
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

A marathon and a sprint...

Did you bid for tickets to what they are calling 'the greatest show on earth'? If you did, were you successful in the ballot? If not, did you manage to get any tickets in round 2? I can only hope you were luckier than me and most of the people I have spoken to about it.

I obviously wasn't alone in leaving it until the last minute to even think about applying for tickets, and before I knew it there were only 30 minutes to go until the midnight deadline...I must have been studying the events schedule all evening and completely lost track of time. Then the panic started, how could I face the family if I failed to even apply for any tickets in the ballot. I quickly pulled together a list of events the family might be interested in and hit the submit button, only to be confronted by the site freezing! Clearly other people had left it to the last minute, although that wasn't much comfort. After several attempts and a frantic countdown to midnight I received the magic message indicating a successful submission at 11.56hrs. A close shave but I was in it...now I just had to wait and check our bank account on a daily basis to see if money had been taken, by people I didn't know, for a sum I wasn't sure of and for an event I might not even be that interested in, but I had become completely hooked by Games fever.

However, as the days dragged on and the various notification deadlines passed, I became less and less enchanted with the whole process. Finally I had to accept I hadn't got any tickets and that I would now be faced with the prospect of getting up at 6am to go online and bid for tickets on a first come first served basis. I get up at this time for work anyway, so it wouldn't have been that difficult to do, but I just couldn't face another battle with the online world, especially when several hundred thousand people were about to do the same thing. I decided to give it a miss and when I heard the round two stories from friends, I felt a certain disappointed satisfaction that I hadn't bothered.

Now why my particular interest in this story? Well these Olympics have been hailed as the 'public transport' Games and I've been working as part of the team which is delivering the rail ticketing website for Games event ticket holders, which will exclusively allow those who have been lucky enough to obtain event tickets to buy their rail tickets up to one year in advance. Normally rail tickets can only be bought 12 weeks in advance of travel with timetables and fares only being set 2 or 3 times a year, therefore it has been a massive undertaking to deliver the train timetables, train fares and system changes required to allow rail tickets to be booked over a year in advance of travel. It's the culmination of 12 months work, which has certainly felt like a marathon most of the way, followed by a sprint to the finish that meant we avoided the high jump!

So all in all the Olympics has already been a rollercoaster event for me with the highs of anticipation, followed by the lows of applying for tickets, but at least my involvement with the Olympics has ended on a happier note, even if it was a work related event... and there's still a year to go! And you never know there is always the event ticket resale website which may throw up some last minute tickets next year.

Simon Wright

Our New Curate

At last, our time of waiting and sorting is giving way to moving. Luckily we are only moving from Cambridge; but still it has meant lots of changes before our new life in Soham can begin and I start my ministry as Curate - for which I seem to have spent so many years preparing. So there have been lots of goodbyes; but we are excited to get to know people here, making new friends.

Charlotte (age 13) will stay at her current school but Bella (age 4) has already been to some sessions at The Willows – which she calls ‘the Mole’- possibly something to do with ‘Wind in the Willows’... and she thinks it’s great. Soon she will start at St Andrew’s school. Nigel, my husband, has a love of the Fens and works with farmers to help keep clean the waters of East Anglia.

I was brought up in Yorkshire and Nigel, Gloucestershire; but we were both brought up as Christians. However, in my case I have to admit it did drift off slightly when I went to college and although I knew I was missing something it wasn’t until 10 years later that I came back to a faith which was actually much deeper. I had missed being ‘part of the community’

I had loved as a child, I only really knew my work community (I worked as an accountant for a Pharmaceutical company). However, like many, having a child motivated me to try again with the help of a family service followed by an Alpha course. After that my life went in a completely different direction. When Charlotte was 13 months old, my husband left but I was lucky to have a supportive church, friends and my new found faith to keep me going.

A few years later I went with Charlotte (age 3) to Chile to work as a volunteer English Teacher as part of an Experience Exchange Scheme with USPG (an Anglican Mission Agency) and the World Methodist Church. This was an amazing experience for both of us and at the end of 10 months I was offered a job as Family and Children’s worker at my local church back in the UK. I enjoyed getting to know the families in the village, helped in the local school and began to help build up a Sunday school with some mini holiday clubs and a monthly family service.

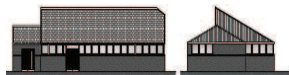
However, I kept feeling the urge to study and at the same time I began to see more of Nigel, who I had first met whilst training for Chile (he went as mission partner to Nigeria). As Nigel lived near Cambridge I began a course in Pastoral Theology at Ridley Hall Theological College (as an independent student) and was very pleased when Nigel proposed at the end of it. Isabella came along – and after more nudging and discerning I began ministerial training on the Eastern Region Ministry Course.

