

## 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

## St Andrew's Wild Weekend

As part of our lottery funded heritage activities we are holding a 'Wild Weekend' in May. This will focus on wildlife in churches (and further afield!). We'll kick off with 'Wild about Churches' on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May from 1pm-4pm when St Andrew's Church will host children's activities together with stalls and exhibits from a range of local wildlife organisations.

The fun continues on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May with a plastic duck race on the Lode at 12 noon. You can adopt your duck for £1 at the Wild about Churches event on Saturday or on the day. Later on, at 4pm, we'll round off the weekend with a Pet Service at St Andrew's Church to celebrate all the animals which are so important to so many of us. All animals will be welcome – as will be their humans. If your pet is now enjoying its heavenly reward, or isn't easily transportable, you'd be welcome to email a photograph to [sohamvicar@gmail.com](mailto:sohamvicar@gmail.com) so we can include its picture instead.

We'll be publicising the weekend by leaving knitted bees in various locations around Soham so keep your eyes peeled for them!

**Calling all children and families!**  
 Come to St Andrew's Church Soham for a  
**Wild Weekend!**



**Saturday 11 May, 1-4pm**  
**Stalls in the church \* Birds of Prey \* Crafts**  
**Refreshments \* Fun**

**Sunday 12 May, 12 noon**  
**(Plastic!) Duck Race from Brook Dam Lane**  
 Hire your duck for £1 on Saturday. Maybe win £100!  
**Pet Service in church, 4pm**  
**Bring your pet if you've got one!**

**All Welcome! Entry free**



## Merry in Maytime

'Merry in Maytime' is a new exhibition from the Museum of Cambridge, investigating folk customs of Cambridgeshire people around the month of May.

The exhibition will have a rural and environmental focus and includes original artefacts from our Museum, oral histories and local stories, photographs of seasonal celebrations, and a specially sung traditional Cambridgeshire May Carol by Cambridgeshire folk singer Nick Hart.

Cambridgeshire is rich in traditional celebrations; this exhibition explores the origins and development of May Day, the curious custom of Beating the Bounds, and the life and costume involved with Jack in the Green May processions. It's a great way to prepare the ground for St Andrew's' Wild Weekend, which will run in conjunction with the exhibition on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May.

This exhibition is coming to St. Andrew's Church, and will be free to view every day from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The launch event is open to everyone and includes free drinks, nibbles and entertainment in church on the 6 May at 6:30pm. All welcome!

## Soham Train Explosion Anniversary



**Sunday 2 June**  
Events to Commemorate  
the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

# **Soham Train Explosion**

**1.30pm**  
Act of Remembrance at Red Lion Square  
with members of Soham Comrades Band

**1.43pm**  
Commemorative quarter peal rung by the  
Soham Youths and friends

**2pm - 5pm**  
Exhibition in St Andrew's Church, with refreshments  
*NB Soham Museum are hosting an exhibition at the football club the same day*



### 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



### Christian Aid Coffee Morning



Saturday 25 May 10am - 12 noon at Berrycroft Methodist Church Hall.

Bric-a-brac, raffle, tombola, cakes, books..

### Holy Communion on Ascension Day

Ely Deanery will hold its annual service of Holy Communion for Ascension Day at St Andrew's on Thursday 30 May at 7pm. All welcome!



- ☆ **Soham Museum History Group** presents Hilary Ritchie and "The Story of Addenbrookes". Thursday May 2nd at 7.30pm, Berrycroft Methodist Church Hall, off Pratt Street, Soham. Members free, non members £3.
- ☆ **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
- ☆ **National Mills Weekend:** Northfield Windmill is open from 11am on Saturday 11th May.
- ☆ **Twilight Tuesday WI:** Tuesday 14 May, 7.30pm at the Fountain Inn. AGM and 'Forget Me Knot'
- ☆ **Soham over 60's Club:** Every Friday at the Pavilion at 2:00pm
- ☆ **Soham Trefoil Guild:** New members welcome. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in The Causeway Community Hall in Soham. Please come and join us for evenings with guest speakers, games and quizzes, craft and cooking and much, much more. Make new friends and learn new skills with our Voyage Award open to all members.

## Items for the June 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 22 May.

## Soham Carnival

27<sup>th</sup> May, 9.00am – 5.30pm at the Recreation Ground, Fountain Lane, Soham.

Admission: Adults £3.50, Concessions £2.50, Children 50p

Lots to see and do on the day. The Council are putting on an event relating to the 75th anniversary of the station explosion including having a professional story teller telling the story of the explosion (there may even be a small explosion in the main arena to get everyone's attention (but thankfully not until after the horse show!!)).

