

## 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

## A Farewell to Soham

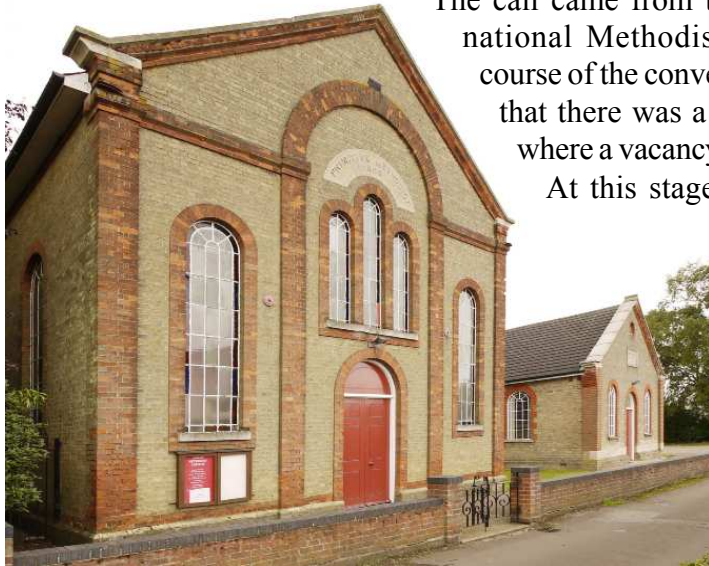
Dear Friends,

There are two things I have come to realise about the God I worship and serve. He is a God of the unexpected and life is filled with wonderful adventures wherever He is concerned.

By the time you read this contribution to LodeStar, you may have noticed that I haven't been around much and that there is a new Methodist Minister in your midst. The reason for this is that one Tuesday evening during the second week in July I received an unexpected call. That alone should have given me a clue that something unanticipated was about to happen.

The call came from the Secretary of the annual national Methodist Church meeting. In the course of the conversation the caller mentioned that there was a particular area of churches where a vacancy needed to be filled urgently.

At this stage I was not too fussed as I knew that I was to move in August 2012 anyway. Then it was impressed upon me that the move was now, this August! Well, how unexpected is that! And to the Midlands too – to Cannock! A whole year earlier than expected! I had it all planned out.



This coming year was going to be the year to have the last of all the functions and annual events. It was going to be a gradual saying “goodbye”. Well, that has all changed now. The last has been! This is even my last contribution to LodeStar.

I suppose that I shouldn't be that surprised by what has happened. I had prayed to my Lord that a clear indication be given as to where He wanted me to go next. Well, He certainly has been very clear – it is just a year early. Again I suppose I should not be too surprised, I had forgotten to mention in my prayer that I was only referring to August 2012! However, having come through the “shock” of it all, I am convinced God is in control and He has certainly got it all worked out. From that perspective, there is no other way to respond to what has happened other than to “Trust and obey”.

The hymn which I have quoted above is a hymn I can relate to very well. It so vividly describes what our attitude should be in relation to God and ourselves. God is good and has the best intention for everyone. Sometimes what we experience may make us doubt God and His love for us. Yet, in spite of the “bad experiences”, for example not getting what we think we ought to get, as followers of Jesus we need to trust in Him and obey the guidance He offers.

So, it is with mixed feels that my family and I leave Soham. We have enjoyed our six years here. It has been a wonderful introduction to the United Kingdom. And we value all the friendships we have made over the years, and the friendly smiles and greetings.

God's blessing to Soham; may we all continue our adventure of faith in the God of the unexpected, *Revd Edwin Myers*

*As we wait for the rebuilding, with new casework and action, of our pipe organ it seemed to be an appropriate time to print a series of articles by Norman Sykes which details the ups and downs of moving and rebuilding an instrument of this size.*

## **ON RE-BUILDING AN ORGAN**

by Norman Sykes

I am a pianist by training and inclination, and the only reason I ever became involved in the organ as an instrument was because I never had the good fortune to be an organist and choirmaster at a church with a decent pipe organ. Like many choir boys I had often “pommed” on a church organ, and in fact for a period of two years, whilst my voice went from a treble croak to a tenor growl, I had the privilege of blowing the organ for the princely sum of 5s. per annum.

My first experience of “do-it-yourself” organ building was when the organ was fitted with a mechanical blowing device consisting of an electric motor, bicycle crank and chain and a long arm attached to the blowing handle. This contraption could be heard all over the church except when full organ was being used. Alas, when full organ was used it proved to be inadequate and hand blowing was reverted to.

