

Services at the Parish Church

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|-----------------|----------|------------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| Sunday, 11 Nov. | 11.40 am | Service of Remembrance | NO | 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist |

STOP PRESS!

We are delighted to announce that Claire Halley has been appointed as Freelance Heritage Project Co-ordinator for St Andrew's Church, a 2-days-per-week role funded by our recent Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Details of how to contact Claire will be on our website from 1st November.

Soham Remembers

Soham will be commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War with a week of events leading to the act of remembrance at the war memorial at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. 128 men from Soham are listed on the war memorial: a small number compared to the millions (on both sides) who died but each one somebody's son, brother or husband. Full details below:



Soham Remembers

*A Festival of Remembrance organised by Soham's churches,
Soham Knit & Knatter, Soham Branch Royal British Legion, Soham Town Council &
Soham Heritage & Tourism*

A Patriotic Concert

with Soham Comrades Band

A chance to wave flags and sing!

Saturday 3 Nov., 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church

Tickets £5 (£2.50 for children) from 01353 721920

We Will Remember Them

*An exhibition of knitted poppies, flower arrangements, historical material
and work by Soham school-children at St Andrew's Church*

Exhibition viewing times

(light refreshments available each day)

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Saturday 3 November | 11am - 4pm |
| Sundays 4 & 11 November | 2pm - 4pm |
| Monday 5 to Saturday 10 November | 11am - 4pm |

Friday 9 November 11.45am A short concert of war-time songs
performed by the Year 6 pupils of St Andrew's School

The exhibition will continue until Sunday 18 November

Remembrance Sunday

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|---------|--|
| 10.55am | Act of Remembrance at Soham War Memorial |
| 11.40am | Service of Remembrance at St Andrew's Church |
| 7pm | Lighting of a beacon on Soham Rec., & bell-ringing |

*An Act of Remembrance will also take place in St Andrew's Church
at 10.55am for those unable to stand at the War Memorial*

St Andrew's Church is receiving funds in support of
Soham Remembers from The Heritage Lottery Fund



LOTTERY FUNDED

Pastoral Scheme

The signed and sealed Pastoral Scheme for Soham and Wicken has been received by Ely Diocese and will take effect on 1st November, meaning that from that date the parish of Soham will move to Ely Deanery and the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon and Wisbech, and Wicken will remain in the Deanery of Fordham and Quy and the Archdeaconry of Cambridge. The benefice of Soham and Wicken will be separated, and Eleanor will become Vicar of (just) Soham. From 1st or 2nd November, St Andrew's Church web address will change to www.standrews-soham.org.uk



SOHAM WINTER FAYRE

FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER 6pm to 8pm

FATHER CHRISTMAS ★ FIREWORKS ★ CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
FREE FAIR GROUND RIDES ★ GIFTS ★ STALLS ★ GAMES ★ FOOD ★ AND MORE

THIS EVENT IS ORGANISED BY SOHAM HERITAGE AND TOURISM AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
THE FAIRGROUND RIDES ARE KINDLY SPONSORED BY SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Church Roof Alarm



LOTTERY FUNDED

loans to help congregations look after their historic places of worship. Its main source of income is the annual 'Ride, Drive and Stride' event when, each September, sponsored cyclists, motorists and walkers visit churches, chapels and colleges throughout Cambridgeshire, sharing the money raised between the Trust and their local church. Details of CamHCT's work can be found at www.camhct.uk

St Andrew's Church's roof was recently alarmed with the aid of grant money from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£5K) and Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (CamHCT).

CamHCT offers grants and



Church Clean-up

Thanks to all who helped with the church and churchyard clean up in September and October. It looks much better now!

A Time to Remember

Sunday 25 November, 3.30pm A simple service of hymns, readings, prayers & candlelighting to remember loved ones who have died, followed by a cup of tea for those who wish to stay.

One of the bugbears for motorists today is the ever increasing number of speed bumps in our towns and cities. Soham is no exception, just about every route out of Soham from my home seems to have been designed to shake loose as many nuts and bolts on my car as possible.

