

Services at the Parish Church

We regret that until both the Government and Ely Diocese allow public worship to resume in church buildings, no services except small funerals can take place in church. Services are available on our St Andrew's Church, Soham YouTube channel, along with Bible stories told with children in mind:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTN2wLO8SA964mSgDpX5_bg

Open at Last!

Thanks to 28 volunteer stewards, those who wielded dustpans and brushes beforehand and everyone who stocked us up with all the necessary supplies when it looked like our order might be delayed, St Andrew's Church is open Mondays to Fridays 10am-12 noon & 2pm-4pm and Saturdays and Sundays 2pm-4pm! Please drop in if you'd like to. It's a condition of our insurance that the building is supervised during opening hours, so pairs of stewards are in place to give you a discrete welcome and point you in the direction of the hand-sanitizer ...



Whilst you're at it, why not take a while to admire the new-look church floor: the carpet is gone (except in the children's corner) and the tiles and floorboards have been cleaned. It's worth a look ...

Church Services



At least as I type this (22 June), we still don't know when we'll be permitted to get back to holding Sunday and midweek services in church. As soon as permission comes through, we'll press GO. In the meantime, keep an eye on the church website and/or Facebook page for updates.

Some people have asked if we'll keep producing YouTube services even once public worship has resumed. The answer is yes, of course. Watch this space!

Thank you, Lodestar Deliverers

Our team of regular deliverers has been helped this month by one-off deliverers and volunteers from Soham Handy Helpers. Thanks so much to you all! *Eleanor*

St Andrew's Church Memorials



There are a few memorial plaques in St Andrew's Church that are worth a look and read, when we are all more able to do so in general, as well as some interesting grave markers. The skull decorated grave slab in the north transept (where the children's corner normally is) is of particular note.)

Many well known Soham names are memorialised therein and we (Soham

Heritage and Tourism) have a list with names, dates and inscriptions of past Sohamites who are resting in the churchyard too.

So, if you want to find an ancestor, let's see if we can help.

This article is kindly provided by the Soham Heritage and Tourism Group. You can find more from them at

<https://www.facebook.com/SohamHeritageandTourism/>



PARISH REGISTERS

2 June

Wilfred Gardiner

4 June

Tony Tees

5 June

Sue Human

Foodbank Appeal

Can you help Soham Foodbank?

They are very short of stock at the moment, particularly the items listed in the poster below.

You can drop off donations at Soham Co-op anytime or at the Scout Hut on Thursdays between 9.30am and 11.00am.

Donations of money are also welcome to help with running costs and to buy food to make up for shortages. Cheques can be made payable to 'Ely Foodbank' and posted to Ely Foodbank, c/o 10 Chapel Street, Ely, CB6 1AD.

You can also donate directly online using the 'Donate' button on the Foodbank facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ElyFoodbank>

Thank you!



Distributing food in Chatteris, Cottenham, Ely, Haddenham, March, Soham

Please help your local Foodbank in Soham

Thank you for your continued generosity
in these difficult times.

We are currently short of: -

Tinned meat

Tinned tuna/fish

Tinned fruit

Rice pudding/custard

Biscuits

Tea and coffee

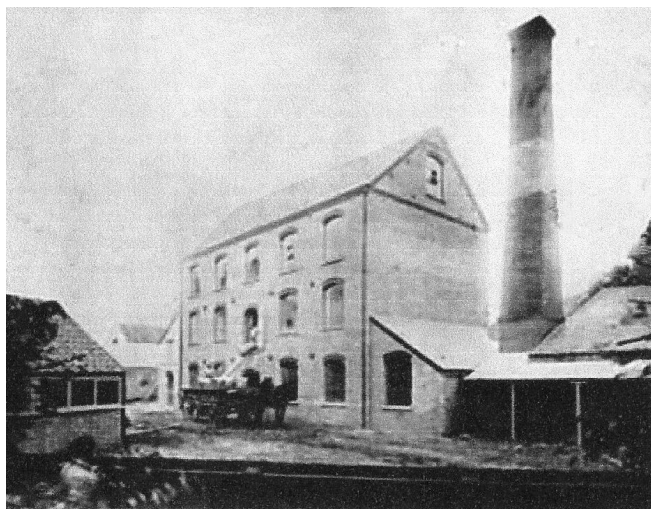
Ely Foodbank is seeded by Trussell Trust and supported by Churches Together in Ely.
www.elyfoodbank.org.uk info@elyfoodbank.org.uk Tel 01353 468626.
Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation no 115074

Figures show that Trussell Trust Foodbanks in the Ely area have fed 517 more people from 1st April to mid-May than we fed last year in the same period!

If you need help please call 01353 468626 where we will help you to collect food from one of our centres.

