

Services at the Parish Church				1st Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Praise
Sundays	8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)			10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW)
Thursdays	10.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)	3rd Sunday	10.00 am	All Age Service	



## Soham Carnival and Heavy Horse Show

One of the highlights of Soham's year, the 65<sup>th</sup> Soham Carnival and Heavy Horse Show, takes place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May from 9am-5pm on the Recreation Ground.

Admission prices are: Adults £3.50; Concessions £2.50; Children 50p

The money raised will go to local causes with the main beneficiaries this year being the three local primary schools who are all raising funds for playground improvements.



The day starts with the heavy horse show from 9am-1pm featuring Shire, Percheron and Suffolk horses.

There is also a dog show from 10.30am - 1.00pm. Bring your dog along to enter. (NB dogs are not normally allowed on the rec but an exception is being made for the carnival. Please keep them on a lead and clear up after them if necessary!)

The carnival parade of floats leaves Townsend at 1.00 pm and ends at the rec at about 1.45pm in time for judging.

Team MAD, a mountain bike arial display team is the main attraction in the arena in the afternoon. Other entertainment includes a music stage, ACF Marching Band, Soham Comrades Band, and majorettes.

There are free circus workshop classes for children all day as well as a fun fair, inflatables, zorb balls, cub carts and a Punch and Judy show.

If you're hungry or thirsty there is a beer tent, BBQ, tea/coffee and cake in the pavilion and commercial food stalls.

Local organisations and small businesses will also have stalls selling a range of goods or running tombolas and other games.

Come along for a fun day out for all!



## Ascension Day Thursday 10 May

As well as the usual 10am Holy Communion we will be holding a service of Ascension Praise at 7.30pm: a short service of prayer with music to listen to.

### Prayer Fayre at St Andrew's Church

As part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' global prayer movement, St Andrew's Church will be holding a 'Prayer Fayre' on Saturday 12th May between 10.00am and 4.00pm. where people can come to explore different forms of prayer.



The day will be a drop in session as opposed to a commitment to stay for the whole time and will consist of five separate prayer stations running alongside each other. These will be:

Prayer labyrinth (at the back of church)

Stations Of the Pews (two of these using the two central blocks of pews)

Making prayer bracelets (North Transept – left of the altar)

Making prayer cubes (in front of the altar)

Prayer stones - a water station (South Transept – right of the altar)

There will also be a closing Act of Worshiop at 4.00.

Each station will come with its own set of suggestions as to how it might be used and you can choose whether to visit just one or two or to work your way round the whole church. All are welcome to this event.

### Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th May at the Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft 10.00am - 12noon.



Come along for coffee or tea and cake and browse our stalls: Cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle, tombola and books. Donations appreciated but please no alcohol.

Christian Aid have more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive. We tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. And if disasters happen, we get people the help they want straight away.

### Vicar of Dibley

Tickets are selling fast for this show by Viva at St Andrew's Church. Performances are at 7.30pm Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 May. Tickets cost £12.50 available from <http://www.wegotickets.com/vivaarts> or the Viva box office [vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk) phone 01353 722228



### Church Fete - 9 June

St Andrew's Church is holding its annual fete on Saturday 9th June from 1.30pm – 3.30pm (note different timing from previous years) followed by a Songs of Praise led by Soham Comrades Band who will also be performing at the fete. We will have games and stalls including refreshments, cakes, plants, tombola and stalls from local community groups and small businesses. To book a stall, please contact Alison Evans on 07738 877765 or email [aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk)



*Bin it? No way!*

## **Sunday 20 May 10am -2pm at Soham Library**

Repair Cafés are community events that match people who need stuff fixed with people who can, and like, fixing things. The International Repair Café movement originated in Amsterdam and now there are over a thousand Repair Cafés around the world covering most continents

Repair Cafés are completely non-commercial. There are no promises and no guarantees, but if something can be saved the repairers will give it their best efforts. Repairers are always keen to teach you how to do the repair – or at least have you watch while they do it.

Soham's first Repair Café - a free event - is on Sunday 20 May at 10.00am–2.00pm at Soham Library. Bring along your broken item, be it a kettle, torn jeans or even a smashed phone screen (with a replacement screen of course!) - our experienced repairers will try their best to help give it a new lease of life.

There will be plenty of cake and tea for sale in our pop up café to keep everyone refreshed. We welcome all items within reason (electronics, small kitchen appliances, clothing) as long as it can safely sit on a standard table in the library. If you can give us some advance notice on what you might bring and what the problem is then it will help our repairers to be prepared and maybe even advise if you could bring a spare part along to be fitted on the day. Unfortunately for the first event we will be unable to cater for bicycles and outdoor items (e.g. powered garden tools) but we hope to in the future.

