

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

History of Ely Diocese

A booklet commissioned to mark the 900th anniversary of the Diocese of Ely is now on sale. Compiled by former Ely Standard editor John Ison and local (Soham) historian Lynne Turner, tells a fascinating story that has relevance far beyond the faithfulness of the Christian community it records.

The account begins with the foundation of the Ely Diocese in 1109 and the consecration of its first Bishop. The booklet, entitled '900 years of worship in the Diocese of Ely', records the growth of the Diocese in the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, which was brought to a sudden halt by the Black Death and its widespread devastation. It outlines the impact of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in our region, and the austere lifestyle imposed by the Puritans during Oliver Cromwell's rule.

The booklet also highlights a fund of remarkable and quirky local stories that have been chronicled over the years. It explains how St Neots came to be named after the saint who worked miracles with animals, tells of a church that lost its altar when the cricket team needed a table on which to keep the score and reveals what poet John Betjamen would cycle 40 miles into a headwind to see.

Costing £2 a copy plus postage and packing, it is available from Jackie Cox at the Diocesan Office: e-mail: jackie.cox@office.ely.anglican.org or Tel: 01353 652701
Churchgoers can ask Alison Evans to pick one up for them to avoid the postage.



Auction of Promises

Thanks to everyone involved in our Auction of Promises, whether you made a promise or bid for one. Special thanks to our auctioneer David Palmer who was entertaining and charming as he parted the participants from their money as painlessly as possible.

We raised just over £1700 for the St Andrew's Development Fund. This will help to pay for the installation of a kitchen and toilet, the creation of a meeting room, new heating for the chancel and the refurbishment of the organ.

David Palmer, our celebrity auctioneer was as entertaining as ever and as a result of his skill there was lots of laughter.

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to all who collected money for Christian Aid Week and thank you to the people of Soham who gave generously in spite of the credit crunch. We (St Andrew's and the Methodists) have raised more than £2300 to help some of the world's poorest people.

Teddies on the Tower

We have decided to move the date of this event to Saturday 12th September – so please make a note of the date in your diaries. Teddies will need to be told too!



School Report



The Principal of Soham Village College – Carin Taylor

The examination season has just begun and we wish all our Year 11 students the best of luck. Almost every student has worked hard to complete coursework and many attended additional learning opportunities offered at lunchtime and after school. At this stage teachers and support staff can't help much more, it is down to the students to motivate themselves and to complete their learning independently. This is not the easiest time to be a parent either.....!

Soham Village College has had a very successful year. We had set ourselves a heavy agenda of school improvement, much of which, I am pleased to say, has been implemented already. We have gained a Healthy Schools Award and achieved Gifted and Talented lead status (one of only three schools in the county) and received accreditation for our excellent use of new technologies through the BECTA ICT Quality Mark. We have made important changes to our curriculum and expect to have a programme of study which has kept pace with the needs of every individual student from September 2009.

Planning permission has been granted for our new performing arts facility. We hope that this building will be a very special focus for the College and for other groups who currently operate from our premises. Viva and Stage Chance will, we hope, benefit from new accommodation which is purpose-designed, eco-friendly and sustainable. We hope that the primary schools will also see the new building as an exciting venue for special events and arts festivals. We are still about £100,000 short of our target on this project and, although we can go ahead with the funds already in place, we haven't given up hope of finding the extra money needed for refinements to the design and fittings which will, we think, make the building that bit more useful to the wider community.

With over two hundred staff and 1350 students, the College is right at the heart of its community. It has been good this year to engage with local businesses and politicians as we seek, together, to frame a vision for the future of Soham. As a high performing specialist school, we hope to contribute fully to the Soham Masterplan and the future of our community. Do please contact me at alp@soham-college.org.uk if you have any comments to make. We are happy to listen! *Carin Taylor, Principal*

Bishop Retires

The Rt Revd Dr Anthony Russell has announced that he is to retire as Bishop of Ely on 28 February 2010.

He is one of the longest-serving Bishops in the Church of England and was installed as the 68th Bishop of Ely in the year 2000 after serving as Area Bishop of Dorchester for twelve years.

Bishop Anthony's ministry will continue publicly and fully until 23 January 2010 when members of the Diocese will say farewell to him at a service in Ely Cathedral.

He has been a member of the House of Lords since 2008 and during his time at Ely he has taken a keen interest in rural affairs and in the farming community. He has been a well-known speaker and commentator on agricultural affairs in a wide range of capacities and was President of the RASE (Royal Agricultural Society of England) from 2004 until 2005.

"It has been a privilege to serve the diocese for ten years," said Bishop Anthony. "My wife and I have made many friends, and greatly enjoyed living in Ely. The diocese of Ely, with the Fens and Cambridge, is a lively and special diocese which this year celebrates its 900th anniversary".

The early announcement means moves to appoint a successor can start. The diocesan Vacancy in See Committee will draft a Statement of Needs, and a group from that Committee and the Crown Nominations Commission will work with the Archbishop of Canterbury to fill the post. It is hoped a new Bishop will be named later this year and take up his duties in 2010.



