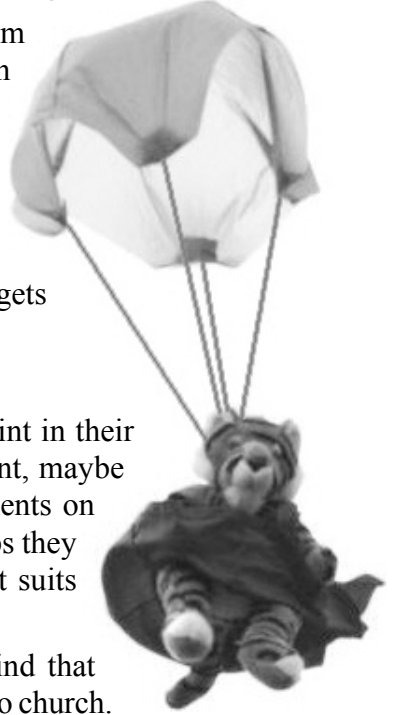


Services at the Parish Church

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

How Brave is Your Teddy?

Find out on Saturday, September 12th between 10 am and 12 noon. For £1.50 teddy (or other soft toy) can be strapped into a parachute and dropped from the church tower. They will be awarded a bravery certificate and can have a check up with the teddy doctor. There will also be refreshments and craft activities. There's no age limit on bears or their owners but please don't bring a precious toy just in case it gets stuck in a tree!



Back to Church Sunday

Many churchgoers stop going to church at some point in their lives. Maybe they lose their faith after a bereavement, maybe they fall out with someone or have other commitments on Sundays such as work or children's activities. Perhaps they move and find it difficult to find a new church that suits them.

Whatever the reasons for leaving they may later find that something is missing in their lives and want to return to church. But taking that first step back can be difficult which is why Back to Church Sunday was born. Members of churches up and down the country will be inviting somebody to come to church with them on September 27th. Hopefully thousands of people will accept that invitation and many will continue to come to church regularly.

If you used to come to church in Soham you may well find that you get such an invitation and we hope you will join us on the 27th when, as always at St Andrew's, you will be warmly welcomed. However if you don't get a personal message please take this as your invitation. And of course you don't have to wait for a special day to come back; any Sunday could be Back to Church Sunday for you.

Oludah Equiano Remembered

Do you remember the commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the ending of the slave trade in the British Empire a couple of years ago? Here in Soham we celebrated in particular the contribution to the campaign for abolition by Oludah Equiano. Equiano was a freed slave who wrote an influential account of his life as a slave and toured the country giving talks for the abolitionist movement. He was married in Soham Church to a local girl, Susannah Cullen and both his daughters were born and baptised here.

The July meeting of General Synod approved some changes to the Church of England calendar which list the days when saints, martyrs and other influential religious people are commemorated. Sir William Wilberforce is already commemorated on July 30th and this day will now be shared with Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, the abolitionist from Wisbech.

Oludah Equiano is the second person with a connection to St Andrew's to feature in the Church of England calendar. Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London and one of the leading lights of the Reformation was the Vicar of Soham (although as he was a bishop for most of that time and also Master of Pembroke College it is unlikely he spent much time in the parish!) He was burnt at the stake during Queen Mary's reign and is commemorated along with fellow reformer Hugh Latimer in October.

Neighbourhood Update

The last Soham and East Neighbourhood Panel meeting on Wednesday, 1st July began with a minute's silence in memory of Liam Fairhurst – an exceptional, well-loved and inspiring young man.



John Abbott drew participants' attention to the "Update on (non-police) actions" booklet. As ever, *all* issues of concern raised at the previous meeting had been actioned.

Inspector Alan Savill informed participants that Sgt Lyndsey Harbour had been transferred to the Cambridge City team, and would be replaced (from 6th July) by Sgt Shaun McLaughlin. PC Nick Webber was currently off work, having been injured in a recent police exercise.

Burglary in Soham Inspector Savill reported that the situation is now stable due to the series of measures which had been taken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), including:

- < Protracted use of e-cops – to receive and provide information to residents;
- < Use of Burglary packs, which include 'smart water' and UV pens
- < Talks /surgeries with managers, NHW coordinators and residents
- < Fortnightly meetings with members of the Suffolk Force.

Full details of the measures taken are outlined on pages 3 & 4 of the current Neighbourhood Profile (June 2009) which can be accessed from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage (please see the link at the end of this article)

Local crime figures have shown a seasonal increase, but *are lower than for the corresponding period in 2008*. Inspector Savill and the NPT are committed to a year-on-year reduction in crime.

Local reported incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) have increased slightly compared to 2008 – largely due to 2 sets of repeat incidents in which 9 car windows were smashed, and 16 incidents took place in Fountains Lane (Soham South).