If you have any queries and potential items to repair then please ask away - we politely request only one item per person to make things fair, but if we have time and you can join the queue again we will take a look. We ask all repairers to read and sign our repair agreement as we are all volunteers. Donations for repair time are more than welcome!

We have a query form (link below) to help us to collate any potential repairs so please do complete this if you have an item to bring along - pre-registered items will take priority over on-the-day walk-ins. <https://goo.gl/forms/WwS8Kwj8ftDOZF12>

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## **Soham Foodbank Moving**



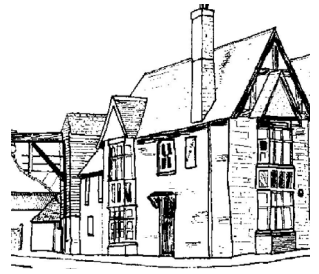
Following the closure of the Salvation Army Hall, Soham Foodbank will be moving to Millbrook House, Lode Close, Soham on the 3rd of May. The opening times remain the same: Thursdays 09.30am to 11.00am.

Thank you to the Salvation Army for its support in the past and to Millbrook House for being willing to host in the future.

If you want to donate food there are collection points at the Co-op, the Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church. They need tinned or dried food or longlife cartons with a shelf life of at least three months. You can also donate toiletries, sanitary goods etc and pet food (collection point at Scampers).

The Foodbank aims to give food for three days to people with a voucher from social services, citizens advice or health workers etc. and the amount will vary from a single person to a family.





- ☆ **Soham Community Litter Pick** will be meeting again on 26th May at 2pm. Meet on Regal Lane outside Ivor Searle to pick litter on Fordham Road, Orchard Row, Regal Lane and Brook Street.
- ☆ **Art Club: Thursdays from 10am-12 at Soham Library** - £6 per month. We paint or draw, chat and drink tea. With no tutor to tell us what to do, just friendly suggestions and guidance, we make what we like, as we like. Why not join us?
- ☆ **Dementia Friends: Wednesday 23 May, 10.30-12noon, Soham Library.** Come along to find out what it is like living with dementia and how you can help to create dementia friendly communities.
- ☆ **Soham, The Fen and Barway WI** meet on the first Friday of each Month at 7.30pm at Millbrook House in the coffee lounge. The speakers are: 4th May 'A hanging basket demonstration', 1st June Tara Constable 'The Work of Emmaus'
- ☆ **Twilight Tuesday WI** meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Fountain Inn, Soham at 7.30pm. 8 May meeting is Making Mosaics.
- ☆ **Soham Phoenix Club** meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 9.30-11.30 at The Causeway Community Room, Soham. Each month we have a speaker, raffle, refreshments and a warm welcome. All for £2
- ☆ **Soham Museum Coffee Mornings** – First Saturday of each month at Soham Library, 10am – 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.
- ☆ **Soham Museum History Group talk** - May 5th 7.30 pm, 'The History of Sweets' at the Methodist Hall, Berrycroft. Free to members, £2.50 guests. Book stall, refreshments and raffle. All welcome!
- ☆ **Soham Sewcial** – meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month - Sewing Room - Soham Village College (use Lodeside reception entrance)- 7-9pm - £3 each. Bring a project and a mug!
- ☆ **Over 60s Club** meets at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground every Friday from 2.00-4.00pm.
- ☆ **Coffee Morning at the Pavilion**, Tuesdays from 10am - 12noon. Open to all.
- ☆ **Soham Branch of the Royal British Legion** meet at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of every month at the Soham Rangers Football Club, Julius Martin Lane in Soham. Membership is open to everyone.
- ☆ **Items for the June edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Wednesday 23rd May. Please send material to [aly-evans@hotmail.com](mailto:aly-evans@hotmail.com)

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## Open Mills Weekend 12th May

Come and visit Northfield Windmill during National Mills Weekend on 12th May between 11.00am and 4.00pm. The mill is undergoing restoration but you can see the stocks and sails on the ground and take a walk around the woodland. Refreshments available all day - FREE ENTRY - donations to the restoration fund welcome.

Downfield Mill is not opening on this occasion but other local mills that will be open include Wicken, Wicken Fen, Burwell and Swaffham Prior (open on Sunday 13th only)





# A Councillor's Comments

At our April meeting there was one person who used the Public Comment time: Ken Cranfield referred to a recent announcement of another Masterplan for Soham and wondered what had happened to the plans set out in a previous Masterplan.