As the car suspension takes yet another pounding, it's hard sometimes not to question the wisdom of the powers that be, but, of course, however unwelcome traffic calming devices may seem, they are installed for a purpose: to slow drivers down so as to make residential areas that little bit safer for pedestrians.

Let's face it, we can all on occasions be tempted to drive faster than we ought to, and if speed bumps help to save even one life or prevent an ugly accident they've more than served their purpose.

It occurs to me that in life, as much as on the road, we can be in too much of a hurry sometimes.

For all our labour-saving devices, we live today at a more hectic pace than ever before, always feeling under pressure and striving to cram that little bit extra into our already full day.

But are we happier for it? Probably the opposite is true; many people today feel stressed and overloaded and crave some respite in which to pause and get their bearings.

We all need time to unwind, to reflect on what we're doing and why, and above all, find time for God.

There is a passage in Mark's Gospel (6:30-31) where Jesus and his disciples have been really busy and are being pursued by the crowd. They are so busy that we are told they didn't even have time to eat. Jesus recognises this and takes them away to a quiet place to rest, because he knew how important that was.

And if it was important then it is important now. We all need some speed bumps in our lives, something that forces us to slow down and take time out, to find space to reflect and find rest.

I hope you find yours. *Colin*

sohamscene



☆ **Winners for the St Andrew's Church 200+ Club in October** were: John Laycock – £5; Gerald Johnson – £10

☆ **Soham Museum presents 'A Magic Lantern Show'** with Magic Lanternist Richard Rigby. Thursday 1st November, Berrycroft church Hall, Berrycroft. 7.30pm. Admission £2.50, members free.

☆ **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.

☆ **The Shade School Christmas Gift and Craft Fair**, 22nd November, 7pm – 9pm. Entry £3 or 2 for £5

☆ **Items for the December edition of LodeSTAR** should be submitted by Wednesday 22nd November. Please send material for both December and January to aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk

Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal

This Christmas, fill a shoe box with love and hope. St Andrew's Church and School are filling shoe boxes for those in need in Eastern Europe. Soap, shampoo, combs, hats, scarves, torches, toys, card games and other small items will be taken to Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. If you want to join in, see the leaflet at the back of church and/or speak to Phil Logan (724064) for details. Deadline for handing in your filled box is Monday 12th November



News from Wicken Fen

Numbers of fieldfare, widgeon and redwing are growing as the wintering birds return to the fen. We've also recently had the first sightings of short-eared owls on Burwell Fen, so it's well worth a visit to enjoy the autumn wildlife highlights. It's also a good time to take a stroll to the West Mere hide, as the old hide has been dismantled and a new, bigger hide has been constructed.

We've been fortunate to secure funding from WREN to make improvements and increase accessibility to the Woodland Walk paths. This work will be taking place over the next few weeks, but there is a rolling programme of works designed to ensure all the paths are still available, so your enjoyment of these areas shouldn't be affected. We would like to thank WREN for their generous support for this project.

The theme for our **Mucky Pups** outdoor activity sessions for under 5s this month is Wild Weather. The sessions will be on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th November from 10:15-11:45am. Tickets for **Father Christmas at the Fen** are proving popular, so if you would like to book it may be advisable to contact us soon to avoid disappointment.

For adults, we are offering some festive workshops: **Christmas Felt Decorations** on Saturday 3rd November from 10am to 1pm and **Christmas Lino Printing** on Sunday 18th November from 10am to 12.30pm.

See <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on> for information and booking details for all our events.

Pos+Ability

Pos+Ability run chair-based exercise groups for people living with all kinds of long-term illnesses, including, but not limited to, Stroke, Parkinson's, Neurological Conditions, Multiple Sclerosis and Muscular Dystrophy.

