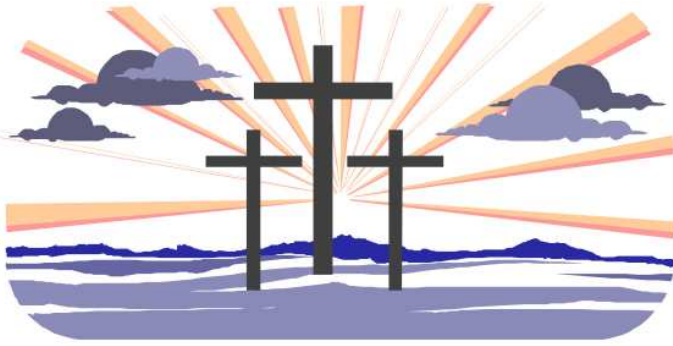


Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 am Sung Eucharist (ASB)
 Thursdays 10.00 am Eucharist (BCP) 3rd Sunday 9.30 am Family Service



Services for Holy week

Palm Sunday (17th)	9.15 am	at the War Memorial for Palm Sunday Procession
Holy Monday	7.00 pm	Passover meal at Berrycroft Methodist Hall
Holy Tuesday & Wednesday	7.30 pm	Holy Communion and Meditation
Maundy Thursday	10.30 am	Chrism Eucharist in the Cathedral
	7.30 pm	Institution of Holy Communion (with the washing of feet)
Good Friday	10.30 am	Walk of Witness (starting outside Berrycroft Methodist Chapel)
	2.00 pm	The Last Hour
Easter Day	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	8.45 am	Parish Breakfast in Church
	9.30 am	All-age Eucharist for Easter

Music Marathon

You are invited to come and perform a set at St Andrew's Church, Soham on Saturday, July 16th 2011.

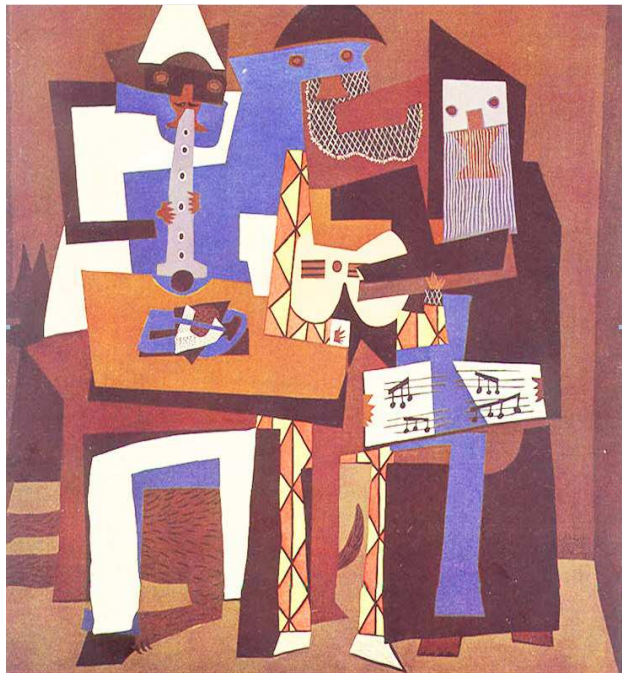
The public will be encouraged to drop in and spend time enjoying music from local music makers like you.

Refreshments will be available for all throughout the day.

We now have new kitchen facilities and are raising funds to support refurbishing the organ.

We hope that you or your group will want to take part or that you can pass this invitation to someone else.

To reserve your slot, please call 07824 643224 or send an email to:



music.soham@yahoo.co.uk. Come along and help us to raise the roof!!!

School Report

Weatheralls School



The Weatheralls Olympic Spirit.

A year before the superstars of athletics descend on London, the Weatheralls has begun preparing for an event that we may never see in our country again! The day that the new Olympic games countdown clock was unveiled in London, every child in The Weatheralls took part in a dance to mark 500 days until the opening ceremony of the Olympic games. We got into the spirit of what the Olympics embodies by watching an emotional Kelly Holmes win her second gold medal of the 2004 Athens Olympics and then we dreamt of all the wonderful things we could achieve by aiming high, working hard and being brave enough to make mistakes first. The Olympic spirit is going to gather pace and momentum over the next year as we follow the young stars of 2012



and watch their dreams unfold. It will not just be competitive sport that we power all our energy into. With the very physical and visual presence of the diggers and dumpers preparing for our new building on the school site, we even look like

we could be building an Olympic stadium and the children are dreaming of what can be achieved inside the classroom with the same sort of Olympic determination!

