

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

MURDER AT ST ANDREW'S

'The Night before the Oscars' was the scene of a Murder Mystery at St Andrew's School on Saturday, 20th September. Most of us dressed for the red carpet, but there were a few brave souls who hankered after stardom, noticeably the girls of St. Trinians who took first prize for their outfits.



The evening was enjoyed by all, including the actors it appeared, who put on a convincing performance. So it wasn't too difficult for the detectives to discover 'who dunnit'. We all shared an excellent finger buffet, washed down by our own bubbly, and a good time was had by all.

QUOTES FROM PARISH MAGAZINES

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



Miss Charlene Manion sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

School Report

Chrissy Barclay, Headteacher of Weatheralls School



I was delighted to take up the post of new Headteacher at The Weatheralls in April of this year, having come from Bottisham Primary where I was Headteacher since 1999. Although it is slightly unusual for a new Headteacher to take up post at this time, September being more common, I was very pleased, believing it would give me a quiet(ish) term to get to know all the staff, the children and the way the school worked before the start of the new academic year in the September. I was wrong! Life in school was so busy I don't think my feet touched the ground during the summer term as we made our way through a whirlwind of appointments, school events and trips, meetings, plans for the future, problems, building works, consultations and yes, some challenging behaviour! – but I did get to learn all the names of the staff, about 70 altogether (and I still get some wrong) and I began on the childrens names, 462 on roll at the moment.

The new school year is here now and we have had a fantastic start to the term. The children are full of enthusiasm for their learning and all the staff make a superb, hard working, dedicated team. There are many exciting events, activities and lessons going on, for example this week Ross Edgar the Olympic silver medallist in cycling came to visit and inspired us all to work hard at our dreams.

I've just returned to my office after visiting a few classes during which I have been regaled with many smiles, 'good mornings', one very proud 'Mrs Barclay, look at me!' (Jack with an enormous stuffed toy balanced on his head) and from Lee a very serious discussion about the merits of his new pencil sharpener.

Theres a lot going on today: decomposition methods of subtraction, drama, how to do effective internet searches, drawing and diary writing...

Here's to another busy day! *Chrissy Barclay*

Second World War Memoirs of Private John W. Clark 5832529 - 5th Battalion Suffolk Regiment - Part 7

John W. Clark (Jack) was born in Soham in 1913. He was the eldest of 6 children Nellie, Freda, Ellen, Doris and Roy. When he died in 2005 the family found a diary he had kept during his time as a Japanese prisoner of war. When Jack was alive he spoke very little of his time as a prisoner although it effected his health throughout his life a great deal. So when we found the handwritten diary it was of great interest to his family. His sister in law offered to type it, so all the family could have a copy. She typed it exactly as it was written. Jack was one of several Soham Men held prisoner by the Japanese during World War 2 We found it so interesting that we thought we would like to share it with the readers of Lode Star, as a fitting tribute to their bravery. *Susan Taylor*

May 28th Felt low and depressed tonight, got a cold, a headache and a sore mouth. On top of that a little way to my right is a church service in full swing, somewhere on my left is a gramophone blaring out and on top of that the horrible atmosphere of a jail, am I lucky? **June 8th** Ellen 27 today. **June 10th** Rus and I purchased a hand-made open razor plus hand-made leather case for six bucks. As razor blades are 50 cents each when obtainable, consider it a bargain. **June 15th** Weighed today - must be a skeleton, only went 8 stone 6lbs. **June 20th** Four years service today, just a waste of time. **July 1st** Entertainment consists of Road Shows when appear in different courtyards nightly, lectures practically every night and an occasional orchestral concert on a Sunday evening. Grant for this month 7 dollars 70 cents. Only smoke obtainable, cheroots 13 cents each. Actions sometimes speak louder than words, so beginning to feel more optimistic. **July 4th** Feel pretty crabbed these days, have a spot of skin and stomach trouble, loss of appetite. **July 9th** Marching back from the gardens today a native passing us said "one-month, happy land". I wonder! **July 15th** Just received 8 letters, learn received card last July. Otherwise no news. Holidays! They want to mention them. Suppose young Roy and Doris forgotten how to write.

