

Services at the Parish Church

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 Eucharist

Soham Pumpkin Fair



This year's Pumpkin Fair is on Saturday 29th September at the recreation ground. The fair opens at 1.30pm and finishes at 5.00 pm, however ALL ENTRIES must be bought to the recreation ground between 9.30am and 11.30am (Judging takes place from 11.30) Admission prices are — Adults: £2.00, Children: 12 - 18 and OAPS: £1.00, Under 12: free.

Cars should use the Gardener's lane entrance onto the site. Stewards will show you where to park. You will be charged the usual entry fees plus £1.00

The theme will be 'Garden of Gold' – there will be lots of competitions, displays and activities linked with this, including a special fancy dress competition for under 11s to enter, and another for pets too! Not forgetting the pumpkin and sunflower competitions. For details of competitions and entry forms look out for programmes around town or visit <http://www.sohampumpkinfair.co.uk>

Other attractions include a funfair, stalls, BBQ, classic vehicles, bygones, raffle, zorb balls, ferret racing and refreshments.

Do come along for a fun day out which supports local charities.

This year's charities are: The Liam Fairhurst Foundation, The Weatheralls Primary School, St. Andrew's Primary School and The Shade Primary School



Mothers' Union Mini Pilgrimage

Join us for a pilgrimage around St Andrew's Church: 'Walking in Christ's Footsteps' with Soham Mother's Union on Saturday, 8th September, 11am – 2pm followed by a bring and share lunch. All welcome.



Giving to St Andrew's Church

First, thank you to anyone who gives to St Andrew's, whether regularly or occasionally. Without your donations we could not function as a church.

We have been looking at ways to make it easier to donate money in this increasingly cashless society and, with the help of the diocese, have set up two pages on Just Giving which also enable us to accept donations by text.

To donate to our general funds go to:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-andrews-church-soham
or text SOFG58 followed by the amount (e.g. SOFG58 £10) to 70070.

To donate to our restoration appeal go to:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-andrews-church-soham-restoration
or text SORS58 followed by the amount (e.g. SORS58 £10) to 70070.

You may notice that the Just Giving pages say that we are raising money for Ely Diocese but they will pass the money back to us.

You can of course continue giving in more traditional ways. Any contribution is most welcome.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

15 July	Luca Farris-Miller Isabella Hope
22 July	Jonny James Newman McDonald Noa Violetta Ann McDonald
5 August	Delilah May Heading Mabel Jane Heading

Weddings

11 August	Reece Jarvis and Josie Turner
17 August	Andrew Featherstone and Catherine Watt

Wedding Blessing

4 August	James Chibueze and Binyelum Nwoka
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Funerals

11 July	Eric Mason
14 August	Daphne Laycock (aged 86 years)
16 August	Brenda Cornwell (aged 90 years)
20 August	John Wells (aged 92 years)
21 August	Jill Hobbs (aged 78 years)
23 August	Jean Rutter
24 August	Sylvia Watkins (aged 88 years)
31 August	Mandy Roberts



☆ **Winners for the St Andrew's Church 200+Club** for July are: Margaret Fisher £5, George Flude £10 and for August are: Catherine Sargeant £5, Dorothy Clark £10

☆ **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**, Thursday 6th September, 7.30pm at Berrycroft Methodist Hall, Nora Gardner talks about The Monastic Buildings of Ely and the Life of a Benedictine Monk. Refreshments, book stall, raffle. £2.50 admission, members free..

☆ **Neighbourhood Cares: Coffee, Cake & Soham Info** sessions first Wednesday of each month 10 – 12. Friendly Dog Café third Friday each month, 12.30 – 1.45pm, both at the library.

☆ **Over 60s Club** meets at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground every Friday from 2 – 4pm.

☆ **Soham Sewcial** meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month - Sewing Room, Soham Village College (use Lodeside reception entrance): 7 – 9 pm, £3 each. Bring a project and a mug!

☆ **Coffee Morning at the Pavilion**, Tuesdays from 9 – 11am. Open to all.

☆ **Soham, The Fen and Barway WI** meet on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm at Millbrook House in the coffee lounge.

☆ **Twilight Tuesday WI** meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Fountain Inn, Soham at 7.30pm.

☆ **Soham Phoenix Club** meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 9.30am & 11.30am at The Causeway Community Room, Soham. Each month we have a speaker, raffle, refreshments and a warm welcome. All for £2

☆ **Items for the October edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Wednesday, 19th September. Please send material to aly-evans@hotmail.com

LodeSTAR

Soham Winter Fayre

Soham Winter Fayre takes place this year on Friday 30th November from 6pm – 8.30pm. There will be craft stalls in church selling gifts and cards as well as Santa's Grotto and refreshments. Outside (on the road to the pavilion) Soham Heritage and Tourism have arranged for Fairground rides and food vans. It promises to be a good family evening out.

