

## 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

## Services for September

Sunday 8th 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) followed by Parish Barbeque at 2 College Road

Sunday 15th 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Family Service (Common Worship)

Sunday 22nd 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)  
7.00 pm Streams (a reflective service)

Sunday 29th 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.00am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) (joined by the congregation of St Laurence's, Wicken)

## Jerusalem

We were lucky enough to be able to spend a few days in Jerusalem in March this year. It's an incredible city, full of noise and bustle, a city of religion and history.

It is the most important city for Jews and Christians and the third most important site for Moslems. This has of course led to much conflict over the years and although within the walled city people from different religions seemed to get along together on a daily basis tensions are never far from the surface. Security is tight, especially around the Temple Mount and Wailing Wall and we had to make a diversion one day to avoid a group of young Palestinians who were throwing stones, first at each other and then at Israeli riot police. (Incidentally when you hear about such things on the news,



**Temple Mount**

throwing stones doesn't just mean a few pebbles – we saw a lump of concrete about a foot across being thrown from a building onto the police below.)

The first day we were there we walked the Via Dolorosa – the route that Christ is supposed to have taken on his way to his crucifixion. There are various markers along the way where you can stop to reflect on the events of that day and it finishes inside the church of the Holy Sepulchre which St Helena identified as the site of the Crucifixion and burial of Jesus. I would like to say that it was a spiritual and moving experience but unfortunately it wasn't! There were too many people trying to sell us their goods or services along the way and inside the church there are long queues for the two possible sites of the Crucifixion (one Orthodox, the other Roman Catholic) and for the site of the tomb. This leads to a feeling of being rushed and also to some unseemly squabbles! [continued on next page

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Later we went to the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives where Jesus spent the last few hours before his arrest praying with his disciples. This was much more peaceful and there were olive trees there which are said to



**Mount of Olives**

be over 2000 years old so would have been there at the time of Christ. We also visited an alternative site for the Crucifixion and burial of Jesus known as the Garden Tomb. This was also much more peaceful and spiritual. The tomb is cut into the rock (and would look familiar to those who visit St Andrew's around Easter as it was the inspiration for the model of the tomb in our Easter garden.) It is surrounded by a peaceful garden and just outside is a cliff which has small caves in it which make it look like a skull from some angles. Could that be Golgotha, the Place of the Skull? Nobody really knows which is the true site but this felt to us more as it should have done rather than the very ornate church built over the 'official site' at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here we felt able to connect with the story and take our time in spiritual reflection and prayer.

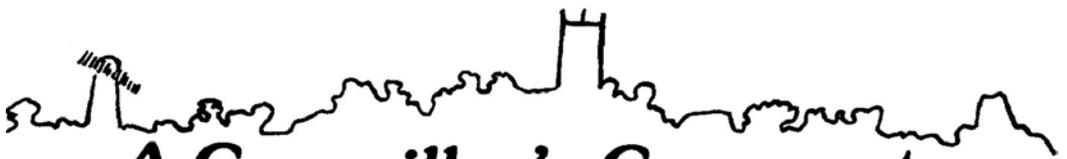


**Garden Tomb**

I've been slightly negative about the religious experience in Jerusalem but there were moments that were uplifting - mainly from other people from all three faiths who were clearly profoundly affected by the place.

There were women with tears running down their faces at the Holy Sepulchre; two groups of Christians passing each other on the Via Dolorosa with one group joining in the other's Latin chant; Jews praying at the Western Wall; an orthodox Jew who took us round the archeological site of the City of David and read to us from his Bible, kissing it reverentially whenever he took it out of his bag, and the seemingly endless stream of Moslems returning from Friday Prayer on the Temple Mount.

All in all I would say Jerusalem is well worth a visit, so long as you don't have problems walking (narrow uneven streets and a lot of steps don't make it easy underfoot and it's definitely not wheelchair friendly). It may be best to go with an organized Christian group to get the most out of the experience though if you are intending your visit to be a pilgrimage. *Alison Evans*



# A Councillor's Comments

At our July meeting there were two people down to use the space for Public Comment Time; one was to speak on the Soham Bulletin but was not present, and the other Mr Geoffrey Woollard made comments that he would love to hear more of Brass Bands, but also he was distressed to see the litter that was left on the recreation field.

**Ely & Soham Dial-A-Ride:** This was a presentation by ESDAR in support of their application for a grant. They had recently had two applications to which the council were asking for more information. This presentation clearly explained the wide range of service they were doing and also what they were hoping to do to extend this service. What they are doing requires great flexibility in taking bookings to cope with the needs of their customers. Their current booking system and communication with their drivers is not giving them what they need to provide a better service. This is mainly what the application is for, to install a system that will cope with more bookings, and instant communications with drivers when bookings and plans are changed at the last minute. Several questions were asked but the new lady leader of ESDAR was able to give full answers. This is a service that is offered to a wide range of people to take them shopping, hospital visits, pub lunches and outings. But another additional help is offered to those whose partner, who once drove them everywhere, has died and now on their own may find it hard to use public transport, so Dial-A-Ride hope to provide a trained friend to accompany them on their first journeys. Their vehicles have also the facility to cope with wheel chair passengers allowing them to get out of their homes and visit places.

