
Services at the Parish Church	<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

St Andrew's News Round-up

St Andrew's Church has had a busy few weeks since the last edition of Lodestar went to press. Here is a brief round-up of our activities.



Our Flower Festival over the May Bank Holiday weekend drew hundreds of visitors to the church to see the beautiful and inventive arrangements by our church flower arrangers and a number of other

churches and community groups.

A concert was also held featuring our organist, Peter Scott, and local woodwind teacher, Carol London, on oboe. Although

the flower festival was not primarily organized as a fund raising event we were delighted to have raised about £1500 from refreshments and donations.

The following weekend we hosted a very different event when KD Theatre brought their production of Aladdin to the church. Based on the Disney film with its hit songs and a cast of what seemed like hundreds of children it proved to be a very entertaining show!

The day of the church fete dawned misty and wet – and stayed that way! Nevertheless people came along to spend their money on tombolas, cakes, plants, crafts, bric-a-brac and throwing wet sponges at a county councillor (the fete's organizer, James Palmer). About £700 was raised for church funds and local charities and groups were also able to raise money for their own good causes.

June saw two musical events. On the 21st June the pupils and teachers of Ely College Music Department led a Jazz Vespers service in aid of the victims of the Nepal earthquake. Then on 28th June we were treated to a concert by the choir of Pembroke College, Cambridge, who are about to embark on a tour of Finland and Estonia.

Teddies on the Tower

How brave is your teddy? Find out on Saturday 11th July from 10am – 12 noon. £1.50 per zip-wire slide from the church tower. Inside (from organ gallery) if wet. There will also be refreshments, the Teddy Doctor and other activities.