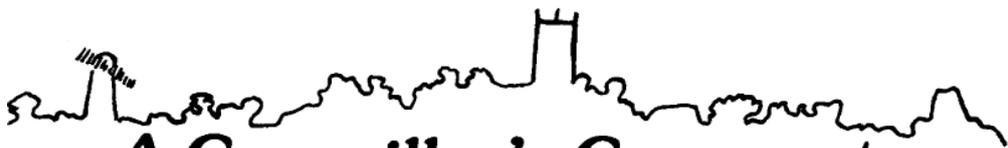
If you are a small business or community group and would like a stall, please email jamieh@waitrose.com or message the Soham Winter Fayre Facebook page.

Alternatively ring 01638 721534 and speak to Alison.

Soham Beer Festival Update

This year's Beer and Music Festival raised over £7500 for local charities - a huge thank you to everyone who made this happen. Arthur Rank Hospice Charity will receive over £5000, Pos+Ability auction raised £840, Soham Scout Group burger stall made over £900 and Rotary charities over £750.

Blushed Studios, Soham Pavilion staff, beer and cider sponsors, suppliers, musicians, helpers and everyone who came along and supported the weekend: we thank you all. *Soham Staploe Rotary Club*



A Councillor's Comments

Owing to a doctor's appointment I was late getting to the meeting, but arrived as a local police review was being given by inspector Paul Rogerson. This was followed by reports from the standing committees.

Jointly Funded CCC Highways 2018 Scheme: There were five different suggested schemes before the council. But one of them had local support by a number of those coming to the meeting. This was Speed Limit Reduction – Barcham Road. This gained the council's support although they themselves must put in the application and if successful the council will pay their share of the cost.

Matters Arising from Standing Committees - Cemetery Regulations: On this I had declared an interest so I had to leave the chamber. The regulations stated on the paper were; 1. Fencing, decorative or otherwise which act to surround the plot. 2. Shrubs Plants and bulbs planted within or on top of grave space. 3. Artificial grass laid or any other surface dressing other than natural grass (seed). I had never seen these regulations in my term on the council but are similar to the new rules adopted by Newmarket this April. Added to these there will be no kerbs and corner stones. The aim is to free the grave space from all obstructions and the grave space can then be mowed having become grassed. Flowers being restricted to a built in receptacle in the gravestone or in a pot on the ledge at the bottom. As I was not present on the discussion I am unable to report on the response.

Election of a new councillor: There was a vacancy due to the retirement of Peggy Gibbon and two people presented themselves. After listening to both of them, the councillors took a vote and Mr Glenn Dyer was successful and Mr. James Wood was asked by the chairman to put himself forward in the election for the council next year. *Councillor Ginn*

viva!
arts & community group

Open Evening: Would you like to be in a Viva show? Or volunteer with costume, hair & make-up, backstage crew, props...? Come along to our open evening on Thursday 13th September at 7.30pm at the Performing Arts Centre, Soham Village College.

For more information contact the Viva office on 01353 722228 or email vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk

Do you know anyone who was a World War II Evacuee?

The team behind Viva's upcoming production of Goodnight Mister Tom would love to hear from you!

Mister Tom takes to the stage this Autumn; 25th-27th October and in addition to the performances, the directors would like to bring to life real experiences of those who were evacuated during the Second World War. They want to share your stories with the rest of the community so that others can better understand what the experience was like.

If you were an evacuee or can put the team in touch with a former evacuee, they would love to hear from you. Please contact Keith Gallois or Judith Collingswood on 07521 031697 or email judithandkeith2018@gmail.com



News from Wicken Fen

Following the success of our new Fen Harvester in catching up with the cutting regime over the summer, we'll be continuing our planned conservation work over the next couple of months. We've got plans to make further improvements to the car park, as well as creating and re-surfacing the paths to and around the Woodland Walk. The cutting regime and the work in the Woodland Walk area are part of our 'Resting Sedge Fen' conservation project, the aim of which is to restore the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) area to 'favourable condition', to enable the fen plant communities to thrive and protect this unique environment. We will try to keep disturbance to visitors to a minimum while the work takes place. Your visits to Wicken Fen help us look after this special place – thank you.