**Lest We Forget:** Councillor Woodbridge gave a report on where we are at in the commemoration of the start of World War One to be held next year. He was wondering if we could include a dog show? There is of course an application to be made to cover the cost of the plans being drawn up.

**Community Facilities Working Party:** There had been a slight change to the plans for the re-modelled pavilion, the working party had agreed to this and brought this to full council for their approval, which was given, and the plans have now to be submitted.

**Application For Financial Support:** There were four; Ely&Soham Dial-A-Ride, Soham Mid Winter Fayre, Soham Friends Project, and Soham On Line. Having heard the presentation the council gave a grant to Dial-A-Ride, also the usual grant to Soham on Line, but the other two were being asked for more details.

*Councillor Ginn*

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## Reunion

Are you 64? And celebrated your Birthday between September 2012 and August 2013 and attended Soham Village College in the 1960-64 Year Group! If so, a Reunion is planned on 12th October at The Comrades Club, Soham.

For tickets or more details please contact either - Glenda Bowman (Pryke) 01353 720066, Irene Dewsbury (Fuller) 01353 664947. Michael Stimson 01353 723193 or Rick Collinson 01353 720756. Tickets £7.50. including Buffet. Partners also welcome.

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## Salvation Army Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival Service at Soham Salvation Army is at 2.30pm on Sunday, 29th September with Waterbeach Band and Songsters. Everyone Welcome.

Harvest Supper at 6.00 pm on Monday, 30th September. Tickets £4.50 each - please book through Iris on 01638 577386.

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## Band Concert

Victoria Hall, Fordham presents the **Opus 17 Big Band in Concert** at 7.30 pm, featuring Sounds from the Big Band Era, the Swinging Forties and Beyond.

Tickets are £10 each and are available from Soham Books or Brenda's Flowers in Soham. For further information call 01638 720674.

One of the most difficult times in the life of a minister is when they retire. I certainly found this to be the case. Having enjoyed some forty years of ministry the time came to get a house and to be no longer part of church life. My wife and I started to look around the areas north of Cambridge and one of the areas we looked at was Soham. What a lovely place it is.

We loved the Georgian style houses and the central Anglican Church. And what about those amazing common lands? However in the end we chose to live in Ely and have been very happy.

Little did we know that sometime later we would be privileged to be minister of Soham Methodist Church, even though it was only for a short period of time. What an amazing church it is. Of course on first view of it one feels slightly surprised. It looks old and a little decrepit. Yet one can easily be fooled. Inside is the magnificent pulpit area with a wrought iron frontage. No doubt the size of it related to the great sermons that had been preached from it. If I were to say that the pews were comfortable the congregation would fall about laughing in incredulity. Of course, ministers do not sit in pews so how would they know!

The members of the church are faithful and their desire is to see that the faith they proclaim is heard by all. Their faith is rooted in the life and theology of John Wesley. It is a non-conformist faith that believes that Jesus came for all people and that there is no single person who is special but that all are special in God's sight.

Methodism has often been accused of being political. Faith cannot help but be political. If there were an injustice then Methodism would speak out against that injustice and the perpetrators of that injustice.

My time in Soham is coming to an end and a new minister will be among us. We will be so glad to welcome Revd Colin Watkins and his wife Bernie. He will be Superintendent of the Methodist Circuit and we await their coming.

I have enjoyed my short time in Soham and have learnt much. I have enjoyed being among a people who express their faith in life. I have been amazed at the commitment of the members who give their personal treasure for the running of the church. I believe that they do so because they want the community to know something of the love of God. I believe that the image of the church is the signpost to God and so do the members of Berrycroft. *Bernard Arnold*

St. Andrew's, Soham



## Singing Group

Do you enjoy singing?

Would you like to:

- > learn some contemporary Christian worship songs?
- > help to lead the singing at the monthly Family Services?

Join our new all-age

## Singing Group

Friday 13th September 6.30-7.30pm in Church

For more information contact Ruth Dennigan  
(ruthdennigan@talktalk.net or 01353 664179)

St. Andrew's, Soham



## Home Group

Autumn Term 2013

# Live your faith

A refresher course in the key elements of living the Christian life

refreshments  
prayer  
discussion  
teaching

## Alternate Wednesdays

From Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept @ 7.30pm

For more details please contact Ruth Dennigan  
(ruthdennigan@talktalk.net or 01353 664179)



