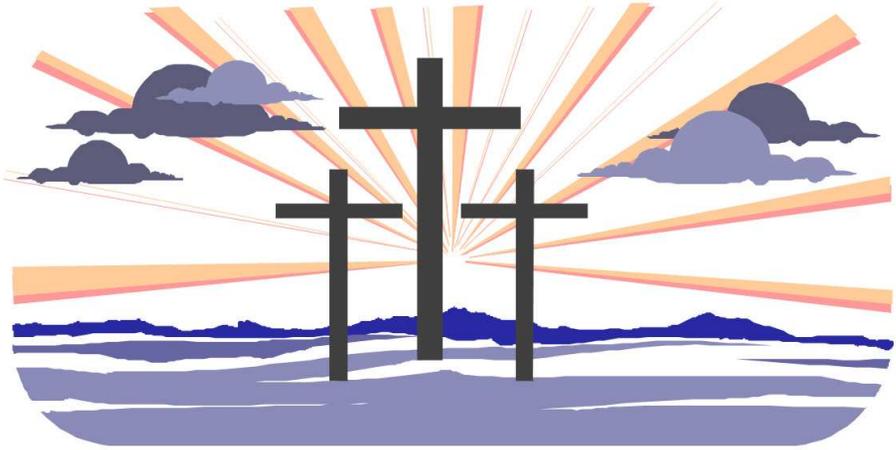


Services at the Parish Church

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

Services for Holy Week and Easter



Palm Sunday, 20th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) at St Andrew's
	10.00 am	Family Service - preceded by procession from the War Memorial, 9.45 am
Monday, 21st	6.45 pm	Passover Meal at Berrycroft Methodist Church
Tuesday, 22nd	7.30 pm	Evening Prayer with Passion Readings at St Andrew's
Wednesday, 23rd	7.30 pm	Evening Prayer with Passion Readings at St Andrew's
Maundy Thursday, 24th	10.30 am	Chrism Eucharist in the Cathedral - no Service at St Andrew's at 10.00 am
	7.30 pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper (with optional washing of feet)
Good Friday 25th	10.00 am	Walk of Witness from Methodist Church to St Andrew's
	2.00 pm	The Last Hour at St Andrew's
	6.30 pm	Meditation on the Cross at St Lawrence's and walk to Wicken Methodist Church for Good Friday Service
Easter Day 27th	8.45 am	Easter Breakfast at St Andrew's
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW) at St Andrew's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion at St Lawrence's

PARISH REGISTERS

11th Feb	Andrew Osborne (aged 50 years)
18th Feb	Angela Squires (aged 54 years)
19th Feb	Mark Baker (aged 39 years)

Special days

As we were travelling up to Yorkshire on a short break just before Christmas on a Sunday (this was a special day when I was younger) it was quite apparent how busy everywhere was. All types of lorries and vans carrying just about everything you could probably think of (including all the special offers that have been advertised in the media) were on the motorways, along with more cars than it was possible to count. As we went through villages, towns and cities there were lots of people all going about their business and all types of shops were open selling their wares. I am one of those who can remember when if you found the corner shop open for a couple of hours selling newspapers on a Sunday that would have been something of a novelty.

Now that we are in Lent with Easter on the horizon we are again bombarded with 'must-have-this-must-have-that' sales! I wonder whether the real story of Christmas and Easter, Christ's birth and resurrection, has been taken over, or nearly forgotten?

We were very lucky to be able to visit the birthplace of Jesus and the places where he carried out his ministry in Israel. We arrived at Heathrow and were greeted by armed police and sniffer dogs. After going through all the security checks and short interviews with the Israeli security we were on our way on 'The Holy Land Tour'. After arriving in Tel Aviv we started our tour by making our way towards the Sea of Galilee. On route we stopped at the old port of Jaffa and St Peter's Church, then on to Caesarea the Roman capital of Judea. After a couple of other stops we arrived at our hotel in Tiberias (The sea of Galilee). The following day we began with a boat ride across to Capernaum where Jesus made his base. We were shown the places where the miracle of the loaves and fishes took place, the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, and a lot more. We then travelled to Tel-dan. This is the source of the river Jordan. While we were there we witnessed a multiple baptism.

