

## 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

## Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May, 2011

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Five years ago, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community.

Even though the coffee farmers of La Paz del Tuma have only been working with Soppexcca for a short time, their lives are already changing for the better. The credit which Soppexcca gave to Eladio and the other farmers has been vital in getting them started. The

### Christian Aid Week 15–21 May 2011



**'I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines'**

**Eladio stands on the site on where his community hopes to build a school**

cooperative has a community fund that will be used to achieve the dreams which Eladio and his fellow farmers once thought were out of their reach.

- £14 could buy enough coffee seeds to plant a 0.7 hectare plot of coffee and start one farmer on the path out of poverty.
- £2,170 could pay for a processing plant, allowing farmers to process the coffee they have grown and then sell it for a better price.

'I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines,' says Eladio. Eladio knows that transformation is possible. He is driven by the example of a nearby community, where Gustavo Adolfo Talavera and the members of the Los Alpes cooperative have been supported by Soppexcca for 12 years. In that time, they have successfully worked to establish a school and a health centre for their community.

The hopes of the people of La Paz del Tuma are hopes held for the whole community. Eladio works every day towards his dream of a purpose-built school, clean water and latrines for all the farming families of La Paz del Tuma.

### Daring to dream the impossible

Christian Aid partner Soppexcca is an organisation with a vision. It is passionately committed to helping poor Nicaraguan coffee farmers to beat poverty.

Ten years ago, when Soppexcca was established, this seemed impossible. But now Soppexcca is a thriving collective of small cooperatives which helps farmers produce good-quality coffee, market it and put funds back into their own communities. It works with communities to understand their needs and empowers them to make their own visions a reality.

*[continued overleaf]*

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Gustavo Adolfo Talavera, an illiterate coffee farmer, had few prospects until Soppexcca gave him a loan, allowing him to expand his farm and build a small and environmentally sound processing plant. He had a dream of his children being able to read and write, and be educated. His dream became a reality when Soppexcca helped members of the community get enough resources together, and a group of parents built a school themselves.



**Thanks to funds from Christian Aid partner Soppexcca, Gustavo's community has been able to build a school, which he proudly shows here**

Ten years ago, education would have seemed an impossible dream for Gustavo. But Soppexcca is enabling his community to dream dreams – and then to do what seems to be impossible.

The Christian life sets us within a story that speaks of transformation where it seems to be impossible; where life is brought to the world. And the gospel stories are clear that life is about more than just survival. The life that Jesus speaks of is abundant life, rich with possibility and hope and promise. For people in Gustavo's community, it's about education and prospects.

Cooperative living is about this abundant life. It's about seeing something achievable beyond oneself and working together to make life better for everyone. Fátima Ismael, Soppexcca's director, says: 'We're not just about bread for today, but also for tomorrow. But we don't just want bread, we want bread and honey and milk.' People like Fátima and Gustavo are seeing the bigger picture – going beyond what seems initially achievable and working together to make it a reality.

The good news is that we can be a part of this bigger picture too. When we give our time, money and energy this Christian Aid Week, we are looking beyond ourselves and enabling others to do what seems impossible. This bigger picture is the world as it could look if we allowed the kingdom of God to be a reality, if we really believed in abundant life for all. It's the world that Jesus showed us in his life and ministry: a world where we stop living for ourselves and start living for others, a world where we don't put limits on love and justice, a world where the concept of our neighbour is startlingly redefined.

It's a bigger world and it's an unsettling world. But it's a world that allows for transformation in ways that we may never have imagined, to dream dreams and to do what people tell us is impossible. Christian Aid Week is a time to celebrate transformation, and an opportunity to put ourselves in the frame of God's kingdom. Join us, and we'll give you the resources to make the impossible happen. You can be part of the story of transformation which is unfolding right now in Nicaragua.

By getting involved in Christian Aid Week in your own community, you can help to turn the hopes of communities all around the world into realities. You can be part of a movement which is transforming lives. To find out how, visit [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org) or talk to your local Christian Aid Week coordinator. To give to Christian Aid Week, visit [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org) or call 08080 006 006.

# PLATFORM

COLIN STRINGER, PASTOR OF SOHAM BAPTIST CHURCH



Some 50 years ago a book was written entitled 'Your God is too small'. On the surface that might seem somewhat of an irreverent title and hardly serves to 'extol the Lord', as we are encouraged to do so often in the Psalms.

Actually it became a very widely read book and is still printed today. And so as I write this article there are two things which occupy my mind:

The first is the beautiful day as I look out of my study window. The wonders of nature never cease to amaze me. The intricate detail of every part of God's creation leads us to see something of the greatness of our Creator. We read in the Bible that it was by His word that things were made. In other words it was no trouble for Him; no great task; a point made in a very concise declaration in the opening chapter of the Bible which simply records: "He also made the stars".