- ☆ **The History Project** seeks photos, documents and, most importantly, people with personal connections to the Polish families who lived at Mepal Camp at Witcham in the late 1940s and 1950s. Our website is now up and running so please visit us at <http://www.richsoilrichheritage.org.uk> For more information please contact us on [info@richsoilrichheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@richsoilrichheritage.org.uk) or ring us on 01353 722228.
- ☆ **200+Club winners for:** **July** - No. 165, B. Seal; No. 118, Audrey Rice, **August** - No. 113, Jessica Webb; No. 255, Isabella Taylor.
- ☆ **Northfield Windmill Open Weekend** - 7th & 8th September 2013. Visit Northfield Windmill during **The East Anglian Mills Society Open Weekend** from 11am to 5pm on both days. Find us just off the A142 bypass, The Shade, CB7 5DE. Discover Northfield's relationship with the local landscape and how it came to be on this site. Climb the smock tower - what can you see? Share your memories and stories of the mill. FREE entry - donations gratefully received. All proceeds go towards the restoration of the mill. Refreshments and souvenirs also available to purchase. We look forward to seeing you! *Rachel & Umesh Patel*
- ☆ **Items for the October edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 20th September, 2013. 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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## Ely Foodbank

Ely Foodbank opened last November having been called to serve an area within a 15 mile radius of Ely – including Littleport, Chatteris, March and Soham. Initially, as you may expect, the focus has been the Ely area but the Foodbank has already served more than 300 people from the 2 wards in Soham and several more from the villages in the area. To date, more than 1,500 people have been served by Ely Foodbank (with the equivalent of 15,000 meals).

Local people have been astonishingly generous by buying additional items of food, with more than 15 tonnes having been given in the first eight months! This generosity, the teamwork of the Foodbank's volunteers and considerable development work behind the scenes has led Ely Foodbank to make further significant steps in seeking to fulfil its remit.

A Foodbank, backed by Churches Together in Soham, the Town Council, the Children's Centre and local traders working in partnership with Ely Foodbank (a Trussell Trust Foodbank) opened in Soham on 11th July at the Salvation Army centre in Bushel Lane, Soham. People who are in food crisis are able to collect their food in Soham on production of a Foodbank Voucher on Thursdays 1000 - 1100 am, or in Ely from The Lighthouse Centre on Tuesday afternoons or from The Forum, in Barton Road on Friday afternoons, so clients can make their choice.

The Foodbanks aim to serve people in food crisis in our local towns and villages, and more Foodbanks (in partnership with Ely Foodbank) are planned in Chatteris and March 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!).

To find out more, please come to the Soham and East area Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 9th October 7.00 – 9.00pm in the Performing Arts Centre, Soham Village College (Beechurst site) when a provisional agenda item will be 'Foodbank Developments'. For further information e-mail to [info@elyfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@elyfoodbank.org.uk), see <http://www.elyfoodbank.org.uk> or telephone 01353 662396 (to speak to Karl Relton, Chairman of Ely Foodbank).

# Just a few words

Sue Simpson

## It's official – laughing is good for you!

Tim and his family are having a well deserved holiday right now and I hope they'll have lots of time for some relaxing and laughter because apparently laughter is very good for our well being.

I arrived a little late at 'Creative Minds' yesterday - a group which looks to promote well being and mental health in the community – so missed the cake and coffee but noticed there was quite a bit of laughter coming from the room. Jenny from the charity MIND was doing practical demonstration of laughter therapy as part of a 5 Steps to Well Being Course. Surprisingly, she said that even if the laughter is 'fake' the brain can't tell the difference. It's important to give ourselves 'permission' to let go of those inhibitions built up as adults and see the funny side. Apparently, adults only laugh about 8 times a day compared to over a hundred in children - so we have some catching up to do. After only 15 minutes we all felt more relaxed and generally happier. Last night I thought I would experiment on my teenager and husband with an old episode of Men Behaving Badly - I wasn't entirely sure they would find it as funny as me – but I was wrong.... !

Creative Minds meets each Tuesday 2.30 – 4pm at The Sure Start Centre, The Weatheralls School. To find out more about the group get in touch with Sue Simpson (01353 723229 or [susan.charlotte@googlemail.com](mailto:susan.charlotte@googlemail.com)).

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# PARISH REGISTERS

## Funerals

2nd July	Derrick Aspland
11th	June Thorby
16th	Donald Fuller
17th	Edna Gay
24th	George Gilbey
29th	Violet Gilbey
8th August	Pamela Bullman
	Stephen Lloyd Hawkins
12th	Elsie Doe

## Baptisms

7th July	Evelyn Elizabeth Andrea Mills
14th	Phoenix Zelda Winry McKindon and Szymon Krawczyk
21st	Phoebe Jessica Bishop
28th	Emily Elizabeth Catton and Noah Luke Summers
11th Aug	Layla Mai Porter
18th	Freddie Charles Irons

## Weddings

13th July	Simon Pinches and Charlotte (Pluck)
27th	David Ross and Zoe (Hutchinson)
	Lance Bell and Rebecca (Campbell)
3rd August	Michael Cornell and Lucy (Seaton-Potter)
10th	James Wilson and Gemma (Fuller)