Spencer's Mill Theatre, Arts and Community Hub

Can you help Viva to tell the story of the former mill on Spencer's Drove?



Do you recognise this mill?

Soham Museum Group have kindly shared this photo. We are fairly certain that it is what became known as Spencer's Mill on Spencer's Drove, probably taken in the early 20th Century. The buildings surrounding it were demolished

and, after various other uses, the mill fell derelict in recent years but is now being renovated for a new life as an Arts and Community Theatre to be a home for Viva Arts and Community group.



Here's an artist's impression of what it's going to look like in the near future.

As part of the refurbishment, we want to tell the story of the mill in its working days. We know it was used by Peek Frean's to crush broken biscuits into 'biscuit flour' for use in animal feed later in the 20th Century - but very little else. Perhaps you can help.

Do you have any memories of the mill? We would love to hear your stories - no matter how fleeting or insubstantial you feel they are. Did you or someone you know, work here? Did you ever visit? If you think you have a memory or information about the mill, and would be happy to chat on the phone and share it, we would love to hear from you. Celia Halsey is a heritage interpretation specialist working with Viva on the interpretation of the mill.

Celia said "I'm delighted to be helping to unravel a small bit of Soham's story. Personal memories can bring a building to life - and we would love to hear from anyone who has a connection with this mill. Anything would be great - it doesn't have to be substantial or feel significant. Whatever you can remember is like a piece in the puzzle which will help us build the picture. We would love to hear from you if you are happy to share a memory."

If you have a memory to share, Celia is the first port of call and she could put you in touch with a Viva volunteer researcher for a friendly chat on the phone at a time to suit you. Please do contact her by email: celia.halsey@tricolorassociates.co.uk or phone: 07975 734721

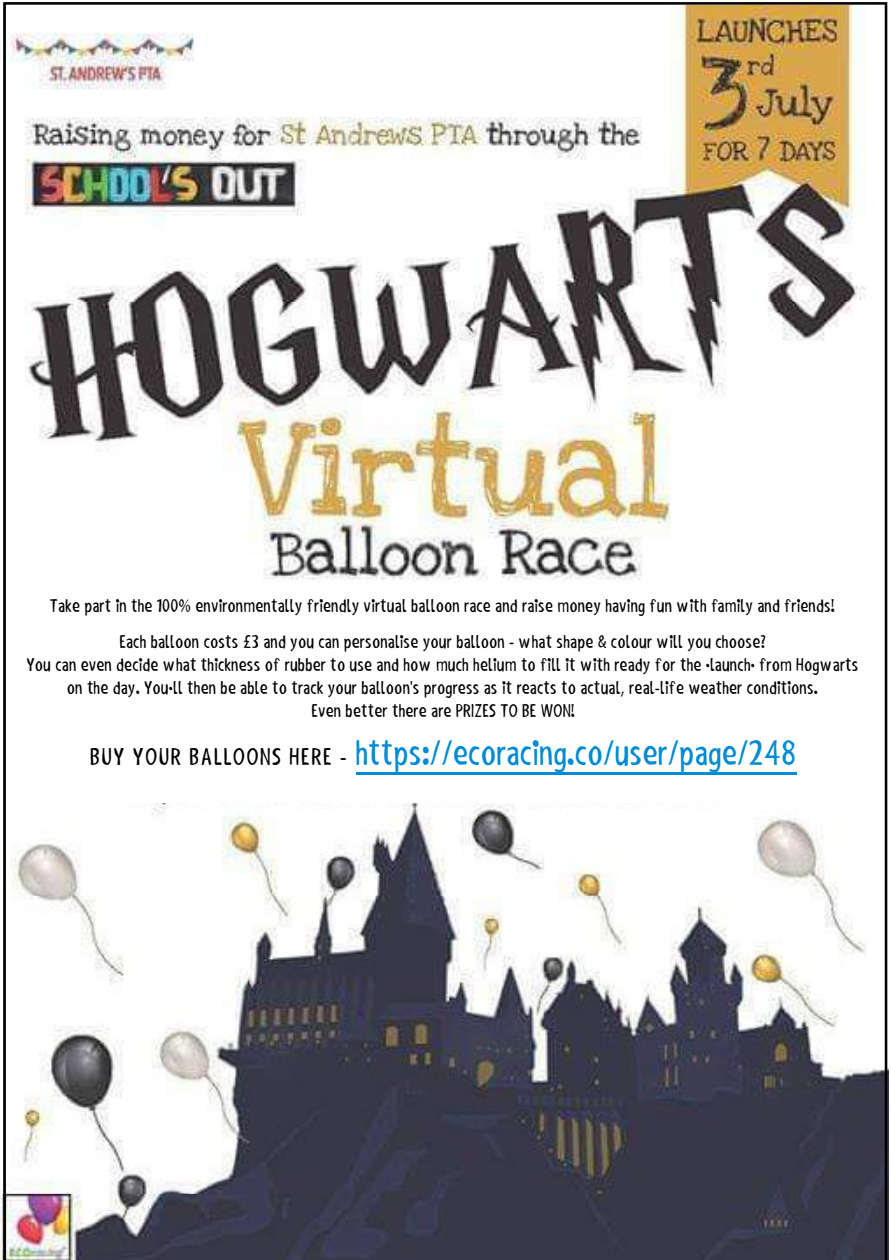
Virtual Balloon Race!

