

Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
Thursdays 10.00 am Eucharist (BCP) 3rd Sunday 10.00 am All Age Communion

Holy Week and Easter at St Andrew's

Palm Sunday 14 April

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.55 am Palm Sunday procession in the churchyard
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.00 pm Taize Service



Monday 15 April

6.30 pm Churches Together Seder Meal at Soham Methodist Church
for Berrycroft. A simple supper including prayers based on the liturgy
7.00 pm and ceremony of a Jewish Passover meal

Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 April

7.30pm Night Prayer with Passion readings in the chancel

Maundy Thursday 18 April

7.30pm Holy Communion with Washing of Feet & Watch

Good Friday 19 April

10.00 am Churches Together Walk of Witness starting at
Soham war memorial Hot cross buns.
12-2.00 pm Drop-in Prayer Stations at St Andrew's Church
2.00 pm The Last Hour: readings, hymns & prayers



Holy Saturday 20 April

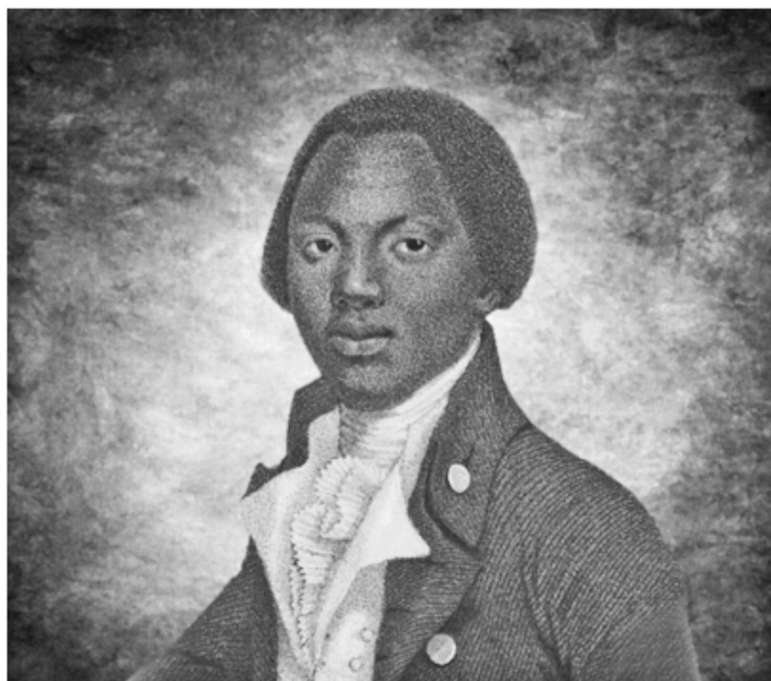
8.00 pm At Ely Cathedral: The Easter Vigil, including
Baptisms & Confirmations

Easter Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am All-Age Eucharist at St Andrew's



Celebrating Equiano



An Afternoon with The Equiano Society and Vincent Carretta
on the 227th anniversary of Equiano's marriage in St Andrew's Church

Sunday 7 April, 3.30pm
St Andrew's Church Soham

Free entry – All welcome



Lent Lunches

The last two Lent Lunches are on Fridays 5 and 12 April
at the Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft.

Lunch will be a simple meal of soup with bread and cheese
served from 12.15pm, with a concluding Reflection at
1pm. Donations for the lunch will go to Christian Aid.



The Bread Basket is returning



Mothers' Union are delighted to announce that the Bread Basket, our monthly drop-in continental-style breakfast café, will be back soon! On Saturday, 18th May 10 am – 12 noon, we'll be re-launching with a short address by our honorary guest, Archdeacon Hugh McCurdy.

We'd love you to join us too for a morning of fellowship and fun. See old friends and make new ones over a hot drink, croissant or toast, etc. all for £1.50! A warm welcome awaits you and a service with a big smile.

St Andrew's Church Soham

Wild Weekend!