So that’s some of my story... and journey towards life here in Soham. We have heard lots of positive things about the community (and I have met several very nice people already) so please say “Hi” if you see a blonde curate wearing a very new white dog-collar... With love, *Sue, Nigel, Charlotte and Bella Simpson*



St Andrew's School Swimming Pool

What a difference ten months can make! Before Christmas 2010, I wrote an article for the Lodestar publication outlining proposals for a new swimming pool to be built on the site of the now condemned outdoor pool of St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School. An initial meeting held on the 23rd September 2010 put forward proposals to build a new pool in Soham to serve the needs of both Primary Schools in the town. Without a pool, and the spiralling costs of coach and admission charges to access other local facilities meant a huge financial burden was placed upon both schools and parents to fulfil curriculum requirements.



In order to address this, a partnership has been sought between the two Primary Schools in Soham to raise funds to build a new swimming pool. St. Andrew's School had been fortunate enough to have access to an outdoor pool since its opening in 1990, although this pool was in fact inherited from The Shade Primary School. However, this pool could only be used during the summer months and was often vandalised. Such drawbacks meant that an outdoor pool such as this would be financially unviable.

Utilising the skills and generosity of parents within the school community, plans were drawn up for a new, improved pool. Plans, which have been submitted for planning permission, include a longer pool (3m longer than the one currently in situ), changing rooms that can be accessed from both the enclosed school grounds and the car park providing opportunities for use out of school hours, and most significantly a roof, which will enable the pool to be accessed all year round whilst also deterring would be vandals.

Having agreed such a project would be viable and would certainly fulfil a need within the community, the St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School Swimming Pool Association was born. Since that day, fund raising events have been taking place on a regular basis. Already funds have been generated through Indulgence Evenings, Stalls at the Soham Christmas Street Fair, School Discos, Sponsored Swims to name but a few organised events. The project has also been strongly supported by members of the community who have dedicated a great deal of time and effort to help us achieve our target. Examples of such support include Barclays Bank Sponsored Swim, Mr Neil King participating in the London Marathon and Kacey and Connor Day and Evie Henderson selling fresh lemonade to Wicken Fen visitors from their front garden! To these and everyone else who have helped raise funds for the project the Swimming Pool Association sends an enormous thank you.

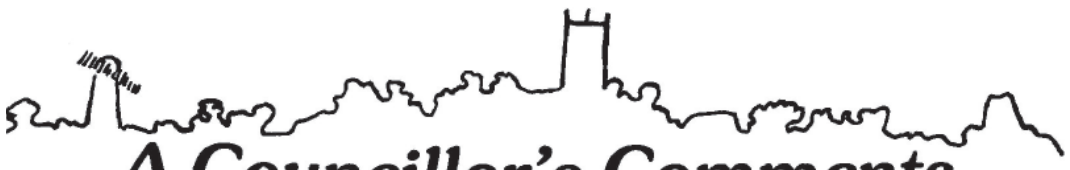
As time has progressed, the project has developed greater momentum. We have already been featured on Star Radio as their Charity of the Month for February, entered our own float in the Soham Carnival with the support of Turners and hosted a Bingo Night at Soham Town Rangers home ground.

But this, as they say is just the start! Fundraising to date, alongside contributions from other community projects has helped us to raise £32,000 at the time of going to press. Everyone associated with this project is delighted with the progress to date, but we remain a long way off our target of £75,000.

Fundraising events continue to be planned, including the forthcoming Summer Ball to be held at The Brook on Saturday 23rd July. There will be food, live music and an auction of favours and memorabilia. Tickets cost £30 and can be purchased at the Reception offices of either The Weatheralls or St. Andrew's Primary Schools. Alternatively they can be bought from the venue The Brook, 49 Brook Street, Soham.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has supported this project to date, whether you have participated in a fundraising event or donated money. You have all played a significant role in helping us to reach this point. However there is a great deal more to be done! If you would like to support the project, or even join our committee and attend future meetings please look out for information either through the St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School website or become a friend on our Facebook group – 'St. Andrew's C of E Primary School Swimming Pool, Soham'. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mike Harrison, Assistant Headteacher, St. Andrew's C of E Primary School



A Councillor's Comments

Our June Council meeting commenced with a minute's silence in remembrance of Pat Kirk who was a past member of this council and also chairman for one term. She also represented the council on organisations within the town. Most people will remember her as the head mistress of the County Infants School.

There was no one to speak on Public Comment time so the chairman gave her announcements to the meeting which included sending out minutes and agenda's to councillors by e-mail which would save time and money, and also the date of the next meeting of the neighbour hood panel.

Vacancy on the Town Council: There are currently three vacancies due to a lack of candidates in the north ward of Soham at the recent election, so people were invited to apply for those positions, as a result only three people applied and so they were duly elected.

