

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

Community Events at St Andrew's

We are hoping to have three Covid safe community events at the church over the next two months: a remembrance exhibition (page 2) a Winter Fair and a Christmas Tree Festival. See poster below for details.



in St Andrew's Churchyard



Sat. 21 Nov.: 1-4pm



Christmas Tree Festival



1-15 December

9.30am-4.30pm



If you're interested in having a stall or displaying a tree, contact Claire: standrewsheritage@gmail.com.

Covid-19 guidelines must be followed at all times by staff, stall-holders & all attending these events

All Welcome! Entry Free!

Remembrance 2020

Sadly, because of Covid-19, there will be no remembrance parade or separate church service this year. However, we will be holding an exhibition in the church with knitted poppies, displays and flower arrangements. You are welcome to drop in between Wednesday 4th and Thursday 12th during the day.

Together we Remember

An exhibition at
St Andrew's Church Soham
from Wednesday 4 November
to Thursday 12 November
9.30am-4.30pm

All welcome
Entry Free



PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

1 October

Muriel Turner (interment of ashes)

21 October

Jason Allen

28 October

Raymond Fleet

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

We held an unusual annual meeting on 22 October. Firstly, it had been delayed from the spring because of lockdown and, secondly, because of Covid restrictions it was held on Zoom instead of in church.

Nevertheless, it provided us with a useful opportunity to look back on 2019. We had held some successful events such as the Wild Weekend and Winter Fayre and occasional children's drop-in events such as the pancake party had also been popular. Sunday school had also gone well and our involvement with the schools had increased. Eleanor thanked everyone involved.

Financially income had dropped slightly but expenditure had increased leaving us short on our parish share contribution to the diocese but we had met our other obligations. The financial report can be found at <https://www.standrews-soham.org.uk/who-we-are/pcc/>

Elections were held with the following results:

Churchwardens: Margaret Fisher and Mark Campbell

Deanery Synod Rep.: Delia Tickner

Elected PCC members: Lynne Webb, Carol Weyman, Alison Evans
(who join Joy Martin and Judith Scott)

Children's Society boxes

Due to us being discouraged this year from using coins, I don't think many boxes will have much in them. So, unless you have a full box that you want emptying, I will not be collecting the boxes in this year.

Dawn 723134

200 Club

Winners for October: £5 Marie Howe; £10 Ian Coston

Cambridge Re-Use

One of the city's hidden gems is now open to the public.

With recycling now mainstream, Cambridge Re-Use is selling good quality second hand furniture to all.

Founded 30 years ago as Cambridge Sofa, the charity has been providing a full range of furniture and furnishings to those on low incomes. This will continue, with discounted prices for those in this situation but at the same time, anyone can now visit the warehouse off Cherry Hinton Road to find bargains.

Cara Moorey, Cambridge Re-Use manager, said, "We are lucky as we have some beautiful furniture donated from the Cambridge area. There is a real mix of modern and antique pieces, often items that would cost a lot more elsewhere."

Cambridge Re-Use is largely staffed by volunteers and is always interested to hear from people looking to volunteer for half a day or a full day per week on the van or in the warehouse helping customers.

Open 10 - 4pm, Monday - Saturday at:

Unit H, The Paddocks, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 8DH
01223 576535. www.cambridgereuse.org.uk

(A selection of stock can be also be found on Gumtree.)

All Saints' Day

As many of you will know, on the 1st of November the Church keeps the feast of All Saints, a day that allows Christians to think about and celebrate the Saints.

The Saints – those well-known people who displayed inspirational holiness, devotion, and good works throughout their lives – are, of course, remembered on different days throughout the year in the Church calendar; but All Saints' Day gives us a chance to reflect on the whole company of heaven, all of the Saints, their lives and the way their faith led them to do incredible things.

Something that I find moving and interesting about the Saints is that they were all ordinary people, yet with extraordinary faith. Saint Andrew – the Patron of our Church – for example, was an everyday fisherman who gave his life to follow Jesus. Mary was a faithful, but “normal” girl who said ‘yes’ to God, and carried Christ in her womb.



These people were not born Saints, but through faith and good works, through devotion and witness, they grew to become those who we celebrate on this feast day. This is, I think, comforting. Not least because it allows us to see the impact that faith can have on an individual's life, it allows us to see how God can work through people; but it also gives us something to aim for.

I certainly don't expect to become a Saint, but I do find the Saints to be inspirational, encouraging, something to work towards. It is their humanity and normalcy that really clicks for me. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus tells his disciples that for God, all things are possible; this seems so evident to me on All Saints' Day, that God can work through ordinary people – many of whom I'm sure would have never expected to be considered a Saint – to do truly marvellous things.