Free events for children - SCOTTY'S circus workshop - have a go at circus skills same as last year which went down a storm and we have a climbing wall which is free for children too as we had feedback that it's expensive as kids want to do everything. All the usual suspects and events including the BMX skateboarding competitions on the skatepark. RBL are also having a couple of stands and have three D-Day Veterans on their stands as it's also the 75th anniversary year for that.

**SOHAM CARNIVAL**  
AND HEAVY HORSE SHOW 2019

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019, 9.00am- 5.30 pm**  
**THE RECREATION GROUND, FOUNTAIN LANE SOHAM.**

**CARNIVAL FLOAT PARADE** 1.00pm-1.45pm  
From Holmes Lane through the Town to the Recreation Ground

**10.30-1.00 pm FUN DOG SHOW**  
BRING YOUR DOG AND ENTER ONE OF THE CLASSES

**ON THE SKATE PARK!**  
ALL DAY BMX, SKATEBOARD & SCOOTER COMPETITIONS!  
11am-4pm!  
FREE TO ENTER-PARENTAL CONSENT FORM FOR UNDER 18s

**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**MEET D-DAY VETERANS ON THE RBL STAND**

**LIVE MUSIC STAGE & BEER TENT, FREE SCOTTY'S HAVE A GO CIRCUS WORKSHOP**  
KUK SO WAN- Martial arts, PREMIER SPORTS, FUN FAIR, RAFFLE, INFLATABLES, BBQ, STALLS, MAJORETTES, VOGUE ATHLETICS DANCE, CHEERLEADING & PARKOUR, ACF MARCHING BAND, SOHAM COMRADES BAND, PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW, RAPTOR FOUNDATION, BYGONES, ZORB BALLS, CUB CARTS  
plus MUCH MUCH MORE

**RAISING MONEY FOR LOCAL CHARITIES, ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS BASED IN SOHAM AND SURROUNDING AREA.**

ADMISSION: Adults £3.50, Concessions £2.50, Children 50p

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: [f WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SOHAMCARNIVAL](https://www.facebook.com/sohamcarnival)

NB: Dogs permitted on recreation ground for Carnival day only

**FREE CLIMBING WALL**

**EXPLORE OUTDOOR**

## News from Wicken Fen

May is historically the month of “May Blossom” when the hawthorn hedgerows glisten white. It’s worth a close look along the edges of the dykes and lodes for signs of new aquatic plants and maybe a Marsh Marigold or two. On warmer, still days you may also catch a glimpse of an early Hairy Dragonfly or Red-eyed Damselfly.

Hopefully this article reaches you before our Big Vision Weekend (4 to 6 May), when we’ll be celebrating two important anniversaries: 120 years since the National Trust bought its first two acres at Wicken Fen,



Image by Justin Minns

and 20 years since the launch of the Wicken Fen Vision. There will be lots of great activities to enjoy over the weekend, including: the Big Vision Treasure Hunt, special Vision boat trips and safaris, pond dipping, storytelling, face painting, and much more! For more details go to <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-vision>

You can also join us for the first of our anniversary talks: Cuckoos and Curious Naturalists on Friday 10 May. This is a chance to hear local Behavioural Ecologist Professor Nick Davies tell stories from the field of cuckoos, warblers and the naturalists who became interested in them.

For the May half-term holiday, family activities include: Pond Dipping on Tuesday 28 May (age 5+), Cuckoos Calling (age 5+) on Wednesday 29 May and Tracks, Poos, and Animal Clues (age 4+) on Friday 31 May.

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](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen)

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## Volunteer Van Assistant Needed ...

at Cambridge Re-Use – a charity providing low cost furniture for people on low incomes.

Physically fit and energetic people wanted to fill voluntary van assistant positions.

As a valued member you will be assisting the driver and other crew member delivering/collecting furniture to and from customer’s homes.

We offer travel and lunch expenses, a warm friendly atmosphere and a chance to help those struggling financially make their house into a home. “It is brilliant for people on a low income; it has helped me a great deal on improving mine and my children’s life.”

“Working as a volunteer I get to meet more people and it’s good seeing people get the help they need”.

“It is a great way to serve the community. It is nice to know that there is someone out there that can give you the help you need to set up a new home”.

If you are interested in helping half a day or a whole day each week, we are recruiting for crews Monday- Saturday. For further information please phone 01223 414554 or email [cara@cambridgereuse.org.uk](mailto:cara@cambridgereuse.org.uk).



# A Councillor's Comments

There was no Public Comment Time at our April meeting, which was the last of our current council year and also of this council's term of office of four years: elections being held in May. But owing to lack of nominations for the Council's next term, this will not be contested and there will be the need to co-opt four new councillors.