The second thought occupying my mind is preparation for Easter services, which of course will be over by the time this article is read. The greatness of God in creation serves to emphasise the wonder that He should care enough about mankind to send Jesus to save us. His death and resurrection that we have recently focused on show what we might term re-creation as, through faith, we are reconciled to God through grace and forgiveness. That a great God would do that for us is mind-blowing to say the least!

So how do we see our God? Is He too small? I prefer to see Him in the words of one of my favourite children's songs. The first line brings to a logical conclusion both my thoughts as I sit here at my desk: "Our God is a great big God and He holds us in His hands"! *Pastor Colin Stringer*

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## A Quiz

Which of the following phrases come from the King James Version of the Bible?

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|---|--|
| A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush | In the twinkling of an eye             |
| A fly in the ointment                       | Lamb to the slaughter                  |
| A labour of love                            | Love of money is the root of all evil  |
| A thorn in the flesh                        | Love thy neighbour as thyself          |
| A wolf in sheep's clothing                  | My cup runneth over                    |
| All things to all men                       | No rest for the wicked                 |
| Am I my brother's keeper?                   | Out of the mouths of babes & sucklings |
| An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth      | Pearls before swine                    |
| As old as the hills                         | Red sky at night shepherds' delight    |
| At his wits end                             | Sour grapes                            |
| Bald as a coot                              | Spare the rod & spoil the child        |
| Baptism of fire                             | The blind leading the blind            |
| Bite the dust                               | The powers that be                     |
| By the skin of your teeth                   | The salt of the earth                  |
| Eat drink & be merry                        | The writing is on the wall             |
| How are the mighty fallen                   | <i>Answers at the foot of page 5</i>   |

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## 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](mailto:music.soham@yahoo.co.uk). Come along and help us to raise the roof!!!





# A Councillor's Comments

There was no Public Comment Time for our April meeting so we proceeded with the chairman's announcements about the annual town meeting on the 18th April and the final planning meeting of this session of the council on the 27th.

This was to be the last Council Meeting of this electoral period of four years, with the elections for the next period being held on the 5th May. Nominations are now in and accepted and when you read this the election will have taken place.

Our agenda for this meeting was rather light and consisted mainly of reports, including the budget report for April 2010 – March 2011.

**Soham Town Forum:** The forum is active on many fronts and has concerns about the many aspects of Soham life. They are keen to see the High Street grow, the Railway Station opened and the Market started here once again. One of their projects has been the flower beds that have been created on various sites around the town which are particularly colourful at the moment.

**Community Facilities Working Party:** This will meet again after the election when a new working party will be set up. It is still aiming to fulfil the recommendations of the original consultation report, but owing to the current situation we may have to reduce to some extent our first plan. We will probably concentrate on the entrance and lighting to the Pavilion first and then move on to remodelling of the Pavilion itself, even if on a smaller scale than originally planned.

But this is for the new working party to deal with and then put their recommendations forward to the full council.

**Application for Funding Support:** This is where I had to declare an interest and so the council debated this in my absence from the room. This application was from The Royal British Legion seeking financial support for their new standard. This request was upheld.

**Correspondence:** There was a letter from Soham Town Rangers saying they would like to take on the running of the Junior Football Pitch and Pavilion at Barleyfields. They were prepared to work on the field to get it into the right condition and maintain it, if they could be sure the tenancy would be theirs for a number of years. The council was very pleased to grant their application.

There was also a letter thanking the council for the flowers around the town.

Our Chairman also thanked the councillors for their support during her term of office which was coming to an end. *Councillor Ginn*

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## PARISH



## REGISTERS

### **Baptisms**

17th April	Liam William Thompson
	Eliza Jennifer Brown

### **Funerals**

7th April	Alec John Summers
13th	Ronald Isaacson
26th	Sheila Snowie

### **Wedding**

25th April	Byron Barnes and Rachel (Mills)
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☆ **Soham Salvation Army** welcomes Bedford Salvation Army Band on Sunday, 19th June at 2.30pm. Come and join us on this special occasion for Fathers' Day.

☆ **A Summer Sale** will be held at the Salvation Army Hall on Saturday, 25th June from 10.00 am until 12 noon. There will be various Stalls and Tea & Coffee will be served. Admission 20p - proceeds for the Salvation Army (Charity No. 214779)

☆ **Items for the June edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 20th May. E-mails should be sent to [peterdscott@btopenworld.com](mailto:peterdscott@btopenworld.com) or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

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## Discussion group for people who are divorced or separated

My name is John Cole. I am a regular member of the congregation of St Andrew's church here in Soham. I am halfway through a training course for Authorised Lay Ministry in the church. My training is concentrating on the pastoral side of this course and as such I am looking to hold a meeting (which may lead to a more regular group) sometime in May on the above subject. Any matters arising from the discussion will be treated as strictly confidential. If you would like more information on this please email me on [jc75452@gmail.com](mailto:jc75452@gmail.com) or phone 07913603892.