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July 21st A spot of bother in the camp - an officer cleared off down town (Singapore), got caught. As a reprisal the commander Lt. Col Holmes and deputy commander Lt. Col Callaghan, A.I.F. relieved of their command, replaced by a Lt. Col. Newey; do not expect it will affect us much, although our hosts' tempers not dependable. **July 23rd** Saw a list of 215 names of the battalion back down Singapore - friend Franklin is among them, sorry to learn Dave dead, no particulars. **July 30th** Letter from Freda written February 1943. **Aug 1st** Minden Day, celebrations included a douter (?) and a concert. Wave of optimism hit the camp - hope to be free by Xmas. **Aug 6th** Six letters today, no news, 25 words, suppose Roy and Doris will write. Hope Pat's given a good opportunity. **Aug 7th** Letter from Newman written September 1943 in which he said George Rust in hospital in Middle East. Still getting air-raids at home. Food good. Weekly feature now running every Monday night "In Clink Tonight" - quite good. **Aug 11th** Brief summary of a meeting between camp representatives and the Japanese camp commandant. Asked the commandant why we received no Red Cross parcels etc. He replied that we had sunk 7 Japanese Red Cross boats. Our people replied the British do not sink Red Cross boats. Commandant replied no, but the Americans do. Also stated American troops were using Japanese skulls as toys and bones as paper knives. Asked why Japanese did not allow Red Cross to send stuff through a neutral country, commandant replied that *no* neutral country was big enough to do so. When asked what about Russia, answered the relations between Russia and Japan so finely poised it was impossible. Said we could in the near future expect air raids. Had placed an order for 5,000 towels but did not know when would be delivered. Canteen prices to date: oz. tobacco dollar-ninety, cigars seventeen to twenty-two cents, razor blades sixty-five centgs, tooth powder twenty-five cents a box, peanuts four doRars eighty a pound, salt dollar eighty a pound, soya sauce dollar sixty a pint, dewing needles fifteen cents, soap thirty-three cents. Pay seven-fifty a month. Wrote card today. **Aug 13th** Received two cards and a letter. Cards written in January and March. Learn received my second card. Mail now getting quite up to date, know they all well five months ago. Letter July 1943 from Freda, says wants me back to be Best Man. **Aug 30th** T.A.B. inoculation. **Aug 22nd** Wilf Franklin in hospital back from up country, has dysentery **Aug 23rd** Dysentery inoculation. Dave died of a weak heart. Believe Ted Bullman gone to Japan. **Aug 24th** Two letters, Mum and Ellen, December and January received second card December 23rd forty-three not forty-four. Sugar 6 dollars 60. **Aug 27th** Second T.A.B. **Aug 30th** Second Dysentery. Gather we have a monkey on the ration? Weighed today went 9 stone 4 lbs. **Sept 3rd** Dad's birthday and 5 years of war. Day of prayer throughout the camp. Peanuts now 5 dollars 30 a pound. Believe another batch of mail arrived. **Sept. 14th** Feel pretty crabbed last day or two, cold and touch of diarrhoea. **Sept. 15th** The generosity of our hosts definitely exceeds their beauty, each man has been given an ounce of tobacco. Rations very light these days. **Sept 18th** Received 4 cards, one each from Dad, Freda, Nellie and Doris. Latest date April 26th - everybody well. Latest order, permanent brown out now on. **Sept 21st** Two cards, one each from Freda and Pat. Latest card May - all then OK. **Sept 22nd** Tomorrow our hosts issuing us with larger weekly issue of newspaper, extra not for sanitary purposes but for cigarette paper. The kindness and thought they bestow upon us! **Sept 29th** Visited new open-air theatre, Playhouse, a credible structure. The show 'And Heaven Too' fair. Believe a cable in which I was mentioned written about last December was received at home about February. **Oct 2nd** Had hoped should have some Xmas pudding this year but as nothing has ever happened around here doubt if shall get an hot cross bun. Record cropping on gardens last month, 44 tons of veg. **Oct 10th** St. Takahasi issued an order, any man straying from his working party will be shot - suppose some fool will stray. Concert tonight, second year anniversary of formation of Garden Control. Thee years since went home on leave last. **Oct 13th** All open air entertainment stopped from now on, except Sunday services. **Oct 15th** Fated in another form, occupation, education etc. etc. Medical examination, given category F, which means P.V. Roy will be finishing his apprenticeship, suppose he'll be called up. Rations these days, rice averages 16 ounces, salt, sugar, tea, oil, a fraction of an ounce, veg. about 6 ounces, whitebait ounce and a half per day. Everyone looks as though could eat quite a lot more. Personally I'm hungry all the while. Noticed guards carrying tin hats. [continued at foot of next page

NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL NEWS

There are 5 Neighbourhood Panels in East Cambridgeshire serving South Area, Soham and East Area, West Area, Littleport and Ely. All Panels are open for the public to participate in, you will be very welcome to come and have your say !