**County Council and District Reports:** Councillor Sennett stood in for Councillor Goldsack and gave his report. It was to say that "Nellie" the mobility transport for those who had need of it has been taken charge of, but there was a need for the council to provide for liability insurance. Eastern Gateway; there was to be another public consultation by "This Land" in May. He sent his congratulations to the new councillors. Councillor Sennett reported on the community centre at Millbrook which meets on Monday, and said they had 30 people there that day.

Councillor Woodbridge told the council that his daughter had come 4th in strong competition in a Standard Bearing Competition, and brought a plaque to show the councillors what she received.

**Chairman's Announcements:** She said that she had a presentation to make as four councillors were retiring after over one hundred and twenty four years between them. They each received the Pride of Soham framed certificate. George Ginn 20 years; Tony Hinsley 28 years; Geoffrey Fisher 36 years although he claimed 37; and Christopher Palmer 40 years. The chairman gave notice that the council are now four short and asked if we knew of anyone who would consider being a town councillor.

**Barway Old Village Hall Site:** The council had made contact with the people of Barway to discuss what to do with this site. The first thing to be done is to clear the site and then plan what could be done with it.

**Audit Commission Annual Return:** The councillors had to confirm the governance of accounts for the year ending.

**Financial Support:** The council agreed to the application of support to the Heritage and Tourism-Grant application for an event on 10th August 2019.

*Councillor Ginn*

## Thank You George

Many thanks to George Ginn for his regular reports on the town council meetings over the last few years. Enjoy your retirement!

## Annual Town Meeting 20th May at 8pm

The annual Soham Town Council meeting is open to the general public. It is held at the Walter Gidney Pavillion on the Rec, Fountain Lane. It is an opportunity for all to hear a summary of the past year and includes an outline of activities for the coming year. Reports are heard from Councillors representing Soham Town Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. After the official formalities and reports, there is an 'open question time', where the public can participate actively. Do go along if you are interested in local issues.



## PARISH REGISTERS



### Funerals:

11 April

Maurice Rutter

24 April

Ozip Witynski

# A View from the Vicarage



## Pause for thought

As anyone who's ever tried to talk to me just before a service will know, one of my many failings is my inability to focus on more than one thing at once (and yes, before you tell me, I know I'm a woman...). When I did a normal job, colleagues would suggest we met before lunch or after lunch. They'd never suggest over lunch, because they knew that that would mean either we'd need a second meeting, or my lunch didn't get eaten. Or – worse still – I'd end up spilling soup down my front.

That's my excuse for harking back to Maundy Thursday, even though you'll be reading this in May. As I type, Maundy Thursday was only two days ago, and try as I might, I can't get my head round Eastertide.

So – Maundy Thursday. As I said on the day, the Maundy Thursday liturgy recalls two actions: what the Church calls the institution of the Eucharist, Christ's gift of himself – his supreme gift of his body and blood; and his washing of his disciples' feet during the course of the Last Supper. In our culture at least, foot-washing seems pretty alien; certainly in the context of a dinner. My guess is most of us think of it as something that happened way back when. We re-stage it on Maundy Thursday evening, but it's hard to see how it translates to our British culture – to our life in Soham – today. That's what I'd've said, anyway, at least until I heard a news report of an event that took place at the Vatican two weeks ago.

In early April this year, at the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the present Pope, Pope Francis, now aged 82, held a two-day 'spiritual retreat' for Church and political leaders of South Sudan. Horrifyingly, the ongoing civil war in South Sudan has claimed over 400,000 lives in the last 5 years; Pope Francis' aim in hosting the retreat was to bring leaders with opposing views together and to encourage them to honour the terms of the peace agreement they signed in 2018. Only one British journalist was permitted to attend: the BBC's Martin Bashir.

Bashir reported that, on the final afternoon of the retreat, Pope Francis addressed his guests. He spoke first from behind his desk, but once his formal address was over, he got up and moved in front of it. With nothing between him and his audience, he spoke again: 'As a brother, I ask you to remain in peace. I ask you from my heart'. Then, without a word, he moved and knelt down in front of President Kiir. Next he kissed his feet. Kiir's facial expression, Martin Bashir said afterwards, conveyed a mixture of shock and humility. The Pope moved on to Vice President-elect Machar. Machar told him 'No', but the Pope responded in Italian, 'Allow me. Let me'. When he reached Rebecca Gorang, tears were already flowing down her cheeks...



With that in mind, John's account of Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet – the Gospel reading we hear on Maundy Thursday – is worth a re-read (John 13: 1-20). Before they left the Papal chamber, the Archbishop of Canterbury commented to Martin Bashir, 'There is a man who understands symbolism and the power of weakness'. He might equally have said, 'Go, and do thou likewise' (Luke 11: 37). Translating Christ's actions – Christ's actions of the past – into the present is the task of every Christian. As Jesus told his disciples at that first Communion table: 'If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them' (John 13: 17).

With my prayers and warmest wishes for Eastertide, *Eleanor*

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