We then returned to our hotel via the Golan Heights. We have heard so many negative things about this area on the news, but when we got there it was so peaceful: from where we stood you could see farmers working their land, cattle grazing and people just getting on with their lives.



However, coming down the other side there was an enormous Israeli army camp with tanks and heavy weapons; it did make you think.

We then made our way to Jerusalem via Nazareth and Bethlehem. We were shown many of the sights mentioned in the Bible. I could go on about these and Jerusalem, but I'll save that for another time! However I would just like to finish with a couple of observations. We noticed a mood change on Friday in Jerusalem, when what had been a bustling city began to quieten down. On the following day, the Sabbath, Jerusalem was different from the previous two days: the small, crowded alleyways of the old town were quiet, very few shops were open and there was hardly any traffic. We went down to the Western Wall (the Wailing Wall) and it was heaving! Then we heard what sounded like a crowd of football supporters chanting; it was in fact about twelve young men skipping and holding hands while singing as they made their way to the synagogue. How wonderful that was to witness, a special moment on a special day, and this happens one day every week when life slows down and is not driven by 'must have' special offers and sales. This seems very alien now compared to our 24/7 non-stop way of life. So as we near Easter and all it brings I would like to say 'Thank you Lord for the glory and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ', and at this time to renew our Baptismal vows. I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful and special Easter.

John Cole, Authorised Lay Minister, St Andrews Church, Soham

Have you ever wanted to know what your town looked like during WW2?

Viva Arts and Community Group presents 'Street Life' their latest Heritage Lottery Project based in East Cambs. Viva will be working alongside local volunteers to look into the past of Soham, Ely, Chatteris and Littleport from 1939-1945. This exciting project will be a bridge for the local community to be taken back in time to discover who lived and worked in these four towns. Did the war have an impact on local living? What was a day in the life for some of the local residents and how have the towns changed over time?



STREET LIFE

Project Manager, Hetti Wood, says: 'We are still on the lookout for local volunteers to get involved who will be recruited and trained to undertake archival research, oral history interviews to record local memories from people alive at the time, and photographic recording of buildings in the four towns. Your time with us will also include fieldtrips, a roadshow of the information gathered in form of a pop-up heritage as well as socials with the other volunteers. We cannot wait to get started and we hope that we can drum up some local support'.

The current volunteers recently took part in an Introduction to Oral History Training Day where they were shown how to conduct a successful interview as well as use the equipment. There will be other opportunities to have this training so it is not too late!

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with flexible hours to suit you? Then get in touch with our Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Emma Sharp on 01353 722228 or volunteers.streetlife@gmail.com.

We are now on the lookout for local residents who remember any of these four towns from 1939-1945? Do you have any memories of this time or know someone who might? Do you have any photographs or objects that might be useful? Then get in touch as we would love to hear from you!

To be kept up to date with the project visit our website: <http://www.hlfstreetlife.org/>

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for sending a shoebox gift with Operation Christmas Child. Because of you, a child in Belarus received a gift to remember. Your gift was one of 77,904 shoeboxes sent from the UK to Belarus and 11.2 million packed globally.

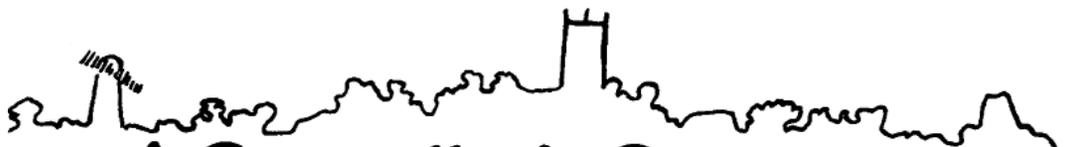
Once more children in need, all over the globe, experienced the joy of a simple shoebox gift and the hope that comes with knowing they are loved and not forgotten; children like those living in Nadeshda, visited by an OCC team met on a recent distribution trip. Many of these children are suffering from health problems as a result of the Chernobyl disaster 30 years ago.

Nastya is being treated for a related blood disorder and low immune system. When she opened her box she nearly burst with excitement at the sight of the Barbie doll. She couldn't believe the doll was for



her. Nastya took each item out of the box and then carefully repacked it, making sure everything was there and that her precious Barbie doll was on the top of all her gifts. Then she wanted to see everyone else's box and it was soon clear she was the only one with a Barbie! When asked what was special about the Barbie doll she said, "I think it looks like me!"

Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child in 2015 to share God's love in a tangible way with children across the world over the Christmas season.



A Councillor's Comments

At our January meeting there was no one to make use of Public Comment Time, however. Mr Andrew Fleet and Mr. C Murfitt were there to present a proposal for residential development on land off the Shade. This land was earmarked for employment use but the district council is prepared to allow it to be used for residential use. This was brought to the meeting to test our reaction. Several questions were raised. It is proposed that 92 dwellings of various sizes are planned. There are two rights of way going through the site and it is proposed to move these to the edge. Drainage may be a problem and the question of sewerage capacity was raised to a county councillor. It is understood only about 20% will be affordable which is down on the expected target of 30%. But we shall wait and see what the figures are when the application is submitted.

County Council Land for Residential Use: The council were notified of this. The land in question is adjacent to the Shade Primary School and it may be possible that some of this land could be used by the Soham Thrift Community Land Trust. They were looking for land that would come from the Eastern Gateway development, but this land at the Shade may be available sooner

Heritage Lights: It appears now that they will be replaced like for like. There was some discussion about extending these lights beyond High Street and Churchgate Street but this would come at a cost. On those roads where lights have been taken away people are already feeling the loss.

At our February meeting Mr. Ken Cranfield spoke about Localism.

County & District reports: Questions were asked about adult social care and the fact that the County Council had not taken the Government's offer to be allowed to raise the council tax a further 2% in order to provide for it. The question was also raised as to whether the bus service 117 Wicken and Upware will be axed.

Chairman's Announcements: Apart from the dates of various meetings, Councillor Ross gave out an invitation to councillors about a possible visit to Mildenhall Base and required responses from those who would like to go and possible dates.

Matters Arising from the minutes: There was concern expressed that a site proposed to be developed known as SOHB was still common land and considered to be a place of natural interest and should not be developed. A discussion followed tracing its history.

Planning: On looking at the minutes of our planning committee they had noted that there had been no certificate presented to show there was adequate treatment works for the sewerage for the Hopkins Homes development. Councillor Warner produced a document from Anglian Water which gave a pre-planning assessment report dated 3rd August 2015. This document focused on the foul system only with no consideration of surface water. In the light of their findings they recommended various options be taken. In the light of this document the County Council were asked to follow this up. There were questions raised as to whether the development should go ahead before we have some assurance. There does not appear to be a tie up between development of housing and the vital infrastructure to accommodate it. Again there was a lengthy discussion on this issue.

One Vacancy on the North Ward of the Council: We had two candidates present; Mr. David Chapman, and Mr. Scott McKinvin. Each gave a reason why they wanted to serve on the council. It was decided on a show of hands, and David Chapman was elected. Mr. Mckinvin was thanked by the chairman for standing for election and told him to stand by and keep in touch as we may need councillors in the future.

Refurbishment of Pavilion: Discussion on the right option to advertise the tender for the work to be done.

Councillor Ginn



- ☆ **Shoe boxes** The shoe boxes from this area went to Albania, Ukraine and Belarus. Many thanks to all those that helped fill a box; see the article on page 3.
- ☆ **Soham Lodge** is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 19th March from 10.30 pm - 1200 noon.
- ☆ **Soham Museum** coffee morning is on Saturday 5th March, 10am till 12 noon at Soham Library. Bring along your items or photos of local historical interest, or just join us for a chat and a coffee. Everyone welcome.
- ☆ **Soham Museum History Group** presents 'Farming with Steam'. Tom Doig takes us back in time to the days when the age of steam was considered the future of farming! Thursday 3rd March, Berrycroft Church Hall, Soham, 7.30pm. Admission £2.50, members free.
- ☆ **Soham Museum** Traditional Jumble Sale on Saturday 12th March. Admission 20p. 10am - 12 noon at Soham Comrades Club, Market Street, Soham.
- ☆ **St Andrew's School** is hosting a Floral Art Demonstration by Moira Neville, the NAFAS Area Demonstrator on Saturday, 12th March at 2.00 pm. Tickets are £5.00 which includes refreshments. For further details contact Moira Neville on 01353 722765.
- ☆ **Items for the April edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Saturday, 26th March. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@bopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

The Bread Basket

You are warmly invited to join us at our monthly Continental Style Breakfast on Saturday 19th March from 10 am to 12 noon at St Andrew's Church, Soham. All welcome! Continental Breakfast with tea/coffee £1.50; Hot drink 50p



VIVA BRINGS A TASTE OF THE WEST END TO SOHAM!

