
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 Church

FETE

The annual church fete takes place on Saturday 10th June from 10am – noon. Come along to the church and churchyard for fun and games including: Coconut Shy, Stocks, Wheel of Fortune, Bowling for a Pig and Tombola. You'll be able to buy plants, cakes, crafts, books, and DVDs. Community groups and local small businesses will also have stalls and refreshments include home made scones, candy floss and frozen yoghurt. We're hoping for a sunny day but if it is wet we will retreat inside the church.

For more information, please contact Alison Evans on 07738 877765 or alison.evans7@btopenworld.com

St Andrew's Youth Groups

Our young people need you!



In line with our aim, 'through our Christian faith, to actively share the love of God in our parish and in the wider community', children's and youth work at and around St. Andrew's is growing. The number of young people involved in activities such as the Friday night youth group, the Soham Village College Student Well-being Group or the young adults group for anyone aged 15+ that meets at Café Skylark every other Tuesday night is on the increase. Unfortunately, the number of helpers, who kindly and generously volunteer their time to make these activities happen, is not.

Our young people need more support; often just someone who sits and listens to them. It does not matter how old or young you are to get involved! You do not have to be able to run around, play hide and seek in the dark (if that frightens you) or be an expert art and crafts enthusiast either. Your presence is what matters!

If you would like to find out more on what is going on when and how you might be able to help, please contact me on tel. 01353-727749 or send me an email: claudia@agbs.demon.co.uk – I look forward to hearing from you! *Claudia Stein-Carr*

Andy Warhol is famous for his saying that “in the future, everybody will be world famous for fifteen minutes”. Although for some, it might be just 15 seconds. Take, for example, Brenda from Bristol. Remember her?

When told by a BBC reporter that the Prime Minister had called a snap General election, she proclaimed on national television: “You’re joking? Not another one... I can’t stand this”.

Now you might well have sympathized. Even become one of the many ‘Brendas from Bristol’ who couldn’t face ‘another one’! Anyway; by the time you read this it will probably be all over; or nearly over, anyway. But there is a serious side to all of this.

The Bible is very clear that the governing authorities are put in place by God; and act on His behalf to restrain evil (see Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2 in the Bible). This is for the good of all people.

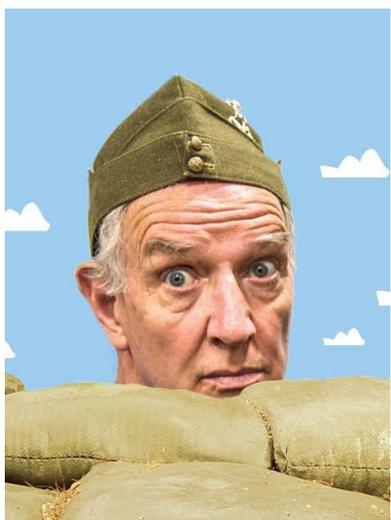
Now, that doesn’t mean that they always govern well. They are open to human failings as much as we are. But whoever governs us going forward (whether we voted for them or not) needs our prayers. In fact, the Bible encourages us to pray “for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Timothy 2:2).

Ultimately, there is a higher power to which governments and nations are answerable. What we see day to day is, in effect, ‘delegated power’.

Of course, we want the best for our country and its people. That’s why Christians are committed to proclaiming what we call ‘the gospel’: The good news about Jesus coming into this world; dying on a cross for our sin; and rising again triumphant over death. Isn’t it wonderful that God has both provided us with a means of governing our nation; but also for saving it?

And for all you ‘Brendas from Bristol’; this should be my last word on ‘Elections’ for some time to come! *Pastor Colin Stringer*

Viva: Dad’s Army



The award-winning Viva Theatre Company will perform a live stage version of the classic comedy Dad’s Army from Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 June. The production will take place at The Brook, Brook Street Soham, and the audience can also enjoy wartime entertainment and an exhibition about the Second World War in the area. The production will feature well-known episodes from the popular TV series and will include the immortal “Don’t tell him Pike!” line that was voted the nation’s all-time favourite sit-com one liner.

The cast have been in rehearsal since January and have had expert tuition in singing, military drill and morris dancing. Churchgoers may recognise Private Fraser and Corporal Jones!

Ticket sales have gone so well, Viva have announced that they are also including a matinee performance on Saturday 17 June. All evening performances (Thurs, Fri and Sat) will be at 7:30pm / Sat matinee will be from 2:30pm. Tickets are £12 for all evening performances and £10 for the matinee. Tickets are available from wegottickets.com or 01353 722228.



