

## 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

## AUCTION OF PROMISES

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May is a date to put in your diaries. We shall be holding our second AUCTION OF PROMISES at St Andrew's School starting at 7.30 pm. There is a magnificent selection of promises on offer; there really should be something for everyone. Here is a sample of just a few of the things that will be auctioned off on the night:

- ❖ A week in a Scottish holiday cottage.
- ❖ Dinner for two at the Old Fire Engine House.
- ❖ A different cake each weekend for a month.
- ❖ Drum, IT, Russian, golf, piano lessons.
- ❖ A Swedish body massage.
- ❖ A guided tour round the Houses of Parliament and lunch for two (with the possibility of tickets for Prime Minister's Question Time).
- ❖ Ironing ..... plus many more!



## FAREWELL TO EDWARD GREEN

On Sunday 19th April we said goodbye to our curate, Edward Green. The congregation of St Laurence's, Wicken joined us for our 9.30am service at St Andrew's which was unusually full for the Sunday after Easter. The service ended with "So Long, Farewell" from "The Sound of Music" played on the organ and oboe - some people have been singing it all week!

We then went over to Wicken Village Hall for a bring and share lunch and presented Eddie with some presents.



We had decided to collect money towards a dishwasher for him. In the event he was presented with a cheque that would pay for a very luxurious model indeed, though not before unwrapping a box with a dish cloth, Fairy Liquid and washing up brush! He was also given a very tasteful angel for the garden, a decorated plate and a jigsaw of the last pope!!!

Eddie is now team vicar in a group of parishes near Bicester, Oxfordshire and by the time you read this a bus load of us will have been to his licensing there. We wish him the best of luck in his new post.

## BIG TOP CHARITY BALL ANNOUNCED FOR MAY 2009

Charity starts at home – even in a recession. Viva Arts and Community Group, hosts black tie ball and fundraiser on Friday 22 May 2009.

Some may argue that fundraising has to take a back seat to other priorities during a recession but one East Cambridgeshire-based charity says it's even more important in these economically difficult times.

“Everyone is being hit by the effects of the recession and this is doubly true for locally-based charities where their primary source of funding comes through the lottery and local government initiatives,” says Viva Arts and Community Group spokesperson, Sarah Dowd.

“As more and more funding streams are put on hold and government support becoming even more difficult to guarantee, it's up to the charities themselves to build their support base through other means. Viva's lottery funding comes to an end in 2009, taking away over £30,000 a year from our income. This is why the Viva Arts and Community Group is hosting a black tie ball in May in order to raise awareness about the good work the group undertakes and the level of funding gap it is experiencing this year”

Jauntily named, The Big Top Ball, the evening is raising money to continue funding Viva in its work with young people through performance, outreach work with older people and cross-cultural communities throughout the region.

The Viva Arts and Community group is based in Soham, but runs initiatives around the county and into parts of Norfolk and Suffolk. With a charity shop based in the Viva Centre in Soham, the group has a twelve year track record in delivering innovative arts and cultural projects as well as performances and a variety of community projects

The Big Top Ball will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 7pm – midnight at Brook House Hotel, Soham. There will be a licensed bar, buffet, live band, goody bags, games and gifts for all guests plus a spectacular draw with great prizes to be won and a Grand Auction of Promises hosted by a Celebrity Auctioneer with lots which include dinner at the House of Commons and tickets for Question Time care of James Paice MP, membership of The Atrium, a meal for 2 at The Old Fine Engine, a private tour of Chevely Park Stud, signed Jockey Silks from Darley Stud, 2 passes for Newmarket Races, a flight over Cambridgeshire for 2 from Marshalls, VIP tickets for a show The Arts Theatre, Cambridge and many more!

The evening is strictly over 18s only and the dress code will be formal (black tie and ball gown). Tickets are £15 per person or £120 for a table of 8 and every penny from every ticket will go directly to Viva. The event is kindly sponsored by Budgens of Soham, Brook House Hotel, TEAM Management, Signtek Graphic Design and Soulvéd Function Band.

