

## Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)  
Thursdays 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 3rd Sunday 10.00 am All Age Communion

## Soham Winter Fayre

The annual Soham Winter Fayre takes place in and around the church on Friday 29th November from 6pm. There will be stalls from local small businesses and community groups as well as Santa's Grotto, fairground rides, food and children's activities. The evening begins at 6pm with the switching on of the Soham Christmas lights and the arrival of Santa. Come along to this fun night out for all!



## SOHAM WINTER FAYRE

FRI. 29th NOV.  
6pm to 8.30pm

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
AND CHURCH YARD

FREE ENTRY

SANTA'S GROTTTO | STALLS | GAMES | GIFTS | MUSIC  
FIRE WORK OPENING | CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON  
FAIRGROUND RIDES | SWEETS | FOOD AND MORE



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
SOHAM HERITAGE AND TOURISM  
AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



## Soham Mothers' Union News



Soham Mothers' Union are running a Christmas Gift appeal to help those whose lives have met with adversity. Gifts will be sent to women's refuges and hostels for the homeless. The following would be welcome:

**Toiletries – Boxed Sets:** A little bit of matching luxury for Christmas, for men as well as women.

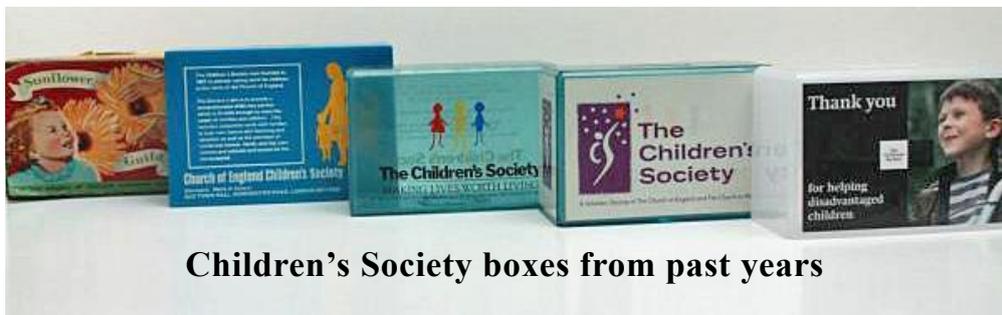
**Washing Up Bowls** packed with cleaning / washing / washing up items (no bleach please). For those about to be re-homed. Wrap in cellophane with a colourful bow - or put items in a carrier bag for the MU to make up sets.

**High Street Gift Vouchers** from Tesco, Argos etc. Recipients can then choose something for themselves, their children, or their new home.

**For Little Hey Prison:** chocolate selection packs (5-6 items) for children visiting during Christmas week or £2 coins for prisoners to be able to choose a small gift for their child.

Please give donations to Jan Frost or contact her on 01638 721274, jfwaterside@aol.com to arrange drop off or collection.

Many thanks if you are able to help with this.



**Children's Society boxes from past years**

### Children's Society Boxes

Since 1882 The Children's Society has been synonymous with charity collection boxes. Today, people across the country support us by choosing to have one of our iconic charity boxes at home. Some of our long-standing networks generate over £25,000 in their lifetime towards improving the lives of vulnerable young people.



**The Children's Society**

Dawn Laver, our Children's Society rep says: *“Due to illness and downsizing to a bungalow I only got 7 boxes in last year. There are 60 boxes out there so please could I have them in this year!!”*

Bring to any service in November or December or phone 723134 and I will collect. Many thanks, *Dawn*

Likewise, if you would like to help disadvantaged children and young people by collecting your loose change ring the number above for a box.

### Confirmation

We are delighted that Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Advent Sunday with us St Andrew's Church at 10am on 1 December and will be conducting a Confirmation during this service. Please pray for those taking this step in their faith journey.

### St Andrew's 200 Club

The 200 Club winners for October are: Danni Levers £5, Mrs. C. Murfitt £10 Sandy Constant £15, Marie Howe £25

## A Time to Remember



A simple service to remember and give thanks for those who have died

**St Andrew's Church, Soham**  
**Sunday 3 November at 3.30pm**

*All welcome*

[www.standrews-soham.org.uk](http://www.standrews-soham.org.uk)

## A Time to Remember

For those of you reading this on our website: a reminder that we have our 'Time to Remember' Service on Sunday 3 November, 3.30pm

A simple service of hymns, readings, prayers & candlelighting to remember loved ones who have died, followed by a cup of tea for those who wish to stay.