The first church at which I was appointed organist and choirmaster had a two manual and pedal reed organ, which sounded like a cross between a bad accordion and a dying cow of great age (this was not helped by my pianistic technique). We were offered a small pipe organ for £50, a beautiful instrument built by Forster and Andrews, of a quality of workmanship I shall never cease to marvel at. No builder would re-erect it in our church, and so I undertook the task, and my wife became an organ widow for the first time. Of course the whole thing was built by feel, and many useful journals and books were consulted. The “Musical Opinion” became a must in the household; Wm. Sumner’s book became a well-worn reference guide. The organ was re-erected, dedicated, and shortly afterwards I found myself looking for another job as organist and choir-master - not due to the failure of the organ, which I hasten to add is still functioning perfectly, but due to a youthful insistence that men in the choir must attend choir practice. If they happen to be members of the Parochial church council such insistence can prove disastrous. However, I moved on to my next church, but being newly built it had no organ. The church, a magnificent example of modern building by Sir Basil Spence, had wisely been provided with a decent West end gallery for organ and choir.

The second venture into organ building proved more fascinating, and we became courageous, adding two stops and completely renovating the action. We designed and built modern casework acceptable to the architect, and the whole project cost about £400 including £100 needed to purchase the instrument, another typical example of substantial Victorian workmanship by Peter Conacher of Huddersfield. The pipe work was re-voiced and regulated by a friend who has been in the trade all his life. He was an apprentice of J.J. Binns, one of the real craftsmen of organ building.

After these two major projects, wifely pressure tolerated no more such ventures. Organ crawling and avid reading of magazines and books about the instrument and its construction was all that was allowed. Alas, once the bug has bitten it is difficult to get rid of it and when I came to Soham in 1964, it was not long before I was involved as the Parish organist. The organ was 200 years old, of poor tone, and was hidden away in a small side chapel just off the chancel. As originally this was a cruciform church a nave altar had been installed. The effect of accompanying the congregation was like sitting on one side of the High Street whilst the traffic roared through, with the occasional clarion call from the far distance as the vicar’s wife did her best to communicate with the detached organist. The poor vicar at the nave altar was sandwiched between this cacophony, and within a space of six months, my enthusiastic playing led to several disturbing breakdowns in communication. My wife, by this time, had noticed the storm clouds gathering, especially as visits to organs for sale began to be suspiciously frequent.

From time to time, ominous words like “money” started to creep into the conversations, and attitudes of imminent pauperism on the part of the Church Council were portrayed. Eventually, a Peterborough church decided to dispose of a magnificent pipe organ. It was obviously in need of a good cleaning and overhaul, but had the right vintage and material for my purpose.

*[to be continued*

## Your Neighbourhood Panel

Neighbourhood Panels are your opportunity to tell agencies working in your area what you would like to see improved and will ultimately make your locality a better place to live. The last Soham and East area Neighbourhood Panel meeting was held on Wednesday 29th June and amongst other things, reported back on what we've been doing to address some of your issues of concern including:



Anti-social behaviour (ASB) at Barleyfields Estate, Soham

- ◆ the seizure of alcohol from young persons,
- ◆ confiscation of tobacco from a juvenile
- ◆ a S27 Dispersal Notice for an intoxicated male.

The outcome was that anti-social behaviour had reduced and the residents felt that things had improved.

Parking and driving offences across the Panel area

- ◆ 142 penalty tickets had been issued in this quarter
- ◆ a S59 warning was given to a driver who was wheel spinning,
- ◆ a vehicle was seized for not having insurance cover.

Some of the other issues that were addressed were:

A recent review of speed limits along the A142 has concluded that there was unlikely to be any road safety advantage in reducing the existing limit in this location. The A142 junction with Qua Fen is suitably signed, and a recent maintenance inspection identified no need to improve the physical condition of the road in the area

Following a query from Soham Town Council, the County Council has confirmed that it is actively exploring opportunities for communities to have a greater involvement in winter service arrangements such as gritting. Interested Parishes are invited to contact Claire Robson in the Highways Team: [claire.robson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:claire.robson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

The issue of securing road safety improvements to minor roads, especially reductions in speed limits, has been raised many times at many Panel meetings across the District. The County Council has taken this on board and has revised its speed limit policy. Under the new policy, where the county council is unable to respond to a request for a change in speed limit in a settlement, because it does not meet the criteria, local communities will be able to decide on the setting of speed limits in their settlements, provided that they are willing to cover the costs involved. The new policy can be seen in full on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/3ym7ahk>

A member of the Speedwatch team in Wicken stated that his team had recorded over 25 vehicles traveling at 35mph+ in the space of an hour. This has been a significant piece of work that will assist the police in identifying hotspots for speeding.

