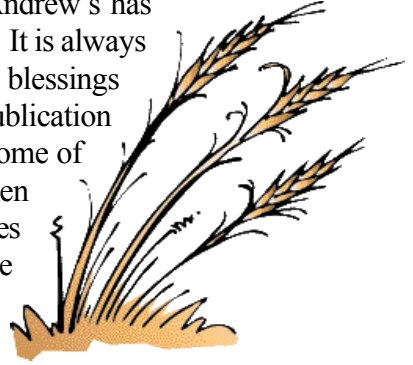


Services at the Parish Church

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This edition of Lodestar will be published after St Andrew's has observed the annual celebrations of the harvest home. It is always good to pause and give thanks to God for the many blessings which it might be easy to take for granted. The publication date is not too late, however, to let you know about some of the Harvest activities at St Laurence's Wicken. Wicken Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 10th Oct with services at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm. In the evening, we shall be joined by the Wicken Band to lead the singing of the hymns at a Harvest Festival Songs of Praise.



On Monday, 11th we have the annual Harvest Auction which is always great fun. It is an excellent chance to buy some fresh harvest produce at knock down prices and I guarantee that you will go home smiling after all the fun of the auction (thanks to the entertaining auctioneer who makes the evening such a success). The Harvest Lunch will be on the following Sunday (17th). Tickets are available at Tyler's Farm Shop or from the Vicar (720 423)

'NEW' SOHAM CHARITY SHOP OPENS FOR BUSINESS

The popular Viva Charity Shop in Soham has moved, but only temporarily, to new premises just three doors down to No 11 Churchgate Street Soham. The move has happened because the shop's usual home, The Viva Centre, is about to undergo a redevelopment that will see the inclusion of a new community café, a new open plan charity retail area, central heating and a lift that will make the community building 100% accessible.

"It's business as usual in the shop's new home and we will still be offering a range of pre-owned goods at great prices" says Frank Crosby, Viva's Development Manager. "We look forward to welcoming customers to our new temporary home while the work begins on this fabulous new community resource."

The popular shop, now a fixture in the town, first opened in 2004 and raises funds for the Viva Arts and Community Group. Viva is dedicated to community development and the development of young people through the arts and associated community projects. All the goods sold by the Viva Charity Shop have been donated by the public and include books, music, toys and games, clothing and accessories, footwear and bric-a-brac.

The Viva Charity Shop is now at No 11 Churchgate St, Soham, and is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am.



'GODSPELL' IN EDINBURGH

Viva Youth Theatre are veterans of the Edinburgh Fringe, and 'Godspell' marked the sixth year in succession that the group has triumphed. For many in the cast of 17, including a large contingent from the outgoing year 11 at the College, it was their first trip to the internationally acclaimed festival. And didn't they enjoy it! Even getting up for a 6.00 am technical rehearsal, a time when many of the city's revellers were still partying, did not put them off their stride.

For the first time, we were in a proper theatre – The C Plaza is a venue which specialises in musical theatre – instead of the church halls and lecture theatres of previous years. Specialist technical support and room to move about backstage helped enormously. Perhaps the 400-seater venue was too big for us to fill, but the impact created by such a talented and exuberant company more than made up for the relatively smaller audiences.

There is no such thing as a traditional production of 'Godspell'. The script, based on St Matthew's Gospel, is really no more than a framework for directors and actors to do their own thing. The cast have a much freer rein in which to develop the story. Those who saw the cast at the family service in June may remember the innocent, almost jolly way in which they told the parable of the prodigal son. By that afternoon, the story had been totally re-imagined by the cast, so that it ended up as a rap version, perhaps too raunchy to be brought back to church, but which went down a storm in performance.



The audience reaction, both at home and in Edinburgh, was universally positive. Many professed to be moved to tears as the roller-coaster veered from the joyful, childlike creation of a loving community to the almost unbearable pain of the betrayal and crucifixion. As a member of the production team, I cannot praise highly enough the commitment and versatility shown by our youngsters.

