

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



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Parish Magazine

June/July 2018

£1



Dear Friends

I cannot start this letter without giving a huge thank you to everyone who helped at the fete in any way large or small. The sense of community, the enjoyment of the entertainment and the beautiful weather all made for a very successful event indeed. The church was a welcome cool sanctuary on what will undoubtedly be one of the hottest days of the year it was good to see it so full as many came to enjoy the outstanding musical programme.



The stalls and entertainments in the open air and school, as always, the food and liquid refreshments were most welcome. I hope everyone had a great time we certainly did, and the school and church will continue to benefit from it during the course of the year. (There is an interesting letter from finance group later in the magazine).

As I write today I am sitting looking at our garden and enjoying the warmth of the sun. I can hear the birds singing and the buzzing of a bee, enjoy the fresh colours of the spring growth and smell the heady scent of the may blossom in the hedge. Yet it seems only a few short weeks ago we were enduring the bitter cold of the ‘beast from the east’ and it felt like it would be cold and wet for ever!

I love the way that nature keeps us rooted in the seasons. There are always the firsts to look out for as we go through the year – The first snowdrops pushing through the bare earth, the yellow of the first cowslips on the field, then the blossom and the bluebells in the woods. I am enraptured when I hear the first drumming of a woodpecker and only last week stopped to listen to the cuckoo for the first time this year.

In the same way we can tune into the seasons of the church. In less than six weeks we have moved from the agony of Gethsemene, through the darkness of Good Friday to the glorious resurrection of Easter Sunday.

*Jesus Christ is risen today
He is risen indeed Alleluia !*

pto

The story does not end with the resurrection. It doesn't even end with Jesus making himself known to his disciples in the ordinary everydayness of walking on the road or breakfasting by a bonfire on the beach. You see not only was Jesus resurrected but after 40 days he ascended into heaven. Ascended to sit with the Father at his right hand.

Jesus who was born of a woman, who was wholly human and wholly God, took our humanity with Him when he ascended so we too (as it says in Ephesians 2:6) *are seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*. But even that is not the end of the story for as I sit here having celebrated Ascension Day I know that still there is more to come. We await Pentecost – the promise of the Holy Spirit poured out on all believers – on young and old, on men and women.

The disciples were devastated by the crucifixion, confused at first about the resurrection and somewhat stunned by the ascension and yet this band of probably uneducated fishermen went on to turn the world upside down. Jesus promised that He would not leave his disciples on their own but would send the holy spirit upon them. He did, and they were never the same again. He makes the same promise to us – all we have to do is be willing to receive.

My prayer for us all is summed up in the words of the hymn

<i>Breathe on me Breath of God</i>	<i>Breathe on me breath of God</i>
<i>Fill me with life anew</i>	<i>Fulfil my heart's desire</i>
<i>That as you love, so may I love</i>	<i>Until this earthly part of me</i>
<i>And do what You would do</i>	<i>Glows with your heavenly fire</i>

<i>Breathe on me breath of God</i>	<i>Breathe on me breath of God</i>
<i>Until my heart is pure</i>	<i>So shall I never die</i>
<i>Until my will is one with yours</i>	<i>But live with you the perfect life</i>
<i>To do and to endure</i>	<i>Of your eternity.</i>

This Pentecost I urge us all to take a few moments of quiet and ask God to breathe anew His Holy Spirit into our hearts.

God bless **Paul**

Sunday 3rd Trinity 1
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11am Family Service led by Jo Brooks

Sunday 10th Trinity 2
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 17th Trinity 3
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 24th Trinity 4
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11 am Holy Communion led by led by Sue Stilwell

**** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of month when shortened Communion Service ******

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

3rd	2 Corinthians 4: 5-12	Mark 2: 23 -3: 6	
10th	2 Corinthians 4: 13- 5.1	Mark 3: 20-35	
17th	Acts 13: 14- 26	Luke 1: 57-66, 80	Psalm 39
24th	2 Corinthians 6: 1-13	Mark 4: 35-41	

Sunday 1st Trinity 5

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
 11am Family Service, led by Jo Brooks

Sunday 8th Trinity 6

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
 11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Tuesday 10th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 15th Trinity 7

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
 11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 22nd Trinity 8

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
 11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 29th Trinity 9

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
 11am Holy Communion led by **Ron Ingamells**,
 followed by Bring and Share lunch in the Annex

*** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of month when shortened Communion Service ***

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

1st	2 Corinthians 8: 7-15	Mark 5: 21-43	
8th	2 Corinthians 12: 2-10	Mark 6: 1-13	
15th	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Mark 6: 14-29	Psalm 66
22th	Ephesians 2: 11-22	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	
29th	Ephesians 3: 14-21	John 6: 1-21	

Coffee after 11am Services.