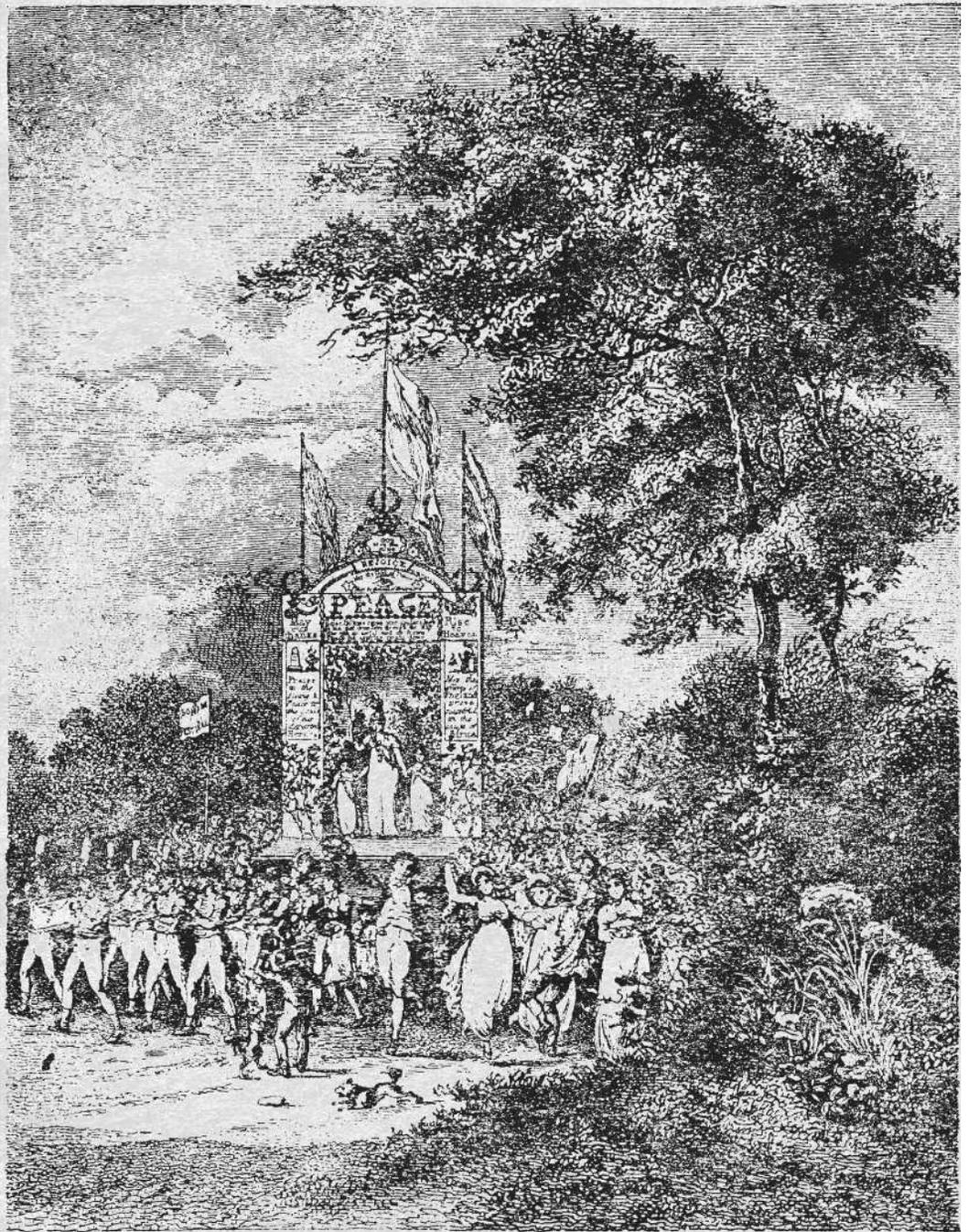


200 Years Ago

We have recently seen images on television of the 200th anniversary re-enactments of the Battle of Waterloo in which the Duke of Wellington and Prussian Field Marshal Gebhard von Blucher won a definitive victory over Napoleon. On June 18, 1815, Napoleon led his 72,000-strong army into battle against 120,000 mostly British and Prussian soldiers on the gently rolling plateau of Waterloo. For a long time the two forces remained in a bloody embrace, but at the end of the afternoon the French emperor's Great Army was routed at the hands of Wellington and von Blucher.

Three Soham men, Joseph Pollard, Edward Eden, and Edmund Webb, took part in this battle, Pollard being killed.

The image below and the text following it are taken from 'Notes on the Church of St Andrew, Soham' by the Rev J R Olorenshaw who was Assistant Curate of St Andrew's from 1882 to 1889.



In August, 1814 Soham held a Peace Festival to celebrate the 'Peace of Amiens'. Elaborate arrangements were made for this occasion, 2,000 of the Soham poor being entertained on Angle Common at 24 tables which were so planned as to form the radii of a large circle. The illustration represents part of the procession headed by a "most excellent band of music," and followed by a platform on which was a woman of "Majestic Department, habited as Britannia, with a child on each side to represent Peace and Plenty." The festivities lasted two days, the sum of £300 having been collected.

Endangered Planet, Do we care?

IN A MONTH when the Pope has issued an Encyclical letter about climate change and David Cameron attended the forty second United Nations conference on the same subject, I am amazed at the apparent complete indifference of the



media on this subject. For us as Christians I believe it should be of paramount importance as we are the stewards of the earth and currently we are destroying it.

Maybe we have heard too much about climate change, some of us possibly think it is all a lie, that the scientists are wrong, or, it won't be in my life time so I can safely ignore it. Then again some will think I don't understand the problem and I don't see what I can possibly do to make it better so again I will ignore it. I think that the biggest problem is that there is not enough readily available and accessible information for people and the lack of interest in the media has resulted in our current state of apathy.

The Church of England is committed to a carbon reduction target of 80% by 2050, with an interim target of 42% by 2020 (www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinkingthefootprint) and the bishop of London the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres said ' In the 21st century, in an interconnected world, practicing love of neighbours means that we are committed to mitigation of climate change which will fall on the poor and vulnerable in the world'. This is all well and good but what does it mean and what can we do.



Climate change is an effect, brought about by the warming of the earth. The reason that the earth is warming is due to the fact that, humanity, by burning fossil fuels in cars planes etc, generating electricity, creating fertilizers, mechanising farming, and a large number of other activities, is releasing gases into the air. Many of these gases absorb radiation from the sun and also from the earth and re-emit it back to the earth, which has a warming effect. The effect of this warming is to raise sea levels, increase the ferocity of storms, cause droughts in some places and flooding in others - and this effect is seen all across the face of the globe. Most of these disasters will have the greatest

effects on the poorest nations of the world. The Maldives, pictured on the next page, are amongst the most threatened and could in fact cease to exist as they will be under water. The other places pictured are closer to home and are also threatened by warming effects.

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This is the first time that I have written an article about one of my predecessors at the Baptist Church. However, I guess if I am ever going to then this would be a good year. 2015 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Andrew Fuller, the second Pastor of Soham Baptist Church from 1775 to 1782.

Fuller was born on 6 February 1754 at Wicken. His father was a tenant dairy farmer and when Fuller was seven years of age, the family moved to the village of Soham.

They were regular attenders at the Baptist Church and in his teens Andrew began to experience a strong conviction of need of a Saviour and became a Christian in the autumn of 1769. He was baptised the following spring in the local pond.

Over the course of the next few years, it became very evident to the church that Fuller had gifts that would point to him entering Christian ministry. In 1775 the church, without a Pastor at the time, formally invited him to take up the post. The church consisted of forty-seven members and met for worship in a rented barn. The year following his induction as pastor he married Sarah who was also a member of the Soham church.

Fuller's seven years at the Church, during which time his stipend was £13 a year, included the writing of a book which would prove important for the wider Christian Church. It was titled "The Gospel worthy of all acceptance" and set out his understanding of the Christian message and in particular the need for repentance and faith in Jesus.

After leaving Soham, Andrew Fuller served in a church in Kettering for 33 years during which the membership of the church doubled and the congregation grew to over 1,000 necessitating several additions to the church building.

