

Services at the Parish Church		1st Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	
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

Viva needs you!

This summer local drama group Viva are putting on not one but two shows. Viva is always looking for new members and volunteers to get stuck in and they have plenty of opportunities for everyone. Go along and get involved with performing, directing, dancing, singing, supporting backstage in costume, set and prop making and much, much more!



On Sunday, 10th April Viva will be holding auditions for their next youth show 'The Little Mermaid JR'. This is open to anyone aged 7 to 15 and will include weekly rehearsals, a chance to showcase your hard work in July and workshops! The auditions are free to attend and you need no past experience in performing just go along with enthusiasm and a smile!

Viva will be once again visiting the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this summer with the show 'Made in Dagenham'. This show is open to anyone aged 16+ and with three home show performances in July and a chance to perform at the famous Fringe Festival in August it is a chance not to be missed!



On Sunday 3rd April Viva attended the Annual East District NODA Awards for 2015. Viva was nominated for three awards in total and Abigail's Party, performed in June 2015, was awarded Best Play in District 4S! A huge congratulations to the director (Emma Moat), all of the cast (Sarah Dowd, Kirsten Martin, David Moat, Jon Bedford and Rania Kurdi) as well as to backstage support (Maggie Brackenridge).



Viva's adult group will be performing 'Sweeney Todd the Musical' in June and tickets will be on sale soon – watch this space!

For more information on either of the auditions above then please visit our website www.viva-group.org.uk or get in touch on 01353 722 228 / vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk.

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

Henry Tasker

Last year I wrote about some of the vicars of Soham before the nineteenth century. The information was obtained from 'Notes on Soham Church' by The Reverend J R Olorenshaw who was Curate at St. Andrew's from 1882 until 1889. Lines taken directly from his work are in quotation marks. During the 95 years between 1832 and 1927, Soham was served by just two vicars, which is a remarkable statistic. The first of these was Henry Tasker.

Henry Tasker was a fellow of Pembroke College Cambridge and an Honorary Canon of Ely. He became Vicar of Soham in June 1832. In 1834 the Vicarage (now apartments next to St. Andrew's), was enlarged at a cost of around £3000. 'A protest of a somewhat formal character was made by the College authorities against the proposed enlargement of the house, on the grounds of its being likely to prove a burden to future incumbents and it seems that some alteration was made to the original plan.'

Henry Tasker was instrumental in the restoration of the Chancel roof in 1849. This was jointly funded by Pembroke College and Henry Tasker. Obviously a man of means. The present Chancel screen and most of the choir stalls date from that time. He was also instrumental in the building of the Girls National School (later Soham C.E. Junior School) in Bull Lane (now Clay Street), in 1857, at a cost of £1650. His own contribution appears to have been a considerable £665.

The stained five lighted east window in St. Andrew's is a memorial to him. This window depicts twenty scenes of our Lord's Passion, beginning with his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday until the Journey to Emmaus on Easter Day.

Henry Tasker died on January 17th 1874 aged 79 years and was buried in Wilmington Churchyard, Kent, alongside other members of his family. He was succeeded two months later by John Cyprian Rust, about whom I shall write at a later date. A two month interregnum!! A lesson to the powers that be perhaps? *Geoff Fisher*

For our Queen

A FAREWELL TO ARMS

(To Queen Elizabeth I from an Aged Knight)

HIS golden locks Time hath to silver turn'd;
O Time too swift, O swiftness never ceasing!
His youth 'gainst time and age hath ever spurn'd,
But spurn'd in vain; youth waneth by increasing:
Beauty, strength, youth, are flowers but fading seen;
Duty, faith, love, are roots, and ever green.

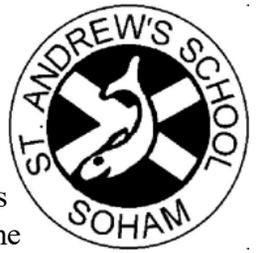
His helmet now shall make a hive for bees;
And, lovers' sonnets turn'd to holy psalms,
A man-at-arms must now serve on his knees,
And feed on prayers, which are age's alms:
But though from court to cottage he depart,
His Saint is sure of his unspotted heart.

And when he saddest sits in homely cell,
He'll teach his swains this carol for a song,--
'Blest be the hearts that wish my sovereign well,
Curst be the souls that think her any wrong.'
Goddess, allow this aged man his right
To be your beadsman now that was your knight.

*George Peele, 1558? - 1597
contributed by Judith Scott*

SCHOOL REPORT

Richard Liddington, Headteacher of St. Andrew's School



The spring term at St Andrew's School has been a busy one. Staff and students have worked hard together to stage the junior version of Disney's Lion King. If you don't know the story, it follows a young lion (Simba) as he struggles to grow up. His evil uncle (Scar) and his band of hyenas take over the kingdom and run it into the ground. Eventually Simba grows up and realises he should fight for

what he believes in – he returns to his homeland and is crowned king. In February, many of the children took part in our annual drama club



trip to the West End and watched the Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre. It was great night out and both staff and children were inspired to push to greater heights for our own show. Ideas for choreography, costumes and masks were adapted and put into practise by our talented production team.

