

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

Care for God's creation

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."

(Genesis 2:15)

I have been an environmental campaigner since I reached the age of retirement. In the 2000s I spent nearly 6 years as treasurer of Christian Ecology Link (now known as Green Christian) and took part in protests (including some civil disobedience) against the construction of a third runway at Heathrow Airport. More recently I was leading a U3A botany group in Ely.

One of the activities I encouraged in the botany group was the recording of occurrences of our precious wild flowers, as an aid to government and local authorities and other organisations making decisions about nature conservation. Adam was commanded to keep the garden of Eden, that is, to conserve it.

As I write this, the earth is undergoing a mass extinction of all kinds of wildlife. This has happened more than once in the past history of the earth, but this time the decline of species is due to human activity. Global warming (see below) is driving species away from the equator often with nowhere to go because of natural barriers, and there are other ways in which we humans are responsible. Our atmosphere is polluted due to the burning of fossil fuels, especially by the exhaust fumes of private cars, which pollutes the soil. Then there is the runoff from industrial farming of various agrichemicals, polluting natural soils, rivers and other bodies of water. More and more land is taken up with monocultures such as oil palms, soya beans and maize, driving wildlife into smaller and smaller refuges, which cannot maintain a variety of wildlife. Lastly, there is activity under the general heading of the poaching of rare and declining species such as whales (but some recent good news about the blue whale), "big game" and fish stocks. (Another piece of good news is that the demand for shark fin is rapidly dropping!)

Why demonstrate against the construction of a third runway at Heathrow? In the UK, of the "domestic" consumption of fossil fuels in the travel sector, nearly two thirds is by private vehicles and nearly one third is by the airlines. Far less fossil fuel is consumed by bus and rail travel, and none by cyclists and walkers!

On the controversial issue of global warming, there is increasing evidence that it is mostly due to human activity. I understand that the greenhouse effect is the effect of so-called greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide and methane (and water vapour), which trap some of the sun's rays on the surface of the earth instead of being reflected into outer space. These gases are emitted through the burning of fossil fuels. Before the coming of humankind on the earth there was a balance between incoming radiation from the sun and outgoing radiation from the earth, which maintained the earth at a surface temperature suitable for the flourishing of living creatures. Humans have been upsetting this balance by clearing forests, burning fossil fuels and intensively rearing livestock, thereby putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

The great majority of scientists now believe that the evidence for human-induced global warming is overwhelming.

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A Thrift Community Land Trust for Soham

A Community Land Trust is a community led organisation that provides land and buildings to meet the long term needs of its community. It offers a way to provide permanently affordable housing as well as other things the community needs like meeting spaces, workspaces, shops, pubs, farms and gardens. It holds these assets in trust so the community benefits forever.



We have already obtained information about housing numbers for Soham. Last year there were 96 families from Soham looking for affordable housing. Unfortunately the way in which the housing lists work does not guarantee that Soham families will necessarily be offered properties in Soham at prices which they can afford. The proposed development in the Eastern Gateway offers an ideal opportunity to address this problem by forming a community land trust in Soham. A local CLT will be able to take an active part in improving the standards of affordable housing and how it is delivered in Soham.

A small group of us approached Foundations East who have been involved in CLTs for a number of years, both at government and local level, and asked for guidance. We have had a number of meetings over the last 14 months and have now set up a CLT in Soham called the Thrift Community Land Trust for Soham. We sought support from East Cambs District Council and Soham Town Council for the setting up of a local CLT and they have both provided some funding for start up costs.

We are now looking for support from the local community, in particular from people who may have a special interest in housing in Soham. We are also seeking help from anyone who may be interested or has some expertise to help in this setting up period.

The most important thing to remember about a CLT is that it is a non profit making organisation, set up by local people, run by local people to address local issues by providing solutions which meet that need locally. All its assets are owned in perpetuity by the trust. We will be seeking members at a charge of £1 for life. Membership will allow one vote in the election of the board of trustees and an opportunity to influence the way in which the Trust is run. Anyone can be a member and once we have people living in our houses we hope they will become active members too.

We are seeking the opinions of as many different people in the community and we would very much like the opportunity to speak to local groups and explain what we are trying to do. If you know of a group who would like to invite us to speak to them please get in touch.

The website listed above is still very new but we are adding to it as we go along.

Rosemary Aitchison

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But there is a vocal minority (notably including David Bellamy) which has been denying that it is happening or that it is caused by humans. It is interesting that public relations firms are starting to back off from serving companies that wish to promote “climate denial”.

The use of renewable sources of energy – particularly the sun, wind and flowing water – is growing rapidly, but is hindered by lack of investment and government subsidy. What if climate change is irreversible? According to Rowan Williams, “The right thing to do is the right thing to do. There are good ways of living in the environment. And they are just good. They are in themselves healthy. And you might just want your life to bear witness to that. You might just want to go down fighting.” *John Davis*

If you would like to find out more, or do something about these matters, or simply just meet like-minded people, please contact me at jrdavis@waitrose.com or (01353)722728. If there is a good enough response we would like to set up a Christian environmental group in Soham.

