

Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)

Thursdays 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

3rd Sunday 10.00 am All Age Communion

Calling all children and grown-ups! Flippin' Marvellous Pancake Party



Shrove Tuesday 25 February
Drop in between 3.15pm & 5pm
at St Andrew's Church, Soham

Fun, crafts, pancakes and chat: all free!

Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult

All Welcome!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

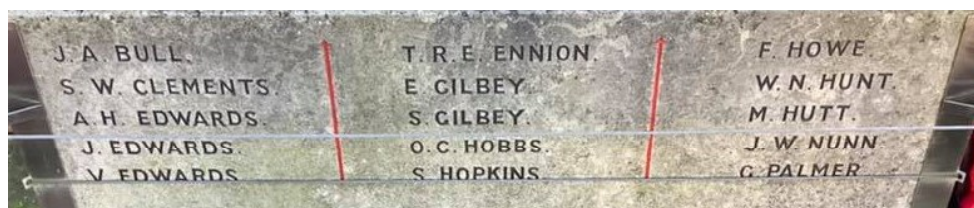
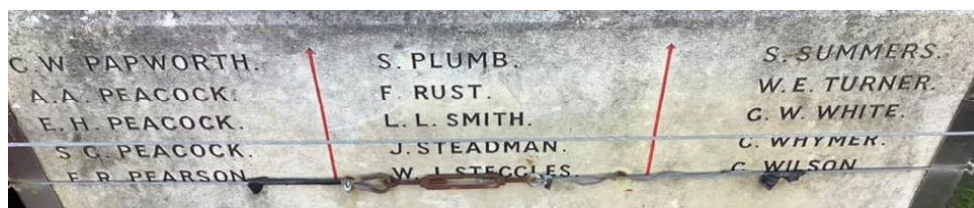
St Andrew's Ash Wednesday services this year are at 10.30am at Millbrook House (in the library) and at 7.30pm in church. Both include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.



VE Day Commemorations

This year the May bank holiday has been moved from Monday 4th May to Friday, 8th May, 2020 to allow the whole country to celebrate and remember the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe - VE Day.

To that end we are hoping to have an exhibition in St Andrew's Church, Soham. Below are pictures from the War Memorial of the names of those from Soham who lost their lives during WW2. If anyone has photographs or any memorabilia of these men and women, it would be wonderful to pay tribute and remember them. If you are willing to lend items or could send a scanned photograph please contact Susan Taylor on 721380 or send to 4 Regent Place, Soham.



Please share this message with people you think might be related to these men and women. We would like to have details from people by the end of March, so we know what we need to accommodate, please.

Lent Groups

We will be running Lent Bible Study groups on Wednesday evenings (2 March – 1 April) at the Vicarage and on Thursday mornings 3 March - 2 April) in church.

Churches Together will be hosting Lent Lunches & Reflections on Fridays from 13 March - 3 April at the Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft. More details on both of these in the March issue.

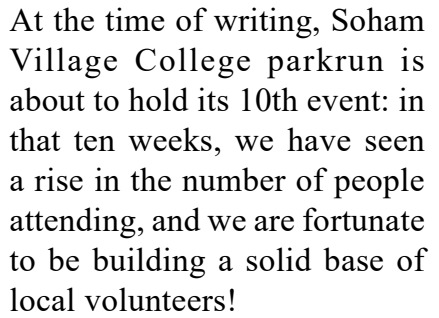
Church and Churchyard Clean-up

Saturday, 8 February 10.30am – 12 noon. Inside: dusting, sweeping, hoovering, cleaning the candle holders. Outside: clearing the ground level gutters. Many hands make light work!

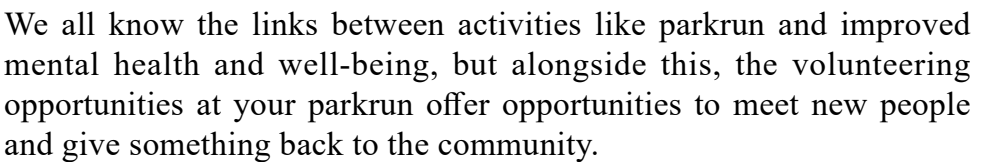
(Could you) Knit a Monk?!

Following the success of the knitted Community Carols angels and May-time bees, we'd welcome knitted monks to publicise our Anglo Saxon themed event in July. Patterns are available at the back of church (along with a basket where you can leave your finished creations). Many thanks!