## Remembrance Sunday

Soham will be remembering the dead of both World Wars and of other conflicts on Sunday 10th November. Beginning at 2.30pm with the ceremonial laying of wreaths at the War Memorial and two-minute silence, there is then

a parade of local uniformed organisations to the church where a service is held at 3pm. Anyone who is unable to manage the walk from the memorial is welcome to go straight to the church.

## Christmas Concert

Soham Comrades brass band will be performing a Christmas Concert with Burwell Community Choir at St Andrew's Church, Soham on Saturday, 7th December, 7.30pm in church. Tickets £6 on the door or from 01353 721920

## Calling all knitters

As last year, Churches Together will be advertising this year's Community Carols by dropping knitted angels round the streets of Soham. Contributions of angels would be gratefully received – by Sunday 1 December, please. Knitting patterns and a box for finished angels are at the back of church. Thank you!

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# PARISH REGISTERS

## Funerals:

4 October	Peggy Leonard (burial of ashes)
7 October	John Merry
15 October	Roger Baynham
17 October	Doris Morton
28 October	Oliver Fyson

## Baptisms

6 October	Oliver Edward James Wright
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## Weddings

11 October	Audrey Brand and Peter Cribbin
12 October	Katie Bamford and Antony Sore



- ☆ **Soham Museum coffee morning**, 1st Saturday of each month, drop in between 10am to 12 noon at Soham library. All welcome.
- ☆ **Soham Museum History Group** presents 'Zeppelins to Doodlebugs, part 2' with Roy Williams. Thursday November 7th at 7.30pm at Berrycroft Methodist Church Hall. Admission £3, free to members.
- ☆ **Soham Mens Shed**: Thursdays 10.00 - 16.00 at South Angle Farm, Soham. (Over mill bridge, and the railway line, then turn right and follow your nose, we are the first building on the left) We are affiliated members of Mens Sheds UK and promote men's positive health and wellbeing.
- ☆ **St Andrews School Christmas Fayre**. Friday 22nd November 3.15-5.30pm.
- ☆ **Wreath Making at Soham Village College**: FSVC have teamed up with florist Wayne Bailey to raise funds for the school. Get into the festive mood and make and take home a stunning Christmas wreath from a selection of foils, decorations and ribbons.  
Wednesday 27 November, 4.15 – 6.15pm or Friday 6 December, 7.30-9.30pm.  
£25 per person (with £15 deposit at time of booking)  
Tea and coffee is included. All you need to bring is a sharp pair of scissors.  
For more information or to book please call 07484668943 or email: [FSVC@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:FSVC@soham-college.org.uk)
- ☆ **Mosaic Workshop: at Soham Library**: Sat, 9 November 10am-12 noon.  
Tickets: £5 standard, £2.50 concessions Running time: 2 hours. Learn to design, make and grout your own unique piece of mosaic art with Carolyn Ash. All materials provided.
- ☆ **The Shade School Christmas Craft and Gift Fair**: Thursday 14 November 7-9pm with stalls, raffle, mulled wine and mince pies
- ☆ **The Weatheralls HSA Christmas Fair** Saturday 30 November, 1 – 4pm, Fairhurst/Main Hall. Lots of fun for everybody: stalls, gifts, games, tombolas, lucky dip, cakes, refreshments and Father Christmas.

## Items for the December Edition of LodeStar

If you have anything you want to publicise or report on please send material to [aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk) by Wednesday 20 November. ( NB there is no January edition)

## Viva Presents: The 39 Steps

At the Victoria Hall, Carter Street, Fordham from Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm with a matinee performance on the 7th at 3pm.

Tickets are £12.50 for adults, £11.50 for over 60s, £10.50 for under 12s from the Viva box office from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/viva-arts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/viva-arts) or 01353 722228. 'You won't want to miss this Hitchcock masterpiece mixed with a juicy spy novel (with a dash of Monty Python for good measure!)

The show will be performed by a very talented cast of six who have been working very hard, learning all the different accents and quick changes in this intriguing and riotous comedy.'



## News from Wicken Fen

Groups of winter thrushes (redwing and fieldfare) are creating colourful sights and chattering sounds around the reserve. We'll soon be seeing corvids swirling in dark shapes overhead, particularly in the later afternoon just before dusk. It's a great time for wildlife watching as autumn and winter migrants arrive.



*Redwing by Richard Nicoll*

Work has just started on our café expansion project. We'll still be serving your favourite scones, soup, sausage rolls, sweet treats and drinks from a new mobile café unit (next to the existing café building) while the work takes place. The work will finish in February next year; we're really looking forward to offering a wider range of delicious food and a bigger, better seating area for visitors to enjoy.