School Report

Weatheralls School



Following our successful Ofsted inspection in June we have had some time to reflect on our school vision and how we are going to work towards that end.

‘Creating an inspiring learning community which gives children the firm foundations and aspirations for a bright future.’

But what does this actually mean? We believe that this new journey of continuing development must involve everyone in our school community, children, staff, parents and carers and wider community. We know our children need a strong grounding in key skills and knowledge and that they need to take some responsibility for their own learning and progress, to be proud of what they achieve and challenge themselves. Great stuff you might think – but how do we do that?



Learning has to be fun, our children have to want to learn so our curriculum is packed with visits, visitors, fun things to do and great reasons for doing them. Over the



last weeks of the summer term just a few of the things

the children took part in were: working with the Berrycroft allotment society (we have been inspired to build our own allotments at school), taking part in a production of Joseph, contributing to an international week, enjoying Nursery water day, running a French Café, baking cookies and raising money for Cancer Research. We worked with the other Soham schools



to build a commemorative human poppy. Classes also visited the Fitzwilliam Museum, Banham Zoo, Hunstanton and Wickstead Park. It was a whirlwind of activity and fun!



We would very much like to encourage more involvement from our Soham community - so if you would like to be involved, if you have something to share, or to give, whether it is time or expertise,



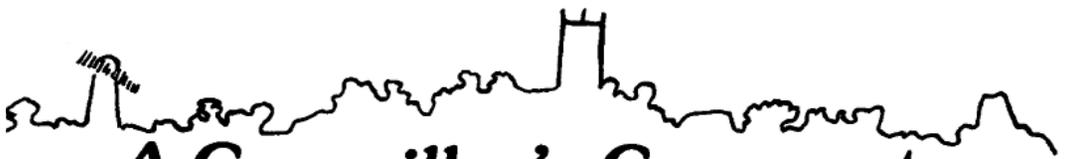
please do contact us because we'd love to hear from you.

October Sunday services

Sunday 5th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00 am	Service of the Word
Sunday 12th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Harvest Eucharist (Common Worship)
	6.30 pm	Harvest Songs of Praise at Wicken
Sunday 19th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Family Service (Common Worship)
Sunday 26th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)

November

Sunday 2nd	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Service of the Word (Common Worship)
Sunday 9th	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
	2.30pm	Laying of wreaths at the War Memorial
	3.00pm	Service of Remembrance in Church



A Councillor's Comments

At our September meeting we had two people making use of Public Comment Time. Patricia Law presented a plea that the council should consider providing a formal park for the town. She appreciated that we have a recreation ground, which serves a useful purpose, but a formal park was different and set out with flower beds, and which were a feature of the Victorian era and are present in most towns today. So she asked if a piece of land became available that the council would consider using it to provide such a park. Geoffrey Woollard spoke about the speed of development in Soham and felt that it was going too fast.

Chairman's Announcements: These included the Pumpkin Fair on 27th September, but also mentioned a meeting on the 15th October dealing with the Eastern Gateway which he said appeared to be making some progress.

"Lest We Forget" 3rd August 2014: Councillor Woodbridge gave his report on this event which had taken place, which had been a fitting commemoration for the start of world war one. He thanked everyone who had worked to make the whole event possible, and finally thanked the Soham people for their wonderful response for without them the event would not have been the success it was. The council thanked councillor Woodbridge for his leading role in organising the event.

Report on the East Cambridgeshire Parish Conference: All councillors were given a detailed printed report by councillor Aitchison who attended this event on 1st September 2014. There were presentations given on Superfast Broadband, Rural Affordable Housing, Policing, and an interesting presentation from Swaffham Prior having consulted the people of the Parish on how best to use the £12K section 106 money. They did this by improving the green space in the centre of the village and opening up a piece of neglected woodland for the public. Apart from the presentations there were organisations on hand to show what they do. These included Neighbourhood Watch, Care in the Community, Volunteer Center and many more.

Applications For Financial Support: East Anglia's Children's Hospice, Ely & Soham Dial-A-Ride, Cambridge Relate and Soham Twinning Association. Three of these were granted support but Ely & Soham Dial-A-Ride, because of certain queries, were put on hold until the manager of the scheme can come and present their need at a future meeting.

Councillor Ginn

sohamscene



☆ **Soham History Group** presents Fenland Songs and Tales featuring 'Hobson's Voice' on Thursday, 6th November at Methodist Hall, Berrycroft at 7.30pm. Friends of Soham Museum free entry. Guests £2.50. Refreshments, draw and bookstall. All welcome – come and be entertained.

