

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

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, 28th 9.15 am at the War Memorial for Palm Sunday procession
Holy Monday Passover meal at Berrycroft Methodist Chapel at 7.00 pm
Holy Tuesday and Wednesday Holy Communion and Meditation at 7.30 pm
Maundy Thursday 10.30 am Chrism Eucharist in the Cathedral
7.30 pm Institution of Holy Communion
(with the washing of feet)
Good Friday 10.30 am Walk of Witness
(starting in Clay Street, outside Budgens)
2.00 pm The Last Hour
Easter Day 8.00 am Holy Communion
8.45 am Parish Breakfast in church
9.30 am All-age Eucharist for Easter

The Building works

I wrote last month about the start of the building works in St Andrew's and I have the chance to give a progress report. The work is going well – though it has uncovered one or two surprises (not all pleasant).

One of the interesting things to have been uncovered was the enormous tombstone of one of my predecessors, a Drue Cressener, who was vicar of Soham between 1679 and 1718. According to the National Dictionary of Biography he was not only a Church of England clergyman, but he was also a 'religious controversialist'. He published two works in the wake of the 'glorious revolution' in which the hated James II was deposed by William and Mary. The main thrust of his works was to demonstrate how the Biblical book of Revelation could be interpreted to show how the Catholic James II should have been replaced by the Protestant William and Mary. We know that he studied both at Christ's College and Pembroke College in Cambridge. He became a fellow of Pembroke in 1669 and was ordained a priest in 1677. He became a Doctor of Divinity in 1680 (clearly he found the time to study while he was here) and a canon of Ely Cathedral in 1700. He married twice and had five children (though only two survived beyond infancy.) Until his tombstone was uncovered in the Lady Chapel, I knew nothing about him apart from his name on the list of Vicars of Soham.

A somewhat less interesting (and decidedly costlier) discovery has been the need to replace the present lighting in the church; the present system has done well but does not meet current standards of safety or efficiency. The upside of this is that the new lighting will be much more environmentally friendly, but of course, it comes at an initial cost of several thousand pounds.

The organ, which has been in its present place since 1966, will have been removed by time of *Lodestar's* publication. It was put there under the direction of Norman Sykes, who is still fondly remembered by many, and with the help of the boys from the Village College. It is good to know that the pipework is being preserved and will be incorporated into the new instrument where it will be able to speak proudly into the nave for generations to come. *Tim Alban Jones*

Dear Friends,

I trust this edition of Lodestar finds you well, and if not, that you have at least got friends and family around you to offer support. We were never told that life would be fair or even easy. In fact, the people who are remembered in history are the ones who used adversity to mould and develop their character. I am reminded of the creation of every woman's dream, the diamond. This sparkling and expensive item of jewellery is formed by great pressure and heat; in effect, great adversity.

As we begin the Lent Season, we remember that it is a period in which we can prepare for Easter celebrations; and remind ourselves of the adversity that Christ Jesus endured for us – the whole of humanity.

Lent is an opportunity to be reminded that there is still love, mercy and grace available in the world. In fact, evidence of God's grace is so "in our face" that there are times when we miss it (can't see the wood for the trees), or we take it for granted. When we recognise God's grace around us, we are also seeing a God Who enjoys revealing Himself to us. As the Snowdrops and Daffodils appear, stop for a moment and look closely to the construction of the flowers, the different hues of colour, the intricate detail. As you do so, marvel at how wonderful it all is – God created it just for us to enjoy. As a bee lands on the flower, study the design of the wings and marvel at how these creatures know when and where to go. Again, evidence of a God who reveals Himself in all that is around us.