Often the Saints are thought of as something abstract, something that doesn't really concern us, they are good people who came a long time ago but are long gone. All Saints' Day serves as a reminder to us that this isn't the case; we are – as the Church – united not just here with each other on earth, but also with the Saints in heaven. Often referred to as 'The Communion of Saints' this suggests that our Christian family is not just those sat in the pews with us, nor those in churches throughout the world, but those gone before us, those who have entered the heavenly kingdom with Christ at the head of all.

I think then, that All Saints' Day allows us to look at our lives and wonder what we can do to work towards becoming fully ourselves, fully what we are called to be, as those Saints before us did; but it also allows us to feel a sense of community, of prayer, of being held in the midst of something even bigger than what we experience in our lives right now.

Hannah

Revd Hannah Richardson, Curate

News from Wicken Fen

Autumn is well and truly here, with the usual mix of weather and seasonal nature and wildlife changes. We're starting to see the return of migrant birds to the fen, and when the annual re-wetting of parts of the wider reserve begins this month, we'll see an increase in numbers of wildfowl on Burwell and Baker's Fens as well as the mere area of Adventurers' Fen. Keep an eye out for winter thrushes such as redwing and fieldfare feasting on berries, and wigeon and whooper swans enjoying the open water.

Pull on some wellies if you're coming over for a walk in the wider reserve as some of the paths are a little wet and sticky in places. You'll be rewarded with the sight of golden reed heads as autumn fen foliage softens to mustard yellows and tawny browns. Stop off at MOTHER... and enjoy its tranquillity and views of the fen landscape.

If welly walks are not your thing, the Boardwalk and Woodland Walk offer year-round all-weather surfaces that are accessible for all. The Roger Clarke and Boardwalk hides are open for wildlife watching or just a peaceful space to pause in this part of the reserve too. We're still asking visitors to pre-book to keep everyone safe and maintain social distancing. To avoid disappointment, we recommend booking in advance, particularly at busier times such as weekends and bank holidays. However, where space is available on weekdays, booking may not always be necessary. Call us on 01353 720274 and if we have space, we will book you in. Tickets are released every Friday for the following week, and booking details can be found here <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve>

The Docky Hut Café is now serving warming soups and one pot meals, gingerbread lattes and other seasonal treats. You don't have to be visiting for a walk or cycle to call in, the café is open daily from 10am to 4pm, so you can just pop in for coffee if you're passing.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels as we will soon be announcing our festive plans. There will be a Christmas trail for families on the Boardwalk and we're turning the Woodland Walk into a natural winter wonderland. More on this very soon!



Whooper swans on Burwell Fen by Richard Nicoll

Items for Lodestar

LodeSTAR If you have anything you want to publicise or report on please send material by Wednesday, 18th November to aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk.

A View from the Vicarage

The Kindness of Strangers

Kate Adie, who used to be the BBC's war correspondent, titled her autobiography 'The Kindness of Strangers'.



I'm always moved by the kindness of strangers, and I experienced more than my fair share of it the other Saturday evening when my car chose the approach to the A14/A10 roundabout in Cambridge as the place to meet its maker. Had I not managed to resuscitate it sufficiently to drive it to Milton Park & Ride, it might not have met him alone...

As it was, the RAC saved the day (though not the car) and the G4S staff patrolling the Covid-19 Test Centre Milton Park & Ride has become shifted night-time barriers so the recovery vehicle could enter and exit and so get me (and Belle) home in time to lead worship on Sunday.

36 hours later, thanks to the fantastic team at Crown Garage, I'd bought a new car and arranged the disposal of the old one. So that was that. Or was it?

As I reflect on it now, I think how lucky I was not only to have been helped by so many kind people, but also to have had the means to move forward. Friends I'd just visited gave me the RAC number to call; they picked me up and fed me whilst the wait-time ticked by; I had money to buy a replacement car and a congregation I knew would forgive me if, the morning after the night before, my unprepared sermon went to pot. Even if it did go to pot, I'm unlikely to find myself contributing to the Institute for Employment Studies' recently-released statistics that predict a total redundancy figure of over one million for 2020 – a figure that has increased massively this year, due to Covid-19.

Our situations might be vastly different, but at the deepest level, what helps me and what might help someone who is really struggling over these months seems to me to be pretty much the same. Each of us is helped – or could be helped – by the kindness of strangers: strangers in authority whose decisions effect our individual, local and national lives; strangers who lend a hand with our shopping, or who put some of their own shopping into the Foodbank collection box at the Co-op; strangers who give us a smile, or who exchange a friendly word when we're waiting our turn in a queue.

I love these instructions in the Letter to the Hebrews: 'Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured' (Hebrews 13: 1-3). Then, as now, simple acts of human kindness helped make the world a better place, and all of us are called to follow those same instructions. The Swanwick Prayer puts it like this:

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey his will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world; for we are strangers no longer, but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom. Amen.

Eleanor