

## Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW)  
Thursdays 10.00 am Eucharist (BCP) 3rd Sunday 10.00 am Family Service

## Greenbelt

August 22nd-25th 2014

### 'Travelling Light'

The recent outbreak of sunny weather has doubtless had many people thinking about their summer break and perhaps discovering how people in other places celebrate their Christian faith. Phil and I are in that category and we are looking forward to our regular trip to the Greenbelt Arts Festival over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. First held back in 1973 it has had various homes but having spent some fourteen years at Cheltenham Racecourse this year it is moving to Boughton House just outside Kettering where we will be joining with thousands of other people either pitching tents and caravans in grounds that have been described as the "English Versailles" or who have booked accommodation in a variety of local hotels or bed and breakfasts.



Greenbelt is a unique festival but is perhaps best described as a Christian Arts festival. It celebrates faith expressed through all the arts, and it also tries to put that faith into action. It is inspiring, interesting, intriguing and even in bad weather great fun.



In one sense it is a music festival which over the past forty years or so has had acts such as U2, Cliff Richard, Larry Norman, Bruce Cockburn, Bellowhead. This year Sinéad O'Connor, Stornoway, Lau and Martyn Joseph are all playing, but this is only a small selection of the music on offer, you can join in with a scratch choir to learn aboriginal songs or if you are younger with technology there is the silent disco.



But Greenbelt is not just music even though that is a large part of its programming. Each day will provide opportunities to listen to a range of speakers wrestling with the problem of making the Christian faith as relevant as possible in practical ways. There will be representatives of a host of Christian organisations including Traidcraft and Christian Aid all with news of their latest campaigns and a raft of resources.

### *Samba Drumming*

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On top of this there will also be films, theatre shows, comedians and a full programme of children's and youth activities plus enough catering outlets to give us the chance to almost literally eat our way around the world.



Like just about all holidays, Greenbelt has a financial cost but for a four day weekend the cost per adult, even with a caravan, compares favourably with other shorter music festivals. There are also discounts available for family tickets or group bookings. In an effort to make it even more

cost effective and value for money the organisers have a range of dates after which the ticket price rises slightly. The next small increase comes into effect at the end of June so anyone interested in attending this year can still do so at a lower cost than if they leave it later or just turn up and buy tickets on arrival. If any of this has whetted your appetite (or you know someone who might be interested in attending) more information is available on the website at [www.greenbelt.org.uk](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk)

Whatever your holiday plans are, I hope that you will enjoy the anticipation and then feel both rested and refreshed upon your return. *Linda Logan*

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## 20th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

All are invited to participate in the diocese's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood on Saturday 21st June. This will take the form of a Eucharist in the cathedral at 1.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea in the garden of The Bishop's House.

The Very Revd Catherine Ogle, Dean of Birmingham, will be the guest preacher at the Eucharist. Sarah MacDonald, the Director of Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir, has composed an anthem set to words written in 1862 by the American poet Emily Dickinson in honour of the anniversary. It will have its first performance during the Eucharist.

This is a celebration of the ministry of all who offer their gifts in the service of the diocese, as well as an opportunity to give thanks for the ministry of women clergy. Members of parishes are warmly invited to attend. Children are particularly welcome and there will be supervised activities for them in the cathedral during the service, and at the reception afterwards.

In order to assist those involved in the practical arrangements, please let Ruth Gildersleve know whether you will be attending, and whether you will be bringing others. It would be particularly useful to know whether you are bringing children, so that enough qualified adults are recruited to take care of them. Ruth's email address is: [events@miscom.co.uk](mailto:events@miscom.co.uk) .

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## St Andrew's Fête

St Andrew's Annual Church Fête will take place on Saturday, 14th June from 10am until noon. We'd love people to support us. The fête has been running for many years and has raised thousands of pounds both for the church and for many local organisations, charities, craftspeople and so on who have benefited.



For more information call Alison or James Palmer on 01353 720572.



## A Sign of the Times

Those of you who regularly pass the Village College, or either of our trust partners The Shade and Kennet Primary Schools, will have noticed that we have some new signs. Common across all three signs is the Staploe Education Trust logo; an image of a tree with leaves in three different colours representing the three schools working together in the trust. Clearly, the new signs can have no impact on the work we do. Yet, having that visual reminder of our commitment to work together, as one, for the betterment of our students, seems to have crystallized something in our minds. The concept of our partnership has gained from being represented visually in a logo which makes us all proud. It is smart, clean and bright, and those aspects of our new logo reflect the way we feel about our schools and about our students.