We may have various opinions about the world and its origin. In a book I am reading at the moment, "Cliff Richard – My life, my way", I came across the following story. It tells of a Christian who worked for a boss who did not believe in the existence of God, nor God's role in creating the world. The story goes that the Christian had a model of the universe, in particular our solar system, made. He then put it on the desk of his boss. When his boss came to work, he called the Christian employer and asked where it came from. The reply was that it "just was there". When asked who made it, the response was "I don't know, it was just there". The boss then said that something of such an intricate nature had to be made by someone. As you look at the intricate wonders of the natural world around us, can we not believe that "someone made it"?

God's revelation of Himself does not stop there. It continues in the way that He reveals Himself in history. Then there is the ultimate revelation, Christ Jesus. A few months ago we celebrated the birth of God in Jesus over Christmas. Lent and Easter is a time to fully experience and appreciate the grace, love and mercy revealed by Christ. Christ, as the Son of God, did the most daring thing of all. To show the extent of God's love and mercy, Christ went sacrificially to the Cross. In so doing, He has offered humanity hope, peace, courage and faith. May we experience afresh God's love for us this Lent Season.

If you want to find out more about what I have penned, please contact myself through the Methodist Church. Kind regards, *Revd Edwin Myers*

Silent Auction: Promises please!

We will be holding an Auction of Gifts and Promises again this year but this time instead of a live auction we will hold a Silent Auction. All the lots will be put into a booklet in which people can write their bid for a particular item in the weeks leading up to the final auction night. This will be at the Pudding Evening on 26th June.

As usual, to make this work we need plenty of promises or gifts to auction. It may be that you have a particular talent that you could offer somebody: either to do something for them or teach them something. You could offer something more mundane but useful such as ironing or cleaning. Or perhaps you could arrange an interesting activity. You are also welcome to offer something tangible such as something you have made or grown.

If you have something to offer please add it to the list in church by Sunday 18th April or telephone the vicar on 01353 720423.

SCHOOL REPORT

Richard Liddington, Headteacher of St. Andrew's School



St Andrew's Year 6 go back in time!

St Andrews Year 6 learnt about World War 2 for their first term topic, hence it was a part of their curriculum. The past year sixes have told us how interesting it is, therefore we have looked forward to it throughout our school life. This is our experience...

Crazy Creativity! Our World War Two Home projects were a great success and some of the best projects the children have ever done! At the start of our subject we were told to include either: Important Events, Inventions that won the war, War Heroes or Evacuation. The teachers enjoyed reading the projects and they even put them on display. The children had 4½ weeks to finish them, and everyone got positive feedback from the teachers. As usual the projects were rewarded with merits. The children marked each other's projects fairly and ended up with 1, 2 or 3 merits.

New Curriculum, New Topic Our new curriculum encourages us to try new activities and new tasks. To start a new topic, as a class, we make a 'KWL' Grid. Meaning: K= What I know, W= What I would like to know and L= What I have learnt. It gives a boost like a starter for a meal. I thought it was a great experience, learning about World War 2.

"Me and my friends have learnt a lot," commented Hugh Alban Jones "We get encouraged to use our Literacy targets in our Topic work. When I go round the classrooms, I hope it makes their learning more meaningful and fun."

"We are still looking for more ways to improve the curriculum," reported Mr Liddington the Head teacher "We are very pleased with our new curriculum."

It's Party Time To celebrate our end of term topic we had a VE day street party. The VE day party was an extravaganza of dancing, chatting, lots of learning, fun and excitement. We all participated in this by making a dish from World War Two times. There were: cakes, sandwiches, biscuits, drinks and much more. We found out the main entertainment was dancing both men and women took part, as a result we made up our own dance. The dance



was choreographed by the fellow pupils Hugh Alban Jones, Max Palmer, Phoebe Salmond, Katie Webb and Oliver Manley. Another popular entertainment was listening to the radio, so we had some pupils make up their own radio station. The pupils were: Olivia Henderson, Lauren Landamore, Jessica Rowe, Ryan Norton and Sunny Green. It was based on life during the war; it was very realistic. There also was a speech, about Victory in Europe, it went very well; nothing went wrong. An Anderson shelter was made by pupils of Year 6. The cardboard used was donated by D S Smith packaging, so thank you to them.

