

## 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) Tues-Fri 9am Morning Prayer

Services & children's activities are also available on our *St Andrew's Church*

YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTN2wLO8SA964mSgDpX5\\_bg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTN2wLO8SA964mSgDpX5_bg)

## Ride and Stride Day



Come along to a

# Mini Market

## in St Andrew's Churchyard

at St Andrew's Church Soham on

**Saturday 12 September**

**1pm-4pm**

as part of Ride + Stride for Churches  
& National Heritage Week

**Stalls \* refreshments \* friends \* fun**

Social-distancing rules mean the number of stalls is limited. Covid-19 guidelines must be followed at all times by staff, stall-holders & all attending this event

**All welcome! Entry free!**



## St Andrew's Church Services

As most of you know already, I hope, St Andrew's Church services are all back on at the usual times. We keep to social-distancing rules and wear face-masks, but many people have said to me it's not as bad as they were expecting, and I agree. I've felt there's been a lovely atmosphere from the day services first re-started (Sunday 5 July), and everyone's pulled together. I've looked forward to Sunday and Thursday mornings. We can't chat in church at the end of services, but if it's fine to chat outside (and minus our face-masks, thank goodness). On Sundays, especially, we're out there for ages.

We've recently added Morning Prayer to the list of regular services. It's short, and includes psalms, readings and formal prayers. It takes place in the chancel Tuesday – Friday at 9am and is always over by 9.20. If you'd like to join me and Hannah, please do. We sit in silence until it's time to start: a peaceful way to begin (or continue) the day.

Less peacefully, I suspect, but equally joyfully, our children and young people are preparing an on-line pet service, helped, where necessary, by Hannah. The service should appear on YouTube and Facebook sometime on Sunday 6 September. If you've got the technology, do tune in! This photo of Pippa and her pony gives a flavour of what's in store ...



Also designed for children and young people, Hannah and I are recording weekly children's activities and Bible stories designed to run in parallel with the 10am Sunday service. These go up on YouTube and

Facebook on the Friday before the Sunday, and – for the moment – are as close as we can get to Sunday School (school assemblies will appear from mid-September as well). Children are more than welcome to come to church, of course, but with all the toys and books put away and no access to the craft cupboards, they might want to bring something with them. If they want to watch the recording in advance and arrive with all they need to complete it, that's fine: whatever helps them engage. Alternatively, you might like to join in the service from home (we're livestreaming via Facebook at 10am, and service recordings are available on YouTube after lunch). However old or young you are, look out for Hannah's incredible Playmobil Bible stories: once seen, never forgotten. She's almost bankrupted herself by buying all the kit, but it's surely an investment for the future. One of many things they didn't teach us at vicar school ... *Eleanor*



## A Word From Our Curate



Hello all,

Well ... I can't quite believe it has only been six weeks since Simon and I moved to Soham ... what a six weeks it's been! I'm not sure my feet have touched the floor yet, but I mean that in the best way! Since arriving here I've moved house, unpacked, recorded services, preached, helped at the foodbank, done Baptism visits, had Zoom meetings, planned an online pet service, and helped (mostly chatted and made tea) at the Church & Churchyard Clear-up. All of this in six weeks (plus a lot more besides) seems almost unbelievable, but I have absolutely loved getting involved and being part of this fabulous church and community from day one.



I have to say, I think there is something rather distinct about Soham ... I've lived in a few different places now, and yet have never felt they were truly "my place". I've always felt like a visitor. Now obviously being a curate means that this is a transitionary time, I won't be here for that long in the grand scheme of things, but I already have a feeling of having been here forever! I'm not sure there are many places that have the same level of welcome, support, and community feel any more; but Soham certainly has that.

When I was training, often curates would come back and visit Westcott and they would all tell me how tough the first months are and how uncertain they felt ... and to be honest I have to disagree! In my experience so far, although there are of course challenging things, and although I haven't yet started the terrifying stuff like baptising babies without dropping them in the font, I've not once felt uncertain in my role or in my decision to come here to serve my curacy.

It has, of course, been a very odd start; having not been ordained there are things I can't do, there are some of you who I am yet to meet because coming to church isn't possible yet, and though I am trying to make my way around the parish it's not quite as straight forward as it would have been without the pandemic. But we'll get there.

I expected this start to my curacy to be more difficult: I thought I would be more frustrated by the limitations I have to contend with, but actually the welcome, support, and care I have had from the church and from the community, the fact that you have all welcomed me as curate without needing the dog collar, has made it all really positive. *[continued ...]*

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I am, of course, looking forward to Ordination immensely, and there is something rather special about having already been a part of St Andrew's Church before it happens. I know that when I am ordained (on Friday 25th September – it will be live streamed so check the church website and Facebook pages for details nearer the time) I will be held in prayer and support by all of you.

In the coming weeks I look forward to meeting more of you, and to introducing Wilson (our sausage dog puppy) to you all when he arrives!