Parents and community members, we welcome you to join in the fitness fun! Key Stage One hosted “pancake racing” on the school play ground on Shrove Tuesday to combine celebration, energy and fun with competition. There will be many more opportunities to involve the Olympics in our curriculum and ensure that this event has a lasting legacy on us all. Watch out for big events such as the Weatheralls Olympic Games next summer, and smaller events that we can begin today and that will make an enormous impact on our lifestyles in the light of keeping the Olympic spirit alive in years to come.

An example of this is that we are trying to get children to “switch” some small thing in their lifestyle as we think about becoming active and the enormous impact on the community



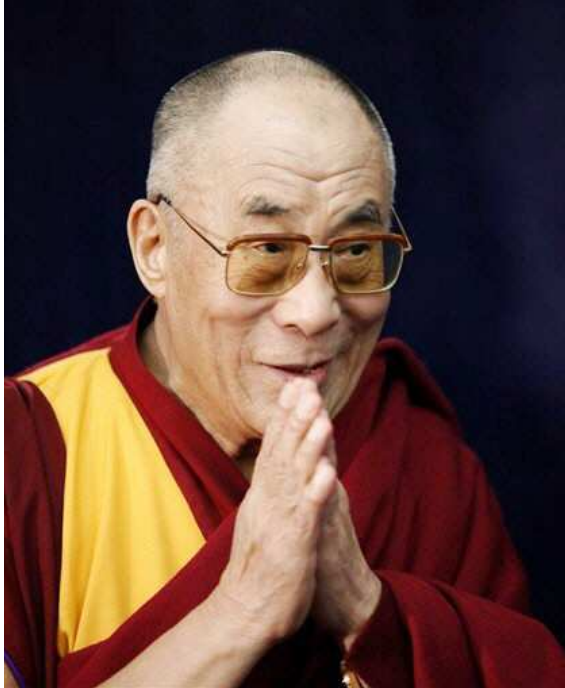
of everyone doing something small. Swap eating chocolate for eating bananas. Go crazy, swap playing on the play station for going on a bike ride! Together, we can make a difference and who knows whether a new Olympic star of the future will emerge from the Weatheralls as a result?

By Mrs Sarah Kerley, Key Stage One Phase Leader, The Weatheralls Primary School

TIBET - WHERE NOW?

On March 10, 2011 in Dharamsala, Northern India the Dalai Lama announced his political retirement. He will continue to be the spiritual leader of Tibetans living in Tibet and many thousands living in exile.

I should explain that my interest in Tibet began when I picked up a second hand copy of 'Seven Years in Tibet' at a Soham College booksale. The book tells the story of Heinrich Herrer and his friend Peter Aufschnaiter - Austrian climbers who escaped from a British prisoner of war camp in Northern India in 1943. After almost 2 years walking and climbing in the Himalayas they reached the forbidden city of Lhasa in Tibet. They stayed on in Tibet after the 2nd World War ended and Herrer became

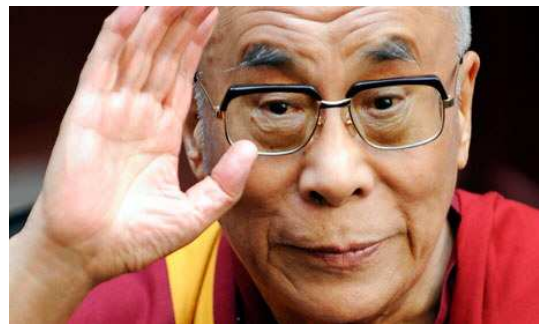


tutor to the present Dalai Lama, teaching him English, geography and science and was astonished at the rapidity with which his pupil absorbed the Western world's knowledge. The Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950 forced him to leave. For the next nine years the young Dalai negotiated with the Chinese but they were determined to make Tibet part of China. He met Chairman Mao on several occasions - he knew from remarks such as "All religion is poison" that the Culture of Tibet would never be respected. A plot was uncovered that they planned to kill him and he fled across the Himalayas to Northern India with many of his followers in 1959, setting up the Tibetan Government in exile. Since then,

severely oppressed, thousands of Tibetans have escaped over the mountains and there are now exiled Tibetans living all over the world.

The Dalai has been a remarkably effective leader in an extremely difficult cause for more than 50 years. He has given the plight of the Tibetan people both an international profile and a moral authority that all of Chinese efforts to discredit him have failed to dent. His leadership, with the Tibetan culture of profound faith and non-violence, have made him more and more popular throughout the world. He has been received by all the leaders of the Western world in spite of Chinese disapproval.