Skills that pay the bills As we are in Year 6 we are starting to understand what skills we are using. Here are some: Recall, select, organise and communicate historical information in a variety of ways • Identify and describe reasons for results of historical events, situating and changes in periods and societies studied • Begin to produce structured work making appropriate use of dates and historical vocabulary. We have used these skills in Topic - we must be very skilled.

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Building Work



The building work started on Monday 25th January. The builders from Flanders Brothers have fenced off an area around the base of the tower, removed carpets and cupboards from the Vestry and Lady Chapel (exposing a large tomb of a former vicar) and taken up floorboards in the vestry and North Transept. The lifting of the floorboards showed that the vestry sink had been draining to the space under the floor causing rotten joists which have had to be replaced.

The new boiler for the east end heating system has been installed and new electric cables, water and gas pipes have been laid. New three phase circuit boards have been

installed for the electricity supply.

Week 4 has seen the arrival of the cupboards for the new vestry. They have arrived in sections and are being constructed on site. By the time you read this they should have been installed.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the work, especially the cold temperatures over the last couple of weeks. The heating is working but the timer switch has been disrupted by the power supply being switched off while rewiring work is done. Hopefully all the mess and disruption will be worth it in the end. *Alison Evans*



Lent Lunches



Lent lunches will take place on Fridays from 26th February to 26th March at the newly refurbished Methodist Hall, Berrycroft, Soham from 12 noon. Do come and enjoy a simple lunch of soup with bread and cheese with people from all the churches in Soham. Donations for the lunch go to Christian Aid.

St Andrew's will be providing the lunch on 12th March.

Streams – Iona Worship

The Streams service for March will be worship inspired by the Iona Community - Celtic prayer addressing modern issues of justice and peace. The service takes place on Sunday 7th March at 6.30pm.

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Duxford Duxford is an Imperial War Museum, we went there for a school trip. It was a very impeccable one. We got to see all the planes (awesome!!), the gift shop, an Anderson shelter, a home of people living in England and much more!! It was a child friendly trip, although very grown up.

Past to future The whole topic has helped us understand what people went through during that time, we truly respect them. We have learnt a lot, worked hard and succeed greatly.

“The children have learnt a lot during the topic, the VE day party was enjoyed, family and friends included” this was a quote from Mrs Henderson. Our next topic is **space** and there are a lot of people looking forward to it. We think it will be as rewarding as the world war two project. This story was reported by Year 6 pupils:

Celine Tofts, Olivia Henderson, Hugh Alban Jones, Oliver Manley and John Humbles.



- ★ **A Spring Fayre** is being held by Soham Salvation Army from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday, 27th March. There are various stalls and tea and coffee will be served. 20 pence admission - everyone welcome.
- ★ **St Andrew's 200+ Club** Tickets are now available for this years St Andrew's Church 200+ Club. Call Linda Palmer on 722196 or Lynne Webb on 720155.
- ★ **Soham Twinning Association**, a local community self funding organisation, is going to receive a visit from a group of French people from our twinned town, Andrezieux-Boutheon, on Thursday evening May 13th to Monday morning May 17th 2010. We are looking for hosts willing to welcome one or two into their home and offer them bed and breakfast for this period. The guests will be out during most of the day visiting our local areas. If you are interested in being a host, please contact anne.pallett@yahoo.co.uk (chair of STA) or phone 01353 721440. Your help would be most welcome. Thank you. *Anne Pallett*
- ★ **Articles for inclusion in the April Lodestar** should be with coordinator, Alison Palmer, alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freeserve.co.uk or Oak House, 41 Sand St, Soham, CB7 5AA no later than 15th March.