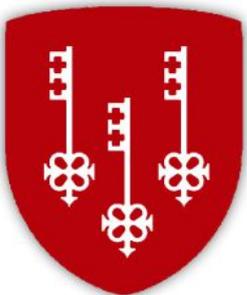
Seasonal crafts workshops for adults are taking place on Friday 22 (Christmas Lino Printing) and Saturday 23 (Christmas Willow and Rush Decorations) November. No experience is necessary, try something new or practise your skills with our friendly crafts tutors. Go to:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on>

Our Learning Team are preparing for Father Christmas's return to the Fen! Our event includes a festive trail, meeting Father Christmas and receiving a gift, and making Christmas crafts using natural materials in our winter wonderland. There are lots of dates available, but do book soon as this event is always popular - see <http://bit.ly/WickenFatherChristmas>

There's a lot more information about Wicken Fen and our events on our website, go to <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen>

### Ely Cathedral Food and Gift Fair



Tickets on sale now! The Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift & Food Fair takes place on the 14, 15 & 16 November with a preview evening on Wednesday 13 November.

Now in its eighth year, this popular event is widely acknowledged as one of East Anglia's exceptional Christmas shopping experiences. Over 120 trade stalls are located in the Cathedral's magnificent nave, its famous Lady Chapel and a heated marquee in the beautiful Cathedral grounds. Tickets £4 / Children under 16 Free (when accompanied by an adult). Groups & Coaches must book in advance.

Box Office: 01353 660349 Website: [www.elycathedral.org](http://www.elycathedral.org)

# A View from the Vicarage



## Coo!

You don't need to step far into the vicarage to see I'm very fond of kingfishers. There are photos of kingfishers in the hall, the sitting room and my study, and a kingfisher model in the kitchen. These last twelve months, however, a rival feathered population has begun to take hold: a growing flock of PIGEONS! Last Christmas, Sue, from the Diocesan church building's team gave me a pigeon mug; and numerous knitted pigeons produced by Soham Knit and Knatter are roosting in a bedroom; Belle, my dog, is delighted with her new pigeon toy (it was a gift from a local contractor, who got it free with a batch of deterrent spikes) ...

And the reason? Sunday 1 December this year is not only Advent Sunday (and the date of Bishop Stephen's next visit to St Andrew's), it also marks the end of our current National Lottery Heritage Fund grant term. In September 2018, we received a much-needed £76K of Heritage Fund grant money to tackle the most immediate of our building-related problems. Our gutters and down-pipes were blocked with pigeon-nesting material and everything that had attached itself to it. This meant water was seeping into the building instead of draining away from it. The debris needed clearing, and deterrent spikes and guards needed fixing in its place with the aim of breaking – we hope – the cycle of pigeon-roosting.

We've had over a year to complete that job. The Lottery kindly agreed to a 6-month extension to the grant term, as the problem proved harder to crack than we'd anticipated. You have to hand it to the pigeons: they certainly don't give up without a fight! Now, though, it feels like we are getting somewhere. Birds still perch on the building in the day time, but night-time roosting and nesting has almost stopped. Sitting in the pews a few weeks ago at our harvest concert, I scanned the windows for pigeon-silhouettes. I couldn't see any. In 2017 at another concert, I'd heard a little girl whisper to her mum: 'Look! The windows are moving!' She was right! In similar vein, if you stand outside close to the building, you'll find it no longer coos.



We're preparing a display to outline what's been achieved: that will be on show in the chancel at this year's Christmas Market. A condition of the Heritage Fund grant was that we devised a programme of community-based activities to accompany the building works, and employed a Heritage Project Co-ordinator to head that up. Just to keep us on our toes, a further condition was that the activities had a pigeon – or at least St Andrew's Church heritage-based – theme. Claire Halley was employed as our Heritage Project Co-ordinator just over a year ago, funded by the Heritage Fund grant, and we couldn't've done what we've done without her. Claire started the week before Soham Remembers, and so fell head-long into cramming facts about pigeon war heroes, which she then told to all the children from St Andrew's School, knitted pigeon in hand. Then came St Andrew's Day crafts in the chancel on 30 November; 'Celebrating Equiano' in April; the Wild Weekend in May; and our commemorations of the Soham Train Explosion on 2 June. Without Claire and the Lottery money, I'm not sure how much of this would've happened. How many other Heritage Project Co-ordinators would have been game for wading out into Soham Lode to supervise 1000 plastic ducks out racing on a Sunday afternoon?

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is keen that we record our thanks to National Lottery players, and thank them we should: grant money comes from the sale of Lottery tickets. Thanks too to everyone else who has helped in whatever way – not least by joining in the fun. It's been a mighty undertaking. Coo! Eleanor

*The Revd. Eleanor Whalley, Vicar of Soham*  
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