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<b>Services at the Parish Church</b>	<i>1st Sunday</i>	10.00 am	Morning Praise
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 All Age Service

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## Holy Week and Easter Services

### Palm Sunday 25 March

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.50 am Palm Sunday procession from the War Memorial to St Andrew's followed by 10.00 am Eucharist
- 4.00 pm Palm Sunday Songs of Praise

### Monday 26 March

- 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm Churches Together Seder Meal at Soham Methodist Church

### Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 29 March

- 7.30 pm Night Prayer with Passion readings

### Maundy Thursday 29 March

- 7.30 pm Eucharist with Washing of Feet and Watch

### Good Friday 30 March

- 10.00 am Churches Together Walk of Witness: Berrycroft to St Andrew's
- 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm Drop-in Prayer Stations at St Andrew's
- 2.00 pm The Last Hour reflection, hymns and prayer

### Holy Saturday 31 March

- 8.00 pm Easter Vigil and Eucharist

### Easter Sunday 1 April

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 am All-Age Eucharist for Easter Day

## Lent Lunches

Enjoy a simple lunch of soup with bread and cheese hosted by Churches Together in Soham from 12 noon to 1.30 pm on Fridays: 9th, 16th and 23rd March at the Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft, Soham. Donations (if you can afford it) to Christian Aid.

All welcome!



## Taizé Service

Thursday, 1st March, 7.30pm at St Andrew's, Soham

A quiet, reflective service including singing, readings, silences and candle-lighting.



## Women's World Day of Prayer

St Andrew's is hosting this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service at 2.00 pm on Friday 2nd March. The service has been compiled by women from Suriname in South America and has the theme: "All God's Creation is Very Good". All denominations are welcome and you don't have to be a woman to attend! Refreshments are served afterwards.



## Mothering Sunday

Calling all children and grown-ups: There is a special service for Mother's Day on 11th March at 10.00 am in St Andrew's Church.

Children are also welcome to come and have fun preparing the service on Friday, 9th March from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm



## Bereavement Group

The Bereavement Group meets at 10.30 am to 11.30 am on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the meeting room in St Andrew's Church (turn left when you go in the door and walk along the side aisle). Meetings are open to everyone, no matter what your faith, or how recently or long ago you have been bereaved. Meetings are very informal and aim to provide an opportunity for coffee, chat and mutual support. Contact Lynne on 01353 722146 or [turnerlynne7@aol.com](mailto:turnerlynne7@aol.com) - or just turn up.

## Rubbish!

Fed up with seeing the amount of litter on Soham's streets and paths local resident, Lucy Alda, decided to act and organised a litter pick in February. She appealed for volunteers on facebook and about 20 people turned out one Saturday morning. District councillors arranged to borrow litter picking equipment from the council and in about an hour a trailer load of rubbish was collected from the area around St Andrew's School and Soham Village College.

They plan to do monthly litter picks covering different areas of the town each time. The next is on Saturday 24th March at 2.00 pm. Meet at the Rec car park if you would like to take part.

A huge well done to Lucy and her volunteers but what a pity it is necessary. Please find a bin for your drink cans, crisp packets, sweet wrappers etc or take them home with you and teach any children in the family to do the same.



- ☆ **Soham, The Fen and Barway WI** meet on the first Friday of each Month at 7.30 pm at Millbrook House in the coffee lounge.
- ☆ **Soham Museum Coffee Mornings** – on the first Saturday of each month at Soham Library, 10.00 am to 12 noon. Bring along any items or photos of local historical interest you may have, or just join us for a chat and coffee, All welcome.
- ☆ **Over 60s Club** meets at the Pavillion on the Recreation Ground every Friday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.
- ☆ **Coffee Morning at the Pavillion** Tuesdays from 10am-12noon. Open to all.
- ☆ **Items for the April edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Wednesday 21st March. Please send material to [aly-evans@hotmail.com](mailto:aly-evans@hotmail.com) or ring 01638 721534 for short pieces.

## Neighbourhood Cares



Neighbourhood Cares is a project which aims to help people over 18 to find the support they need locally to help them live independently.

Every first Wednesday of the month, we're inviting all local residents to come along for Coffee & Cake at the Library 10.00 am to 12 noon. Please join us for a chat and a cuppa to find out local info. Partners include; Library, Scams Awareness, Police (Crime Reduction), Let's Get Moving, Royal British Legion, Alzheimers Society and of course, Neighbourhood Cares!

