

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde

*What do you know
about Brocket Hall?
See page 12*



Parish Magazine

June/July 2016

£1



*Top: Paul Seymour's Licensing 30 April, with the Bishop of Hertford, the Archdeacon of Hertford, Roger Fisher from St Michael's and Jackie Spry from St John's
Bottom: Brocket Babies Memorial Dedication, April 9th: Barbara Taylor, Stephen Foster, Rev Ron Ingamells, and Andy Chapman*



June 2016

Sunday 5th Trinity 2

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service

Sunday 12th Trinity 3

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Tuesday 14th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 19th Trinity 4

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 26th Trinity 5

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday ******

Readings *(preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)*

5th Galatians 1:11-end Luke 7:11-17

12th Galatians 2:15-end Luke 7:36-8.3

19th Galatians 3:23-end Luke 8:26-39

26th Galatians 5:1 & 13-25 Luke 9:51-end

Coffee after 11am Services.

Sunday 3rd Trinity 6

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service

Sunday 10th Trinity 7

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea**Sunday 17th Trinity 8**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 24th Trinity 9

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 31st Trinity 10

8am tba

11am tba

**** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday ********Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

3rd Galatians 6: 7-16 Luke 10:1-11,16-20

10th Colossians 1: 1-14 Luke10:25-37

17th Colossians 1: 15-28 Luke 10: 38-end

24th Colossians 2: 6-15 Luke 11: 1-13

31st tba

Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service

The long, long wait is over, I am here and have the privilege of serving God in the two most amazing parishes both full of wonderful people. We have moved into the new vicarage and are truly settled as are Spike and Splodge.



A “splendid licensing service” was how Bishop Michael described my licensing service on April 30th and I would concur with him. St Michaels and All Angels was full and both choirs filled the choir stalls. The singing was amazing and the Bishop’s words profound but above all I will remember always the sense of joy, love and hopefulness that seemed to surround the service and the magnificent reception afterwards.

Splendid services however don’t just happen, they are made and so I thank the wardens and planners for putting it all together, I also thank everyone that did anything to make the events work so wonderfully and there was a great number.

Without pause however it seemed we were into Sunday worship and the Lemsford Fete, which was a great event and absolutely the best Church fete I have ever attended.

What I have found as I talk to people from St John the Evangelist and from St Michaels and All Angels, is everyone wants to know what we are going to do together and when, well these questions can only be answered in time but I would like to give you this prayer as it really describes a lot of my feelings at present :-

We can’t do everything, Lord help us do something

We can’t bring about world peace, Lord help us live in peace with those around us

We can’t feed the entire world, please help us feed a family need

We can’t stop wars but help us to alleviate the suffering of those affected by them

We can’t make a difference to the whole world but please help us make a huge difference to one or two

continued overleaf

*We can't give everyone hope but we can smile at, care for, love and comfort those closest to us
Help us to remember even little things can make a massive difference
Help us to remember we can all take our part.*

None of this limits us, rather it gives us the freedom to feel that there are possibilities that with Gods help we can make a really worthwhile difference.

Yours truly,
Rev Paul

**Thank you to Jackie Spry
and Jean Stokes**

“On behalf of the whole congregation and the 8.00 o'clockers in particular I would like to express our gratitude to Jackie and Jean for keeping St. John's Church going during the twenty-two month interregnum since Edward left and Paul took up his appointment here. I am sure they didn't sign up to such a long period without a priest in charge and I think they have carried out their duties in an exceptional way.”

John Marks



Jackie and Jean with presentations made to them on Easter Sunday, pictured by June Copping

Baptisms

On 24th April **Lucy Sibson**, and 15th May **Enzo Zienkowicz**. We welcome them to the Church Family.

Funerals

On 18th April **Brian Anderson** (see a tribute to him on page) and on 6th May **Pauline Morris**. Also, a Service of Remembrance was held on 18th April for **Kay Currington**. We send our condolences to their families.

Fete

Another success because the forecast rain arrived late. See **Paul Butler's** report on page 9 and picture inside back cover. Some of the musical items in the Church by the choir and School Alumni were recorded by **Yvette Berman**. <https://youtu.be/OcZB7giwk90> and https://youtu.be/VK_GA0STZg4

Tea Party 3pm Saturday 11th June To celebrate the Queen's official 90th birthday in the School garden. Free but bring some cake!

Easter Monday Pilgrimage

14 people from various Hatfield team churches walked from Hatfield to St Albans, and 4 others joined up for lunch. See picture inside back cover.

Pat Lewis

Was awarded an inscribed presentation and flowers during the 11 am Service on 8th May to mark 15 years of service to the choir.