Each Panel is made up of Parish, District and County Councillors along with community representatives invited to become Panel members. The public is welcome to attend and raise their own local issues. At Panel meetings there is discussion about local concerns such as crime, health, housing and children and young people's issues. Decisions are made about which issues are most important to focus efforts on in the next 3 months. Each Panel also agrees what actions need to be completed between meetings and who will be responsible.

So, it's all about local action, and improvement for your area! The Local Strategic Partnership, together with other important service providers in our area, is working to ensure that the community can have a say in how services are delivered. There is still much work to be done – this is a completely new way of working – but the Council hopes that Neighbourhood Panels will become a valuable part of community life in the district.

If you want to know even more, and you have a computer, take a look on the District Council's website (www.eastcambs.gov.uk) and look for the Neighbourhood Panel webpage in the A –Z section of ECDC's homepage. Alternatively, contact Alan Williams, Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator, on 01353 616349.

Please come and have your say if you are concerned about refuse and recycling collection, housing and planning issues; crime, or the fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour; speeding, parking and other traffic issues; provision for young people; health; environmental issues or other issues in your neighbourhood? Forthcoming dates are listed below.

Wednesday, 8th October at Soham Village College (Beechurst Hall)

Wednesday, 29th October at Ely Community College

(all meetings begin at 7pm, and finish by 9pm)

If you have any interest in the issues at the top of this sheet, or any other issues of concern', then please make every effort to attend.

Neighbourhood Panel and NAG dates, and venues for 2009

This a similar pattern to this year, but with South and Soham + East dates alternating on a Tuesday/Wednesday (to offset clashes with Parish Council meetings)

Panel meetings are 19.00 – 21.00, as now. NAG meetings begin at 10.00.

January 7th Soham & East Panel at Soham Village College (Beechurst Hall)

March 31st Soham & East Panel at Soham Village College (Beechurst Hall)

July 1st Soham & East Panel at Soham Village College (Beechurst Hall)

October 6th Soham & East Panel at Soham Village College (Beechurst Hall)

After this only 2.5 years to the London Olympics !!!

Oct 28th Said to be 70 bags of mail in, 64 British, 6 Australian. Three years since we embarked at Liverpool; never realized when we sailed two days later we were coming to this place and circumstances. **Nov 5th** Guy Fawkes day, sensational; some fireworks, no upheavals. **Nov 11th** Thousand days as a P.O.W. Ordered by our hosts to observe Remembrance Day. Saw "Autumn Crocus" at The Playhouse - very good. Entertainment now allowed twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays. **Nov 13th** Weighed tonight, 132 lbs. **Nov 14th** Letter from Ellen - old one dated Aug 1943. She writes about Freda's Stan and her George-who the hell are they? One doesn't think about much these days, only one's stomach and that because one never gets it really full. **Nov 20th** Spot of skin trouble, vitamin deficiency. A strange thing about this place is a marked absence of bird life. Eighteen sacks of mail in, dated June this year. **Nov 26th** Card from Dad, written March this year. **Nov 25th** Letter from Freda, written August 1943, only news first card arrived home, Albert and George written. When will we be free? Gosh, how I'd like to be able to catch up with my appetite. *To be continued*



