

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

Soham 100 years ago...

There has been much interest in the Royal Family recently with the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridgeshire at the end of April and the state visit of Her Majesty the Queen to the Republic of Ireland. During the coverage of the state visit, there were mentions made of the last visit of the sovereign to Dublin, which was exactly a century ago.

In our old parish magazine from June 1911 there is also a royal flavour. It was 100 years ago that George V was crowned as King (and Emperor) on June 22nd. There was a whole page of the magazine (a quarter of the issue) given over to printing the words of four Coronation Hymns, including an additional verse to the National Anthem. "the three customary stanzas with the following addition:

With England's crown to-day
We hail our King, and pray
God save the King!
Guide him in happiness,
Guard him in storm and stress,
Then in Thy Kingdom bless
And crown our King!"

I was struck by the fact that three verses of the National Anthem were usually sung (some people seem to struggle with more than one, these days!). The other thing that stands out is the general tone which would be somewhat out of place today even amongst the most committed Royalists. The hymns were written, we should remember, in a former age and before the Great War which changed English society for ever. There were also three special services held in St Andrew's church to mark the Coronation - at 8.00, 11.30 and 3.30 pm. This was all in an age before people could watch or listen to the events as they happened.

A regular feature of our Lodestar today is the Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. Nothing much changes! The same thing was being reported 100 years ago. In the June 1911 edition we can read the following.

"The number of Baptisms during the year was 72, the average for the previous ten years being 78.

The number of Weddings was unusually small – only 22. Of the 88 persons who signed the register, only 2 made their marks instead of writing their names.

The number of Burials was 67, besides 7 still born children. In consequence of the pressure on space in the cemetery, many burials of non-conformists have taken place in the consecrated ground."

By comparison, the rough figures for last year are: Baptisms (52), Weddings (18) and Funerals (45).

Earlier in the June 1911 edition the causes of the 66 deaths in Soham were given:

Measles	2	Whooping cough	2	Influenza	3
Phthisis, etc	7	Cancer	5	Lung Diseases	6
Alcoholism	1	Premature Birth	2	Heart Diseases	9
Accidents	2	Old Age	14	Other causes	13

GARDEN JOTTINGS

by Jack Boyce, A.D.H.

Some 40 years ago Jack Boyce, a nationally known seedsman, wrote a regular article for St Andrew's Parish Magazine. The following is taken from the June 1970 issue.

What shall we do in our gardens during June 1970? First, inspect the garden from end to end and make sure that it has not been invaded by green or black fly. Prevention is better than cure, hence be like an army general - prevent the invasion if possible. Roses, shrubs and ornamental flowering plants should be sprayed with a systematic insecticide. One application lasts for about five or six weeks. Vegetables and fruit which are going to be eaten should be sprayed with one of the "spray today, eat tomorrow" insecticides. Pyrethrum extract is the best known, and I both use it and recommend it. Each of the major chemical manufacturing firms is producing something to replace DDT, and many of these chemicals will be suitable for vegetables. I have only one objection to some of them. They are expensive compared with what we already have on the market, and which we know will do the job efficiently and with complete safety. Bird damage in the garden, particularly to soft fruit, becomes a greater problem each year. There are excellent bird-repellent sprays on the market, but I think the long-term answer is nets where possible. Nets made of plastic material which will last a lifetime are now in all the garden shops. Apart from protecting strawberries and other soft fruit at this time of the year, they are very useful for keeping birds off the seed bed when the green seedlings are just coming up. They can also be used during the early months of the year for conserving supplies of winter greens and spring greens from the ravages of wood pigeons and other birds. Nets will also give some protection, against frost as well as birds, to poach flower buds, which seem to suffer each year from frost and birds. To me they seem a very good investment for every gardener. Talking of fruit, there are two tasks which should be done during June. First, raspberries need spraying with Dorris against the maggot of the raspberry beetle. Secondly, young fruit trees, both apple and plum, should be examined and a decision taken about the advisability of thinning the crop. It is not wise to allow a very young tree to produce a super bumper crop of fruit. The law no longer allows young children to sweep chimneys, or to work in coal mines. Gardeners should not expect too much from young fruit trees. The greenhouse. What to do will depend upon the weather. One must exercise one's judgment. Do try to control the temperature with the ventilators. Tomatoes do not like temperatures of 150°F, which will arise on a sunny day if the ventilators are not opened. If a heatwave arrives it is preferable to apply a light covering of "summer cloud" shading. In England we seem to use green, and I think this gives the best result with our light intensity. If the weather is very hot and dry water the greenhouse path morning and midday to produce a "damp growing atmosphere". Should the air be too dry the flowers on tomatoes and cucumbers (and melons) will not set and produce fruit. At this time of the year tomatoes and cucumbers will want feeding regularly. The modern idea is to use liquid feeds.