Saturday 11 May, 1-4pm

Stalls * Birds of Prey * Refreshments * Fun

Sunday 12 May, 12 noon

(Plastic!) Duck Race from Brook Dam Lane

Pet Service in church, 4pm

Animals are invited to bring their humans

7-12 May: 'Merry in Maytime' Exhibition

Launching on Monday 6 May, 6.30pm

All Welcome

Entry Free



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and election of Churchwardens for Soham will be held on Tuesday 30 April, 7.15 for 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church. This will include elections of PCC members and the annual reports including our accounts. Copies of the reports will be available in church before the meeting. A chance to look (& pray) backwards & forwards! Anyone on the Electoral Roll of the parish is encouraged to attend.

Little Fishes

Babies & pre-school children are welcome (as are their grown-ups): singing, sticking, snacks & chat. April's meeting is 9 April., 1pm-2.30pm

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

10 March

Leon Timmins

Funerals:

1 March

Geraldine Castle

8 March

Helen Mary Martin-Covell



☆ **St Andrew's 200 Club** winners for March are Sandy Constant £5, Richard King £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

☆ **Diabetes Support Group** The group meet on the third Wednesday of the month at Soham Library, between 10.15am - 11.30am.

☆ **'Soham Community Archive'** - Our official online Community Archive (www.soham.ccan.co.uk) is packed with hundreds of fascinating photos of people, places and events of Soham through the years - and more are constantly being added! You are welcome to submit interesting photos yourself; using the link from the home page it's easy to do and, once approved, they will appear on the site. Don't forget to give as much accompanying info as possible. Do take a look!

Items for the May Edition of LodeStar

If you have anything you want to publicise or report on please send material to aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk by Wednesday, 17th April.

News from Wicken Fen



Reed warbler and cuckoo chick by Richard Nicoll

a number of new foals and calves on the reserve, so there's plenty of new wildlife to spot while you're walking at Wicken Fen.

We've got lots of fun activities planned for families over the school holidays: **Pond Dipping** on 10 & 15 April (age 5+), Story Time: **Blackbird, Blackbird** on Tuesday 9 April (age 2-7), **Spring into Spring: Eggs and Nests** on 11 & 12 April (age 4+), **Spring into Spring: Baby Paws and Claws** on 16 & 17 April (age 4+). There will also be offering drop in activities throughout the Easter break.

We'll be running **Cadbury's Easter Egg Trails** over the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend, Friday 19th – Monday 22nd April. Trails are £2.50 per child (normal admission applies). You can drop in at any time over the weekend to complete the trail. Look for clues, and find out more about the wonderful wildlife at Wicken Fen and in your garden at home, and how we can help creatures great and small. Then you can claim your chocolate prize!

Our programme of adult events continues with a **Willow Basket Making Workshop** on Friday 26 April. Don't forget that our Health Walks continue throughout the year; you can meet the friendly group of walkers in our car park every Wednesday at 10am.

Advance booking is essential for all events at Wicken Fen. Full details and ticketing information can be found in the 'What's On' section of our website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen



A Councillor's Comments

There was one item for Public Comment Time at our March meeting. Ken Cranfield made mention of high sided vehicles and the Ely Railway bridge, where yet another vehicle got stuck. This opened up a discussion about who is to blame, inadequate signage or the fault of the drivers.

District and County Councillor's Reports: We heard about the prospect of having a "Free School". Our present schools are linked together and a free school is outside local authority control. With our proposed development there will be a need for more school places, but will the free school be selective on its intake? The centre at Millbrook is going well with 30 attending. Mansheds is being set up at Triangle Farm. We also heard of trees being introduced into Soham which is very welcome.

Committee Meetings: A decision has been made that future committee meetings will take place at the discretion of each chairman, who will only call the meeting if there are sufficient matters to discuss. As regards the Cemetery and Allotments committee it was decided that the June meeting would take place because this includes an inspection walk around the cemetery. The Council are still planning on toilet provision in the cemetery. Community Amenities are engaged in putting in place new town signs and replacing the refurbished millennium walk markers. As regards the Recreation Ground the no dogs rule still stands, with the exception of when the Carnival is held because this includes a dog show.

Open Meeting with Lucy Frazer MP on Wednesday April 10th between 5pm and 7pm in the Pavilion. All residents welcome.

Annual Town Meeting 20th May at 8pm

Annual Meeting of Soham Town Council Monday 13th May.