Inspector Savill confirmed that, despite PC Webber's absence, the agreement to provide increased PCSO/officer patrols by the allotments would be honoured.

Councillor Joe Pattison provided an update on the **Speedwatch** scheme in the Soham and East Panel area, April 2008 – June 2009. The efforts of the volunteer team are:

- < helping the police enforcement teams to target their activities and leads to the issuing of fixed penalty tickets, summonses and prosecutions;
- < effective in reducing speed on both sides of the road (when they are observing);
- < targeted on specific areas each week.

More volunteers are needed to join the Panel's Speedwatch team, even if only offering a few hours each month. Please contact Cllr Joe Pattison (josephpattison@btinternet.com)

The priorities for the next 3 months are:

Police: ASB in Soham & Criminal damage in Soham

Other Agencies: Barleyfields estate (Gadwall way) actions & Noise problems at European Metal Recycling (EMR)

Issues identified in Soham

- < thefts and criminal damage at the allotments, and dog fouling along track which is parallel to the plots;
- < excessive speeds (and noise) on straight section of Townsends (letter written to Soham TC) - speed and noise towards roundabout to Ely a particular concern, but equally Broad Piece, Tanners Lane and Brook Street are experiencing similar problems;
- < refuse not collected from a resident for 2 weeks;
- < dog fouling on footpath between East Fen Common and Brook Dam Lane;
- < noticeboards are ready to be fitted at Weatheralls in July;
- < parking on yellow lines and on path by fish and chip shop - guidance needed;
- < Barleyfields' football pitch and pavilion are sorely needed;
- < Old Grammar School site needs urgent restoration (currently a 'blot on the landscape');
- < animals loose on/by the road on Bushell Lane to by-pass;
- < 30 mph sign needed at Broad Piece. [continued overleaf]



D Salvation Army Harvest Festival on Sunday, 13th September at 2.00 pm with the Leigh-on-Sea Salvation Army Band and special guest Major Idwal Evans. All welcome, bring your friends and family - refreshments afterwards.

D A Coffee Morning in aid of the cancer charity Macmillan is being held at Soham Bowls Club in Fountain Lane on Friday 25th September from 10.30am until noon. There will be a cake stall and a tombola as well. Anyone who wishes to contribute to either of these should contact Susan Taylor on 01353 721380.

D Ipswich Citadel Band will be playing at the Salvation Army Hall on Sunday, 4th October at 2.30 pm. Everyone welcome. Come and join us, bring family and friends - refreshments afterwards.

D Items for inclusion in the October edition of Lodestar should be with coordinator, Alison Palmer, Oak House, 41 Sand Street, Soham, CB7 5AA, alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freemove.co.uk by 18th September.

Advance notice – Harvest



St Andrew's Church will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October with a Harvest Eucharist at 9.30am and lunch at St Andrew's School at 12.30pm. All are welcome to join us. If you are coming to the lunch please come and sign up on the list at the back of the church so that we know how many people to cater for.



Charity Concert

The Fordham Charity Group, in association with The East Anglian Air Ambulance, will stage a Charity Concert at Beechurst Hall, Soham on Saturday September 26th at 7.30pm. The concert will feature one of East Anglia's premier big bands, The 18 piece Galaxy Big Band and vocalists, in a programme of music from the big band era and beyond. This is guaranteed to be a wonderful evening of nostalgia and great music from the library of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Ted Heath and many more.

Tickets priced at £10 each are available from Soham Books in the High Street, Eric Tennants Butchers, Newmarket, DN Jenkins TV, Fordham or by calling 01638 720674. All profits will be donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

[continued from previous page]

For on-going information about Neighbourhood Panels: minutes from the meetings, Neighbourhood Profiles, Newsletters, Speedwatch; dates and venues for the Panel meetings in 2009/2010 - please use the A-Z section of the East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) website: www.eastcamb.gov.uk to access the 'Neighbourhood Panel' webpage or contact Alan Williams, the Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator on 01353 616349 or at alan.williams@eastcamb.gov.uk

The next meeting of the Soham and East area Panel (7.00 pm start) in 2009 is:

Tuesday, 6th October at Soham Village College (Beechurst Hall)

Please come along, become involved and help to bring about improvements in your locality! If you are unable to attend, and have an issue to be raised with the Panel, please contact Rosemary Aitchison, Anne Pallett or George Ginn – Parish Council representatives on the Soham and East area Panel.

Soham Pumpkin Fair



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

This year's Pumpkin Fair on Saturday, 26th September is in association with Radio Cambridgeshire and is raising money for 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' - with this in mind our theme is Canine Heroes.