Traditionally succession was determined by reincarnation. A new Dalai Lama was identified by religious authorities who used dreams, divination and interrogation to settle their choice. A new incarnation was typically found at the age of 3 and there followed a long period of regency until the new Dalai took on his spiritual and political leadership. The Panchen Lama, the second most senior figure in Tibetan Buddhism, died in Tibet in 1989. The choice of his replacement was made and announced by the present Dalai in 1995 but the boy and his family disappeared and a "Chinese Panchen" substituted.



He may be nominated by China to choose the next Dalai. Tibet's profound religious traditions would allow only their own Buddhist leaders to choose the successor.

On a visit to Tibet my lasting impression is of a gentle, peaceful people, always smiling and deeply devout in their faith.

So, it would seem that the Dalai feels he has failed in his ambition to reach a peaceful settlement with the Chinese and it is now time to elect a prime minister of the exile government who may not be a monk but a layman and no future Dalai Lama will have to play a dual religious and political role. There is no doubt that the present 14th Incarnation has captured the imagination and respect of many peace-loving people of the world and he will be a hard act to follow. *Dorothy Clark*



Soham Museum Mini Fete on Saturday, 16th April at Budgens Store, Soham. 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Prize Draw, History Group publications. *We hope to see you there.*

Items for the May edition of LodeStar should be submitted by Friday, 22nd April. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

From Rob Parker-McGee

The last few days have warmed my heart immensely. The sun has begun to shine and with it all the delights of Spring seem to be on our doorstep. The daffodils have begun to flower (a true sign of Spring) and the birds now sing their heavenly song from dawn 'til dusk.

Like the cold and frosty mornings of a few weeks ago, Lent is a necessary time of honest soul searching, penitence, fasting and prayer; a sombre period of setting our lives in order. Paradoxically, Easter brings with it the bright radiance of Spring's emergence and so we begin to recognise the majestic magnificence of the Resurrection of our Lord. When both are approached appropriately with humble, holy and contrite heart, we may begin to recognise something of the reality of the Heavenly Realm.

Throughout the year we can become so focussed upon our earthly pressures that we easily lose sight of the true reality that is from God. We convince ourselves that the human constructs that we envelope our lives with are reality and that our attempts to order things according to our own desires are what really matters. The other side of this coin is that we all too easily begin to consider the Heavenly Kingdom as an imaginary, false nature. One only has to look at the turmoil around the world, the uprisings in Libya and the Middle East and the earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, to see how futile our human constructs really are. In the matter of a few hours, apparently perfect ordered lives can be turned on their heads. We find the very thought of such a lack of control extremely unnerving and the very notion of our perfectly ordered lives becoming chaotic is something we simply do not wish to comprehend.

In our Christian faith we have the tools to deal with these unnerving facts of life. A good Lenten discipline of prayer and penitence can help us regain our focus on the true reality, which comes from God. Likewise, Christ's resurrection helps us to recognise God's Kingdom breaking through into this world. The sharper our focus on these Easter mysteries the more adept we become at creating avenues for God to use in the furtherance of His Kingdom here on Earth.

All of the usual offerings of our church are important here. Regular attendance and devoted conviction to the Holy Mysteries of the Eucharist, daily prayer, companionship and communion with our brothers and sisters are all important in living out God's Kingdom values in this life. But for a Church that becomes more in the minority and increasingly marginalised with every year that passes, we also have an obligation to feeding our society with the spiritual food that we hold so dear.

As Easter approaches, I would like to encourage us all to consider how we may create the necessary avenues for God to unveil His heavenly mysteries to generations of people who simply haven't had the privilege of encountering the risen Christ. As dedicated Christians, we may well have the blessings of being able to turn to Christ when our neat and ordered lives become chaotic, but how do we live out our calling to share these blessings to the society around us?

I wish you all God's speed this Easter and pray that the risen Christ may illuminate your lives for the good of all. With all my love and every blessing,

Rob Parker-McGee



A Councillor's Comments

There was no public comment time for our March meeting, so our meeting got underway with chairman's announcements, which included a correction to the date of the annual town meeting which is on the 18th April, and which I gave in last month's Lodestar as being on the 11th April, for which I apologise. The 11th of April being our usual monthly meeting of the council.

After the opening items we were moved on to item 10 when we had a presentation by the principal planning officer of East Cambs about the new district plan. We were shown areas of Soham where development was likely to take place, this would of course include the eastern gateway, which is the proposed new entry into the town, which will come off the By-pass from a new roundabout, and coming into the centre of town.