We start with group exercises using stretch bands, soft balls and other equipment, whilst sitting on one of our chairs or your own wheelchair and work to your own ability. You can take a turn on our wheelchair accessible specially developed exercise bike. Or maybe take a few steps

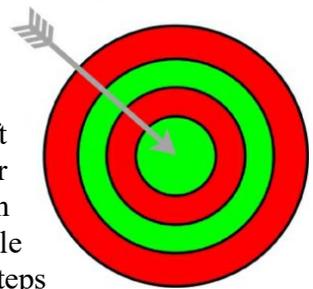
along our parallel bars with our team to support you. You can try our various hand exercise pieces of equipment used to strengthen your joints, help you to grip and hold onto items, whilst having a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Join in a quiz, look at memorabilia books or just sit and have a chat. Personalised exercise programmes to suit your own needs.

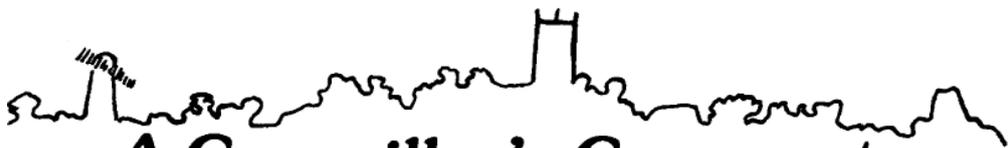
We can help you with independence, maintaining your levels of mobility, improving your confidence and self esteem and help with memory and cognitive skills, communication and conversation.

If you think we may be able to help you, please try our FREE TASTER SESSION by getting in touch on 07565 598 193, Email: posability3@gmail.com, Web site: www.posability.org Registered Charity: 1149783. Classes run in Ely, Histon, Littleport and Soham

Pos+Ability are also recruiting part time exercise support assistants. If you are interested please see further details at:

<https://posability3.wordpress.com/about-us/get-involved/>





A Councillor's Comments

At our October meeting there were two people who used Public Comment time: Geoffrey Woollard and Janet Metcalf.

County and District Councillors Reports: Bill Hunt (County) gave a long list of what has gone on and what is still going on. The rejection of the incinerator; the opening of the Ely By-Pass on 31 October, when the crossing gates and under pass will be closed for one month for some repair work, after which it will be light controlled for single traffic. This raised questions about the bus route and stops regarding access to Tesco and the station. The answer was not clear at the time of the meeting. A question was put as to what would happen if there were an accident on the by-pass, as there was no room to turn back? Archives will move and open in summer 2019. They will be closed for a period, but in the meantime there is a sale of unwanted material. Mark Goldsack (The recently elected County Councillor for Soham North and Isleham) gave his view about the recent consultation with "This Land" who brought nothing new to the meeting, so it was a waste of time.

Chairman's Announcements: She reported on the library reading challenge which involved 120 children this year, and it was her pleasure to hand out the certificates to those who took part. Mention was made of Remembrance Day this year with commemoration at the War Memorial at 11am and a beacon lighting ceremony on the Recreation Ground in the evening. Next year will mark 75 years since the Railway Disaster and D-Day and it is hoped that some sort of event could be put on to mark this, with the possibility of linking with the Carnival.

School Open Evening: The Councillors were invited to attend, and two of us did, and were impressed by what we saw. I was particularly interested in the work of the Hub which helps those with difficulties to improve their learning skills.

Reports from Committees: The one from planning gave rise to a discussion on the houses planned for both Fordham (450) and Soham (550) as to whether there is a sewerage system in place to cope with the 1000 proposed new homes. This is an important question because an adequate infrastructure should be put in place before the planners consider the numbers of homes to be built. There appears to be a rush to build houses without knowing whether there is a capacity to cope.