If you wish to enter any produce, flowers, cakes or poetry etc. please bring them along to the Recreation Ground between 9.30 and 11.30 am. Don't forget, for all you budding artists out there we have a fairly new competition - to design the front cover for next year's program! The winning entry from 2008 can be seen on the front of this year's. This is also where you'll find entry forms for all the competitions (these can also be downloaded from our website www.sohampumpkinfair.co.uk) The programs will be distributed to all children in both Primary Schools and Playgroup shortly - Soham Library, Soham Books and the Pavilion will also be some of the distribution points.

In the afternoon, we are very pleased to have a Living History Display, provided by the Earl of Northampton's Regiment of Foot - they are a regiment of The Sealed Knot society and will be re-enacting what life was like for both soldiers and civilians during the period of the British Civil Wars in the mid-17th Century.



You will still be able to see both Primary Schools and Soham Fenlander Majorettes in the arena and there will also be a static display of Bygones, Classic Cars, and of course the Raffle and Prize Giving Ceremony.

So come along and have some fun. We hope the weather will be kind to us and that we see lots of you there! (See our website for more information)

Jenny Fletcher (Secretary)

Maple Pecan Muffins

I am a great fan of the cookery writer, Nigella Lawson, but some of her ingredients take a little seeking out and are certainly not freely available in Soham.

However, I have adapted a maple pecan muffin recipe of hers - no wheatgerm or corn oil required for this - and I think it works quite well (at least my family think so!) And you can buy all the ingredients in Soham! (If you struggle to get the muffin cases I have bought them from the baker's in the past). Here it is:

150g shelled pecans	125ml milk
325g plain flour	125ml maple syrup
4 teaspoons baking powder	125ml vegetable oil
pinch of salt	1 egg
1tbsp caster sugar	1 tbsp dark brown sugar
A desert spoon of mixed spice	

Chop the pecans so they're in chunks about the size of your little fingernail and reserve about a quarter of them. Put the rest in a bowl with all the dry ingredients (except for the dark brown sugar which you need to add to the reserved pecans for later).

In another bowl whisk together all the wet ingredients and then pour onto the dry ingredients. Stir, but the lumpier the batter is the better so don't overwork it.

At this point - cook's treat - taste a bit. If you can't taste the mixed spice clearly (or you prefer a stronger spice flavour) or if it's not sweet enough add a little more spice and/or sugar. This really is a taste preference. It's hard to give exact quantities of these ingredients because I'm not a measurer, I'm an add a bit, taste a bit cook!

When you've got it the way you like it, spoon into 12 muffin cases placed in a 12-bun muffin tin. Give the reserved pecans and brown sugar stir, sprinkle a little over each muffin and bake at gas mark 6/200 degrees C for about 20 minutes. The muffins will rise but won't go brown so don't be tempted to keep cooking - they'll just end up dry and these muffins need to be really moist. Enjoy!

Alison Palmer

Second World War Memoirs of Private John W. Clark 5832529 - 5th Battalion Suffolk Regiment - Part 10

Aug 17th Oh this news business, one day one is up in the clouds, the next in the depths of despair. I can appreciate the meaning of to possess one's soul in patience.

Aug 18th Korean guards say war is over, yet Ack-Ack barrage went up at tiffin time. Working parties starting to return. Feeling very optimistic.

Aug 19th Young Pat fifteen today. Just been told hostilities practically finished. Expect our people in a few days. Outram Road prison personnel returned today. Red X stores issued for next 4 days, one parcel between 20 men. Harry and Wilf back. No entertainment or wireless allowed yet. Packet of cigarettes per man to be issued. Hope to get cable home soon as possible, probably by end of week. Day's holiday tomorrow.

Aug 20th No fresh developments, still waiting: longest week I've ever known. Smoked myself silly today. Parties pouring in, jail packed, fellows sleeping up corridors. Red X parcels pouring in. Expect our people any time. Wrote a greetings message of 5 words to be sent home soon as possible. Well, happy, contented.

Aug 21st Latest rumour be another 10 days before all signings and agreements fixed, why the hell are they so slow?

Aug 22nd Our hosts issued each man with a pair of shapeless shorts, a shirt of many colours and a slip wrapped in cellophane paper. Food still pouring in but only a little extra being issued as it is upsetting so many fellows. Rumours keep floating around as to when our people are coming. Patience! Patience! Patience! Marked down for a convalescent ship, whenever that may be

Aug 23rd Received new pair boots, 1942 Red X. 10 Camel cigarettes and a G. string. Rumoured now Saturday the day.

Aug 24th Practically all restrictions lifted, crowds singing "Land of Hope and Glory" and "There'll always be an England" etc. Been told may expect allied planes over tomorrow dropping medical supplies. Issued with a sweat towel, socks and cigarettes - Nip stuff. Food still pouring in. An air of cheerfulness and optimism hanging over the jail tonight. Hope no more disappointments.

