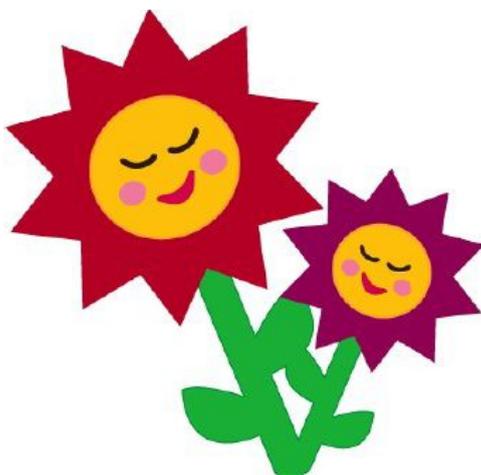


Services at the Parish Church

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

Calling all children and grown-ups!

Get Ready for Mothering Sunday



**St Andrew's Church Soham
on Friday 20 March
Drop in between 3.15pm and 5pm**

Crafts, flowers, playdo, fun, snacks and chat...

All Welcome!

*There will be a special service for Mothering Sunday
at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 22 March at 10am*

**We are grateful to Sainsbury's for providing
supplies for our Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday**

Save the Date!

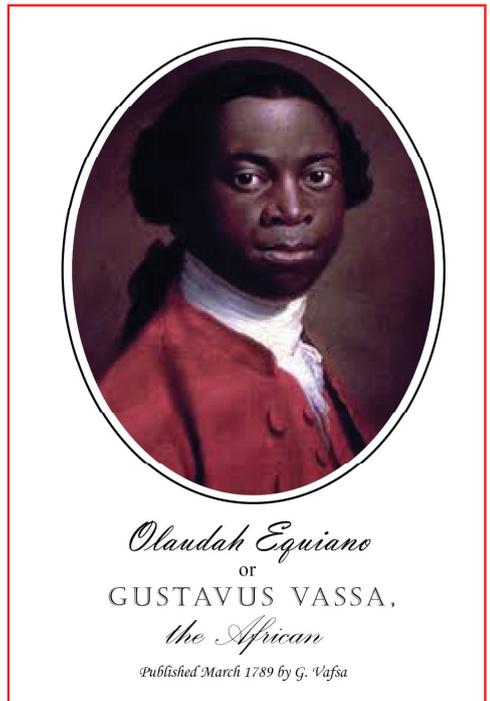


We have a very busy schedule of upcoming community events at St Andrew's Church, starting in May with a VE Day themed exhibition. Open from Thursday 7th to Wednesday 13th May, the exhibition will include information about Soham people who gave their lives in WW2 and who are recorded on the war memorial. If anyone has any memorabilia or information they would like to contribute to the exhibition, please contact Susan Taylor on 721380.

As part of the celebrations there will be an Old Time Fair together with family games and activities in St Andrew's churchyard from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Friday 8th May (May Bank Holiday). If you are interested in taking a stall please email

Claire Halley at standrewsheritage@gmail.com for a booking form.

In early June, St Andrew's Church will host a theatre group led by Dr Holly Maples from the University of Essex. Dr Maples, together with historian Inge Dornan, have created a performance which tells the story of slavery and the Abolitionist movement in 18th century Britain. Dr Maples was particularly keen to bring the performance to St Andrew's as a main character in the story is one of Soham's famous residents, Olaudah Equiano, who was married in the church in 1792. Selected year groups from all Soham schools have been invited to performances on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th June and there will be a community performance, open to everyone, on Saturday 6th June.



In July, we shall be celebrating all things Anglo-Saxon with a themed exhibition and flower show in the church and a heritage themed fair on Saturday 11th July. For the fair, we will transform the churchyard with stalls and activities recreating what life was like in the Anglo-Saxon abbey founded here in Soham by St Felix in the early 7th century.



We'd welcome knitted monks to publicise the event. Knitting patterns are available at the back of the church (along with a basket where you can leave your knitted monks).

If you have any ideas for the fair or would like to take a stall please contact Claire Halley at standrewsheritage@gmail.com

Lent Groups

These will be home grown this year – an opportunity to read through the Gospel reading for the next Sunday, to share thoughts and questions, to pray or just to listen!