Tickets are available from The Viva Centre, 7 Churchgate Street, Soham, CB7 5DS, by telephone on 01353 722228 or email [vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk)

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## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FÊTE

The annual St Andrew's Church Fete is fast rolling around and we're hoping the 13th June event will be just as much fun as ever.

We hope to offer all the usual refreshments, entertainment, stalls and games - but we need YOUR help to make that possible.

This is your chance to raise some money for your organisation or charity and raise its profile at the same time. All we ask for is a small percentage of what you take on the day which will go towards the work of St Andrew's Church.

So come on! If you are an individual, organisation, charity or business and want a stall or to run a game/event at the Fête, please get in touch with organisers James and Alison Palmer (01353 720572) today. We are also offering bootless car boot pitches. The fête will be held, as usual, in the church and churchyard from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon.





# A Councillor's Comments

Our March meeting began with the Chairman's announcements which reflected on the meeting that was held with John Hill of East Cambs earlier in the day which dealt with issues important to Soham. We heard there was agreement for the funding of improvements to the play area; the Scout and Guide Hut project was going well and the new Skate Park was all ready to go as soon as they got some response from the youth organisation. These meetings with East Cambs are proving very useful to move things on.

**Soham Vision:** Rosemary Aitchison, Chair of our planning committee, who is the one member of our council on the working party for the Soham Vision, gave us a progress report on the project so far. The consultants were in place but the Vision must come from the Soham people themselves as well as those in neighbouring communities. It was important therefore to make people aware of the consultation date, and to encourage as many local people as possible to come up with *their* ideas about what they would like to see happen in Soham in the next 20 – 30 years. As the consultants were not going to contact all possible groups themselves Rosemary encouraged other councillors to help her by going out and speaking to as many groups as possible. This has been done and Rosemary was thanked for the work she had done and also those councillors and others who helped. For the big day on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March people were asked to help provide visitors with refreshments during the day. This would be from 9.15am to 2.00pm for some fifty or so invited people. They could possibly have a big impact on the vision and would have presentations and group sessions. Then it would be open from 3.30pm to 8.00pm for the public, who could come and look at the exhibition promoting the vision, have their say, fill in surveys and ask questions. These notes are being written the day afterwards and I believe that it was a very good event, with many people turning out and responding well.

**Soham Town Forum** There was a report on their latest meeting - the AGM.

**Annual Town Meeting:** The date was given for this meeting to take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm, to which members of the public are warmly invited, to listen to the activities of their council during the past year, to ask questions and to raise points of view as to what they would like to see their council doing in the coming year. It is an encouragement for the council members to engage with the public in this way and gauge the feel of the response to their work throughout the year.

**Commons Grazing:** It is of great importance that the commons are grazed to maintain them to the required standard. Most important of all is for cattle grazing and this will be advertised as free. Grazing for horses will be charged and where no grazing is possible there will be hay cutting. It was hoped there would be good publicity for the cattle grazing.

As there was no Public Comment time the chairman opened the April meeting by announcing that via Councillor Julie Webb, the Council had received the gift of two large pictures from the Slack family. One of the pictures was of Alfred Slack and the other of Basil Slack and they are both on display in the council office.

We then had a presentation by Councillor Peter Cresswell (chairman of East Cambs), who was on his rounds visiting each council in the district and reporting on his own activities during his term of office. Amongst these activities was the Civic Service he arranged at Soham's Parish Church and acting as starter for Soham's Half Marathon which he will do again this year on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

A report was given on the Soham Vision consultation day and it was considered that it was very successful as regards the turnout and participation. Thirty-five people attended the workshops and 157 people passed through the doors. There were several ideas expressed and there is hope for another consultation. The next working party meeting is on the 15<sup>th</sup> June at Soham.

*[continued on the next page]*

I write this article as I begin work again after a few days break after Easter. We didn't go far but among the 'chilling out' activities we undertook was a walk along the river at Cambridge. On this particular occasion there were a number of the university rowing clubs on the river and it was fascinating to watch them; and far less tiring than taking part!

There were two particular things that struck me. The first was the team ethic that is required in a crew if it is to be effective. Everyone has to pull their weight and contribute equally to the performance. A weak link slows the boat down and in a race can mean the difference between winning and losing.

