ball, Assistant Headteacher*

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### 8.00 am Communion on the third Sunday of each month.

Please note that the 8.00 am Communion on the third Sunday of each month is going to be held at St Laurence's, Wicken for the next six months. This is because we no longer have a curate (and – in spite of my best efforts! - I cannot be in two places at the same time). I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. You would, of course, be most welcome to come across to Wicken for the service.

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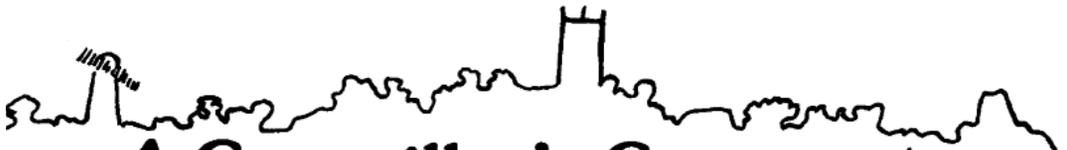
### TIMING THE PREACHER

'Another reform is rather touching as it was obviously made out of consideration for the congregation. The clock not being in order and the preacher would stay to hear the clock strike, iron was set on the pulpit and an hour glass placed on it. This was put there at the charge of the parish. This was in 1601 and in the next year Vicar Tindall paid the charges for hanging the little bell in the clock house so that it might be heard better throughout the church, and the congregation be saved from a lengthy sermon and the preacher relieved of the anxiety as to when he might decently close his discourse. 1601 was a busy year for this zealous reformer. He gives a depressing description of the state of the church as follows: The Church of Soham was in great decay, the south aisle was likely to fall, the glass was taken down and mats (presumably tapestries) were hanged instead so as to keep out the cold weather in winter. All the windows were open so that there was such a store of doves, pigeons, jackdaws, owls and other birds kept in the church, that it was filthy and more like a pigeon house and the spars of the roof were rotten at the foot next to the wall. Several times when they were at prayer, stones fell down from the top of the church and walls.' Thankfully, repairs were made the following year. *Worshipping at St. Andrew's is much safer these days.*

*Geoff Fisher*



- ☆ **History Group Events** During the course of the year, the History Group invites speakers to talk on subjects of local historical interest. Chris Leuchar will be talking about the history of Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum on Thursday 7th May, at Berrycroft Methodist Church at 7.30pm. There will also be a raffle, book stall and refreshments. Admission £2.50 non members, free to members.
- ☆ **Local History Group** Anyone interested in learning more about Soham's history, local towns and villages and family history is very welcome to join the History Group. The group meets on Tuesdays at Soham library, 7pm – 9pm. The next course starts 14th April for 6 weeks.
- ☆ **Items for the May edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 24th April. E-mails should be sent to [peterdscott@btopenworld.com](mailto:peterdscott@btopenworld.com) or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.
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## A Councillor's Comments

At our March meeting Mr. Ken Cranfield used Public Comment Time to tell us that he had made inquiries concerning the proposed gating of the footpath that runs through the college campus, and heard from the police that this would go ahead. At our last meeting when the police addressed us they told us they were only seeking our response and that the proposal would be open for consultation. Mr Cranfield informed the meeting that he was told that the gating of the footpath would go ahead. The proposal is to gate the path during school time and term time. The council have had no information about this, about its implementation, or when this will start.

**Eastern Gateway:** We looked at the progress of this scheme and it has reached the stage when the four land owners involved have got to enter into a legal agreement which it is said will cost £8,000 which will be paid for in equal shares by the four land owners, our council being one of them. It is thought that the £2,000 from each may rise to £3,000 each.

**Community Facilities Working Party:** This committee met on the 23rd February and after much discussion they proposed a revised development in the light of the present lack of funding. This would mean refurbishing part of the pavilion along the lines already planned and leaving the rest until more funds become available. This means that there will be less room available for those hiring the Hall, and less income coming in as a result. This is because in the overall plan, part of the present hall is going to be split into smaller meeting rooms for community use. The big new Hall was then going to be built after the demolition of St John's building. This is going to remain for the time being until more funds were available. We were asked to approve the actions and decisions of the working party and to defer commitment to the revised scheme until we have received back the proposals from the architect and quantity surveyor. These recent proposals although not fully approved, have left the Over 60's very angry as they are the largest group in our whole community, having over 100 members on their books, and with the proposed arrangement would feel cramped and will not be able to hold their dinners with entertainment which they put on from time to time throughout the year.

**Annual Town Meeting:** The date has been set for 6th May.

*Councillor Ginn*

# Just a few words

Dear Friends,

Easter has finally arrived! After what seems like a long period of waiting it's here at last! Both the major Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas are preceded by a period of waiting. We have just emerged from the season of Lent which is all about preparing ourselves to celebrate this great season of Easter. I am sure it will not seem so very long before we find the world of commerce stirring up to get ready for Christmas. The Church recognises the importance of preparing ourselves for that festival with the season of Advent. It often seems that we are so busy getting ready that we miss out on the importance of waiting.

We live in an age which seems to be increasingly impatient and finds waiting more and more difficult. We often hear children saying things like 'I can't wait for' some event or other (often it seems to be Christmas!) and I have also heard adults say the same sort of thing. Of course, we really have no choice in the matter. These things come at the same speed whether we wait patiently or whether we are as excited as a toddler. We cannot make the time go any faster by being over eager for it to pass. It seems to me that by this great desire to rush on to the next thing we are actually wishing our lives away rather than enjoying things as they come along.

The Church has just celebrated the great Christian truth of the resurrection, when Jesus came back to life, but perhaps we do not notice that there is actually a short wait between Jesus' death and his resurrection. He died on Good Friday, but he came back to life again on the third day. In other words: there was a period of waiting between the two.

This shows me that time is a precious thing and we should take great care not to waste it. The time we spend waiting can just be wasted (think of the frustrations of hospital waiting rooms or long traffic jams or queues at the shops) but it is possible to use all those situations and make something productive out of them. Time spent in a hospital waiting room seems to pass more quickly if you have a good book with you; traffic jams could be a time to say your prayers or think about those near to you in a way that you often do not have the time for; it might be that the person in front or behind you in the queue really needs someone to talk to and you could be just the person whom God has put there to hear them. God never wastes time; perhaps we should recognise that every moment is precious and make the most of them. I suspect that if we do that we will also find ourselves not thinking about having to wait for things quite so much.

Happy Easter to you all!

Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*



## PARISH REGISTERS



### Baptisms

1st March	Lily-Rose Reynolds
	Logan Jon Lee
8th	Grace Elizabeth Palmer
	Finlay James Higginbotham
15th	Jack Green
22nd	Aliviah Grace Riordan

### Funerals

11th March	Anthony Stumpf
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