Thank you all for making this start to my curacy such a joy. *Hannah*



## PARISH REGISTERS



### Funerals

10 July

Peter Gorham

25 August

Barbara Herne

### Burial of Ashes

30 July

Colin Fordham

### Baptisms

9 August

Layla Linda Casey & Joshua Michael Casey

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### St Andrew's 200 Club

Winners for the July 200+Club were: £5 Lily Smith, £20 Judy King.

August draw winners were: £5 Bobby Clark and £10 Gerald Johnson

## St Andrew's Church & Churchyard Clear-up



**Saturday 19 September**  
**10.30am — 12 noon**

**All Welcome!**

**Because of Covid-19, please  
bring your own equipment  
(and a face mask & gloves if you'll  
be cleaning inside)**



## Soham Radio



Soham is to get its own radio station from 2nd September! You will need a computer, smart phone or tablet to listen to it, rather than a radio. Go to <http://www.sohamradio.org/> and click on the round picture just below the banner picture.

Soham Radio runs on a not-for-profit basis. They will cater for the whole community, reflecting the diverse mix of cultures and interests of people of all ages.

As a community radio station their programmes will reflect the needs and interests of the audience. their aim is not to 'talk at' the community, but to become a central part of it by creating direct links with their listeners.

They already have a number of show hosts lined up but would welcome more. You don't have to broadcast live – they can record you if you'd prefer. They are especially looking for people to host the breakfast and drivetime shows and for anyone with an interest in sport. If you would like to know more, please email [stationcontroller@sohamradio.org](mailto:stationcontroller@sohamradio.org).

If you'd rather help out behind the scenes, volunteers are needed for more general tasks. They are also looking for 'Group Ambassadors' who would represent and promote their community groups on the station. Email [volunteers@sohamradio.org](mailto:volunteers@sohamradio.org) for information about either of these roles.

The station carries advertising and sponsorship, in order to cover running costs. If you are interested in contributing please email Mike at [schedulemarketing@sohamradio.org](mailto:schedulemarketing@sohamradio.org)

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## Soham Library

Soham Library re-opened in August with a Select and Collect service on Thursdays 10am-2pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm.

All requests are currently free of charge and can be done on-line or you can put in a request for a selected number of books letting us know what types of books you like and we will choose for you, and will telephone or email you when they are ready to collect. It will also be possible to book a computer but spaces are limited and need to be booked in advance.

To order a book using Select and Collect visit [https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Select\\_and\\_Collect](https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Select_and_Collect) or call Customer Services on 0345 045 5225.



# A View from the Vicarage

## Lifting the Loam



When – as the Far Side cartoon puts it – my brain is full, I do the garden. I’ve barely touched the garden in the last three years. That might well be proof I’ve generally got a pretty empty head ...



This afternoon, though, in a last ditch attempt to order my thoughts to write this article, I’ve been out in the garden three hours. I’ve started clearing ivy off a fence. Inspired by my 18-month-old nephew’s love of flowers, I’m preparing to create a border, and my border’s going to need some light. I don’t know much about borders, but I admire other people’s as I sit in their back gardens, and now I’m hankering after one of my own.

As luck would have it, a conversation before a Zoom meeting the other evening turned out to be all about borders: I’m not the only one of our number who’s making one. Happily for me, my ally in border-construction is several steps ahead of me: he’s already dug his, and he’s researched what needs to go in it. He’s emailed me a list of the plants he thinks will thrive, and he says they should be fine in my border too: our soils are similar (so he tells me). There’s no point re-inventing the wheel!

Wielding my secateurs as I’ve been doing – the horticultural equivalent of limbering up – it’s struck me that I’ve no idea how things will turn out. I’ve got the list of plants, but I confess I don’t know what most of them are. I don’t know what they look like. What I do know is that, once I’ve started digging, the garden won’t look the same. I won’t feel the same either.

‘It’s not the same’ is a phrase I keep hearing. It’s true. Lots of things just aren’t the same. Church, we all know, isn’t the same; pre-schools, schools, colleges and universities won’t be the same when staff and students return to them over the course of these next few weeks. September for Soham’s uniformed organisations and for the many other groups and clubs we might belong too won’t be the same. There’ll be people we won’t see, things we won’t do. So much isn’t and won’t be the same.

But it’s how it is. I read a diary column yesterday where the writer (Canon Mark Oakley, Dean of St John’s College, Cambridge) quoted what he said is an Austrian phrase: ‘Das Leben ist kein Zuckerschlecken’. He translated it literally as ‘life is no sugar-licking’: sometimes life sucks; it’s sour. His column concluded ‘you just have to get on with it’.

I’m determined to get on with my border. If putting in the pond is anything to go by, the digging will half kill me, and I’m sure when I’ve mixed in the chicken muck Belle will roll all over it and then roll all over the carpet ... Then there’ll be autumn and winter to sit through: I won’t have much to show for my labours through all that.

But think of next summer! Flowers, bees, ladybirds – the lot. I might even be pleased I did it. *Eleanor*