Councillor Ginn



PARISH



REGISTERS

Baptisms:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 30 September | Storm Pearson |
| 14 October | Harley Marie Gresty; Rhiannon-Mae Ayeisha Heathcote; Shannon Marie Froggatt |

Wedding:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 6 October | Lisa Alderson & Antonio Cesar Hansson do Monte Pegado |
|-----------|---|

Funerals:

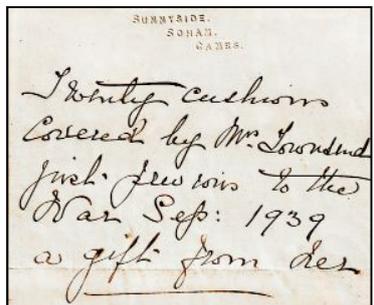
| | |
|------------|----------------|
| 10 October | Joan Chapman |
| 12 October | Steve Leyland |
| 15 October | Roy Howe |
| 18 October | Joan Stacey |
| 24 October | Patrick Fuller |
| 26 October | Jean Turner |
| 30 October | George Neal |

A View from the Vicarage



We will remember them

If the technology's worked as it should've done, somewhere on this page will be a copy of a letter found last autumn inside one of St Andrew's' chancel seat-cushions, found by one of the team of Thursday-Communion-goers who are taking great pains to re-cover them. The letter is headed 'Sunnyside, Soham, Cambs.', and the text is in pen and ink: 'Twenty cushions covered by Mrs Townsend just previous to the War. September 1939 a gift from her'. From the moment I heard about this letter, I felt there was something behind it – something the text didn't say. So in preparation for last year's Remembrance Sunday, and with the aid of 'Soham and the Great War', the magnificent volume produced in 2014 by the Soham WW1 Centenary Commemoration Committee, I did a bit of digging...



Mrs Townsend, I discovered, was born Constance Taylor, in Soham. She married Harry Townsend of Fordham in St Andrew's, and on 23 September 1895 she gave birth to her first child, Harry Gordon. Harry was christened in St Andrew's on 25 October 1895. The family lived first at The Place (in the house where the pavilion now stands) together with Constance's mother, Mary Taylor. By 1901, Harry had two sisters, Winifred (3) and Irene (1).

By 1911, Harry was 15 and a pupil at Framlingham College. 3 years later, he joined up. He was 5ft 9" tall and his chest was 35-37". He gave his age as 19 and his address as 'The Place', and he joined the City of London Yeomanry, arriving in Egypt on 7 May 1915.

By 12 July 1918 Harry was dead. He'd been sick with appendicitis almost from the time of his arrival in Egypt and had an operation in Cairo, but his condition worsened and he contracted TB. He was sent back to England, first to hospitals in Stoke on Trent, then London, and was finally discharged from the Army. He died at home at The Place; died, I imagine, with Constance, Winifred and Irene at his side, nursing him to the end.

21 years later, Constance gave twenty cushions to St Andrew's. She presented them, her letter says, as 'a gift'; a gift offered 'just previous to the war', in September 1939. What is so striking about her letter, it seems to me, is what it doesn't say. It doesn't say who the gift is for, and it doesn't mention that other war, the war in which Constance lost her only son. Instead of using words, Constance used her fingers: she covered twenty cushions, and put them in the chancel. She brought them to a place which through its timeless offering of prayer and worship, and through its engagement with the life of this town, told and continues to tell a story.

St Andrew's tells the story of another Son. A Son who, like Harry, knew the agony of suffering and death; a Son who knew it because he lived it: lived it, and lived it faithfully, to - and beyond - the end. For this Son too gave his life, gave his life that others – that we – might know freedom and have Life ourselves.

And if that story is true, Constance might have thought (and she'd be forgiven for questioning if it were true), then perhaps Harry's death wasn't in vain. Perhaps the degradation and destruction of war won't have the last word. Perhaps all who gave their lives and still give their lives will find a dignity lost to them in life. Perhaps the people of Soham will come to St Andrew's as so many will come on 11 November. Perhaps we'll come as Constance must've come: come and sit on those chancel seat-cushions; come and remember lives lost or scarred for ever by the horror of war.

For we – like God – will remember them. *Eleanor*

The Revd. Eleanor Whalley, Vicar of Soham
standrews-soham.org.uk 01353 725948