Great for you and your community!



Scarlett. With the support of a core team and volunteers from Soham and nearby the event is going from strength to strength!



A group of people are running on a grassy field during a community event. In the foreground, a man in a bright green shirt and black shorts is running towards the camera. To his right, a woman in a black jacket and dark pants is also running. Behind them, several other people are running in the same direction. The background features a row of brick buildings and bare trees under a clear blue sky.

sohamvillagecollege@parkrun.com

Parkinsons Support Group

If you have Parkinson's you might like to join The Ely and District Parkinson's UK Support Group. The group meets on the afternoon of the third Tuesday in the month, 2.30pm until 4.00pm, at the Bell Holt Sanctuary Housing Function Room, Lisle Lane, Ely, CB7 4ED. Members enjoy a chat with friends, enjoy some refreshments, can enter a draw, and listen to a speaker. In addition, members have access to current literature. Meeting Dates until June 2020 are Tuesday February 18th, Tuesday March 17th, Tuesday April 21st and Tuesday May 19th. If you would like any additional information contact Jenny Lowes, Secretary on 01353 669326 or Caroline Nicklinson, Lead Volunteer, on 07718191482 (cnicklinson@gmail.com). Or come along to one of our meetings; you will be made very welcome.

sohamscene



- ☆ **Friendly Dogs Café** 21st Feb. from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at Soham Library. If you love dogs but, for whatever reason, can't have one, Friendly Dogs is for you. Pop in for a cup of tea & a chat and make a fuss of the dogs who'd love to meet you.
- ☆ **Touchpoint** is held every Wednesday 10am to 12 noon with a big coffee and cake event on the first Wednesday and "pop-in" coffee sessions every other Wednesday. Free to everyone, come along for a cuppa and a chat.
- ☆ **Soham Museum Coffee Morning**, 1st Saturday of each month. Drop in between 10.00am and 12.00 noon at Soham library. All welcome.
- ☆ **Soham Museum History Group** presents The History of the Royal Papworth with Becky Proctor. Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm at Berrycroft Methodist Church Hall. Admission £3, free to members.

Items for Lodestar

If you have anything you want to publicise or report on please send material to aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk by Wednesday 19 March.

Viva

Audition Calling all 6-12 years olds! Here are the details for our next open auditions for Disney's Aladdin Jr!

Not auditioned before? Don't worry! Come along to the Performing Arts Centre, Soham Village College, CB7 5AA on 16th February at 11am to register. The children will then stay until 1.30pm and will be taught a song and a dance (wear comfortable clothes and bring water and a snack!) After the session casting decisions will be made by the creative team and you will be contacted. If you have any questions please contact Viva on 01353 722 228 or email: vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk

Quiz Night

Viva are holding a pre-Valentines Quiz Night to raise money for their upcoming performance of Shrek, the Musical. It takes place on Friday, 14th February at 7.30 pm at the Ross Peers Sports Centre. Tickets are £4 (or £28 for a group of 8) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/viva-arts

St Andrew's 200 Club

Winners in the final draw of the year (30 November) were:

Patrick Clark, £15	Jamie Rutter £20	Eleanor Whalley £25
Lucy Bearton, £50	Kevin Wells, £75	Mr. B. Seal £100



PARISH REGISTERS



2 December

Jamie Kaftan

6 December

Ivy Cresswell

10 January

Harriet Hall

News from Wicken Fen

Visiting the reserve in the afternoon and early evening can be especially rewarding at this time of year. In addition to the possibility of seeing a stunning fen sunset, both hen and marsh harriers can be seen coming into roost on the Sedge Fen from the Visitor Centre window, the Boardwalk hide, or the viewing platform. If you'd like to find out more about wetland wildlife, why not join us for our World Wetland Day Walk on Sunday 2 February? See our weblink below for details.



We're thinking about the new season ahead and making plans for all the work that needs to be done to keep the reserve running smoothly, whether that's greeting visitors, cutting grass, or helping in the office. We'll be recruiting new volunteers for various roles at Wicken Fen soon. Our Volunteer Recruitment event will take place on Sunday 1st March, so keep the date and watch out for more details closer to the time.