It was reported that Chippenham residents had taken matters into their own hands to remove unsightly litter from their village and picked up 61 bags of rubbish. If you have local community residents that wish to undertake a local litter pick, please contact East Cambs District Council 01353 665555.

What you have asked us to address next

The Panel agreed that the policing priorities for July – Sept 2011 should be:

- ◆ ASB at Barleyfields Estate, Soham
- ◆ Inconsiderate/obstructive parking throughout the Panel area.

The Panel agreed that the new (non-policing) priorities should be:

- ◆ Litter and chewing gum issues throughout Panel area

For further up-to-date information on the East Cambs Neighbourhood Panels and the current Neighbourhood Profiles, use N in the A-Z section of the East Cambridgeshire District Council website: [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)



# A Councillor's Comments

At our July Council meeting there was no Public Comment Time so the meeting began at 7.15pm with Chairman's announcements. These were mainly about the forth-coming committee meetings.

**Councillor Responsibilities:** Our new chairman has asked individual councillors to become observers over the various areas for which our council is responsible. These are; Recreation Ground Play Areas and Skatepark, Downfields, Guntons Close, and Brewhouse Lane Play Areas, Cemetery, Allotments, Commons, Barleyfields, Highways and Litter. So if anyone has a particular interest in any of these, you can rest assured that there is a councillor who has volunteered to keep an eye on that area and their names are listed with the clerk should you wish to consult them on any issue.

**ECDC Delegated Services Consultation:** There was a proposal sent to us by East Cambs to consider taking on services presently provided by the district council. This is in response to the Localism Bill in which the district council can delegate some of its services to local councils to give them greater involvement. The document they sent included the criteria that we would have to meet in order to take on any such provision of service. At the present time we could not see clearly what we could take on.

**CCC Lighting PFI Project:** The County Council has secured Credits from Government to replace about 80% of street lighting in Cambridgeshire over the next 5 years. The project will provide high quality lighting for the next 25 years, which will change from yellow to white light helping with community safety. The proposals included reducing the numbers of columns, dimming of traffic routes by 20% at 2000 hours and a further 20% at 2200 hours, dimming of residential roads by 40% from 2200 hours to 0600 hours. There would be a provision of a standard lantern which is more cost effective, but if local councils wanted to replace these with another type of lantern they would have to pay the extra cost. Similarly, if local councils did not want the dimming of lights they would have to pay the extra energy costs. It would appear that these and other features provided in this scheme leave us no choice but to accept or pay extra. The County Council did say, however, that there would be no switch off of lights overnight. *Councillor Ginn*

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## SOHAM PUMPKIN FAIR Saturday 24th September 2011

The Pumpkin Fair is now in its 37th year and at 1.30pm will officially be opened by the Rt. Hon. Jim Paice M.P. As our event falls in the middle of British Food Fortnight, we decided the theme for 2011 would be 'Celebrating British Food'



– you will be able to see many competitions, stalls and displays reflecting this.

There will be a short ceremony to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of Soham being twinned with Andrézieux-Bouthéon followed by a packed programme of arena events, including Ferret Racing, Morris Dancing, as well as our usual displays from Soham Fenlander Majorettes and our local schools.

This year, we are raising money for the Soham Guide and Scout Hut Fund, Soham Over Sixties Club and Soham Community Support Scheme.

Anyone wishing to enter competitions in the morning will be able to find entry forms in this year's brochure (these will be available from Soham Library, Soham Books and The Pavilion to name a few). Or you can go onto our website: [www.sohampumpkinfair.co.uk](http://www.sohampumpkinfair.co.uk) to download a form or find out any further information.

We hope you will enjoy the Fair and we look forward to seeing you at this year's event.



- ★ **Fordham Charity Group** present one of East Anglia's Premier Band's 'In Concert' at The Brook Entertainment Centre on Saturday 1st October at 7.30pm. The Galaxy Big Band and vocalists will feature a programme of music from the big band era, the swinging forties and beyond with songs from the Great American Songbook. Tickets priced at £10 each are available from Soham Books & Brenda's Flowers, Soham or by calling 01638 720674. All profits to East Anglian Air Ambulance Fund.
- ★ **The Soham Royal British Legion** is holding its annual Bazaar on Saturday, 17th September in the Pavilion on the recreation ground. All usual stalls - cakes, white elephant, vegetables, cosmetics, toys, books, tombola, Grand Draw and many more. There will also be a Small Goods Auction. Open from 2.00 pm - everyone welcome.
- ★ **Items for the October edition of LodeStar** should be submitted by Friday, 23rd September. E-mails should be sent to [peterdscott@btopenworld.com](mailto:peterdscott@btopenworld.com) or printed copy left at 22 Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA.