Children from Year three to Year six took part in the production, which involved much singing, dancing and terrible jokes. Special mention should go to the stars of the show, Charlie



Stoodley and Ryan Rodrigues as Simba; Kayleigh Watkinson and Faith Bird as Nala; Ben Brookes as Timon; Elesha Coleman as Pumba and Andzela Markunaite as Scar.

Amazingly, over 100 children gave up their time to rehearse and perform in the show, making the singing spectacular.

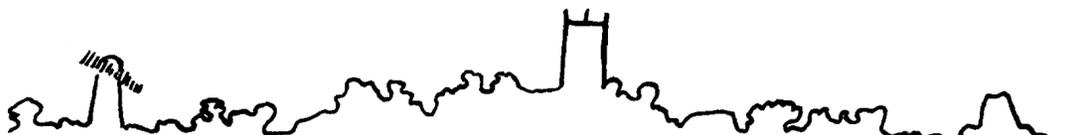
Everybody, from the grass in the grasslands and the bones in the elephant's graveyard to the meerkats and flamingos gave their all for three special nights which raised the roof!



It's great to have another opportunity to thank all those involved – the lighting rigs, sound, extra staging and technical support team; the parents who ferried their children backwards and forwards not only on

show nights but also for rehearsals; the numerous and artistic face painters; back stage crew from SVC and of course, all the staff who finished their day shift and then became front-of-house or backstage hands each night! Thank you one and all. Only one question remains – what shall we do next year?





A Councillor's Comments

There was no Public Comment Time taken up at our April meeting. So the meeting began with County Council and District updates. There was to be a meeting in London regarding the Ely By-Pass and some movement on the Eastern Gateway.

Total Transport Survey: There was a speaker present who outlined for us a proposed plan about possible changes to County Council Funded Transport. They are offering to provide a flexible minibus service that will bring together all types of small vehicle transport and replace some local buses. This new service will transport adults to day care and increase choice for existing dial-a-ride and local bus users who are currently served by just one service a day or just one service a week. The minibus service will provide journeys to and from Highfield Special School in Ely and shared transport for other passengers during the day. Because vehicles will be reserved for school journeys there will be limited availability for other users from 7.30am to 9am and from 3pm to 4.30pm. Leaflets for this survey for the public to tick the right boxes according to their needs, were left at the meeting, but can be obtained on request. A consultation meeting is being held at the Soham Library on 19th April 9am to 1pm, but the consultation continues until 13th May. The county council team are anxious to hear the views of the people regarding their plans. They can be contacted by e-mail at: total.transport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by calling 01223 743787. Areas of transport affected by the proposed scheme include; Schools (Bus or Taxi), Mini Bus to Day Centre, Local Bus Routes 117, 125, or 129, Other Local Bus Routes, Ely Zipper, 9, 12, or 15, Social Car Scheme, Dial-A-Ride (community transport) and they would also like to know where you live. All this transport provision will be arranged from one centre.

Applications for Financial Support were received from Helimed Air Ambulance and the Summer Reading Challenge from the Soham Library which encourages children to read books during the school holiday. The council always supports this challenge and our chairman goes and hands out certificates at its conclusion.

Councillor Ginn

How well do you know St Andrew's

Last month's photos taken in and around St Andrew's depicted the following:

- 1 The memorial to Martin Wilkin on the West wall of the North transept. 
- 2 Central roof carving at the West end of the North aisle. 
- 3 From the Medieval screen into the Meeting Room. 
- 4 A corbel on the South wall at the West end of the North aisle. 
- 5 A bench mark? on the buttress at the North-west corner of the tower. 
- 6 A leopard's head on the altar tomb in the North transept. 
- 7 The maker's crest on the safe in the Vestry. 
- 8 Decoration on the South side of the East wall of the Chancel. 
- 9 A monkey on a pinnacle of the North transept. 
- 10 From the William Case Morris window in the South aisle. 
- 11 The Annunciation statue on the South side of the Chancel arch. 
- 12 A roof boss placed on the wall above the Pulpit and thought to have come from the roof of the original central tower. 



☆ **Winners of the 200+Club** for March - £5 Mrs. M. Fordham, £10 Beth Cater; April - £5 John Laycock, £10 Nadine Hope.

☆ **Items for the June edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Saturday, 21st May. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

Cambridgeshire Handyperson Service

Age UK Cambridgeshire are delighted to offer a new Handyperson service covering the whole of Cambridgeshire. The service is aimed at people aged 65 and over or those with a disability. The new service is now up and running.