Weddings

Daniel Spicer and Natalie Wilson on 19th May. The sun shone for them as well as for Harry and Meghan!

Baptisms

On 25 March **Hollie Chittock**; on 29 April **Benjamin Fuller**; and on 20 May **Archie Dorow**. Well done to their families.

Social Events

Saturday, 2nd June 7.30 pm

Family Fun Quiz bring your own nibbles and drinks; tea/coffee provided.

Sunday, 10th June - Teas on an allotment - from 2.30pm. Details of location to follow. Please ensure visitors who need help with walking on this type of ground are escorted.

Sunday, 1st July - Summer Picnic after the 11am Family Service. Bring family and friends with your picnic to the school field.

Sunday 29th July after the 11 am Service **Bring and Share to celebrate with Ron Ingamells**, who writes: 'I am looking forward to a return visit to St. John's on 29th July and meeting up with friends. Trinity Sunday (May 27th) marks 60 years since my ordination in Ripon Cathedral as a priest. As over a third of these years was spent at Lemsford I thought it appropriate to mark this

landmark occasion. I am grateful to Paul for agreeing that I can Preside and preach on this day.' **Drinks provided.**

Choir

On Easter Sunday **Jenny Roden** received an award for 35 years Service, and **Jay & Karl Puranik, Florrie & Poppy Humphries** received 5 year Medals. *See their pictures inside front cover* (except Poppy who was not at that service). Well done to them all! You can see them singing at the Fete—tap in *St Johns Choir 2018* and also *St John Alumni 2018* to Youtube, Thanks to **Yvette Berman** who recorded them.

The **Funeral** took place at St Francis WGC on 27th March of **Jim Morgan** (1928—2018). There were several members of St Johns there as Jim and Sheila were faithful attenders here until he became less mobile. Jim was a remarkable and lovely person who spent his career perfecting photography for the education of dental students, only to suffer loss of sight himself. Sheila was a great support especially during his final illness. *See a photograph of him and Sheila inside the front cover.*

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: **22nd July**

There's been so much to celebrate and enjoy in the last couple of months, from Easter to Pentecost, with a spectacularly good Lemsford Fete in between: it is not for nothing that Jesus promises in the Bible that life lived *with him* and *in him* is abundant, full, overflowing! This term in **Sunday Club** we are going deeper into the Bible to find out what it means to join God's own family, to be born again and to be his loved and cherished children. The Bible tells us that life with Jesus means hope and a future, freedom from fear and freedom to be the people he meant us to be. Sunday Club runs every Sunday during term time, except family service days.



You are very welcome to join us for our **family services** on **3rd June** and **1st July** to hear more about what being God's children and God's family means for you. We meet at 11.00 for a shortened service of Bible stories, games, songs and prayers.

On **July 1st** there will be a **picnic and games** on the school field for the whole church family after the service (from about 12.30). It would be lovely to see you there, whether you worship at St John's Church regularly or not. Bring your own picnic and something to sit on.

And a special **thanks** to all the children who made a handprint for us at the Fete. We will be using them to create a lovely new banner for church celebrating God's goodness. We'll let you know when it's ready!

Finally, in the next two months, as part of our **Mission Action Planning** we are also going to be going deeper into what God wants us to do and be as a church here in Lemsford. Everyone in our community is invited to join in the discussion. There is a new website www.mapstjohns.com which will keep you updated on events and conversations, and we will be posting regular news on the noticeboard outside church. Look out for prayer meetings, a chance to discuss and share at our July family service, and also a short survey that we will be sending out very soon.

Please do get in touch with me or with Revd Paul if you want to know more about these events, our children's work at St John's, or our Mission Action Planning. joholifield@gmail.com

The Fete is always a fantastic event and this year was no exception – great teamwork from school and church and a ‘scorcher’ on the day! It was gratifying to learn that it was a financial success, but the most wonderful thing is how we come together so strongly as a community. A massive thank you to everyone! We were particularly proud of the children who sang in the whole school choir and to those who took part in the Country Dancing Display (Year R and Year 5), the Maypole Dancing (Years 3 & 4—*see inside front cover*) and to our oldest children who performed their Dance Festival routine (Years 5 & 6). They showed great commitment to practising in the run up to the Fete. Well done! Thanks too to staff who worked hard to prepare them.