We will continue to hold our regular weekly Drop in sessions on Wednesdays 10.00 am to 2.00 pm (with just our Neighbourhood Cares Team hosting).

# viva!

arts & community group

## Hairspray the Musical

*Music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman and a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, based on the 1988 John Waters film Hairspray.*



# hairspray

7th, 8th, 9th & 10th March, 7.30pm  
at The Brook Entertainment Centre

Tickets      £12.50 and £10.50 (under 12's)  
Box Office: 01353 722228 / [vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk)  
Weblink:     [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

# PARISH REGISTERS

## Baptism

4 February

Sasha Bissett

## Funeral

16 February

Raymond 'Brian' Hills (aged 84 years)

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## Church Fundraising and Events

The St Andrew's Church fundraising committee met in February and have come up with a number of events for this year. We are still working out the details for some of them but here are some dates for your diary:

**16-19 May** We welcome Viva to church for their production of the Vicar of Dibley. Look out for more details in the next issue.

**viva!**  
arts & community group

**Saturday 9 June, 1.30 to 3.30 pm** Church Fete with special guests Soham Comrades Brass Band, who will then perform at a Songs of Praise in the churchyard. Community groups and local businesses are welcome to have stalls at this event. To book contact Alison Evans, 01638 721534, or email [aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sunday 1 July** Afternoon Tea & Light Music for a Summer's Afternoon. 3pm onwards for afternoon tea, 4.30pm for the concert by Cambridge choir, Accorde. Tickets: £10 for tea, £5 for the concert from 01353 721380

**Saturday 14 July** Teddy Zip-wire

**August** (date to be decided) Duck Race.

**Sunday 9 September** BBQ in the Vicarage garden.

**Saturday 3 November** Concert by Soham Comrades Brass Band with music from the First World War as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War. During the following week the church will be decorated with knitted poppies and there will be a display of photographs of the men of Soham who gave their lives in WW1.

**Sunday 11 November** Remembrance Sunday service in the morning so that we carry out the act of remembrance exactly 100 years after the guns fell silent.

**Friday 30 November** 6.00 pm Soham Winter Fayre

**Soham**  
Carnival

We also hope to have stalls at the Soham Carnival and Pumpkin Fair. Look out for us there!

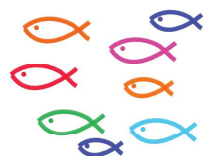
**Soham**  
Pumpkin Fair

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## Messy Church and Little Fishes

**Messy Church** is next on 6th March from 3.15 pm to 5.00 pm. Messy Church sessions include craft activities for children, a Bible story and a hot meal. Adults accompany their children. Everyone is welcome and it's free!

**Little Fishes** meets in church every Tuesday in term-time from 1.00 pm until 2.30 pm. All babies & preschool children are welcome (with their grown-ups). Singing, sticking, snacks & chat ...





# A Councillor's Comments

There were two people who took up the slot for public comment time at our January meeting. Janet Metcalf spoke of the number of leaves still left on the paths and also the water and mud around the rear entrance gate at the Weatherall's school and felt that someone should make sure the gullies are cleared out. Ken Cranfield spoke about a proposed Soham Market, but there was no clear information to the public and no consultation with the council.

**County and District Council reports:** Councillor Hunt gave an account of updates on various projects on behalf of the County; Neighbourhood Cares, with its pilot schemes already operating at the Soham Library and at St Ives, this will later be managed by the county, caring for the needs of people over 18. He mentioned the Ely By-pass which has been delayed but should be completed late summer this year. The removal of the County Archives from Shire Hall to the Strikes site in Ely is going ahead but this is a careful process and could take two years, and this new site will include a Registration Office. The improvement of the A14 is on track. The District councillor spoke of their efforts to establish a day centre for Soham, the refurbishment of the old mill in Spencer's drove, which should be great. They are also looking to provide a sports and leisure facility for the town.

**Precept:** In the light of the number of ongoing projects and new projects likely in the near future for the benefit of the town, it was decided to raise the precept by 3.5%.