While it seems unfair to single out anybody, Ralph Watts superbly captured the mixture of charisma and vulnerability of Jesus, and Ashley Gilmour was not just an athletic Judas – his reaction when he realised the enormity of what he had done was a genuinely moving moment. And yet these two did not overshadow the rest of the cast. Splendidly supported by a vastly talented team of musicians, technicians, choreographers and stage managers, the company created a theatrical event that Viva can be proud of.

David Tickner

Auditions for West Side Story In Ely Cathedral Viva Youth Theatre

Musical theatre classic West Side Story is to be performed next January in Ely Cathedral by the award-winning Viva Youth Theatre based in Soham. Auditions are being held this September, open to all people ages 11 - 30. The group is especially looking for male performers aged 15+ to take on the roles of the Sharks and the Jets, two rival youth gangs on the gritty streets of New York in the 1950s.

West Side Story is the lively retelling of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. It pits two rival teenage gangs from different ethnic backgrounds against each other, whilst the two main characters, Maria and Tony, fall in love and try to break down the cultural barriers. There is an information evening at Lodeside Hall, Soham Village College at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16th September.

Auditions at The Brook, Brook Street, Soham at 2.00 pm on Sunday 19 September
For more information call 01353 722228 or email vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk

School Report

Weatheralls School



We have come back to school to find the first of a series of exciting changes have been happening over the summer. In response to the fact that Soham is growing so rapidly the Weatheralls School is growing too, in order to accommodate the extra children coming into our catchment area. So over the summer two brand new, purpose built, double mobiles were placed on the playground round the back. These will be there for the next few years while a permanent building is added to the current school buildings.

The teachers and caretaker worked very hard, the minute the mobiles were handed over, to get the furniture into the mobiles and get them ready for the children. As more staff came into school to help us all to get ready for the new term there was frequently shared delight at the quality and spaciousness of the mobiles as many of us remember the 'old' days of rather sad and scruffy mobiles; nothing but the best for Weatheralls children!

More excitement is to come with the addition of a new hard surface playground on the existing school field. In the meantime the children are a bit squashed on the old playgrounds but everyone is managing well and being very creative and positive.

The design of the permanent new building will be the next step towards our ultimate expansion and I'm really looking forward to having a significant input into what that building will look like and how it will be designed. At the moment we envisage that the older year 5 and Year 6 children will be housed in the new part of the school, where we will have several new classes and a new school hall.

Our Nursery already has over 70 children and Reception and Year 1 are bigger than they have ever been. The local authority anticipates that the school will gradually grow over the next few years involving extra classes each year and new staff. I am looking forward to the challenge of managing the changes that this will necessitate but with a strong school team and with the support of the parents I believe we are in a great position to be able to welcome everyone in our catchment area and to provide a safe, happy and successful school for them. *Chrissy Barclay*



Mothers' Union is an international organisation of 3.6 million Christians in over 78 countries who give money, time, experience and prayer to support marriage and family life. They share a vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships: reaching out to communities they change lives and bring hope. Each member is committed to achieving this vision. Members pay an annual subscription to the society. From each subscription about £7.00 goes towards the centrally funded work of Mothers' Union.

How is the money used?

Alongside the diocesan funded programmes, Mothers' Union funds programmes in other membership countries. Broadly speaking 10% of the budget funds parenting and marriage support in Britain and Ireland; 30% funds development work in developing countries (including the worldwide parenting programme) and 25% is used to fund emergency relief leading to long-term development work.

Mothers' Union employs 300 development workers in many countries, including five in Britain and Ireland. These women carry out all kinds of activities to support and grow our outreach to families, including parenting, prison work, health and sexual health education, nutrition etc.

Mothers' Union also employs a small team of professional staff based in the headquarters, Mary Sumner House, Westminster, London.