Suffering ill health and the loss of his wife Sarah and eight of their eleven children, Fuller persevered in the midst of severe trials and overwhelming responsibilities. However, he longed for unreached peoples to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and his work on the cross to save mankind from sin and reconcile them to God. This led to Fuller's involvement in the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792.

It is estimated that 2000 people attended his funeral and the galleries of the church were propped up in several places to prevent any accident.

Soham has grown since those days and I am pleased to add that so has the Pastor's stipend! What hasn't changed is the good news of Jesus in the gospel and our desire to make it known in Soham and beyond. *Pastor Colin Stringer*

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So what do we do? Very simple things will all help - not driving the car, if we can manage to walk or use a bike; switching off anything electrical that does not need to be switched on; buying our food as close to home as possible; maybe even going back to buying our food in



season only, or better still growing our own. In effect it means living more simply, not having every latest gadget, but making do with what we have. Who knows, we may feel healthier, happier and more in tune with God. After all it is his planet, we just live here. More information available from:

www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint *Linda Logan*



☆ **200+club winners for June** Catherine Sargeant £5;
Daphne Laycock £10.

☆ **Items for the September edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 21st August. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA. Note that there is no edition in August.

Comings and Goings

My last service in Soham will be on Sunday 26th July. This will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch in the Pavilion. There is an open invitation to this. If you would like to come, please bring a plate of something savoury or sweet that you can share. You'll also need to bring a knife and fork and a plate to eat it off!

It is something of a tradition in the Church of England for people to attend the licensing service of their vicar in his new place. My new job has two aspects to it and, therefore, I have not one, but two licensing services. The first, on September 1st will be rather inconvenient for most people (early Tuesday morning), so I would like to invite you to the second one which will take place in Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 13th September at 3.30 pm. This will be followed by drinks and canapes.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

31st May	Emily Rose Rolls
7th June	Roman Szulc Bradley Christian Thomas Everitt Bethany Scarlett Plumridge
14th	Florrie Paule Jinks Victoria Mary Jinks

Funerals

12th June	Janet Wilson Elsie Jackson
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July services

Sunday 12th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
Sunday 19th	8.00 am	NO SERVICE at St Andrew's
	8.00am	Holy Communion 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 2nd Aug	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)

Just a few words

Dear Friends,

It seems very hard to believe that this is the last time that I shall be writing the Vicar's Letter for Lodestar. I can still vividly remember sitting in my study in Herefordshire in 2000 writing my first one. It is incredible that fifteen years have passed between the two; how the time has flown by!

If I had to reduce to a single thing all that I wanted to say it would be quite simple: it would be Thank you. The difficulty comes in trying not to miss out any of the many people to whom I would want to say thank you because they are so numerous. There are the obvious ones, such as colleagues lay and ordained with whom I have been fortunate enough to work during my time here. I have had three curates for colleagues as well as various other clergy and it has been a joy to share my ministry with them. I have also had remarkably supportive Parochial Church Councils to work with. I know some clergy who dread the monthly PCC meeting because they can be fractious and difficult. I can truthfully say that I have never experienced anything like that during my time here and I offer a heart-felt thank you for that! Our PCC has been very fortunate with the Churchwardens and other officers. The members of the congregation have also been tremendously encouraging in sharing our common purpose here in trying "to keep the rumour of God alive." I am immensely grateful for that. While there have been differences of opinion they have never been destructive or divisive. This is not always the case in other churches and I have been very fortunate in this respect here in Soham.

St Andrew's has never been 'my' church. I have always been conscious that vicars are here as something of birds in transit. Some stay a very long time (in the nineteenth and early twentieth century there were some who did just that) and others are rather more transitory. The list of the previous vicars of Soham shows a wide variety in the length of stay. I have been hugely privileged to have been able to stay for fifteen years, which is a year longer than the average. During that time we have seen some significant changes. Perhaps the most obvious one, if you step into the church, is the re-ordering, in which our fantastic new organ takes pride of place. During my time here I have been so blessed to have had such a wonderful organist. Vicars and organists often do not get on; I have been remarkably fortunate with the outstanding musicianship and support of Peter. The new facilities which were an integral part of the scheme also mean that it is now possible to use the building for so many more events than was previously feasible. I am so grateful for this even though it means more work for those who keep our building looking so good.

The biggest thank you, however, goes to the people of Soham who have been so generous in letting me into their homes and lives. It is an immense privilege to be able to come alongside people at important times in their lives, such as at the birth of a baby, or preparing for marriage or as they begin to adjust to life after the death of a loved one. I have lost count of the numbers of funerals, weddings and baptisms that I have conducted in my time here, but thank you to all of you who have allowed me into your lives at these precious times. I have been very touched by the number of people who have made such kind and generous comments about the small help that I may have been able to offer. Thank you all for your cards, kind words. Many people have been kind enough to say that people in Soham will miss me; I can absolutely assure you that I will most certainly miss the people of Soham more than I can say. It is a truly remarkable place and I have been enormously blessed to have been able to minister here. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Alban Jones