A Councillor's Comments

Our May meeting was the mid-point of the Council's four year term and it is our council's policy to change and appoint officers for the next two years. As there was no public comment time the meeting began with the chairman calling for the election of the new chairman and nominating Anne Tuite, the current vice chair, and she was duly elected to the chair. Her first task was to make a declaration of acceptance before calling for the election of vice chair, and nominating Tony Hinsley, but another nomination from the council was for Rosemary Aitchison and after a secret ballot Rosemary was elected vice chair.

The next two items on the agenda was for the election of members onto the three committees and also for members to be elected to outside bodies; Soham Moors Old Grammar School Fund, Soham United Charities, Barway Village Hall Committee, Your Say-Youth Council, Soham Area Children's Centre Board, and Soham Town Forum.

At this point we began our monthly meeting with the minutes of the last meeting plus minutes of standing committees and payment of accounts.

Item number 12 was Annual Accounts and this is where the council has to approve not only of the accounts for the last year but to approve the whole system of the accounting to say that it has been done in the right way. We had to approve eight different sections of controls, which we did.

Community Facilities: The chairman of the working party gave a verbal report on the latest meeting with the architect George Wright of Archial. Prior to the meeting George had contacted Cambridgeshire Acre, East Cambs Conservation Officer, and a Landscape Architect. From these contacts he found Philip Peacock of Cambridgeshire Acre most helpful regarding community projects but also for his sources of funding knowledge. The Conservation Officer was strangely in favour of demolition and rebuild and the Landscape Architect listed the trees on the site and said they would need protecting when the building takes place. The working party recommended to the council that we should stay with the consultant's recommendation of refurbishment of the Pavilion. The architect then made a list of the requirements we need in the remodelling of the pavilion and he hopes to come up with his ideas in July.

The retiring chairman gave his report on the latest meeting with John Hill of East Cambs. There was an improvement on 106 agreements; new play area - there is money available and Wickstead are coming to visit. It was a useful meeting and the next one is in six weeks time.

Councillor Ginn

Could you be a Community Recycling Champion?

East Cambs District Council has started a new project in order to help to promote recycling in the local community.

The project has been designed to help local residents to become Community Recycling Champions and to be able to offer help to others in their area with practical advice on recycling, reuse and composting.

All volunteers' will received full training.

If you would be interested in becoming a Community Recycling Champion please call Darren Hughes, Community Recycling Officer on 01353 616298 or send an e-mail with your name, address and a daytime contact number to Darren.Hughes@eastcambs.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire Walks

More than 90 to download and print FREE!

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So the website www.walkingincambridgeshire.co.uk came into being. It contains details of more than 90 walks to download and print free, details of all the Cambridgeshire walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information. www.walkingincambridgeshire.co.uk gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County.

So check out the website and get walking!

Studies show that walking can:

- ▣ Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- ▣ Lower blood pressure
- ▣ Reduce high cholesterol
- ▣ Reduce body fat
- ▣ Enhance mental well being

Music Marathon



You are invited to come and perform a set at St Andrew's Church, Soham on Saturday, 4th July, 2009. 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 will be raising funds for kitchen facilities, lavatories and refurbishing the organ. We hope that you or your group will want to take part or that you can pass this letter on to someone else. To reserve your slot, please return the enclosed form to the address below by **June 10th**, or, alternatively, send an email to: music.soham@yahoo.co.uk

Return to : Richard Hinitt, 97 Northfield Park, Soham CB7 5XA

Name of person/music group:

Lead contact name:

Address & Telephone:

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E-mail:

Type of music:

Time requested in minutes: 15 20 30 40 45 (max) (circle required time)

Additional equipment required:

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Preferred time to perform: (insert 1 - 4 in order of preference)

10am-1pm () 1pm-4pm () 4pm-7pm () 7pm-10pm ()

Additional Information:

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- ☆ **Come & join us for a Garden Party** with a strawberry cream tea on Sunday June 28th. 3-5pm at Anne Willett's 'Byways', Barcham Road Soham. Tea, Cakes, Scones, cream & Strawberries all at reasonable prices. Prize draw, Tombola & much more. All welcome. Further information from 01353 721324 if needed. Barbara Warner, Chairman of the fund raising committee of Soham community history museum.
- ☆ **Items for inclusion in the June edition of Lodestar** should be with Alison Palmer (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.

Second World War Memoirs of Private John W. Clark 5832529 - 5th Battalion Suffolk Regiment - Part 9