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Away From It All

Funds are raised to give families who might be under stress, financially or otherwise, a holiday or family day trip together. Some of these are organized as a group holiday - with members helping staff the holiday and care for the families. Others may be offered a break at an established holiday venue. Anyone can nominate a family for an AFIA holiday, but applications should be endorsed by clergy or social workers.

Helping those facing adversity is a phrase Mothers' Union members take to their hearts. Members reach out with whatever help they can to refugees, asylum seekers, women escaping sexual trafficking or domestic violence or those affected by poverty and other problems.

Diocesan/Branch Projects

Alongside fundraising for "overseas" projects, each diocese within the UK has its own unique charity number: dioceses respond to local needs, raise funds and put in place local programmes. Just a few examples are:

- Help at local refuge centres
- Toddler groups
- Making clothes for premature or still-born babies
- Providing 'comfort' bags for people suddenly admitted to hospital.
- Supporting families of sick children in hospital.

Dioceses usually have a project which local members may contribute to.

To attend Mothers' Union training sessions, or to find out about projects run in your area, contact either your Mothers' Union diocesan Action & Outreach coordinator or our central office: The Mothers' Union. Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB Tel: 020 7222 5533 www.themothersunion.org

Throughout all its work prayer sustains and strengthens. Each day a Wave of Prayer goes around the world as members pray at midday wherever they are for the people and the work of Mothers' Union and international issues.

Speaking out for families

Our social policy work vocalises the vision of the Mothers' Union, in the same way that our community development programmes demonstrate the vision. 'Social policy' can be described as the decisions and initiatives made by government that affect our lives. We need to express our values and beliefs about these decisions to government and to society to bring about Christ's vision of caring for God's world and caring for others as ourselves.

Our policy work both supports and informs our programme work and through it, we lobby governments to affirm and support families, marriage, children and those who have met adversity, in all of their decision-making. We believe these values ultimately promote greater justice and equality for all.

Policy at membership level

The Mothers' Union identifies which social policy issues it wants to influence by

- a) monitoring what is on the Government's agenda;
- b) identifying the concerns of Mothers' Union members; and
- c) how these issues relate to marriage, parenting and children.

All of this is underpinned by our Christian faith.

Nationally we lobby politicians, respond to Government consultations, produce briefings, run campaigns and join coalitions and networks on specific initiatives. Our members also lobby government, take part in campaigns and respond to consultations.

The Faith Policy Unit equips them to do this. However, it is a two-way relationship and members feed their experiences, concerns and expertise into the strategy of Mothers' Union policy, so that policy maintains a truly representative viewpoint. This reflects the grassroots nature of Mothers' Union and gives it its unique voice in society.

Judith Scott



- * **The importance of being Earnest** - Viva Theatre Company, the adult wing of the Viva Arts and Community Group, has had a very successful first year, from winning the NODA certificate for the best drama in the district for 'Hobson's Choice' to record box-office response to 'Outside Edge'. The company is in the final stages of its autumn production of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, to be performed at The Brook from 13th – 15th October. Tickets, at £7 (£6 concessions) are already selling fast, so do not delay. Contact Viva on 01353 722228.
- * **Soham Salvation Army** are holding their **Autumn Fayre** on Saturday, 30th October, from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. There will be a variety of Stalls and tea and coffee will be served. Admission is 20p and all are welcome.
- * **Congratulations to all the 200+ Club winners for August**, drawn at a bumper draw at the St Andrew's Church BBQ last month. They are as follows: £5 - Richard Clark, £10 - Bertha Hobbs, £15 - Mrs K Hobbs, £25 - Sally Peters
- * **Items for the November edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 22nd October. E-mails should be sent to peterdscott@btopenworld.com or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.

Soham Charity Ball

It is with much regret that the Soham Charity Ball Committee has decided that they will not be continuing with the annual October Ball anymore. Much thought was given to this decision, mainly due to the rising costs of putting on such an event and falling ticket sales.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thankyou to everyone who has supported us over the last 10 years by buying tickets, donating draw prizes and helping with food, also the group of volunteers who helped make everything run smoothly on the night.