An Age UK Trusted Assessor will visit you in your own home to complete a Wellbeing and Home Check assessment. Grab rails can be provided and installed free of charge and any handyperson works will incur a charge of £25 per hour plus the cost of the materials used. We are also able to offer Keysafe installations which will be charged at £45 including supply of the item. All works will be carried out by approved Age UK contractors.

Examples of the types of handyperson works we can offer are:

- ☆ Fixing dripping taps
- ☆ Making telephone cables and extensions safe
- ☆ Changing light bulbs (unless these can be fitted during the Home Assessment)
- ☆ Replacing a fuse
- ☆ Small carpentry work
- ☆ Changing curtains
- ☆ Hanging pictures
- ☆ Putting up shelves

The above list is by no means exhaustive, and if there are any other small jobs you feel we can help you with please get in touch with us and ask.

To make a referral to the Handyperson service on or after 1st April please call our Handyperson team on 01480 700205 or our Helpline on 0300 666 9860.

Quiet Services

We are going to be holding some Quiet Services on the third Sunday of the month for a few months. The services will begin at 6.30pm in the Chancel at St Andrew's Church and will take the form of Evening Prayer with time for thought, using various themes and styles. These will be held on the following Sundays:

15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September

The services are free to attend and everyone is welcome. Please come along and enjoy a short service in the beautiful chancel. The sun comes in through the magnificent stained glass East window, and you can hear the birds singing their own evensong while you pray.

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

10th April

Dominic Franca Amoraal

WEDDING

29th April

Philip John Seal & Sarah Janet Wood

Just a few words

Ruth Dennigan

Dear friends,

We prepare, this month, to celebrate the third of the three great festivals of our faith. If you're feeling a little bemused now then I'm not surprised: Pentecost is the often forgotten festival which, alongside Christmas and Easter, celebrates the foundation of our faith. In the big story of God's dealings with us, his loved creation, Christmas marks God's sending of his Son as the ultimate expression of his love for us; Easter remembers the crucifixion in which all that gets in the way of relationship with God was tackled and defeated; and, seven weeks later (this year on Sunday 15 May), Pentecost celebrates God's sending of his Holy Spirit on the first disciples and, later, on us. The story being remembered is set in Jerusalem at the time of the Jewish Pentecost festival which celebrated God's provision in the harvest and in the giving of the law. Jesus' followers, having gone through the low of Jesus' crucifixion and high of his resurrection, had lost him once again, seeing him taken up into heaven (we celebrate this on Ascension Day which, this year, is Thursday 5 May). Now they were waiting for the gift that he'd promised to them: God's Spirit, the Spirit who changes things. The same Spirit who, as we read on through the story in the New Testament, transformed these timid, uneducated men into skilled communicators, channels of God's healing, life-giving power. The same Spirit who, it was promised, would be poured out on all people. And at Pentecost, while they were all gathered together waiting, the Spirit came, in the appearance of wind and fire – and things were never the same again.

Pentecost has not always been the forgotten festival. The older ones among you may remember the parades that took place, with girls wearing new white dresses, at Whitsun ('White Sunday'). Going further back in history, in the Middle Ages some churches had 'Holy Spirit holes' in the ceiling to symbolise their openness to God. At Pentecost, doves were released through the holes and bundles of rose petals were dropped through the holes onto the people gathered inside. Choirboys moved through the congregation making whooshing sounds and playing drums to remind everyone of the rush of the Spirit.

The symbolism of the Holy Spirit holes is something I find very striking: they are saying 'no barriers – we want to be filled with God's Spirit'. I wonder where we are, as individuals and as a church, in relation to that desire. I wonder whether we want to receive the refreshing, the reviving, the stimulation and redirection that come from being filled with God's Holy Spirit. I wonder whether we desire to grow in the characteristics that come from living a Spirit-filled life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (see Galatians 5:22-23 in the Bible). I wonder whether we are willing to receive and use the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit: gifts such as wisdom, healing, prophecy, speaking in tongues, teaching, administration, leadership... I wonder whether actually we would be more comfortable keeping barriers in place in order for our faith to be safe and contained.

Often we keep our faith as something organised, safe, secure, non-threatening and unchallenging. But we are called into relationship with the living God, who loves us – so much that he was prepared to do whatever it might take to enable that relationship – and who wants that relationship to be living, dynamic, and full of his Spirit. Are we prepared to take the challenge? *Ruth Dennigan, Licensed Lay Minister, Soham and Wicken*

Book Review: Breathing Underwater by Richard Rohr (SPCK, London 2016)

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest who writes and teaches about Christian mysticism and the practice of contemplation. In this book he suggests that we have lost sight of God's transforming love for the world and have become caught up in a pattern of thinking which he likens to an addiction, shaping our behaviour and our understanding of reality. He then uses the model of the 'Twelve steps' used by Alcoholics Anonymous to teach us the contemplative prayer that will enable us to break free from this pattern of thinking and be open to God. It is available to buy from Soham Books.