In the vegetable garden leek plants, celery plants, and the late winter green plants, particularly January King, Holland Winter White Cabbage, and the late maturing sprouting broccoli, will all want putting out into their final quarters. Potatoes should be kept earthed or moulded up, and if the weather is wet and warm for three or four consecutive days it is wise to spray with a copper fungicide against blight. This advice also applies to outdoor tomato plants. Also remember to keep a watch on the maincrop potatoes for signs of greenfly. If found, attack at once with a suitable insecticide. If when searching for greenfly you should find a Colorado Beetle, or even something that looks like one, fetch a policeman at once. If it did turn out to be a real live Colorado Beetle I am sure that Sgt. Milne would not mind being hauled out of bed in the middle of the night. But what do we do if we find a suspicious beetle at 9 pm on a summer's evening, now that our local police station is not manned twenty four hours per day?

In addition to imagining you are a detective looking for suspicious insects, every gardener must keep a sharp lookout for blackspot and mildew on his rose hushes. June is the spray, spray, spray month.

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sohamscene

☆ **200+Club winners** for recent months:

March Grace Fisher - £5
Brenda Rose - £10
April Jacqueline Whipp - £5
Sam Seddon - £10
May William Sargeant - £5
Mark Rutter - £10

☆ **Items for the July edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 24th June. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA. Please note that there is no issue of LodeStar in August so events taking place before early September should be placed in the July edition.



OPEN FARM SUNDAY
12th June 2011

The Shropshire family will be opening Hailey Farm in Barway as part of the nationwide

Open Farm Sunday
10am to 3pm
FREE ENRTY

Come and see how our produce is grown!

Farm tours, BBQ, ice creams, face painting, machinery display, tractor racing and a mini farmers market!

All welcome (sorry no dogs)

Disabled facilities

Stunney Hailey Farm, Barway

St Andrews' Church Fete

St Andrews' Annual Church Fete will take place on Saturday 11th June from 10am until noon. We would like anyone - charity, business or individual - who would like to run a stall to contact us as soon as possible. Anything they make on the day is theirs, we



just ask for a small donation towards the running of the church. Ther'll be all the usual - trips up the tower, children's activities, old fashioned games, bootless car boot / bric-a-brac, tombolas, crafts, refreshments and so on. We'd love people to support us. The fete - in the church and church yard - has been running for many years and has raised thousands of pounds for the church and many local organisations, charities, craftspeople and so on have benefited.

For more information or if you would like to book a pitch for a stall/bootless car boot call Alison or James Palmer on 01353 720572.

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It is also the feed, feed, feed month. Lawns must he fed, roses must he fed, and all vegetables and flowers need a light feed, a sort of "eleven o'clock cup of coffee and biscuit" snack. Now that foliar feeds are available in sachets and are so easy to use there is no excuse for your garden crops suffering from "night starvation".

Finally, that eternal question, Should I water the garden? Generally speaking, the experts agree with the answer, Not if it can be avoided. As a young boy I can still very vividly remember an elderly gardener seeing me with a watering can and saying, "Now boy, if you're going to use that thing give them a good soaking. Don't just spit on 'em". It was excellent advice, if put somewhat bluntly. Avoid watering the garden if you can; if you must, give it a good soaking and then leave well alone.

School Report

Dr Carin Taylor



The examination season is now well underway and I am pleased to let you know that the Village College is calm and purposeful, bathed, as I write, in afternoon sunshine.

I am often struck by the range of activity around the College. Last night our U14s were crowned the District Football champions and we were able to celebrate their success with a slide show of winning photographs in assembly this morning. The whole of Year 9 have a Shakespeare Day today and our newly finished Performing Arts Centre is alive with serious group discussions and pieces of dramatic exploration around *Much Ado About Nothing*. We look forward to having a fully furnished Centre ready for a series of opening events in the autumn term.

Our tennis courts, now surfaced and painted, were used by the tennis club for the first time last night. They (that is, I think, the courts) played well and will be a wonderful resource for the tennis club, our students and the wider community.

Our students have had opportunities to learn beyond the Village College too. In the last month they have designed products for sale in the restaurant at Anglesey Abbey; been on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions; taken part in the Kielder Forest Challenge at Brandon County Park and visited the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham. A group leave for Sri Lanka on 28 May and another to Germany on 6 June.

Whether they are in school or representing the school further afield, I remain very proud of our students. Their behaviour around school is exceptional on a daily basis. They have learned to stop dropping litter and we are all enjoying the beauty of the school grounds once again. Above all, our students have worked hard this year and they have approached their various examinations and assessments with maturity. As Year 11 leave us soon, my hope is that they have all appreciated the rich opportunities of their school years and are well equipped to contribute to their communities of the future. We wish them well. *Dr Carin Taylor*



A Councillor's Comments

Welcome to the new session of Soham Town Council's working activities from now till 2015. The election is over, the councillors met at the pavilion on May 16th and signed in and the work began. Our first task was to elect a chairman, and the previous vice-chair (Councillor Aitchison) was nominated and duly elected. She then had to make a declaration of acceptance which she did followed by a brief notice of her intention including two things that she would like to see happen in her term of office. These were the updating of the rules for the commons and the transforming of the scrubland on the edge of the junior football pitch at Barleyfields, into managed woodland.