Do you want to be in with the chance of winning £500?

Join St Andrew's School and our local community in a virtual balloon race. 100% eco friendly, day to day weather simulator. Everything is real except the balloons!

You can decorate your balloon(s) and can alter its properties in order to try and give yourself the best advantage. Real local weather stations will be used to check the conditions.

Launch is from one of the most famous schools in the WORLD, Hogwarts!



ST. ANDREW'S PTA

Raising money for St Andrews PTA through the

SCHOOLS OUT

LAUNCHES
3rd July
FOR 7 DAYS

HOGWARTS

Virtual Balloon Race

Take part in the 100% environmentally friendly virtual balloon race and raise money having fun with family and friends!

Each balloon costs £3 and you can personalise your balloon - what shape & colour will you choose?
You can even decide what thickness of rubber to use and how much helium to fill it with ready for the 'launch' from Hogwarts on the day. You'll then be able to track your balloon's progress as it reacts to actual, real-life weather conditions.
Even better there are PRIZES TO BE WON!

BUY YOUR BALLOONS HERE - <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/248>

View the live launch and watch your balloon fly into the sky. The race is 7 days long and you can track your own balloon 24/7 to see how well you are doing. Balloons can pop, in the same way as real ones do, so be careful how you decorate your balloon or change its properties and keep an eye on the weather forecast.

You can help us by purchasing as many balloons as you like at a cost of £3 each. Good luck! <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/248>

St Andrew's 200 Club

Winners for the 200+Club for June are:

£5 - Mary Ames, £10 - Melanie Mattless

A View from the Vicarage



Rev-ing up

By the time most of you read this, Hannah Richardson, St Andrew's Church's latest curate, will have spent her first day in Soham. She'll then take the next fortnight off to recover (actually, she'll be busy moving house to Shocksham Terrace. She starts on Sunday, 5 July and will be around then before disappearing until Tuesday, 21 July, concealed amidst piles of unpacking ...).

It wasn't long ago that I was a curate. I remember my first morning in St Neots, whizzing down the hill from the housing development where I lived, speeding to church for Morning Prayer. I almost shot through a red light, but realised just in time I was sporting a dog-collar: it wouldn't've looked good. 18 months later, I went over the handlebars – again in vicar kit – on the same stretch of road, to the horror then amusement (once they'd clocked I was OK) of people filling up their cars at a garage on my left and flocking to the pub on my right. I wasn't so concerned about appearances by that stage: they already knew what I was like.

Things will be different for Hannah, though perhaps not that much. First of all, of course, she'll be coming to Soham: the jackpot when it comes to curacy placements (though it's true I loved my time in St Neots). Secondly, she won't arrive wearing a dog-collar. The current restrictions around gatherings mean her ordination as deacon which was to have



happened at Ely Cathedral on 5 July has had to be postponed, probably until late September at the earliest. It won't make much difference to what she does when she gets here, but it might make her harder to spot! We're working on a welcome service for her on Sunday 5 July, certainly on YouTube and also at 10am in church if face-to-face services can resume by then, so tune in or come along if you want to get your eye in (and to support and pray for Hannah, of course). The service will include words for all of us to say. Hannah will be my curate – my apprentice, if you like – but her ministry will be to the whole parish, not just to the church congregation. We'll welcome her on behalf of everyone, so the more people that join in, the richer and more encouraging that service will be.

I wonder what difference having a curate will make to me? You'll have to watch and let me know. I'm really looking forward to Hannah coming, not because, as people so often mistakenly think, having a curate reduces a vicar's workload (initially, my workload will go up, as there'll be a great deal of training and supervising to be done), but rather because Hannah is the person she is. I wouldn't've said yes to just anyone! I think we'll all love having her, and I'm sure she'll love being here, as I do. Soham will be a fabulous place to train. I was at a Zoom 'vicars about to have curates' meeting the other day, and it would've been easy to come away from that thinking it's only the curates who'll be learning. The way I see it, we'll all be learning together: helping one another grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. And he'll be with us on the way. How exciting!

Eleanor

The Revd. Eleanor Whalley,
Vicar of Soham

01353 725948
sohamvicar@gmail.com