Exactly what it is that children do at school can be a closed book to their parents. I've no idea what my six year old daughter does all day – I'm lucky if she tells me what she had for lunch. Accepting that perhaps children aren't the most voluble communicators, the responsibility falls to schools to keep parents informed. Some of the information we share is very detailed, such as the progress data parents can access on-line. Some of it is more general, such as the fortnightly parent's newsletters. Some things, though, are very hard to communicate. The ethos of our schools, the way we want our students to share a set of values about what makes us effective learners, high achievers, good citizens and successful adults in waiting is not easy to put across to those who don't come into the schools. To me, the Staploe tree, with its sense of togetherness, of shelter, of growth and longevity, expresses that ethos. I hope that when you look at our new signs you'll be able to see through the logo into the heart of our schools.

*Andrew Hunter, Assistant Principal*

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## SERVICES IN JUNE

|                 |          |   |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Sunday, 8th     | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)                                  |
| Pentecost       | 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)   |
|                 | 6.30 pm  | Festal Deanery Evensong in Isleham with the Bishop of Ely               |
| Sunday, 15th    | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)                                  |
|                 | 10.00am  | Family Eucharist (Common Worship)                                       |
| Sunday, 22nd    | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)                                  |
|                 | 10.00am  | Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)   |
| Sunday, 29th    | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)                                  |
|                 | 10.30 am | United Service at Wicken<br><i>No service at St Andrew's at 10.00am</i> |
| Sunday 6th July | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)                                  |
|                 | 10.00am  | Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)   |

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## Thank you

Thank you for your good wishes on my election as Chair of the House of Clergy in the Diocese and Vice President of the Diocesan Synod. This means that I am now a member of the Bishop's Council. *Tim Alban Jones*





# A Councillor's Comments

The annual meeting of the Soham Town Council was held as usual in the Walter Gidney Pavilion on Monday 12th May 2014. This is the first meeting of the new council year and at the top of the agenda was the election of Chairman for the ensuing civic year. It has been a tradition that each elected chairman hold this office for two years, and this can be a good practice as it provides continuity both to the council and the chairman, as he or she settles in during the first term and continues into the next. The same is true for the elected Vice Chairman, who continues in that office for two years and is usually then elected to office of Chairman. This tradition is not set in stone but it is up to the elected members of the council whether to follow this tradition or not.

On this occasion Councillor Palmer was elected for his second term and Councillor Fisher for his second term as Vice Chairman.

Appointment of Committees and Working Parties for the coming year: It was decided that these remain the same unless individuals wanted to change.

Public Comment Time: Mr Geoffrey Woollard again brought up the subject of litter in the High Street and Church Alley. It was noted that since East Cambs. had been challenged on this issue improvements had been made, but there was agreement by the council that this was still a problem. Again it is right to insist on having clean streets in our town but the litter is caused by a number of people who simply drop empty food and drinks containers wherever they are when they have finished with them without bothering to place them in the many litter bins provided.

East Cambs. - Garden Waste: In the previous months minutes it was noted that East Cambs. were making an additional waste bin available for Garden Waste only, at a cost of £48 for each year. These can be issued on request with the appropriate fee. These bins have a brown lid, and if purchased can be renewed or cancelled each year. These can be useful for people who have large gardens and a number of shrubs.

This annual meeting had a very small agenda but the Annual Town Meeting was held shortly afterwards on the 19th May. This is a meeting designed for all the people of the town. It is a meeting where the council makes its report to the public on what the council has been doing in the past year. The chairman of the town council delivers this report, but there are also reports given by elected members of the District and County Councillors, after which the public are invited to ask questions from each. At the end of the meeting there is a time of Open Forum where members of the public and other councillors present can bring up issues that concern them. This can be a good thing; both for raising issues and making councillors aware of the concerns of the people they are elected to serve. In the course of the meeting what came to the fore was the vital need for affordable housing and it was explained to us how developers are not meeting the percentage of affordable houses they should include. This is a great shame because all councillors are now acutely aware of how great the need is, in the past there were protests about developments around and about us, but here in our community there is a need for affordable housing for local people to keep them here. There is a scheme now set up in Soham to be the means whereby land can be used to build houses, allocate and manage them for local people who fit the criteria. It is a Community Land Trust called Thrift and it is very eager to find land available to make a start. There was some concern expressed as to whether Soham was growing too fast, but it was felt we need the housing to keep people here. Apart from councillors, it was reckoned there were ten members of public present and it is somewhat disappointing that more people were not there to hear what their elected people had done for them, and conversely let the elected councillors what they would like them to do for them.