Mothering Sunday

Please note that our Family Service, which normally falls on the third Sunday of each month, will this month be kept on the second Sunday. We hope that all will feel particularly welcome to come to our all-age service at 9.30 am.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This annual ecumenical service takes place at the Methodist Church in Berrycroft on Friday 5th March at 2pm. The service has been written by women from Cameroon and the speaker is Janette Scothern. All are welcome - young and old, women, men and children. There will be tea and biscuits afterwards.



Desperate Housewives

Desperate Housewives is a social group for women run by Claire Gillett at St Andrew's Church. You don't have to be a housewife or desperate to come to one of their meetings, nor do you have to be a regular at St Andrews. The next Desperate Housewives event is on Thursday 11th March when they will be going to see the film "It's Complicated" at The Maltings Cinema in Ely. This is a romantic comedy starring Meryl Streep. Tickets are £4/£5. Please sign up in church and pay Claire Gillett (01353 624697) or Angela Beaver in advance.



PARISH REGISTERS



Baptisms

31st January	Suzie Ann Greygoose
7th February	Rosie Lulu Fretwell
21st	Chloe Erin Phillips

Funerals

2nd February	June Brown (72)
5th	Jaqueline Ann Manning (45)
16th	Susan Larnach (51)

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Lent is traditionally seen as a time of growth. We have a number of things taking place throughout Lent this year which we hope will enable us all to grow spiritually. The theme that we have chosen is that of loving God, loving our neighbours and loving ourselves. There are leaflets in church with further details of the ideas below.

Loving God

- Pray daily
- Say grace before meals
- Read the Bible daily – perhaps the whole of the New Testament or all the Psalms during Lent.
- Or follow the Lectionary readings (<http://almanac.oremus.org/lectionary/download>)
- Attend church more frequently
- Read some classic Christian writings like Dame Julian or the Desert Fathers, or some more recent books on spirituality
- Attend the Lent Group in Wicken
- Join the Daily Prayer Chain (see below)

Loving our neighbours

- Make a point of not judging others
- Resolve a disagreement
- Make a friend
- Be hospitable
- Rethink your giving to charity
- Buy more fairly traded products
- Reduce your waste or carbon footprint
- Speak up for someone or something that needs your support
- Follow the Christian Aid daily Lent suggestions at www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent/count-your-blessings-resources.aspx or available in paper form at the back of church

Loving ourselves

- Accept yourself without comparing with others
- Forgive yourself
- Be grateful for and careful with your relationships
- Give up something you consume that is not good for you. (Not necessarily food or drink!)
- Make time to be still
- Go to bed earlier

There are also a number of activities taking place during Lent which will include:

Daily Prayer Chain (see below)

Lenten Power Fast: 24 hours without electricity

Mothering Sunday Family Service 9.30 am Sun 14 Mar St Andrew's Soham

Streams: Iona/Celtic worship: Sun 7 Mar 6.30 pm St Andrew's, Soham

Weekly Lent Group on Wednesdays 7.30 pm at 39 High Street, Wicken

Lent Lunches every Friday during Lent: 12 noon Methodist Church, Soham

Church Family Teas: Sunday 21 March, 4pm, 58 Station Road, Soham

I hope that this Lent can be a time when we can grow together spiritually as we prepare ourselves for the celebrations of Easter.

Daily Prayer Chain for Lent

Nails are potent symbols of the cost of God's love for the world and those who continue to suffer.

We have a bag of nails to pass from home to home during Lent in the same way that the figures of Mary and Joseph travelled round the parish during Advent as we prepared for Christmas. Taking one out to keep in our houses will be a reminder of our commitment to following Christ. There is a list in the church (which still has some blank spaces on it) so that we will be maintaining a prayer chain throughout this season of Lent.

A simple form of daily prayer will be in the bag with the nails, with the hope that prayers will be offered for our church, our community and the world every day.

The bag of nails began its journey at the Ash Wednesday Service at 7.30pm and will come back to church on Good Friday. Please sign up today on the list at the back if you would like to be part of this. Yours sincerely, Tim Alban Jones