- ★ **The Wicken Coronation Band** will be staging a concert in St Andrews Church, Soham, featuring guest cornet soloist, Tim Hammond. Tim is in the armed forces and has played with the famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band. The concert takes place on Saturday 18th October at 7pm. Tickets are available from Brenda's Flowers in Soham, DN Jenkins TV shop, Fordham or by calling 01353 723804 or 01638 720674. All proceeds will be divided between Band funds and The East Anglian Air Ambulance.
- ★ **Soham Village College** is holding its annual Craft Fair on Sunday 12th October giving you time to buy some early Christmas presents. The event, In Lodeside Hall, starts at 10.30am and finishes at 4pm and admission is free. There may still be time to book a stall if you have some crafts you would like to sell. If so, please call 01353 725157.
- ★ **Many thanks** to Linda and Christopher Palmer for hosting the annual Church Barbecue once again. The weather was kind for the event on 31st August and more than 100 people attended helping to raise £777.
- ★ **The winners of the summer 200+ Club draw**, drawn at the Church Barbecue, were Malcolm Shelbourne (£5), John Cole (£10), Dorothy Clark (£15) and Jacqueline Whipp (£25). Well done everyone!
- ★ **The National Blood Service** is holding a blood donating session at The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Fountain Lane, Soham on 8th October. There are two Sessions, one from 1.00pm-3.00pm, the other from 4.30pm-7.00pm. For more information about giving blood visit the following website: www.blood.co.uk or telephone 0845 7711711. Do something amazing - give blood!!!
- ★ **Soham Area Neighbourhood Panel Meeting** is being held at Soham Village College from 7.00pm onwards on 8th October. This is your chance to get involved with deciding which issues are tackled in your area, meaning you'll be able to play an active role in helping to make your neighbourhood safer. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to contribute your priorities, please contact a member of the East Cambridgeshire South Neighbourhood Police Team on 0845 456 4564. This public meeting is for residents and businesses in the villages of: Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Snailwell, Soham and Wicken.
- ★ **Soham Community History Museum** in association with Soham Village College Family Learning Month is holding a 10th Anniversary Celebration & Open Day on 11th October in Lodeside Hall, Soham Village College from 11.00am - 4.00pm. Admission is £1, Museum Members & Children Free. The event includes local, social and family history, a classic vehicle display, stalls and exhibitions. The Grand Finale will be a fashion show celebrating a century of fashion. Additional £1 per person for Lucky Programme and entry into a Prize Draw.
- ★ **Soham Town Forum** is holding a meeting on 16th October in Hall 1 of The Walter Gidney Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Fountain Lane, Soham from 7.30pm onwards. All are welcome.
- ★ **Viva Theatre Company** in association with Samuel French is performing 'Steel Magnolias' by Robert Harling in Lodeside Hall, Soham Village College from 23rd - 25th October (inclusive). The performances begin at 8.00pm and tickets, priced at £7 for adults and £6.00 concessions are available from The Box Office: 01353 722228 or at The Viva Centre, 7 Churchgate Street, Soham
- ★ **Soham Charity Ball Committee** invite you to Soham Charity Ball 2008 in Lodeside Hall, Soham Village College from 7.00pm onwards on 31st October. Music from Todd Miller and the Joe Loss Orchestra. Tickets are £30.00 which includes a three course meal and are available from Mrs Jenny Harvey on 01353 720518 or Mrs Angela Schumann on Tel: 01353 721748. Strictly black tie.
- ★ **Items for inclusion in the November edition of Lodestar** should be with Alison Palmer, Oak House, 41 Sand Street, Soham, Cambs, CB7 5AA or alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freeserve.co.uk no later than 15th October.

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends

The relationship between Church and State has a long and often troubled history, not only in this country but also abroad. We can trace the origins of this back to the writings of St Paul in the New Testament who had much to say about the rulers of his day – and their subjects. His words have often been used in support of both closer and looser ties between the government of the land and the governance of the church.

In Britain we have gone through periods of history where the Church and State have been very closely allied with each other – some might say *too* closely allied; in the Middle Ages and more recently it was perfectly normal for clergymen to hold high office in the government of the day; Cardinal Wolsey, for example, was Henry VIII's chief adviser, and he was by no means the last cleric to be found in the corridors of power. At other times, and perhaps more recently, there has been a distinct coolness in relations – especially when the Church has criticised the State and its policies. Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Blair voiced their anger at what they perceived as the Church 'meddling in politics'.

In the Church of England we are only too well aware of Church – State tensions, since we are still the Established church of the country. We enjoy special privileges; for example the right to crown the monarch at his or her coronation and, more ordinarily, the right to have bishops sitting in the House of Lords (though their numbers have been cut in recent years and their long-term future in the House must surely have a serious question mark against it!)

The reason for mentioning all this is that at the start of November (ie too early in the month for inclusion in next month's *Lodestar*) we shall be holding a special Civic Service here in Soham. We shall be delighted to welcome the Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council and representatives of other local organisations in the district to St Andrew's on Sunday 2nd November at 3.00 pm. They will be coming to offer themselves in the sight of God for the service of those who elected them. It is a great responsibility to be called to serve and it is right that we should pray for them that they may use their power and their influence wisely. We will be thinking, too, of the example of Jesus who came to serve, not to be served. His is the supreme example of service which we can all hold before us to inspire us in our service of one another. It will be good on Civic Sunday to be able to remind ourselves and our elected representatives of the nature and value of service. I hope that we shall have a good turn out to support our councillors. All good wishes, *Tim Alban Jones*

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

7 th September	Freddie Mark Summers Nial Brian Chamberlain
21 st September	Megan Louise Leaford Jayden Terry Hunt-Lane Channelle Cherish Murfitt

Funerals

10 th September	Alfred Bridgeman (79)
11 th	Colin Frederick Jinks (72)
23 rd	James Anson Harris (87)

Weddings

19 th September	Katie Mansfield and Jason Fretwell
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