The summer term is already almost halfway through and as I write this our lovely Year 6 children are involved in their SATs testing – what a super attitude they have shown this week! They have been well prepared and have approached the week with a positivity and calmness that is a credit to both them and **Rebekah Ng**, their class teacher. We know they give of their best in all they do and no one can ask for more.

Class 4 had a very enjoyable morning on Wednesday 9th May and were challenged to design and construct a working model using Knex which consisted of a ‘lift and grab’ motion. Quite a tricky brief! They worked well in pairs and learnt so much. Many thanks to **Paul Butler** who delivered this valuable session – especially as it was just two days after all his magnificent efforts for the fete! (*see inside front cover*)

Class 1 visited Shepreth Wildlife Park on Wednesday 16th May a part of their ‘Animals’ theme this half term, accompanied by staff and our lovely volunteer **Jenny Roden** who gave up her day to help out. Many thanks Jenny (another example of our church and school working so well together). The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing the tiger at the and many other exciting animals and are already producing wonderful work as a result!

Wishing you all the best. **Mandy Evans** Head Teacher

Back in January my friend Julie said that she'd like to go to the wedding of Harry and Meghan. Rashly I said "I'll go with you". The weather was looking lovely during the day but it was due to get down to 5 ° at night, so I packed my thermals; micro fleece, hoodie, coat, blanket and sleeping bag and then a pair of shorts and vest top for the day oh and camping chairs to sleep in!



Paul drove us down on Friday late afternoon. There were already an awful lot of people about but we found a spot where there was a group of about a dozen other campers: a group of 5 girls from Canada, who had been there for 2 nights already; a couple from Sri Lanka, he wore a Harry mask; a couple, he wore a hearing aid which he took out to sleep and I have to say I was rather envious of as the night went on. Finally there was Mrs Pink Floppy Hat a rather formidable lady of 75, who had camped out for 3 days for William and Kate's wedding, Charles and Diana's wedding and even Princess Anne's back in 1971. A little later a lady from Liverpool arrived with nothing apart from the clothes she was standing up in. I lent her my blanket which I regretted as I shivered at 3am.

I can't tell you how wonderful the next few hours were. Everybody chatting, passers by talking to us and the feeling of camaraderie. We sat down to fish and chips; Julie and I shared a portion which cost £12 (!). We didn't drink much as the only toilet facilities were a nearby pub renamed for the week The Prince Harry, and a Starbucks. We tried settling down to sleep about 10 but this was impossible with revellers who got louder the later it was and the more they had drunk, the mechanical road sweepers, the ladies opposite with a very loud laugh, the singers bursting into "He's got the Whole World in his Hands" and the American news reporters interviewing all night.

At 4am the crowds started to arrive and our little community was in jeopardy of being overwhelmed. Around 8 am the Canadians at the front started to pack away their chairs (3 nights sleeping in a chair) which was the cue for the crowd behind to surge forward.



Suddenly there were people ahead of us who had only just arrived, nooooo, this was not going to happen. I shouted to Julie to move forward and get a space at the front. Clutching our camping chairs, elbows out, I made my way forward. We were at the front (*pic inside front cover*) and I gave Julie a big hug. Mrs Pink Floppy Hat had missed out, her bed had been trodden upon and belongings kicked everywhere. She did eventually get back to us—very unhappy—as we told everyone that they had to let her through as she'd been here all night.

The next few hours flew by as the TV companies ran up and down getting interviews. The band came and played a few songs to entertain us. The police were wonderful, taking selfies with us, picking up our flags when we dropped them over the barrier and joining in the fun, our copper was called Dave and he'd come from Oxford. I can't say the same for the armed policeman who were professional but didn't talk, just watching the crowd the whole time; it got a bit scary when a balloon went pop.

A lady who had pushed her way in and hadn't spent the night was really very nice and kept us up to date with what was going on from her phone. We knew when Meghan had left the hotel and when she'd arrived as she went in a different entrance from the one we were looking at.

Although there was no Big Screen we could hear the Wedding as it was relayed to us. We cheered as they said "I Will". Later I learned that they heard the cheer inside the chapel which made Harry chuckle. Then we waited and waited for them to come out. At last our vigil was over.

We heard a cheer from further up, then the Blues and Royals came and finally we could see the carriage. The road was so narrow I could nearly touch the carriage and Harry was nearest to us but Meghan looked over just as she passed and she waved at me, yes me, not anybody else. I managed a quick picture of her and another with them both but by then Meghan had turned to wave at the other side. I saw them for just a few seconds after sleeping in a chair all night, getting no sleep, freezing to death and standing up for the 5 hours **but it was absolutely worth it.**

Some views of the Fete

We were truly blessed this year, as the whole weekend was dry, as forecast— a very unusual scenario for the fete committee.. As is our habit, we tried a few new activities, such as the circus skills workshop and creepy crawlies handling stall, alongside our perennial favourites of archery, fire engine and coconut shy. Back by popular demand was the teddy bear zipwire from the church tower.