☆ **Items for the November edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 24th October. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

A Youth Minister for St Andrew's

Allow me to introduce myself to you, if you don't yet know who I am but also, more importantly, if you haven't yet heard what my new role here at St. Andrew's is. My name is Claudia, like in "The weather today is cloudier than yesterday." The pronunciation of my name and my accent is German. I'm nearly as old as Tim (and just as young looking, I hope) and for the last 4½ years I've been living here in Soham with my husband Andy, an accountant, and my sons Lars (16) and Nils (14), who are both at Soham Village College.



I love working with and for children and young people. Hence, I've been involved in children's and youth work ever since my own children were small. More recently, I've been Reading Tutor at St. Andrew's Primary School, Parent Governor at Soham Village College and a volunteer at Highfield Special School, supporting young people to learn through dance, which is a passion of mine.

I'm a member of Lantern Dance Theatre Company, an integrated contemporary dance group based in Ely, and I also enjoy ballet and yoga in my free time, which will be reduced greatly over the next few weeks, I suspect.

At the beginning of September, I started a BA (Hons) in School, Youth and Community Work and Practical Theology, a course which is delivered by CYM, the Institute of Children, Youth and Mission, based at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. My Professional Practice Agency, which is a fancy word for "work placement", is here at St. Andrew's, which means that you'll see much more of me in all sorts of places and settings. Last week, Tim and I agreed on the grand title of "Youth Minister" for me. I'm not going for ordination and I'm definitely not as gracious as Sue Simpson, but I'm hoping to continue, in my own small way, from where she left off, after building up the children's and youth work so splendidly over the last few years.

You'll see me at Sunday School and in the crèche, and together with Sharon Wright, I'll be looking after our "Little Fishes" on a Wednesday afternoon. I'll be getting my hands dirty with Mel's amazing team at "Messy Church" on the Tuesdays which I'm not at uni, and in October, I'll be re-launching our Youth Group. Our first session will be the family ceilidh on Saturday, 11th October, and from then onwards, we'll be meeting in church every Friday during term-time from 7.00 – 8.30 pm. If you're 11+ years (no upper limit!) and would like to get involved, even if it's only on an ad-hoc basis, please let me know. I'll need all the support I can get! I'm looking to provide an exciting programme of activities, depending on how much help I'll have, with some stimulating reflective work taking place every other week.

Jointly with Lynne Turner, I run the Bereavement Coffee Morning every fourth Wednesday from 10:30 until 11:30 in the meeting room and I'm looking to offer further community provision as time goes on.

I'll be accompanying Tim on his weekly visits to St. Andrew's Primary School to assist him with the delivery of assemblies, and in the future I hope to be able to provide Youth Ministry of one sort or another in all of the town's schools.

In between, I'll be visiting lectures, writing journals, essays, etc. and will continue to care for my family and our home. If you happen to see me race past you, try and find the "emergency stop button" to make me stop for a while! And whilst I'm still learning to put names to faces, please help me out. I very much look forward to the challenges that lie ahead of me and to working with you all!

kindest regards and blessings, *Claudia Stein-Carr*

Just a few words

Dear Friends

It is that time of year again when we call to mind the wonders of Creation and give thanks to God for his bounty at the annual celebration of Harvest. This year we shall be celebrating the Harvest home on the weekend of October 11th and 12th. Rather than a harvest supper or harvest lunch, we shall be having a Ceilidh at St Andrew's School on Saturday 11th. The music will be provided by a local group called the Cyriacs, from Swaffham Prior. They have been to us before and were very good.

On Sunday we have services at 10.00 am at St Andrew's and 6.30 at St Laurence's. During our morning service in addition to thanking God for his goodness, we will also be collecting in the harvest of our £10 challenge. This time last year, everyone was invited to take a £10 note and see what they could do with it. Now is the time to collect that money in. There will be a chance to bring your money – or tell us the total during the course of the service. In the evening there will be a service of Songs of Praise at 6.30 pm, led by the Wicken Coronation Silver Band at St Laurence's church, for a chance to sing again all the favourite harvest hymns. Please come and join us.

On Monday 13th we have our ever popular Harvest Auction at Wicken Church at 7.30. It is hard to put into words what fun this event always is. Our local auctioneer makes the evening a most enjoyable time. Please come along and pick up a bargain – and have fun at the same time

The following Sunday (19th October) there will be a Harvest Lunch at Wicken Mission Hall. Tickets are available (priced £8) from Tim.

With every good wish, *Tim Alban Jones*

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

31st August Frankie Adrian David Bates

Funerals

11th Sept Sonja Edwards

15th Frank Peacock

25th Harry Drage

Weddings

6th Sept Richard Turnbull and Kay (Phillips)

20th Spencer Bailey and Claire (Cook)

25th Donald Ive and Kristy (Thurston)

Dates for the Calendar

- * October 11th Ceilidh at St Andrew's School to celebrate the Harvest Home
- * 12th Harvest Festival
- * 18th KD Show in Church
- * 19th Harvest Lunch at Wicken
- * 26th Apple Fair at Wicken Church (2.00 - 5.00)
- * 9th November Remembrance Sunday
- * 22nd Anniversary Organ Recital by Andrew Lumsden