After the hustle and bustle of the hot summer months, we're offering the chance to take a bit of quiet time for you. Why not take a day out to try something new? We have four workshops for adults available during September: Rush Weaving (Friday, 14th September), Introduction to Lino Printing (Saturday, 15th September), Feltmaking for Beginners (Saturday, 22nd September), and Painting the Fens (Saturday, 29th September). For further information about these events, go to:



Woodland Walk at Wicken Fen

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on>

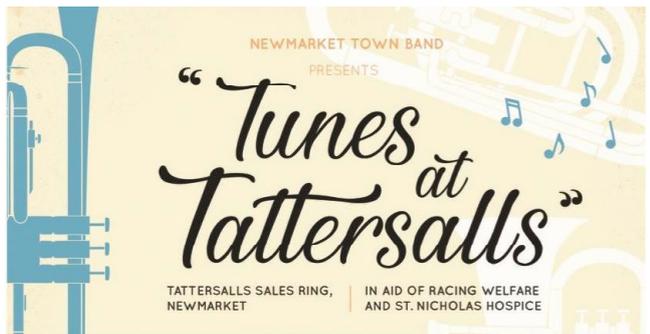
Looking forward to October, we'll have half term activities for families to enjoy, including: Autumn Adventure (age 3-10) on Monday, 22th October, Simple Campfire Cooking (age 8+) on Tuesday, 23rd October, Geocaching (age 6+) on Wednesday, 24th October, Go Wild: Woodcraft Skills (age 8+) on Thursday, 25th October and the Fenland Spooktacular (age 3-10) on Friday, 26th October. Don't forget that we always have a number of activities available for families to enjoy whenever you visit, just ask in the Visitor Centre. It's also the last chance to enjoy a boat trip this year, as our boat season finishes at the end of October.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Find out more about Wicken Fen at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Charity Concert

Newmarket Town Band with Soham Comrades Band and including Newmarket Community Choir will be presenting a charity concert on the 22nd of September at Tattersalls in Newmarket at 7pm.

Tickets are priced at £10 which will include an entry into the prize draw where many excellent prizes are available. Tickets can be bought from Sweets Newsagents in Newmarket and also from the band website: www.ntbb.co.uk



Our concert will be all the better for having a fantastic audience. Doors open at 6pm and there will be a bar for refreshments. Please come along and enjoy a wonderful evening with a variety of music and entertainment whilst supporting your local bands and charities.

A View from the Vicarage



‘From the sublime...’

People often tell me I should write down the things that make me laugh in the course of every day. It’s a good idea, but the problem is I’ve usually forgotten them by the time I’ve found a moment to sit down. From the last few months, only two things have lodged in my mind: the suggestion that we ask ‘the Danes’ to help fund the restoration of the church (they razed the original building to the ground in the 9th century, after all); and, from a pupil at St Andrew’s School, that ‘the other Mary’ who accompanied Mary Magdalene to Christ’s tomb on the morning of the resurrection might have been Mary Poppins. And I thought our assemblies were going so well ...

Yesterday, a member of St Andrew’s’ congregation emailed me something she’d come across on facebook. It’s the translation of a notice displayed in a church in France: ‘When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your mobile phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.’ I liked that, both for its humour, and for the seriousness of the messages within it: the best comedy, surely, makes things memorable. It put me in mind of something else. I don’t know the source, and you may have heard the story already. Even if you have, I think it bears the re-telling:

The widow of an AC (Anglican Church) Bishop was advised by her doctor to take a holiday in the south of France. She wrote to the principal of a school in a small village who had some knowledge of English, asking him to book her a room. This he did, and he replied to tell her that everything was in order. She suddenly remembered that the WCs in this small village were away from the houses, so she wrote again to the principal to inquire if the WC was far from her room. He had never heard of the term ‘WC’, so he went to the local priest for advice. The priest had never heard of the term either, but thought it might stand for ‘Wesleyan Church’. This was the reply she received:

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of enquiry, I have the honour to inform you that the WC is situated seven miles from the lodgings in a pine forest amidst lovely scenery. It is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Thus it is unfortunate for you if you are in the habit of going regularly, but you will be glad to know that an ever-increasing number of people take their lunch with them and make a day of it.

As there are many visitors in summer, I advise your ladyship to go early. The accommodation is good as there are about 60 seats, but should you at any time be late, there is plenty of standing room. I should advise your ladyship to pay a visit on Thursdays and Fridays as on those days there is organ accompaniment. The structure of the building is such that even the most delicate airs are clearly audible. Hymn sheets are provided at the doors. I should be delighted to reserve the best sheet for your ladyship and be present to conduct you myself.

P.S. My wife and I have not been there for 8 months and it pains us very much, but it is such a long distance.

Long live our ecumenical – and international – relations! *Eleanor*

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