There were two nominations for vice-chair and after a ballot, councillor Webb was elected.

The next item on the agenda was to give notice that there are now three vacancies on our council, so these will now be advertised and anyone wishing to become a councillor should apply before the closing date 3rd July.

We then had to appoint councillors on to the various committees and working parties for the coming year. Having done that we still had to appoint councillors as representatives on outside bodies. So this council meeting was all about putting the council team in place for the year and years ahead. There are things already that we must do, the continuation of plans to remodel the pavilion and also to engage with Soham Vision and the Eastern Gateway. *Councillor Ginn*

Grass

Most people probably don't give much thought to grass – it's just the green stuff in the middle of the garden that you have to keep cutting or that seems to grow better in the flower beds than in the lawn. However without grasses the world would be a very different place.

Grasses have been around since the time of the dinosaurs and have adapted to many different environments from marshland to the edges of deserts; from tropical climates to the Arctic and from flat plains to mountain sides. On a short walk on East Fen Common I found more



than a dozen different types of grass, sedge and reeds and worldwide there are thousands of different species. Many animals rely on grass for food and their grazing maintains large areas of the world as grassland where otherwise larger bushes and trees would grow.



Humans too rely on grasses for food as well as having found many other uses for them. Grains such as rice, wheat, barley and sorghum form a major part of the human diet, especially in the developing world. They were, along with legumes, the first plants to be grown by settled farmers about 10,000 years ago. Without this development humans would be living in

small nomadic groups of hunter gatherers and the population of the world would be very much smaller without towns and cities. As well as grains we also use other parts of grasses as food – bamboo shoots, water chestnuts (part of the root of a sedge), sweet corn and of course sugar cane. Most of our meat and dairy products also rely heavily on grass or grain as food for the animals.

As civilization developed humans found other uses for grasses: fermented grain in drinks such as beer, whiskey and sake; thatch for roofs, baskets, fibre for paper and clothing, ornamental grasses in gardens and mown grass as a surface for games and sports like football, golf and bowling.



Perhaps one of the most versatile grasses for human use is bamboo. Its shoots can be eaten but the main uses are not for food. The largest bamboos can grow to up to 100 feet tall and the canes can be used for building and in furniture. Bamboo is also used for many tools and implements and to make baskets. You can also buy bamboo clothing.

So don't take grass for granted but give thanks for its part in creation and for all the uses we have found for it. *Alison Evans*

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends

It seems like a very long time ago that we said goodbye to our curate, Edward Green as he went off to pastures new in Oxfordshire. I am delighted to announce that we shall be welcoming a new curate at the beginning of July. The Reverend Sue Simpson will be moving into the curate's house with her family (husband, Nigel, and two daughters, Charlotte and Bella). I know that the good folk of Soham will extend a very warm welcome to Sue and her family. She will be writing a piece for the next edition of Lodestar, so she will be able to introduce herself to you more fully in her own words. May I merely give you some details of her formal welcome into the parish.

Her ministry among us will formally begin with her ordination on the afternoon of Saturday, July 2nd at 3.00 pm in the Cathedral. The ordination service is always a very moving event as people are made Deacons and Priests in God's service. It is wonderful that Soham has a strong tradition of supporting our curates at their ordination. I warmly commend the service to you – but make sure you get there in good time; parking is often something of a problem.

The following day, Sunday, 3rd July, she will begin with a full morning of services (at 8.00 am and 9.30 am here in Soham and 11.00 am in Wicken) followed by a bring and share lunch in Wicken Mission hall at 12.30 pm. All are welcome to the lunch which will provide a good opportunity for us to welcome Sue and her family and meet them. As the name implies, please bring a plate of food (sweet or savoury, it doesn't matter!) that can be shared out. I am always amazed at what a wonderful variety (and quantity) of food people bring to these occasions. Please note, you will also need to bring your own cutlery and crockery as the hall at Wicken does not have any.

You will, no doubt, see Sue in the streets of Soham over the coming months and years. Please make a point of welcoming her and introducing yourself. And please remember that just because you can remember her name, it doesn't necessarily follow that she will be able to remember yours - at least not first off!

Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*

PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings

25th April	Byron Barnes and Rachel (Mills)
28th May	Stuart Philips and Andrea (Hobbs)
	Roger Smith and Sarah (Lane)

Baptisms

1st May	Scarlett Elle Sabberton
	Ava Rose Fordham
	Grace Emily Fordham
8th	Maisy Jane King
15th	Poppy Fae Adkins
	Lylah Caitlin Vale
22nd	Archie Thomas Gordon

Funerals

May 26th	Pat Kirk
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