The café expansion project is going well. We're still on track to reopen in mid-February with a bigger, better building and a wider range of refreshments. In the meantime, we're still offering hot and cold drinks, light bites and cakes and bakes from Doris our mobile café. Don't forget that if you bring your own reusable cup, we'll use less compostable cups, and we'll give you 25p off the cost of your drink. Keep an eye on our social media channels for the launch date of the new café.

The first school holiday of the year is fast approaching. Our February half term activities include Wintry Wild Art on Wednesday 19 February and Geocache Challenge on Friday 21 February. We'll also have bikes to hire if you fancy a family bike adventure and drop-in fun activities in the Visitor Centre.

Our adult events include 'The Wild Remedy', an evening with author Emma Mitchell exploring the link between nature and wellbeing (12 March), Fenland Landscape Watercolour Workshop (14 March) and Introduction to Mindful Birdwatching course (25 April, 2, 9, 16 May).

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

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Children and hamsters are a different matter. I had my first hamster when I was three. He soon worked out how to open his cage door, and once made a night-time raid on a box of chocolates. The 7- and 8-year-olds in Homerton Class are as besotted with Oreo as I was with Tetty, and they're not alone. Mr Anderson, their class teacher, emailed me and confessed 'I was not a fan of hamsters until I bought him two weeks ago, and now I am totally in love!' Personally, I think it's a master-stroke: there've been so many positive comments from parents, staff and children, Mr Anderson told me; the children are so caring about Oreo and constantly ask each other to work a bit more quietly so that he can sleep! Every classroom (and maybe every PCC meeting) should have one!

Amongst the many books I've not read sitting on my bookshelves, there's a novel called 'The God of Small Things'. I've no idea what it's about (when I retire, maybe I'll find out), but I like the title: 'Small Things'. In the small stuff – as well as the big stuff – God is to be found. *Eleanor*

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A View from the Vicarage



New Year, New Look, Newsletters...

A belated Happy New Year all round. I hope it has been so far... I also hope you'll like the new look Lodestar.

As I type, not knowing what it'll look like, I'm hoping I'll like it myself! If you're unhappy with it, please let me know: if others agree with you we'll think again. Peter Scott and Alison Evans have put hours into producing this upgraded version, so with luck it'll hit the spot. Thanks to them and - as ever - to Christopher and Linda Palmer who collect the copies from the printers, count them into bundles and get them out to delivers. And thanks to the delivers, who post them through our doors and - this month - collect our subs and pass them on to Margaret Fisher for banking. What a team!

A new look Lodestar will mean a literal flash of colour month by month, but two other Soham newsletters have brightened up my 2020 in a different way. Early in January I had an email from Bren Francis. As many of you will know, Bren is a stalwart at Soham Foodbank, and she also chairs Soham Community Association ('SCA'). Together with Jenny Fletcher, she edits Jigsaw, the SCA newsletter ('available now from a community venue near you'). I sent Bren a 'Knit-a-Monk' pattern to be included in the January - February edition. She emailed to let me know that, because the pattern hadn't reproduced very well, SCA had run off separate copies instead: they'd slipped 1000 patterns into 1000 newsletters! How incredibly kind. I retrieved 4 monks from the basket (or should that be monastery?!) at the back of church this morning, so their efforts are already bearing fruit. Thank you, SCA, and thank you, all you knitters. We're so grateful for your help with this: over 100 monks have come in already, and the more we can collect the better. We couldn't do it without you! If you've not had an SCA newsletter and would like a pattern, please help yourselves from the back of church (a few SCA newsletters might still be there too).

Next, there's the latest 'St Andrew's School News' - go to <https://www.st-andrews-pri.cambs.sch.uk/website> if you want to read it for yourself. If weblinks aren't your thing, then here's a highlight: an article written by Tianri and Michal from Homerton Class:

"We have a class pet named Oreo! He is a Russian Dwarf Hamster. He's a little hamster. Mr Anderson bought Oreo on Saturday and he has been living in our classroom all week. He is white; that's why we named him Oreo. He lives in a cage at the back of our room. Each day, a house team gets to stroke Oreo. Oreo is soft and calm.

We give him fresh food and water every day. He has a few toys to play with such as sticks, a climbing frame, a wheel and some wooden fruit. Oreo is very fluffy and cute.



When you go past our classroom, please be quiet because he is nocturnal. This means he sleeps in the day time."

If the truth be known, I'm a great fan of hamsters: if they mixed better with terriers, the vicarage would be full of them. As it is, Belle, I'm sorry to say, would forget her manners ...

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