## PARISH REGISTERS



### Weddings

9th July	Matthew Rolls and Sarah (Westbury) David Couzens and Gemma (Fountain)
30th	Michael Kitching and Emma (Bailey) James Read and Fiona (Jonason)

### Baptisms

17th July	James David Fricker Lily Ann Collen
31st	Dawson Noah Knappett Jack Leon Gordon
14th August	Charlie Jerome Yancey Krystal Lillie Robinson
21st	Serena Lacey Jarvis Summer Lilly Jarvis
28th	Griffen Roxas Drake McKinden Aeden Sean Vincent Merter Niall Stephen Christoph Merter Samantha Jayne Newman Letitia Marie Newman Sophie Louise Newman Angel Amelia Peacock Mercedes Lea Alison Bates Dominic Kai Kristopher Bates

### Funerals

8th July	Victoria Dorrington (59)
12th	Christine Mansfield
19th	Dick Morton
27th	Percy Beeton
29th	Ivy Barber
5th August	Jack Mann (88)
25th	Bette Larwood (67)
31st	Michael Albert George (86)

Peggy Gibbon would like it to be known that her brother

ERNEST GEORGE BEETON

died on Sunday, 19th June 2011 in Addenbrookes Hospital, aged 91 years. He was a Soham man but went to live in Stow-cum-Quy when he married in 1948. The funeral service was in Quy Church on 14th July, 2011

# Just a few words

*Tim Alban Jones*

Dear Friends,

September is a time of new beginnings – one of many that we find in the course of the year. We all know about the start of the calendar year in January (though the new year used to begin in March, hence the Latin names for September through to December, meaning seven, eight, nine and ten; they do not really make much sense when we start in January). We are also familiar with the start of the tax year in April and some of us will be accustomed to the start of the church's year in Advent, which is usually at the end of November. The new beginning in September is, of course, to do with the academic year as schools and other places of learning open their doors once again after the long summer holidays.

Across the country there will be anxious and proud parents whose children will be starting school for the first time or moving up to a new school. It is a big step and an important milestone in any child's life. But the process of learning is not confined to our schools, colleges and universities, nor does it stop when we leave those places. Learning is something in which we are engaged throughout our lives, even if not in the formal setting of school or college.

My dictionary gives the following definition for learning: “the acquisition of knowledge or skills through study, experience or being taught.” It seems that we often associate learning mostly with what happens to us when we were (or are) being taught – usually at school. But, as the definition states, there are other forms of learning which are just as important.

In our Christian journey we are all involved in the business of learning. Sometimes it will be through formal instruction, such as in confirmation classes, or study groups or sermons. For some it will be through personal study; reading the Bible and reflecting on its meaning. All of us would benefit from time spent with our Bibles. More often, I suspect, we are acquiring our Christians skills through experience – either observed or personal. When we see someone we admire doing something good, we can be motivated to try and copy them. Jesus gives us the best of role models for our dealings with other people.

There is one other area of Christian learning which I would like to commend to you: prayer. It is something that is best done by experience; the more you pray the better you will be at it. It is the best way of aligning our wills with God's will and putting ourselves into his care. It gives us a chance to reflect on what is happening in our lives in the context of God's plan for each of us. Prayer is the best way of getting back on the right track. While there are books on prayer – and classes and even experts – it is something that we can all get better at without expensive equipment or course materials. All we need is the desire to pray and some time. We can pray on our own or in groups. It is a wonderful way of learning about God and ourselves. It would be impossible to commend it too highly.

And the thing about prayer is that we can start afresh every day; we do not need to wait for the start of the new school year or even the start of term. Every day can be a new beginning with God. If anyone would like to talk to me about different ways of praying, I would be only too pleased to come and have a chat.

Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*

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## Date for your Diary...

How brave is your Teddy? Come and see on Saturday, September 10th from 10.30am - 12.30pm. at our Teddies on the Tower event. This is always a hugely enjoyable event – for young and old alike (and Teddies too!). You don't need to bring parachutes, they will be provided, just bring your Teddy along for a 10.30 am start.