Aug 25th General Sato told the camp representative officer Lt. Col Dillon, the war is over as from today. Final signing up tomorrow at Rangoon. British army bugle calls blown today. Now looking forward to our people's arrival and getting in communication with home. Still cannot really believe it is all over.

Aug 26th Sunday a mixed denomination Church Service was held to celebrate our liberation. I went. As each day passes can see our hopes of being home by Xmas fading.

Aug 27th Each man issued with about a quarter pound of butter, good stuff too. Meeting today between our people, Japanese and Swiss Officials. Sending out radio messages for medical supplies etc.

Aug 27th 14.30 hours a plane flew roof high dropping leaflets printed in Japanese about 5 o'clock. Another one flew over dropping more leaflets printed in English, saying the Japanese had accepted *unconditional* surrender, also *they* would arrive soon as possible and not to eat solid food etc, etc, issued with a 12oz tin of Kraft cheese between two, it's damned good, only lacked the bread. Still going out on gardens.

Aug 30th Doubled up with stomach pains last night, Russ fetched the M.O. to me. Had some medicine, better today with the exception of diarrhoea. Had a blood slide taken, also put in a stool test. This morning at dawn a plane dropped by parachute at the 'drome close by, two army officers, two M.O's and two R.A.M.C orderlies. This afternoon two more planes dropped supplies. Told we should be got home as soon as possible. Heard news from wireless itself, first one listened to for nearly 4 years.

Aug 31st More supplies dropped, also two R.C.O.S corporals with transistor. Ordered to bed with a hot water bottle on my stomach, also took 2 vitamin tablets at 2 hour intervals for 6 hours to get down a swollen stomach. M.O. remarked, 'look like a pregnant woman'. Fleet expected in soon as signing up completed in Tokyo on Sunday. What a day when the Union Jack goes up again. A Mosquito plane made forced landing; be ready to take off at 10 tomorrow morning for Ceylon, taking with it a nominal roll of P.O.W. here. Learn pay for the three and a half years we've been prisoners will be on the scale as that when we were captured. Nobody loves us.

Sept 1st Heard B.B.C. midday news direct from London. Why S.E.A.C. begin and end their news sessions with "you'll be far better off in a home" I do not know, Government House, Singapore, to be prepared for Sept. 5th. Expect something to happen any hour now. Good Oh.

[to be continued

Just a few words

Edward Green

*A letter from the 7 churches of Cherwell to the Churches of Soham and Wicken
from Eddie, a Team Vicar*

Dear Friends,

I have always wanted to start a letter that way!

Life has been very busy since so many of you came to see me safely licensed and installed as Team Vicar in the Cherwell Valley benefice. With my colleague Paul still away the learning curve has been steep, but the people of the church and the wider community have received me with warmth and generosity. I am already a governor of our single year intake Church School and getting used to the very varied pattern of Church services.

With seven congregations and a small population with busy lifestyles church is quite a different experience. The same service may attract 40 worshippers one month and only 6 the next. In the smaller villages you will frequently see a different dozen every week. The range of worship is diverse, from modern worship songs (with hands and clapping), through Sung Eucharist (supported by a roving choir of 10 keen singers and our director of music) to the best of the Prayer Book. Each church has its own traditions (lots of vases of flowers on the altar took me by surprise) and its own vestments, which range from none at all to very fine antiques.

Services are frequently over an hour, and food is frequently offered. This involves a lot of dashing from parish to parish, especially on a Sunday, but I am being looked after. A lot of wine is drunk!

With the benefits of being a Vicar, and the generous gift you gave I have really made home in my house in Lower Heyford. Yes, I have good quality curtains, a spare room (B&B at very reasonable rates!) and someone to mow my lawn. The previous incumbent's gardener was a keen husband (or something like that) and the beds are filled with various curiosities and roses that I am just managing to keep from being swamped by weeds. When I can tell the difference!

One thing can be safely announced, and that is I learnt so much from everyone in the Churches of Soham and Wicken, especially from Tim. I won't embarrass him further, but suffice to say you are very lucky. People here are just beginning to work together in the way you all do that has made the church so successful. So thank you for those lessons, all the love and care and your many prayers, you are in mine.

God bless, *Edward*



PARISH REGISTERS



Baptisms

5th July Emily Rose Hind, Matthew Charles Allum
12th Brandon John Leonard, Natalie May Fraser
19th James Edward Johnston
26th Isla Esme Knappett, Benjamin John Fuller

2nd Aug Callum Jack Metcalfe 23rd Adam Jon Hamer

Weddings

18th July Mark Perry and Samantha Estall
25th Gareth Hogg and Hayley Martin
1st Aug Rod Fox and Nicola Heale
David Ward and Sarah Badcock
8th Scott Fretwell and Teresa Horton
15th James Lowe and Nicola Lunn

Funerals

7th Aug Peggy Palmer (80) 17th Shirley Baker