1945 April 1st Believe I can avoid being sent on party, oh for a feed! **April 6th** Dysentery inoculation. **April 8th** Received second meal of Red X parcels, one parcel between 20 men, believe having some each Sunday. More skin trouble, also beriberi in the feet. Why doesn't something happen, takes all one's energy to walk about. Seems pretty obvious we've had it far as mal is concerned. Hope no news good news. It's hell trying to keep one's thoughts off food and home, but our hosts have not broken our morale yet. **April 14th** 32 today, looks as though shall be middle-aged before see home again. Nothing happening yet. **April 15th** Sick this morning, category 3 & 2. G.M.D. should answer my purpose, trying to get back to G.C. with Ross. **April 18th** Transferred back to G.C., pleased to get away from the floor of corruption, filth and bugs. **April 20th** Living in same cell as Len Gilbey as I know only two Soham blokes in the camp. Receive a little Red Cross supplies twice a week, issue consists of 2 oz bully, 1 oz jam, 1 oz cheese !4 oz raisins and very small quantities of biscuits, prunes, sugar, chocolate, milk etc. Not sufficient to improve our health in any way. Had draw for a few Red X toothbrushes, soap etc. I drew a tin of boot polish, the amusing part about it is I haven't any boots. **April 25th** Stomach trouble now, afraid when get free have trouble with stomach after 3 years of this diet. Things very quiet, almost an ominous quiet. Suppose things almost normal at home. Anzac Day. **April 26th** 12 new white towels between 74, lucky draw one, a beauty Red + issue, first towel I've had for 2 years. Been drying myself on old rags. Oh for a pair of boots, running about barefooted not so good. **April 27th** 27 bags of mixed mail in. **May 1st** A third of the year passed, beginning to think it means another Xmas away from home, quiet?!! **May 8th** Feel pretty crabbed the last 4 days, stomach out of order, cannot feed, sight of this unappetizing muck they call food makes me feel sick. **May 8th** Suppose the lights are shining again, suppose my old crowd be one or two short. **May 12th** Card from young "Pat" dated October 1944, everyone O.K. Believe I have a touch of yellow jaundice, feel terrible. **May 14th** Yes, I've yellow jaundice, everything seems too much trouble. Year ago since arrived in Jail. As the days pass visions of getting home this year fading. Suppose the old country a much happier place, gosh I'm missing a hell of a lot. **May 15th** Weighed today, 120 lbs, another year I won't make a shadow. It's a bugger this jaundice. Hope it will soon be our turn to celebrate. **May 16th** Sick tonight, M.O. asked would I rather go into hospital and said if I did they had no treatment to give one, so replied I'd rather not, but he ordered me to rest, which means fight duty rations. Off my food so that's not worrying me. The Nips have some queer ideas. If a man is fit he gets heavy duty rations, but if one does fight duty work one gets light duty rations. If a man is ill or recuperating etc, he gets a no-duty ration which is next door to starvation. **May 21st** Now I'm resting, have time to meditate and all I seem able to think about is home and Mum's cooking. **May 24th** Managed to shake off the jaundice, recovered my appetite - hungry as a horse, but no running to the pantry or shop here. Reading "Let the People Sing" by J.B. Priestly. Came across this chorus: 'Let the people sing, And freedom bring an end to a sad old story, When the people sing, Their voices ring in the dawn of the people's glory. Appealed and fitted

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends,

It was over a month ago that about two dozen of us piled on to a coach outside St Andrew's to go and see Edward Green licensed as a Team Vicar in the Cherwell Valley Team. We easily found Upper Heyford (the site of the former USAF base where there used to be well-publicised protests against nuclear weapons). Finding the chapel was a little more tricky, but a kindly gardener was happy to oblige us with more detailed directions.

The licensing service actually took place in the what used to be the chapel on the base; it was a very far cry from our Grade I listed building. It was chosen in preference to one of the medieval buildings because it was large and there were excellent facilities and plenty of parking.

The people there made us very welcome as did the bishop. He remarked that you could tell a lot by the number of people from the old, 'sending' parish who went to support a priest at the start of his ministry in a new, 'receiving' parish. He said that a large contingent could mean only one of two things; either they were very fond of the priest who was leaving, or they wanted to make sure that they had properly got rid of him! In addition to the people on the coach, a number of us had made our way separately and so Soham and Wicken had a very good representation and was able to demonstrate that we were fond of Edward.

The service was slightly different from the licensing that some of us may remember – there was no walking round the building to the various strategic points (such as the lectern, the font and the altar); instead, symbols of the various activities were brought to the front (we saw a Bible, a jug of water and bread and wine presented). There was, obviously, no organ so the music was provided by a small and enthusiastic group of instrumentalists and singers.

The service was followed by refreshments which had been provided by members of the six parishes. It was about midnight when we all got off the coach back in Soham, tired but glad to have seen Edward start in his new post.

The experience gave us all a chance to think about not only Edward's ministry (both here and in Oxfordshire) but also about each of our own ministries. It is a mistake to think that 'ministry' is only to be found in a clerical shape; all baptised Christians are called to serve God – and the calling will be different for each of us; for some it may be to ordained or some form of authorised ministry, but every single Christian has a vocation (or a calling). I am often reminded of the famous poster from the First World War with General Kitchener pointing out and the caption underneath saying "Your Country Needs You". It seems to me that we could apply something similar to ourselves: "your church needs you" or "God wants you". Perhaps you might consider to what God is calling you. With every good wish, yours sincerely, *Tim*

PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings

23rd May

Sarah (Hickmott) and Daniel James

Baptisms

26th April

Matthew Daniel Kear

17th May

Jasmine Elizabeth Driver

Alfie David Brown

Sophie Elizabeth Myhill