This can be applied equally to any group of people; whether we are talking about a sport's club; a family; a church, a work-place or the community at large. Working together for the good of one other and towards the greater good that is at the end of the course should spur us on.

The other thing that struck me was the role of the coxswain in the boats. Their job was to steer the boat, and coordinate the power and rhythm of the rowers. Remember that they are the only ones who know what is ahead; the rowers can only see where they have just been!

I was surprised to learn that there is a complete vocabulary for rowing and knowing and following those commands is important. One piece of advice I read for coxswains went as follows: "The key to making calls is to deliver them with confidence and to sound like you know what you are talking about. Rowers will do just about anything a coxswain tells them to do."

We too need direction in our lives and if we are to finish the course we need someone who knows what is ahead and will guide us home. That is why the Christian is confident in the future because it is the Risen Saviour Jesus who directs our lives. We trust Him for our Salvation at the cross where He bore our sins; knowing that heaven is our destination. But we also need to trust Him on the journey while here on earth. That includes following His commands because we trust them and more to the point, trust Him.

As one hymn-writer put it: "'Tis Jesus the First and the Last, whose Spirit shall Guide us safe home. We'll praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come." *Pastor Colin Stringer*

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There has been another meeting with East Cambs which our chairman reported on. The bad news was that Cofton, the contractors for the Barley Estate have gone into administration and this means that their unfinished work on that estate will remain as it is for the time being. Both the County Council and East Cambs are doing all that they can to get this situation resolved but it is very difficult.

Another report to the meeting was from the neighbourhood panel meeting which gave the police priorities for the coming days to concentrate on ASB in the centre of Soham and car thefts in Fordham. But the main talking point was about the closing of the school car parks to parents bringing and taking their children from school. A report said that the present situation was creating a danger and so the authorities had no option but to make the decision to close the car parks to parents, apart from those with exceptional circumstances and authorised visitors.

There was a request to support the Summer Reading Challenge for 2009 which is held at the Soham Town Library. We have done so in the past and we agreed to support this very worthwhile project again this year. It is good that many of our children are encouraged in this way to read a number of books in the school holidays.

The Community Facilities Project is getting underway with its feasibility study and reports on the progress will be announced at each stage as it happens

*Councillor Ginn*



**Many congratulations** to the following people who have scooped prizes in the 200+ Club The starting draw £5 Mark Campbell £10 Alma Hopkin The April draw £5 Margaret Ashwell £10 Mrs D Palmer

**Comedy returns to Soham.** On Friday, 22nd May Soham Festival Society will present the well-known Scottish actress Fiona Knowles in her hilarious new show - "Fur Coats and Magic Knickers". This will be an evening of brilliant comedy, brought to the Comrades Club in Market Street with the support of Arts in Cambs. on Tour. Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm - tickets priced at £5.00 & £8.00.

**Items for inclusion in the June edition of Lodestar** should be with Alison Palmer ([alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freeserve.co.uk) or Oak House, 41 Sand Street, Soham, CB7 5AA) no later than 15th May. Please note there is no Lodestar in August so if you would like to publicise a summer event, please make sure you do so in the June or July edition.

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## Neighbourhood Panels: a growing reputation !

As you know only too well, Soham is an area for speeding vehicles of all sizes. The **Speedwatch** team has been operating, as have the police enforcement teams, in the town and its estates. If you could volunteer a few hours of your time on a regular basis to the Soham and East area Panel volunteer team, please contact Alan Williams (contact details below) or Cllr Joe Pattison [josephpattison@btinternet](mailto:josephpattison@btinternet) as soon as you can. Feedback from the (Soham and East) area indicates that several local drivers are those who are ignoring the speed limits. So, please take care as **you** drive around! At the last Soham and East area Neighbourhood Panel meeting (March 31st) at the Village College the main items were: **Feedback on actions** taken to address the priorities and issues of concern raised at the meeting in January - please note that *all* priorities and issues raised by local residents have had action taken to address concerns. Consultations on the **Soham (and area) Masterplan** have made a good start. The **Young People's Panel Initiative** (which acts as an advisory group to parishes and the Panel) has 3 groups of young people – a group based at Soham Village College, a small group who have proposed a skatepark in Soham and a group who live on the estate at Gadwell Way in Soham. The latter group are concerned about the environment where they live, and are due to give a presentation to the next Panel meeting in July. **Accessibility and transport** issues in villages in the Panel area: full details of discussions on this item are on the Neighbourhood Panel webpage (please see details below). The Care Network need more volunteer drivers for the **Community Car scheme**. Mileage is paid for, but volunteers' time is given free. If you could help, please contact Helen Randall on (01353-) 721616. .