Just a few words

Ruth Dennigan

Dear Friends

As I write we are preparing for our Focus On Prayer as advertised in last month's Lodestar. So I'm wondering: what next? How will things change as a result of this Focus on Prayer? The trouble with prayer is that so many of us find it difficult – but one of the benefits of having God's Spirit with us and in us (as we will celebrate again at Pentecost on 4 June) is that when we don't know how to pray, the Spirit prays in us and for us (see Romans 8:26-27). Prayer, then, is not all down to us! When we put aside the time and space to give attention to God, God responds. Rather than a letter from me this month, then, here is an invitation from God, as expressed in the words of poet Peter Tongeman:

Be still!

Shut out life's jangling, noisy sounds awhile,
within your inner sanctuary bid them cease;
take time to bow beneath My welcoming smile
and learn to be at peace.

Be still!

Your busy-ness and ceaseless industry,
the rush and bustle of your daily round
will sap your strength. So learn to rest in Me
in Whom all peace is found.

Be still!

The fear that makes you want to run away,
the inner struggle deep within your soul,
the danger threatening your future way
is under My control.

Be still!

Through quiet worship inner strength will grow;
by patient waiting paths will be made clear;
and those who humbly look to Me will know
the love that casts out fear.

Be still!

For in the quiet place I gently heal,
refreshing and renewing mind and soul;
and those who in My presence daily kneel
return to life made whole.

©Peter Tongeman (<http://peter Tongeman.blogspot.co.uk/2009/07/be-still.html>)

Ruth Dennigan, Licensed Lay Minister, Soham and Wicken



Photo by
Lizzie Evans



☆ **Winners of the St Andrew's 200+Club** for April
£5 Derek Shaw, £10 Pam Cole; May £5 Claudia
Stein-Carr, £10 Sharon Wright

☆ **Soham Lodge Care Centre Fete:** Soham Bypass (A142), CB7 5WZ on
Saturday 24th June from 2-30 - 4pm, Telephone 01353 721741

We will have a variety of stalls including fantastic raffle, tombolas, chil-
drens stalls, face painting , books, plants, crafts, sale stall, bric a brac etc.
Money raised will be used to pay for trips and entertainments which help to
make such a difference to the quality of life for each resident.

☆ **Soham Museum Coffee Morning** on the first Saturday of every month, 10.00
am to 12 noon at Soham Library. Find out about local history, join us for a
chat and coffee!

☆ **Soham Museum History Group:** Thursday July 6th: The Drainage, Mills and
Millers of Soham and Middle Fen – Peter Filby, at the Methodist Church Hall,
Berrycroft, Thursday May 4th, 7.30pm. £2.50 admission, Museum Friends
free admission. Refreshments, raffle and bookstall.

☆ **Methodist Wives' Club** meet at 7.30pm on the Third Thursday of each month
at the Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft. All are welcome.

☆ **Items for the July
2017 edition of
LodeStar** should be
submitted by Wednes-

LodeSTAR

day, 21st June. Please send material to 50 Mildenhall Road, Fordham,
Ely, Cambs, CB7 5NR or email to alison.evans7@btopenworld.com.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

May 14th Logan Henry Cochrane

Funerals

27 Apr Marley Brian Michael Setter-Smith
(aged 2½ months)

4 May Celia Ann Parr (aged 73 years)

5 May Arthur Richard Knopp

12 May Gwendoline Smith (aged 80 years)

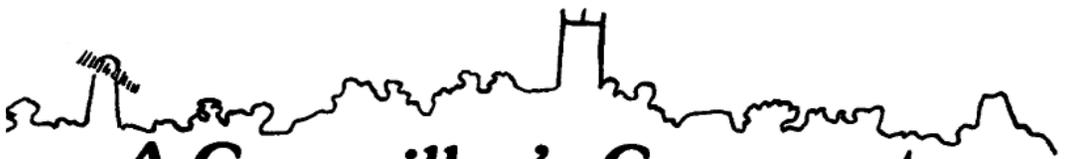
25 May Paddy Walsh (aged 73 years)

Weddings

28 Apr Anna Davies & Samuel Mathieson

29 Apr Kara Houghton & Joshua Casey

19 May Nicole Marsh & Thomas Clayton



A Councillor's Comments

The meeting began with a presentation of "Pride of Soham" to Capt. Matt Edwards, U.S.A.F volunteers in recognition of their voluntary work performed for the benefit of Soham community and its residents.

The May meeting was our annual town meeting, and it began with Public Comment Time. There was one person present who was going to raise an issue, but as he began to address the meeting the chairman called a halt to his address, as it was considered that the issue he was presenting should really be addressed to East Cambs. District Council and not to the local town council meeting.