Councillor Ginn

Camsight

Camsight is a Cambridgeshire based charity that supports local people with low vision and blindness. They have a number of fundraising events organised for 2019 to help raise funds for the charity. For details please see the links below:



<https://www.camsight.org.uk/Event/dining-in-the-dark-2019>

This event is on Friday 5th of April. Guests are invited to eat blindfolded, to test their taste buds.

<https://www.camsight.org.uk/Event/concert-for-cam-sight>

One of our trustees is holding a concert on Saturday 13th April. All ticket proceeds will be going to Camsight who have 499 tickets to sell!

<https://www.camsight.org.uk/Event/golf-day-2019>

Camsights second charity golf day is being held on 12th July. Last year we had over sixty-five golfers. The day includes challenges such as a blindfolded putting competition and shots taken whilst wearing a VR headset that simulates different eye conditions. We also have the opportunity for local companies to sponsor holes.

<https://www.camsight.org.uk/appeal/london-to-cambridge-bike-ride-2019>

On Sunday 21st July our clients and their volunteer pilots will be taking on the London to Cambridge bike ride on Camsight tandems. We are also looking for solo riders to ride for Camsight.

A View from the Vicarage



Telling the story

I've not forgotten being in the Co-op this January, finding myself sandwiched between shelves full of mini-eggs. I'd only just got over Christmas! Now, three months later, Easter is nearly here. With it – for us vicars – comes the challenge of finding new ways to tell the same stories; new ways to make the stories come alive.

Surprisingly, perhaps, this isn't as hard as it sounds. Christian ministers have been doing it, after all, for nearly two thousand years, and we've got some great crib sheets to work from. The wonderful thing, it seems to me, is that what we have in the Bible are just that: stories. Back in the 1960s, Bishop John Robinson got himself into trouble by daring to suggest that the stories in the Gospels might not be records of historical fact. To him, that was something to celebrate: stories, he said, encourage us to think; they open up possibilities and invite conversations instead of shutting them down. 'The deepest truths,' he wrote, 'are the most elusive. They are like butterflies – if you try to pin them down, you kill them'. 30 years later, David Jenkins, the then Bishop of Durham faced similar misrepresentation and criticism. Like John Robinson, he was trying to encourage people not to worry about whether or not the events of a story actually happened, but instead to think what the story might be trying to say. What's its message? There shouldn't be an end to that question, and the answer might well be different for each of us. Stories mean different things to different people; they often mean different things to the same person at different times, depending on what we're living when we hear them. Thanks to the inspiration of God's Spirit, Bible stories speak to us personally, and they speak to us where we are.



However familiar you are with the Easter stories, it's always worth reading them again (and, indeed, coming to church over Easter, when you'll have at least some of them read to you...). When I hear a Bible story, something new always jumps out at me, no matter how often I've heard the story before. This year, as I prepare for Easter in the context of the aftermath of the massacres in Christchurch, the devastation in Africa caused by Cyclone Idai, the uncertainty across Europe and the divisions and anxiety in our own country over Brexit, I'm struck by one word: 'brothers'. In John's Gospel, on the first Easter Sunday, the risen Christ tells Mary Magdalene 'Go to my brothers' (John 20: 17). It's the first time Jesus has called his disciples brothers in John's Gospel. Later, in Acts, Peter does the same thing; he uses the same word. Peter proclaims the resurrection to crowds of believers, and just like Jesus does when he stands by the empty tomb, he calls Christ's followers brothers (In an effort to be politically correct, translators sometimes write 'friends' – but the word John uses means brothers).

'Brothers'. The crowds that came to hear Peter were drawn from different parts of the country, different Jewish tribes, different cultures and backgrounds, different walks of life. Jesus' 12 disciples too were a hotchpotch of people; the Gospels tell us they didn't always get on; most of them let Jesus down; most of them deserted him when he needed them most. And yet on that first Easter Sunday morning, Jesus calls them brothers. The resurrection has made all things new: betrayals are forgiven; divisions have ended. The resurrection has turned us into a family: brothers and sisters of one another; brothers and sisters of Christ. That's the relationship we're called to live out, and that's a story worth telling ...

With my prayers for a blessed Easter when we get there, *Eleanor*

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