**Identification of issues of concern** (from local residents and Panel members), included potential traffic difficulties at Wetherall's School/Children's Centre/Medical Centre, parking in High Street, environmental waste problems by the old Grammar school buildings, dog fouling and the increasing problem of dogs in the area, anti-social behaviour, selling of cars in inappropriate locations, traffic calming on Fordham Road, and setting priorities for action. Local residents were advised to take action to secure their personal property to combat the rise in acquisitive crime (burglary, shoplifting and theft). The priorities for the next 3 months are: for the police (working in partnership with other agencies): dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries in Soham and dwelling burglary in Fordham; for the other agencies: proposed Environment Action Day (during May/June) to focus on Barleyfields, Gadwell Way and Kingfisher Drive. For ongoing information about Neighbourhood Panels, minutes from the meetings, Neighbourhood Profiles, Newsletters, Speedwatch, dates and venues for the Panel meetings to April 2010 please use the A-Z section of [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk) to access the 'Neighbourhood Panel' webpage. Alternatively contact Alan Williams, the Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator at [alan.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:alan.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk) or on 01353 616349. The next meetings of the Soham and East area Panel (all 7pm starts) are at Soham Village College, Beechurst Hall) on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July and Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

# *Just a few words*

Tim Alban Jones

## Let us pray..... The PRAYER CORNER

Visitors to St Andrew's during that last month or so will have seen our beautiful Easter Garden in the north transept. We are grateful to those who have prepared it so carefully, thoughtfully and lovingly. It will not be long now, though, before it is time to take it down for another year. When it is gone we shall be turning that part of the church into a prayer corner.

The aim is to encourage people to come and use the building for its original purpose! So, in order to help, there will be some samples of popular prayers that we have found helpful. We did consider having a candle stand but felt that in these days of concerns for security and health and safety it was perhaps tempting fate to leave candles burning unattended. Rather than a candle stand, however, we have a prayer net. The idea is that people can tie a ribbon or strand of coloured wool on to a large net and say a prayer as they do so. There is a very beautiful prayer net in the Cathedral; judging by the number of pieces of ribbon, it is clearly being used a lot by many people.

Of course, the whole of the building is open for prayer and I am always pleased to know that people come in for a moment's peace and quiet during the hustle and bustle of the busy week. It seems to me that one of the things that makes St Andrew's such a very special place is that it has been prayed in for so very long. It is almost as if you can feel the prayers of previous generations who have come, like us, during times of sadness or celebration to ask for God's guidance or to thank him for his goodness.

In preparing the prayer corner we have come across a huge variety of prayers from all parts of the world and stretching back over the centuries. Here are a few of my favourites; I hope they may help you. *Tim Alban Jones*

*O great Chief, Lord Jesus, light a candle within my heart that I may see what is therein and sweep the rubbish from your dwelling place.* (Prayer of an African girl)

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours;  
yours are the only hands with which he can do his work,  
yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world,  
yours are the only eyes through which his compassion  
can shine forth upon a troubled world.*

*Christ has no body now earth but yours.* (Teresa of Avila)

*Teach us, Lord,  
to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to ask for any reward  
save that of knowing that we do your will.* (Ignatius Loyola)

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## PARISH REGISTERS

### Funerals

Carol Ann Miller (63)

Sheila May Rains (73)

Marshall Bell (51)

Doreen Phoebe Sizer (86)

### Baptisms

5<sup>th</sup> April

Poppy Barbara Jane Baines

Connor Reece Goodchild