We have some funds in hand and would love to hear from any individual, group or organisation who feels that they should be considered for some assistance. Contact any of the following: A. Schunmann, 17 Holmes Lane Soham; Jenny Harvey, 18 Greenhills, Soham CB7 5DA; Mrs M Rae, 44 Mereside, Soham CB7 5XE; jennie.harvey@btinternet.com

Devoted followers of the Joe Loss Band can still find them playing in and around the area, but these events will not be connected in any way to the Soham Charity Ball.

THE FORDHAM CHARITY GROUP

Following the success of our 'A Night at the Musicals' production in 2008, a new production will be staged on Saturday, Oct 9th at St Peters Church, Fordham 7.30pm.

The cast will once again be led by Darren Jeffery, who has kindly offered to perform for us amidst his busy schedule of professional engagements and will also include Lizzie Futter, Janet and Colin Scott, Andy Ward, Bridget Hickish and instrumental brass quintet, Impromptu Brass.

The concert will feature music and songs from shows such as Oklahoma, Chess, South Pacific, West Side Story, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Oliver and a finale of Les Miserables.

Janet, Andy and Colin have performed on numerous occasions with the Nomads Musical Society and have recently starred in a successful production of 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'.

Impromptu Brass are made up of experienced brass musicians who have played with various bands and orchestras in the area.

Tickets are priced at £9 each (£8 concessions) and can be purchased from Soham Books, or by calling 01638 720674. All profits will be donated to The East Anglian Air Ambulance and Macmillan Cancer Support. *John Pryke*

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends,

Children in Church

People sometimes tell me that children are the next generation of worshippers. This is entirely true, but it is not the entire truth. If children are in church, they are also *this* generation of worshippers. Their needs are just as important as those of us adults who also attend – though we very often overlook or ignore them. Just because we may have been expected to sit still and be absolutely silent as children when we went to church it does not mean that we can expect the same from youngsters today. If it was hard for us back then – and it was! – then it is certainly no easier for our children today (and is probably more difficult given that the world is a noisier place)

This is all well and good until the needs of children come into direct conflict with those of us adults who worship regularly. If we are accustomed to being reverent and quiet during some parts of our service it can be something of a rude awakening when little people come charging down the aisle quite oblivious of our expectations. I urge everyone to be considerate of each other's needs – in all directions.

At St Andrew's we are fortunate to have a Children's Corner at the back with plenty of toys and books. Parents are able to take their children to the Corner and there are things to keep children occupied. We are all the more fortunate (and grateful) that Bridget and Jean are sitting with children and helping them engage with the service through appropriate activities and work sheets. This is the fore-runner of our new Junior Church which will be starting up very soon.

Jean and Bridget have been attending a course run by the diocesan children's officer and have agreed to run the Junior Church rota. We are planning to offer the Junior Church on three Sundays out of four (not on the third Sunday which is when the Family Service takes place). At present, the plans are for the group to be flexible so that it might meet in the transept or in the new meeting room (depending on what activity is being done and on noise levels from the congregation and the children). I would value your thoughts about our plans and if you would like to know more, please do ask me or Bridget or Jean. We would all value your prayers as we move forward with this important aspect of our work.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

22nd Aug	Robyn Madison Amber Latter	12th Sep	Adam Elsdon
	Jersey Olivia Megan Bennett		Kyen John Adam Davis
29th	Poppy May Hogg	19th	Chloe Louise Gilbey
	Kaitlyn Ann Marie Clifton		Cameron Nicholas
5th Sep	Evie Violet Palmer		Brooklyn Nicholas
	Finley George Howe	25th	Nathan Craig Shepherd
			Phoebe Christina Ann Webb

Weddings

11th Sept Darren Heslop and Sarah Dew

Funerals

27th Aug Hansin Meinhild Joanna Frederikka Constant (86)
31st Edith June Ross
15th Joan Nicholas
21st Maurice Elliott 'Sam' Neale (78)
23rd Joseph Porter (54)