Groups will meet on Thursdays 5, 12, 19 & 26 March at 11am in the meeting room in church (led by Delia Tickner) and on Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 & 25 March at 7.30pm usually at The Vicarage (27 The Oaks) but at 22 Churchgate St. (the home of Phil and Linda Logan) on 4 March, as Eleanor has to be elsewhere that evening. Eleanor and Linda Logan will lead the evening group.

Lent Lunches

Churches Together will be hosting Lent Lunches on Fridays from 13 March - 3 April at the Methodist Church Hall, Berrycroft.



A simple lunch of soup with bread and cheese will be served from 12.15pm and as last year there will be a short reflection at 1pm. All Welcome! Donations welcome for Christian Aid.

Church Floor Cleaning

We are having the floors in church professionally cleaned and renovated. As part of this we will no longer have carpets (except in the children's corner). The carpet was becoming increasingly worn and tatty to the extent of being dangerous and its removal will also help the building to breathe and dry out. It may be necessary to cordon off the parts being worked on at any given time but services should continue as normal and the work should be completed by Easter.

Bread Basket

Bread Basket, our drop-in continental breakfast café, is back on Saturday 21 March in church. All are welcome for a morning of fellowship and fun. See old friends and make new ones over a hot drink, croissant or toast, etc. all for £1.50! A warm welcome awaits you and service with a big smile.



World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer service is on Friday 6 March, 2pm at St Andrew's Church. The theme is 'Rise! Take your Mat and Walk' and has been prepared by women from Zimbabwe. All welcome! Refreshments are served afterwards.



Funerals

6 February

Chris Ellis

13 February

Lyndon Dave Bull

sohamscene



- ☆ **Community Litter Pick:** Saturday 21st March at 2:30pm. Meeting on Kingfisher Drive near the main play park. All equipment supplied including litter pickers, bin bags, gloves and high viz.
- ☆ **Soham Museum Coffee Morning,** 1st Saturday of each month, drop in between 10.00am and 12.00 noon at Soham library. All welcome.
- ☆ **Soham Museum History Group** presents The History of the Royal Papworth with Becky Proctor. Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm at Berrycroft Methodist Church Hall. Admission £3, free to members.
- ☆ **Park Run:** Every Saturday morning just before 9am at Soham Village College (outside Ross Peers Sports Centre). 5km run or walk at your own pace. If you haven't done a Park Run before, register first at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/> to get a barcode which will be scanned to give you a time.

Items for Lodestar

If you have anything you want to publicise or report on please send material by Wednesday, 18th March to aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk

LodestAR

Repair Café

Soham's fourth Repair Café takes place on Saturday 15 March from 10am – 2pm at the Library. Bring along your broken item, be it a kettle, torn jeans or even a smashed phone screen (with a replacement screen of course!) - our experienced repairers will try their best to help give it a new lease of life. We are also including a community clothes and toy swap.

There will be plenty of cake and tea for sale in our pop up café to keep everyone refreshed.

We welcome all items within reason (electronics, small kitchen appliances, clothing, toys, costume jewellery etc) as long as it can safely sit on a standard table in the library. If you can give us some advance notice on what you might bring and what the problem is then it will help our repairers to be prepared and maybe even advise if you could bring a spare part along to be fitted on the day. Please contact us at sohamrepaircafe@gmail.com

Community clothes and toy swap: This will be a first collaboration to include a swap of clothes and toys - items will be collected for sorting and then the swap will open. For any queries, please email sohamswish@gmail.com

10.00 - 11.00 : Drop off (good quality) clothes and (small) toys

11.30 - 13.30 : Swap open

Mothers Day Pamper Evening

The Weatheralls HSA are holding a Pamper Evening on Friday 13th March from 6 - 9pm. There will be a range of beauty treatments available as well as gift stalls and a gin/prosecco bar. Entry is £3 each or £5 for 2 with a glass of Fizz on arrival.