Councillor Parramint, our East Cambs District Councillor, gave an update on the progress in the attempt of getting a rail station back in Soham once again. We shall know shortly if this likely to be successful.

“Kicks for Free” A Project for Youth: This was a presentation by the local youth worker coordinator. It was a programme they were hoping to put in place for the benefit of the young people in our community, but, because of the cuts, they were unlikely to get the funding they usually get from the County Council and they left us with details of costing of the work they were planning to do.

Soham Town Forum: We had a very interesting report on the Forum's recent meeting from Councillor Gipp. It appears that the Forum is very active on many fronts - they get a good number attending their meetings and are very enthusiastic in promoting useful projects for the benefit of the town.

Highway Wardens: This is an idea from the County Council asking our council to consider our participation of this scheme of having Highway Wardens. Their job would be to keep a watchful eye on the state of our highways and report any problems to Highways, who would then come out and deal with it. There was no mention of any remuneration for the task and it may be this would cover a job presently held within the County Council, the wardens becoming part of the big society. This request follows on from another one seeking Street Representatives within the town, and I am not sure whether any were then were recruited. In both cases they would only be doing what all members of the public can do now, by reporting failed streetlights and potholes in the road. In the past the faults have been seen to quickly, but there may now be some difficulty in contacting highways direct, as phone numbers have changed and you might find yourself at a distant call centre.

Application for Funding: This was the annual request from the library for support for this years reading challenge for the children of our town, and as this challenge is of great benefit to them, we were happy to support them once again.

Councillor Ginn

Photos needed!

Soham Community Archive is working with Viva on the 'East End to East Cambs' project' about the evacuees who came to Soham and the surrounding area from London, during the war. We are desperately in need of photos of evacuee individuals or groups to use as part of the project. Photos will be copied and returned – just leave them at the Viva shop in an envelope marked with your name and address, for the attention of Martha Waterhouse. Please include any background information too!

Many thanks!

Ann Roberts, Soham Community Archive

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

You may well have read in previous editions of Lodestar about some of the work and alterations that have taken place in St Andrew's. I am very pleased that the work has drawn such admiring comments. One of the smaller items of work that was carried out was to one of the bells in the tower. We are exceptionally fortunate to have a fine ring of ten bells in the tower – and even more fortunate to have a dedicated band of ringers who meet week by week to summon the faithful and advertise to the town that we are praying for them. Wedding couples are also pleased to announce to the world their joy and happiness as they leave the church at the end of the marriage service.

Although, as I said, there is a ring of ten bells in the tower, there are actually twelve bells in all. One of the additional ones is attached to the clock and chimes every hour. Since it has now started working again (following an extended period of silence during the building works) a number of people have come up to me in the street to say how much they enjoy hearing it. The twelfth bell, however, is perhaps the most interesting of all. Certainly, it is the oldest in our tower. Most of the main ring of bells date from 1788 and they have suitable inscriptions cast on them; the remaining two were added later. The oldest bell, which has now been re-hung, dates from 1510.

It was one of a pair that came from the redundant church of St Nicholas in the Fen. For several decades it had merely sat on a windowsill in the ringing chamber. It has now been re-installed and is used as the call bell. Operated by an electric motor (with a switch at the foot of the tower at ground level) it can be heard calling people five minutes before the services. In some churches it is known as the 'hurry bell' to tell people that they have only five minutes before the service is due to start. Although it is by no means the loudest bell in the tower, it is wonderful to think about the events for which it may have been rung over the past five centuries. It is equally wonderful to think that it is ringing again and doing the job for which it was originally made.

It may have been rung to warn people of storms and danger; it was certainly rung before services; it will have sounded to announce the joy of a country wedding or the sadness of a funeral; it will certainly have announced the joy and celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter time. And it will be doing that again this year for the first time in many years. Just think how different the country and the world was when the bell first proclaimed Christ risen from the tomb in 1510 (before the Reformation)! Imagine all the changes that have taken place in the world and society, while the bell has been sounded year in year out.

Perhaps it is a symbol for the great Christian truth of Christ's mighty resurrection which remains the same, and which needs to be proclaimed afresh in each generation. May I wish you all a blessed and joyful Easter! Don't forget to listen out for the sound of the 'hurry bell'! Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

28th February	Hazel Mary Franklin
8th March	Brenda Caroline Barber (79)
28th	Liz Arnold (52)
29th	Michael John Ellis (61)
30th	Thomas Arthur Coleman (85)

Baptisms

20th March	Ivy Grace Greygoose
	Mia Emma Couzens