**County Council Report:** Councillor Hunt gave the meeting a long list of things taking place from the Counties authority. Double yellow lines in Pratt Street, at Ten Bell Lane junction were top of the list and should be in place shortly. Potholes are still being dealt with and three fire dragons are currently being used and each can fill 160 a day. The County Archives move to Ely will soon take place and it is hoped to be completed next year, which also includes a registry Office. The A14 improvements are progressing, on budget, and should be finished by the end of 2019/ early 2020. He mentioned the proposed rail station and the A10 to be dualled.

**District Council Report:** Day Centre: It is progressing and seeking funding for public liability insurance and hopes to open in June. The Drainage Board has vacancies which provides opportunities for councillors to apply. Waste disposal: The District Council are taking this in house from Veolia. Questions were raised about the lack of clearing away fallen leaves which have remained there for some time.

The council gave its approval of its budget system and how it was run.

**The Eastern Gateway** will present its finding on a consultation on Saturday 21st April at the Pavilion at 11.00am to 12.30pm and 1.00pm to 2.30pm. This is open to the public for them to find out where we are on this issue. The commons management is still to be sorted out. *Councillor Ginn*

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## Annual Town Meeting.

This is on 21st May at 8pm. The public are invited to come and hear reports from the Town Council and the County and District Councils of the last year's work. There is also an open forum where the public can ask questions, express concerns, and even suggest ideas as to what they would like to see their council do for them.

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# PARISH REGISTERS



## Baptisms

3 April	Harry Peter Barnes-Weston
22 April	Marco Baker

## Funerals

9 April	Patrick Nolan
11 April	Russell Fitt
19 April	Alec Gibbs
26 April	Lucy Johnson

# *A View from the Vicarage*

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## **Stopping and Sniffing**

Going by what people tell us, the latest ‘busy time’ should be over for us vicars – and there won’t be another one ‘til Christmas.

Did I get given the wrong script?

Easter Sunday may have been and gone, but my ‘busy time’ has stuck around. I had a surge of false hope last weekend when Geraldine (aka Kirsten Martin, Soham’s very own Vicar of Dibley ‘coming soon to a church near you’) came up the path in a dog-collar. She looked pretty convincing to me – smarter than I looked, to be honest. Might she be up for some moonlighting?

It’s not just real-life vicars who are busy, of course. Most of us face pressures of one form or another. For some of us, time feels in short supply; for others, there seems to be too much of it: long, empty hours, with nothing and no one to fill them. What we have in common, perhaps, is a need to catch our breath; a need to stand back and take stock; a need to find a different perspective on where and how we are. The question is, how do we do it?

2000 years ago, Jesus’ first followers were beset by pressures. When Jesus spoke to them, Matthew tells us, in the Sermon on the Mount, he advised them to do the same as their Old Testament counterparts had done. (Think of worry-worn Elijah standing at the entrance to his cave, watching the wind, the earthquake and the fire go by in 1 Kings 19). Jesus told the crowds to take in the sights of the natural world: ‘Look at the birds of the air... Consider the lilies of the field’ (Matthew 6: 25-34). It’s partly because of this instruction, and the wisdom behind it, that I keep bird-feeders stocked up in my garden. It’s also why I make time to get out with the dog: May is high-season for birds and lilies.

Yesterday, though, I was brought to ponder another passage; one still in Matthew’s Gospel, but coming a few chapters later than the Sermon on the Mount, spoken to a smaller audience. Now Jesus is speaking to just the 12 apostles, all of them new recruits, gearing them up for what is to follow...

Out on one of our dog-walks, Belle led me down the path off The Butts towards College Close (the bluebells are just coming into flower). Between SVC and the Sports Centre she stopped, nose to a small brown heap on the ground. The source of her interest proved to be, to misquote Monty Python, ‘an ex-sparrow’. She sniffed, and I thought... ‘Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father... So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows’ (Matthew 10: 29-31). Striking in themselves, those lines become even more powerful when we consider the context of that passage: Jesus is preparing his disciples for mission. That mission, he tells them, will not only involve busy-ness (‘Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons’), it will involve persecution and hardship: ‘See, I am sending you out like sheep among wolves’ (Matthew 10: 5-23). That’s what Jesus says a few verses earlier, and that’s the context for his words about sparrows. Not one sparrow will fall ‘apart from’ the Father. Not one will live – or die – detached from God. Not one will escape the Father’s loving hold. Not one is beyond the reach of God’s care.

For me, that’s a promise I cling onto - a promise I need to hear in the rush and the tumble of everyday life. It’s true for every sparrow, and it’s true for you and me. Perhaps it helps you to cling onto it too. *Eleanor*

The Revd Eleanor Whalley, Priest in Charge of Soham and Wicken

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