**Commons Management:** A meeting has been held and proposals made which were put before the council for us to decide upon. The aim is to form a management committee with representatives from all interested parties so that the commons will be maintained to an accepted standard. The commons are an important feature of our town and need to be protected.

**Eastern Gateway:** No movement on this apart from an archaeological dig from 8th January to 16th February. It is not expected to cause any disturbance to neighbouring properties.

**Ambulance Station:** This too is at a halt but steps are being taken to move the position on. *Councillor Ginn*

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## Soham Eastern Gateway

As you may be aware, a planning application for the Soham Eastern Gateway was previously submitted by the County Council in June 2017 and subsequently withdrawn in November 2017 following a number of objections. Development company, This Land™, will be working on developing the Eastern Gateway area, with an aim to submit a planning application to East Cambridgeshire District Council by May 2018.

Soham Eastern Gateway is located to the east of Weatheralls Primary School, between the town and the A142 bypass, and between the two commons (Qua Fen Common and East Fen Common). It covers approximately 33 hectares.

The area has been identified as an area for development in the 2010 Soham Vision and in the 2015 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The masterplan will be planned according to policy outlined in the Local Plan 2015, and it will provide around 550 dwellings, including affordable housing, as well as a local shop, a new GP surgery and open public space available for all Soham residents.

The masterplan will be developed in detail over the coming months and will be informed and shaped by consultation with the Soham community. To find out more and to give your views go to [www.sohameasterngateway.com](http://www.sohameasterngateway.com) and click on the Take Our Survey box.



# *A View from the Vicarage*

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## **Love on the Rocks**

Last month's Lodestar introduced us (or introduced me, at least) to the Kindness Project's national rock-painting – and rock-leaving – initiative. Thanks to those many members of our community who have run with this locally, I've enjoyed spotting painted stones around Soham ever since. I've also loved seeing the delight on children's faces as they've found them. There's often a stone by St Andrew's Church door and/or in a niche in the building (please do drop by and have a hunt...).

I imagine it's a co-incidence that most of Soham's rocks have appeared during Lent, but maybe there's a sermon in it... Rocks often get a mention in the Bible: much of the Holy Land is an arid place; rocks are part of the landscape. On the first Sunday of Lent, we heard the story of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness: 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread'. That's Temptation Number One (cf. Matt. 4:3). And Number Two? That comes when Jesus has been led up to the pinnacle of the temple: 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down: for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone"' (Matt. 4: 6). Stones can be frightening things. Few of us like a rocky road.

Back in the Old Testament, when God's people are themselves in the wilderness, another rock features large. God's people are in the midst of their 40-year exodus. Just like Jesus, they're hungry (Matthew says Jesus was 'famished'); food and water are scarce. Unlike Jesus, God's people complain. They lash out at Moses and Aaron: 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to this wretched place? ... There is no water to drink'. And what does Moses do? He takes Aaron to one side, away from their detractors and falls on his face before God. Once he's got up, he does what God has told him to do: he takes his staff and hits a rock with it. Water pours out, and God's people and their animals drink (Numbers 20: 1-13). Hundreds of years later, Paul refers back to that story when he writes to the Christians in Corinth. Don't be like God's people back then, he tells them – don't be whingers, don't be idolators, don't put God to the test. And Paul has a punchline: 'the rock was Christ' (1 Cor. 10: 4).

What a thought. Christ who stayed faithful in the wilderness, Christ who lived his own exodus, Christ who rose again from a rock-hewn tomb is himself the rock. Christ is the cornerstone – the living stone – the stone that the builders rejected (1 Peter 2: 4-7); Christ is the rock and the fount of living water: 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink', he cries in John's Gospel (John 7: 37&38). Love on the rocks is Love from the rocks; Love is The Rock...

Whatever the faith of those who leave them, simple painted pebbles might just be his sign. *Eleanor*

*The Revd. Eleanor Whalley, Priest in Charge of Soham and Wicken  
sohamwickenvicar@gmail.com / 01353 725948*

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## **St Andrew's on the Internet**

Keep up with news and information from St Andrew's Church by visiting our website [www.sohamandwicken.org.uk](http://www.sohamandwicken.org.uk) or find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/StAndrewsSoham](http://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsSoham)

Little Fishes and Messy church also have a Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/Littlefishesstandrews](http://www.facebook.com/Littlefishesstandrews)