The weather, ice cream and beer tent seemed to encourage the large crowds to stay, soak up the sunshine, and spend time with their friends and family. The musical acts and traditional annual performances and maypole dancing by the St John's school children were as ever a joy.

As a result of the generosity of the public, our growing list of sponsors and the unflagging efforts by our volunteers and helpers we have again raised in excellent £13,000 for the school PTA, church and our other charitable causes locally.

Thank you again to everyone involved. If you have any opinions on the event please let us know. It is always good to know if we are getting it right, otherwise here's to 6th May 2019.

Paul Butler

Little did we know over 15 years ago, when Dennis van der Meijden, with his winning smile came asking if he could 'have a bit of help' rounding-up volunteers for running stalls at the Fete, what Sarah & I could possibly be letting ourselves in for.... I am still twisting arms and calling-in favours at Church every year from January to May, while Sarah and Cassie are doing the same in the school.



Now with 2 girls at St John's School, there really is no escape. I joke of course, because after all the planning, often from before Christmas - no matter how much I try to persuade our Chair that is too early - we always come away saying how it was all worth it, how great it was - either with the weather or in spite of it - and how lucky we are to raise so much for Church & School in just 4 short hours.

The willingness of volunteers to help is so important and we are really grateful to all who do. Some people give so generously of their time that they are: altering work arrangements to be free, jetting back from holidays, conferences, or birthday celebrations no less, and all because the Fete must go on...

Having enough help makes things run so smoothly you perhaps wouldn't realise we have thousands of visitors, hundreds of beers, buns & burgers (although a Vegan one would be good), scores of coconuts, dozens of floats (thanks to Gina), and more than a few glasses of Pimm's. By 7p.m. it was all over, with everything stashed away and the field and playground so clean that next morning the teachers said "you wouldn't know there had been a Fete here!" That was a great compliment to the clean-up operation, like a team of forensic police picking over the field. Finally locking the gates behind us and heading for a meal at Pizza Express with a smile on our faces, although weary, was the end to a fantastic day. **Richard Cuthbert**

Turning fifty the day before was inconvenient. All very well having fun with family and friends, enjoying fine food and lots of sunshine, but books don't organise themselves! With no opportunity to sort books on the Sunday my fete morning was spent unpacking and arranging books. Fortunately I had able assistance from George, a school parent who works in the book trade! By midday we were ready to go. It was a fairly busy afternoon and a chance to see familiar faces from previous years stocking up on a few new (to them at least) books. It was lovely to see Edward and Suzanne Cardale shopping for books for grandchildren. Perhaps the heat and the outdoor attractions kept some visitors away from the hall as we didn't do as well overall as usual. Lucy over on the cake stall had a much better time of it financially, without the need to cart unsold stock back to the sheds or the car for a journey to the charity shop. Nevertheless, it was still satisfying to see people, especially children, happy with a new book in their hand. **Kevin Earl**



We were fortunate that the plant stall was in the shade on such a hot day and thanks to Martin Walker we had a lovely display of flowering plants that sold well as did the donated plants. It was great to see so many families enjoying themselves. Quite a few enjoyed a picnic beside our pitch; with the guide dog stand on the other side children were in "pet heaven". It was lovely that so many children were interested in the plants and wanted to make sure their 50p plant would flower again next year. Primroses are a safe bet as we don't want complaints next year! Altogether a successful fete due to everyone's hard work, it was a lovely family day out and wonderful not to be cold and wet. **Sara Poole**



While those of us on the Finance Committee spend considerable time dealing with the "problems" of our church finances we sometimes fail to focus on the positives. As a church we have had an excellent financial history. That is obvious from our well-maintained buildings, that we have continued to fund in full our obligations to the Diocese every year (definitely not something all churches can now achieve), and that every year we make donations to external charities (in 2017 some £2,500).



We are extremely grateful to all those who give to St John's, either by regular giving, occasional gifts, or from some event or activity that a member of the congregation may have organised to benefit the finances of the church. Many of those donations also attract tax relief for us in the form of Gift Aid, at 25% of the donation value. Last year that translated into an additional eight thousand pounds of income to St John's, which was extremely helpful. We even derive some income from Easy Fundraising where online shopping can result in donations to us as a chosen charity. Some members of the congregation are actively using this and I hope others will consider joining in too.