*Councillor Ginn*



☆ **The 200+ Club Winners were:** April - £5 Lynette Smith; £10 Pat Hobbs, May - £5 Peter Cousins; £10 Patrick Clark.

☆ **Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat** in St Andrew's Church - Thursday, 5th June to Saturday, 7th June at 7.30 pm and Saturday, 7th June at 2.30 pm. Tickets are £9.00 and available from Susan Taylor (01353 7201380), email serrula@live.co.uk

☆ **Items for the July edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 20th June. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA. Note that there is no edition in August.

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## Bishop's Mission Week 8th – 15th June

Our Deanery is the focus of the Bishop of Ely's mission week in the middle of June. There are a series of events at which he or his officers will be present. For us in Soham, the first of these will be on June 8th when we will be welcoming as our visiting preacher the diocesan Director of Mission, the Rev'd Peter Wood at our main parish Eucharist. That evening there is Festival Evensong at Isleham at 6.30 pm. The bishop himself will be the preacher at this and it is hoped that people from all over the Deanery will want to come and hear him; as well as join together for worship. The bishop will also be coming to our Creative Minds group that week as he has a particular concern for the issue of mental health and well-being. Due to the poor state of the Weatheralls Health Centre, the group is meeting temporarily in church until a more permanent home can be found. The bishop will be coming to our Deanery Synod during the week and on Thursday 12th we are hoping that some of the diocesan officers will be able to join our Men's Curry Night at Ali Taj. If you would like to join us for this, please let the vicar know so that we can advise the restaurant about numbers. *Tim Alban Jones*

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## Viva Perform at St Andrew's Church

It is a truth universally acknowledged that any article about Jane Austen in general, or *Pride and Prejudice* in particular, must begin with the famous opening line. Now that I have done that, I can get down to business.

Viva Theatre Company is delighted to be performing Simon Reade's adaptation of Jane Austen's most popular work, in the beautiful setting of our Parish Church.

A superb cast has been assembled including regular Viva performers, some borrowed from Viva Youth Theatre and some new faces featuring members of St Andrew's Church family. The most eye-catching piece of casting is that of the smarmy Rev Collins played to perfection by our very own Vicar. It is worth the price of admission just to see him act David Tickner off the stage.



It is guaranteed to look and sound spectacular. The Company are grateful for the extra funding from the Viva Spring Party which has enabled us to budget for more extravagant costumes. The music for the colourful ball scenes has been specially written by the aforementioned Rev Collins.

This is an occasion not to be missed. The production runs from Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th June at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 or £8 concessions. To book, call 01353722228 or visit [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com) *David Tickner*

# Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends,

This is definitely the Fete season. We shall be holding our annual church Fete on Saturday 14th June and it is an occasion for many people to come together and celebrate the many good things in our community life. Fetes are a part of our national way of life. If you like such things, there is a village Fete at Wicken on 28th June and St Laurence's Church in Wicken will be holding a Strawberry Tea on Sunday 6th July, which will be a sort of mini-Fete

The origin of the word comes, via the French word *fête*, which means feast. There will, we all know, be plenty to eat at our village Fete; and we all know that it will be delicious. My dictionary gives a variation in the meaning of the word between England and North America. On the 'other side of the pond' there is more of a celebratory meaning than in our part of the world; over here we often think of Fetes as a means of raising money for good causes.

There is also (I am told!) another festival going on this June in Brazil of a more international and sporting nature. I am sure that many more people will be far more excited about this festival of football than about any local fete, but for most of us the best we will be able to do is watch it on television. Due to the differences of the time zones, there will be the added inconvenience of having to stay up until the middle of the night to watch the matches as they happen. Dare I say it that this other festival won't be a patch on the 'live and interactive' events that are taking place on the morning of June 14th here in Soham!

With every good wish, *Tim Alban Jones*

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## PARISH REGISTERS

### **Baptism**

30th March Aiden Roger Steward

### **Funerals**

2nd May John Palmer

6th Michael Cronin (80)

14th Michael Andrew Porter (74)

15th Nellie Beavis (91)

16th John Watkins

Joanne Porter

27th Lorna Doris Ashby-Hastings (87)

29th Joseph Tennyson (69)

### **Weddings**

3rd May Liam Ingram and Amanda Stimson

16th Alexander Hughes and Jennifer Parramint