News from Wicken Fen

We're thinking about the new season ahead and making plans for all the work that needs to be done to keep the reserve running smoothly, whether that's greeting visitors, cutting grass, or helping in the office. We'll be recruiting new volunteers for various roles at Wicken Fen soon. Our Volunteer Recruitment event will take place on Sunday 1st March; call in anytime between 10:30am and 3.30pm. If you're unable to make this date, but would like to know more, please contact peter Green, Volunteer Co-ordinator, email peter.green@nationaltrust.org.uk

The café expansion project is almost finished. Join us for the official launch of the completed building on Tuesday 3 March from 12pm onwards. You'll be able to taste the new items on our menu and experience the more spacious and redesigned seating area. There will be a wider range of light meals, snacks, cakes, bakes and drinks available now that we have a bigger, better equipped kitchen. Pop in to see what's on offer!

The theme for March's Mucky Pups sessions is 'Muddy March' - so pack up some wellies and waterproofs and head to Wicken Fen for some outdoor fun! These sessions are specially for under 5's, bringing them close to nature, and encouraging them to enjoy fun, adventures and exploration.

You can book either Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12 March; sessions are from 10:15-11:45am and cost is £5 per child, with accompanying adults free.



Call 01353 720274 to book or find out more.

Our adult events include 'The Wild Remedy', an evening with author Emma Mitchell exploring the link between nature and wellbeing (12 March), Fenland Landscape Watercolour Workshop (14 March) and Introduction to Mindful Birdwatching course (25 April, 2, 9, 16 May). <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on> has more information.

Shrek the Musical

Viva are performing Shrek the Musical at the Maltings in Ely from Tuesday 3 March to Saturday 7 March at 7.30pm and a matinee at 3pm on Saturday. Tickets are £12 for the Tuesday preview performance. For other shows they are £14 adults or £12 for under 12s and over 60s. Tickets can be bought from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/viva-arts> or by calling 01353 722228

A View from the Vicarage



Hills and Vales

A friend of mine – also a vicar – moved to East Anglia a few years ago. Before he left his native Scotland, his friends warned him about our lack of hills. He’s a keen walker. How was he going to cope in Fenland? (As it happens, he’s since moved back to Scotland. Maybe he didn’t cope too well...). I remember him saying that hills weren’t just useful for climbing; they were useful for providing a sense of perspective. Stand (red-faced and panting, in my case) at the top of a hill, and you get a different view on whatever – and wherever – it is you’ve left behind.

I’m writing this on the Monday before Lent begins. Yesterday’s Gospel was Matthew’s account of Jesus’ transfiguration. Up the mountain he goes, accompanied by Peter, James and John. Extraordinary things begin to happen: you can read about them for yourself in Matthew 17. Peter, Matthew tells us, is eager to set up camp: ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings...’, but he’s silenced by what happens next. A few verses later, they’re on their way back down, as confused as they are strengthened, we might imagine, about all they’ve heard and seen.

As I said on Sunday, it’s understandable, I think, that Peter was all for staying put. Just before this episode, Jesus has told his disciples what lies in store for all of them. Their descent from the mountain marks the next stage in Jesus’ journey towards suffering and death – a journey the disciples are called to make too. It’s the journey Christians recall and are invited to share in throughout this season of Lent: ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me’. The Church’s tradition of Lenten observance is, in part, born of that invitation. Giving things up – known in the trade as ‘abstinence’ – is a tradition that’s gone on for centuries.

As I think about what I should do (and not do!) for Lent this year, I’m drawn to that image of the mountain and the plain – hills and level ground. Christian Aid have produced a very good booklet for Lent 2020. They’ve called it Count Your Blessings, and it highlights the everyday reality of farming communities in Kenya. There’s a suggestion of something to do or something to pray about every day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. It offers, if you like, a view from the mountain top: a vision beyond that of our own lives here in Soham; a perspective that is wider than the view from the plain. I’ve ordered 50 of these booklets and they’ll soon be available at the back of church: please help yourselves if you’d like one. They include opportunities to give to Christian Aid. Alternatively, you could look at #Live Lent, a resource produced by the Church of England focusing on our care of creation. There are also Lent Groups and Lent Lunches: everyone’s welcome, and no one will be put on the spot!

Whatever form our Lenten journey takes, let’s remember we travel in the presence of Jesus Christ: the Son of God who loves us; and the One who walks with us, no matter what the terrain.

With my prayers for a blessed Lent, *Eleanor*

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