Election of Chairman: This meeting was the time when our current Chairman was stepping down leading to the appointment of a new Chairman. It has been a tradition of our council that the present Vice Chairman moves up to be the new chairman. This need not be the case as it is for the council members to decide. As it was, our Vice Chairman Rosemary Aitchison was nominated and elected chairman, to replace our outgoing chairman Councillor Geoffrey Fisher. Our new chairman signed her declaration of acceptance and Councillor Fisher was thanked for his chairmanship. It then left the position of Vice Chairman to be filled, and Councillor Charles Warner was nominated and elected. This was followed by the appointment of the chairmen of the various committees.

Members Allowances for Soham Town Council: In the past there had been no allowances, but in certain circumstance when a councillor spent considerable time and expense on council work it was thought there should be some remuneration to compensate this. After some debate some £400 per councillor could be made available for any work they do on behalf of the council.

Management of the Commons: In recent years the council had been engaged and paid to carry out work on the Commons called Higher Stewardship, doing the right things to keep the Commons in good order. This stewardship is coming to an end and we had to decide what we had to do as regards the Commons. We had tried to get the rules of the Commons updated and had asked East Cambs. to do this, but they said the rules were laid down by the old Newmarket Rural District Council and they felt unable to do this. The council thought this might be a good time to notify the authorities that as the stewardship we had undertaken was ending we would no longer be doing the same. This could open up a discussion about the whole responsibility of the commons, and clear up this vague area of whose responsibility this is. Then we can move on so that the care of the commons can be placed on a sure footing. Notification of this proposal will be sent out to those concerned.

Annual Town Meeting: This was held on the Monday 15th May when all members of the public are invited to hear the report of the work of the Council for the past year, as well as those of County and District Councillors. This was done but it was disappointing that so few members of the public attended to hear what had been done on their behalf, not just the councillor's efforts but especially the Council's staff who had worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances due to the refurbishment. Two members of staff have left after long and loyal service, Gloria and Mick Hobbs. All these were warmly thanked by our outgoing chairman *Councillor George Ginn*

To find out more about the town council including the minutes, go to their website: <http://www.soham-tc.gov.uk/>

A View from the Vicarage



Out of the mouths...

One of the best things for me about being a vicar is the contact it brings with children. As I said in church the other day, I can so understand why Jesus told his disciples 'Let the children come to me and don't stop them'. I'm sure the children did him good. (And I suspect the same could be said about the 'tax collectors and sinners' with whom he spent so much time. But I digress...).

Back to the children. Here are some recent highlights. At a Christening last month, the three-year-old brother of a little girl I'd just Christened took refuge in our children's area for the whole of the service. At the end, he was dragged to the aisle and I knelt down to – simultaneously – welcome him and say goodbye. He glared at me and – without a word - slapped me across the face. That'll teach me to make his sister the centre of attention. The parents were mortified; I laughed out loud. 'I bet there're loads of people wanting to do that,' I told them, 'He's the only one who's had the bottle'. That's what I love about children: at least you know where you are (and if he's saved the rest of you a job, even better).

Then there are the things they say. I was doing an assembly at The Shade Primary School. The story was the Prodigal Son and I arrived, as usual, laden with props. We got to the point where the son had hit rock bottom. There he (or, in this case, 'she') was, stuck in the corner of the school hall, no money left in his pockets, no food left in his pudding bowl and a representative toy piglet splayed out at his feet. He (or rather she) was running out of options. 'What's he going to do?' I asked the children. 'What could he do now?' Up shot a hand. 'He could take the pigs with him and go back home'. We compromised and found them a pig-sitter. The son went home smiling and everyone was happy (plus or minus the elder brother. I, like Luke who wrote the story in the first place, left the children to decide what became of him).

In a book read the other day (Rules for Reverends) there's a piece of advice I took to heart (luckily, as it happens, because I can't for the life of me find it now...). Here's a precis: 'When you're talking to children, do it at their level. Literally. And listen'. I'm sure that's what Jesus did, and I'm sure he – and they – felt all the better for it. Maybe the children taught him something. They certainly do me. *Eleanor*

The Rev'd Eleanor Whalley ☎ 01353 725948

✉ sohamwickenvicar@gmail.com 🌐 www.sohamandwicken.org.uk

Flower Arrangement Demonstration

St Andrews Church, Soham 10.30 am, Saturday 24th June.

Pam Sole of Littleport Flower Club will be creating a

Pedestal design. Coffee and scones.

All welcome!

Songs of Praise

Sunday 16 July, 4pm: 'Songs of Praise' and dedication of our new hymn books followed by tea and cake.

All welcome! Do come