Rehearsals for Viva Youth Theatre's latest production 'EVITA' are now well under way, and due to early high demand for tickets people are being urged to book now.

Viva's Artistic Director and Director of 'Evita' - Dan Schumann said:

"Evita is a classic, epic and iconic musical full of great characters, big dance routines and familiar songs such as Oh What a Circus, Another Suitcase, Another Hall and Don't Cry for Me Argentina. Our production has



a cast of over 40 local young people and is full of beautiful singing, impressive dancing and stunning sets and costumes. Our last show has nearly sold out and our previous two productions (Phantom of the Opera and Avenue Q) completely sold out, so we don't want anyone left disappointed this year."

EVITA will be running from 8th to 12th March, at 7.30pm, with a 2.30pm Saturday Matinee at The Brook in Soham.

Tickets are now on sale, priced at £12 and are available from the Viva Centre on Churchgate Street in Soham; people can either call in or phone Hetti on 01353 722228

Just a few words

Dear friends,

I wonder how you are at waiting. Are you one of those people who is quite happy to find ways to fill your time until whatever you are waiting for occurs, who is not really bothered by the time involved but quite happy to wait? Are you, on the other end of the spectrum, someone who is unwilling to wait and runs out of patience fast? Are you someone who finds waiting to be quite uncomfortable, unsettling, distressing even?

Jesus' first followers, on the day after his death, found themselves in a place of waiting. Waiting, in the emptiness that follows death, for time to move on and some semblance of normality to resume. Waiting for answers to their questions about what had taken place. Waiting to see what would happen next.

For us, looking back at the story from a distance of many years, and knowing what comes next ('He is risen! - Alleluia!'), we can miss out on that sense of waiting. We move through the days of Lent, perhaps following our discipline of having given something up or of doing something different; we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; we might remember the crucifixion on Good Friday... but very quickly we move from there into the celebration of new life and the defeat of death on Easter Sunday.

But Jesus' disciples didn't know that this was what was coming. They had been through their Good Friday crucifixion experience and were suspended in that Holy Saturday place not knowing what was next - waiting. I often think that we live in a 'Holy Saturday world'. For many people their 'crucifixion experiences' are taking place right now. Occasionally a 'resurrection experience' occurs - something which brings hope, joy, healing, a glimpse of what the future might be like. But for the most part we live between the two - between crucifixion and resurrection - in a Holy Saturday world: shadowed by Good Friday pain, with the hope of resurrection joy ahead, but meanwhile waiting in that in-between place.

This is what it is like following Jesus. He said that he came to 'preach good news to the poor... freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind... to release the oppressed', to bring 'life in all its fullness'. He demonstrated how to live out a relationship with God that brings this about. But for it to happen fully is a future hope. Our present reality is that we live it out as best we can, bringing glimpses of resurrection in a Holy Saturday world.

So whatever you decided to do - or not do - for Lent this year, as you move through Lent into Holy Week and Easter, try not to move too quickly from the unpleasantness of Good Friday to the celebration of Easter, but dwell for a while in the waiting of Holy Saturday, and perhaps ponder the glimpses of resurrection that you see.

Ruth Dennigan, *Licensed Lay Minister, Soham and Wicken*

Book Review: 'Questions are the Answer' by David Hayward (Darton, Longman & Todd, London 2015)

This book is the memoir of an ordained minister who found that God is much bigger than the church - and that relationship with God involves being brave enough to face uncertainty, ask questions and search for answers, even when this takes you outside of what the church is comfortable with. Through honest, open sharing - and a poignant collection of cartoons - Hayward demonstrates that growth of wisdom and maturity is matched by growth of uncertainty. If you have ever found in yourself a tendency to ask awkward questions of God and the church - or a desire to be that sort of person! - then this book could be for you. It is available to buy from Soham Books.