One additional form of giving is the legacy. We have been very fortunate to have received several legacies of varying size over the last decade. Such gifts are always put to use in a way that will endure. We have been able to update all the lighting throughout the church and the entire sound system during the last decade, all with funds left to us as legacies. These improvements might never have been able to happen without the generosity of these legacy gifts.

So it is clear that there are many positive points one can make about the financial life of our church despite the ongoing financial squeeze and deficits that we, along with many other churches and organisations, must endure. With our church costing approximately £1200 to run each week we will need our church family to continue to support St John's in every way possible if we are to enjoy a financially healthy future.

The Lemsford Local History Group has produced two new booklets: one on **Lemsford Village** (pictured) and the second an update of the **Memorial Inscriptions in Lemsford Churchyard**.

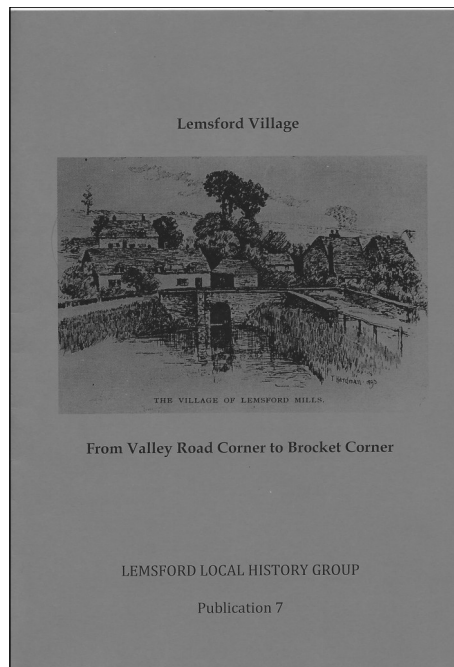
They are only £2.50 each and can be obtained from **Barbara Taylor** in Church - on sale in the Annexe after the 11am services—or from Jan Maisey 01707 376716.

The Group has now produced seven publications—listed on their website—all of great interest. The one on Lemsford

Village provides a comprehensive illustrated historical guide. 36 pages, of text and with many photographs (samples inside back cover) it spans the Village, from Valley Road to Brocket Corner. It also contains a history of the Village and a map from 1868. **No Villager should be without it!**

Jan Maisey reports: Once again the LLHG stand at the fete proved very popular with a constant stream of people showing interest. This year saw a departure from the usual large display stands with the group concentrating on selling literature produced by members. The group are looking for new members and would like to hear from anyone wishing to join. Please see contact details below. We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who has photos or memories of the 50's, 60's and 70's before these are lost. Our next meeting is on the **7th June** at 7.30pm in **St. John's Church annex**. Please note the change of venue from Lemsford Village Hall.

Contact details: **Pete Davis** 01707 376716.



Between Ascension Day and Pentecost, the Diocese of St Albans has been holding extra special services in very different places! Our Deanery of Welwyn Hatfield held events in The Galleria, Harpsfield Hall, the University Chaplaincy, The Harrier and Eight Bells Pubs as well as in the local churches. This was to reach out to the whole community not just church-goers.



The events were under the banner of 'Thy Kingdom Come' as the emphasis was on praying, both for Jesus' return as promised when He ascended into Heaven and for family or friends who do not understand what faith means.

The concluding event was in the Abbey on Saturday 19th May, ending with a service that started at 6.30pm. This enabled the principal guests to arrive, Archbishop Justin Welby, Bishop Michael Curry (pictured) and Archbishop Angaelos from the Coptic Christian Church. Yes, having officiated at The Royal Wedding, they came on to join us! They were inspirational.



It was an exciting, lively service, with music played by members of the Soul Survivor Church in Watford, and interviews with the three prelates. The Abbey was totally full, people were in the Main Aisle, the Crossing -or Quire and the Lady Chapel.

The Abbey is an amazing place to visit as a tourist but, at this time of Pentecost, when the Christian Church remembers the coming of Holy Spirit to the frightened disciples, it was a truly spiritual experience. The challenge for Christians today is to believe that the power given to the early disciples is available to everyone today, to enable them to live confident lives without fear.

“May the days of your marriage be joyous and rich. May you find shelter and safety in each other’s arms, respect and reverence in each other’s heart. May your friendship be faithful and firm, your trust total. And may you remain young at heart as you grow old together.”

Isabel Anders

And finally ...





See page 18:

Top: Lemsford Village from the Old Chapel to Valley Road Corner ca 1900;

Bottom: The Mill, Lemsford, 1905