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## SOHAM STAPLOE ROTARY CLUB

Soham Staploe Rotary Club is part of a worldwide organisation which originated in America. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) has over 55,000 members in 1855 clubs and is an integral part of Rotary International. Rotary runs countless humanitarian projects, locally, nationally and internationally and also partners with many charities worldwide. A good example of the impact of Rotary as an international force is its drive to wipe out polio from the world. Since Rotary became involved in polio eradication in 1985, the number of reported polio cases has fallen from 350,000 a year to 1,000; 125 endemic countries have been reduced to just 4 and two billion children have been protected from the disease.

Our own club is part of District 1080, which is basically East Anglia. Other local Clubs are in Ely, Littleport, Newmarket and Mildenhall. Currently we have 24 members, ranging in age from the mid-thirties to the eighties, who meet every Wednesday at the Cherry Tree Pub in Soham. Whilst we have certain commitments to the District and to International projects, such as providing Shelter Boxes for those left homeless in disaster areas, the majority of our fund raising work is for local charities. You may have seen our efforts in the High Street and at Budgens each year during the Christmas period, when we appreciate the generosity of the Soham public and pass on the money raised to charities such as Magpas and Community First Responders. Our Beer Festival this year on the 1st and 2nd July in the Pavilion, will be helping Soham Scouts and Guides to install roof lights in their new Centre.

Our members are from various backgrounds and professions with different areas of expertise. The meetings of the Club are partly business, to provide the structure needed for the various activities in which we are involved, but are predominantly social. The theory is that to be successful in organising the activities which raise funds, we need to enjoy our weekly meetings and get on with each other. On a regular basis we invite speakers and on these occasions we have first hand experience of the variety of talent and interesting characters that Soham has.

The Club was formed in 1975 and over the years, many members have given their time and expertise to help the community. On May 11th we shall be holding our 36th Charter Night Dinner to celebrate the formation of the Club. Each year we elect a President and a President Elect. The current President is that well known star of the Ely Standard – Geoff Griggs. In July, I take over as President for the following 12 months. If you would like more information about our Club, please contact me on 01353 721316. *Geoff Fisher*

# *Just a few words*

*Tim Alban Jones*

Dear Friends,

By the time this edition of *Lodestar* is published, our parish will have completed the Bible Reading Event. The event was started by the bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd David Thompson and continued for the remainder of the week with people old and young taking a turn at reading aloud. Readers of *Lodestar* may remember that we did something very similar a number of years ago and might reasonably ask why we are doing it again.

There are a number of reasons. Firstly, it is always good to read the Bible. I distinctly recall one man telling me last time that it felt so ‘right’ to hear the wonderful words of Scripture being read aloud in that wonderful space where they have been heard for centuries. I do not think it fanciful that the ancient stones of St Andrew’s have acquired a ‘patina of holiness’ from generations and centuries of prayer, which includes the public reading of the Bible.

The main reason for this year’s public reading, however, is to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James translation (sometimes known as the Authorised Version). Following the Hampton Court Conference of 1604, the King brought together a group of 54 of the best scholars of the day. Working in teams, they drew heavily on earlier translations, but used the best available Hebrew & Greek texts as their primary source. The work was finally approved by Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1610 and published in 1611. It was not immediately popular, but gradually replaced other translations. As an enduring work of spiritual authority & literature, it has taken pride of place in the English language for many centuries. Its influence can hardly be over-estimated in shaping and forming our language for 400 years. Dozens of well-known phrases and idioms come straight from the pages of King James.

There is an Ely connection. Lancelot Andrewes, master of 15 different languages, led the Westminster team, which translated the Old Testament. He was Bishop of Ely from 1609 until 1619. Two Ely Canons were members of the Cambridge team. John Duport, Canon 1609-17, was also Master of Jesus College & Precentor of St Paul’s. London. John Bois (Rector of Boxworth & Canon of Ely from 1615-44) had learned both Greek & Hebrew by the age of 6. He was especially important as a member of the elite group which reviewed the whole draft of the Bible in London before publication. There is a memorial to John Bois’ son, William, on a nave pillar in the Cathedral. The Cathedral’s account books show that the Dean & Chapter bought the new bible only in 1612/13. It cost 50 shillings, a huge sum in those days.

The work of translation continues today. All or part of the Bible has now been translated into over 3000 different languages. Today and in this country we are fortunate that we are able to read the Bible at home or in our churches without fear of persecution or reprisals. It has not always been so. Less than a century before the King James Version, William Tyndale, was executed for translating the Bible into English. Before his death Tyndale famously said that he wanted every ploughboy in England to be able to read the Bible for himself and so be inspired by the words of Scripture.

It is a good thing to give thanks for the 400th anniversary but it is even more important to remember that the Word of God is a living thing with which we are able to interact in every generation (never mind which ever particular translation). There is an exhibition in the Cathedral with more information available. (I am indebted to it for some of the information in this letter). Please do go and find out all you can about the King James Bible, but – even more importantly – please read your bible! It is great to study it, but you cannot study it or learn about it unless you read it. All good wishes, *Tim Alban Jones*