Request for financial assistance: Soham on Line asked for help in the running costs of the website, the webmaster being Chris Scurrah. There are in fact three: the community website and Soham Town Forum as well as the site for Soham Town Council. They are so beneficial for Soham that the council were happy to respond to his request as they have done in recent years.

Cambs. County Council – 20 mph speed limit High Street: This mention of the High Street was very misleading, because although we did have a pilot scheme introduced about a year ago, that was for a short stretch in Sand Street at the entrance to St Andrew's School and the Village College at Beechurst, and then it was only in operation at certain school hours for the safety of parents and children. Now the County Council have thrown the 20 mph scheme open for discussion, as under the localism bill councils are able to decide speed limits within their own communities. At the next meeting councillors can decide if they want to retain the scheme where it is at present and extend it to other areas where it might be considered beneficial, but only if we are prepared to fund the measures. Look for the next Lodestar to see what we decided.

Councillor Ginn



From a poem by Christopher Smart, 18th cent.



★ **200+ Club winners were:** Emily Sargeant - £10.00 and Susan Hurrell - 5.00.

★ **St Andrew's Music Marathon** will start at 2.00 pm on Saturday, 16th July with a wide variety of Family Entertainment including spirituals, school choir, folk, country, Flanders and Swann and more.

Beginning at 5.00 pm Classical items include renowned chamber choir Cambridge Voices with their musical director Ian de Massini, who will also play some pieces for solo piano. There will also be items from the church music band Capella Musica and solo organ music from Peter Scott.

From 7.30pm there will a change of mood with and coming Indie rock bands: Friends of Turtles and Sexy Like a Gypsy (Martin Logan, Matt Cooke, Nat Whittingham and Ross Cameron) are Soham bands. A headline act will be The Scissors from Cambridge (Stewart Harris - bass, vocals; Toby Lefever - guitars; Simon Powell - keys; Huw Wallace - drums). They describe their music as spiky slinky swirly psych punkpop!

★ **Items for the September edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 26th August, 2011. 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.

Christian Aid Week 2011

Many, many thanks to all who helped in any of the events during this year's Christian Aid Week.

House to House Collections	£1219.02
Public Street Collections	257.78
Church Collections	272.37
Lent Lunches	462.01
Wicken Cafe Olé	124.24
	<u>£2335.42</u>

PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings

25th June James Harvey and Davina (Shropshire)

Baptisms

7th Nov, 2010 Caydon Noah Beau Tombs

5th June Jaidan John Philip Neal
Annabelle Claire Martinez

19th Jasmine Elizabeth Steward
Harriet Laura Alice Smith
The Tidd family

26th Joel Rowan Cadmore
Summer Rai Cross

Funerals

8th June John Winston Hector Parsons (70)

10th Albert George Fuller (94)

13th Archie Diver (84)

14th Mark Smith (76)

16th Baby George

Alfred Frederick Henry Ford (80)

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends,

What's in a name?

Towards the end of last month (on June 22nd, to be precise) I had lunch with someone who was my best friend during my school days. Perhaps there is nothing remarkable about that. When I tell you that this friend of mine is called Tim Alban, you might, perhaps, think that is something of a coincidence. But there is a third element in this: June 22nd is the day on which the church remembers St Alban.

St Alban is remembered and venerated as the first British martyr. The story goes that Alban was living in the Roman town of Verulamium, now known as St Albans (and that is not an accident!), at the start of the third century. He gave shelter to a Christian who was fleeing from a particularly nasty bout of persecution which the Church was undergoing. Some versions of the story have the fleeing Christian as a priest; others that Alban took the priest's cloak while his house

was being searched and thus allowed the Christian to escape. All agree that he was executed, probably in the year 209, in the place which now bears his name. There is a great Abbey



church built on the site of his execution and it has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries. The name Alban comes from a Latin word meaning 'white'. Priests and those who minister in church still wear a white robe called an Alb, which comes from the same root. So much for Alban.

My Christian name is Timothy which comes from Greek and means 'honouring God.' As a Christian priest, I always think that my name is particularly apt and I try to live up to it. Most names have a meaning and I am often surprised how appropriate they are to the people who bear them. When parents are choosing names for their babies, I know that some people look up the meanings of names to make sure they are not picking something that has a bad meaning. There are books available telling you the meanings of the most popular baby's names. If you put 'meaning of names' into Google, you come up with over 171 million entries (though I only looked at the first few!). The meaning behind the name we give people is clearly important.

All of us who try to model our lives on the example of Jesus have a common name: Christian. It is a fine name and sets a high ideal for which we can aim. To be a Christian means that we are consciously following our Lord not just for an hour on Sunday every week, but striving every day to be more like him. The marvellous thing about that is that the more like him we become, the closer we are to how God intended us to be.

Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*