St Michael's Ramble/ Lemsford Walk Saturday 4th June

Meet 10am at St Michael's church. Drive to Preston (Herts) for 4 mile walk to The Plough Ley Green for lunch at 1pm then a 2 mile walk back to the cars— or just come for lunch. Contact Dave Gunn 01462.790280 [dmailto:davegunn@Waitrose.com](mailto:davegunn@Waitrose.com) Children and dogs welcome

New Team Rector

Darren Collins has been appointed to succeed **Richard Pyke**, and will probably take up post in September. He attended Paul Seymour's Licensing. More about him in the next issue.



Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: **24th July**

Martin English our Church Secretary produces a Report for the Annual Church Meeting. Here are extracts from the one for 3rd April.

We welcomed the appointment of Paul Seymour as vicar of St John's (and also of St Michael's, Hatfield) just before Christmas 2015, almost two years after Edward Cardale announced his retirement. Despite regular proposals there has been no progress as yet in the appointment of a shared Self Supporting Minister. A particularly heavy burden has fallen on the churchwardens and their hard work, in the face of the lack of progress in making appointments, has been much admired by the PCC.



Sunday services Have been maintained with both past and present Lay Vice-Chairmen leading services, plus the choir and the choirmaster, and the Wardens themselves. The Bishop of Hertford led a memorable 'Nine lessons and carols' with anthems by the choir.

Pastoral An initiative by Barbara Taylor has led to approval by the Bishop of Hertford of a number of members to administer Home Communion – using a beautiful set kindly donated by Barbara herself.

Finance 2015 ended with a deficit of some £1,500. The budget agreed for 2016 also showed a planned deficit of some £1,500. Donations of £2,485 to a range of Missions and Charities were agreed by the PCC.

Buildings Maintenance of a 150 year old church and grounds is demanding, whether a range of apparently minor issues or more substantial re-pointing works identified by the architect in his five yearly report. Renewal of the sound system, after much discussion, has been welcomed and been a project enabled by generous legacies.

Age profile Older people (in St John's, as elsewhere) are instrumental in maintaining many of the church's activities. Younger church members contribute greatly but have their own pressures to maintain family life. We must pray that our new vicar will bring new energy and membership to St John's.

Children of all ages are welcome, through to Year 6. In our Infants group (ages 0-6) we have lots of fun reading the Bible together, finding out about our friend and saviour Jesus and about all that God has made and done.

Each week is different and may include singing, games, crafts or just playing inside or outside. We always join the rest of the church family at the end of the service to share and show what we have been doing. Our Juniors group meets separately and enjoys reading and discussing the Bible together, doing quizzes and puzzles, and learning more about how to follow Jesus.

Sunday Club does not meet on **the first Sunday of the month**, (NB) - instead the whole church meets together for our **families and all ages service**, an informal and fun celebration!

If you'd like to know more speak to me, or come and give it a try - we look forward to welcoming you. Joholifield@gmail.com or 256702.



Singing For Pleasure

Presents



A Concert In aid of Grove House Hospice St Albans

Saturday 18th June 2016 at 7:30pm

St John the Evangelist Church, Monks Rise,
(off Knightsfield) Welwyn Garden City AL8 7NQ

No tickets required as retiring collection.
For more information call: 01707 377543

Brian was brought up in York and qualified as a chartered surveyor. After a spell in private practice he joined a building contractor, Kyle Stewart, in London where he stayed for over 25 years until retirement.



He settled in a lovely house in Codicote with a field at the end of the garden where his children, Susan, Gillian, and Graham, kept ponies. Brian took his children hunting in winter and to shows and gymkhanas in summer. He also loved horse racing and went to the Cheltenham Festival, Newmarket, and Ascot.

He was very musical, playing the piano well into his later years. After retiring he joined the friends of Covent Garden and was keen concert-goer. He was interested in languages too and passed GCSE in Italian Grade B when over 80 years old, which helped him on his trips to Italy where Susan lived and where he could enjoy more concerts.

Brian actively supported his local church firstly in Codicote where he was a warden for 6 or 7 years and, after he moved to the Garden City, St Johns, where he was Treasurer for many years. Brian was extremely reliable in this post and meticulous in his accounts—he performed a great service for the Church. He also helped with the Fete and kept its Accounts.

Very much a family man, his passion for reading and keeping his mind busy allowed him to keep active and independent until the last two years of his life when dementia started to affect him. He then moved to Baldock to be nearer his children. Only in the last year did he need to move into Pinelodge Care Home.

Brian passed away peacefully in March, and his children say that he will be “forever in our thoughts”.

I write this report looking out across a lovely sunny evening, just over 2 weeks after the fete and thinking how different it had been in the 48hrs prior to the event, when the stormy clouds had been gathering. It got the closest I think we have been in the last 10 years or so of actually considering using what we refer to as our 'wet weather' plan when we have to shrink the event to just enable us to cover our costs or even close the event if the fields we use become too dangerous.



Well with all that gloom in the background we soldiered on and set up as normal and watched the Beeb for every weather report. As it turned out the weather was very well behaved, yet again.

We had a very entertaining afternoon, with a variety of new and different musical acts both within the school grounds and the church itself with a general theme to mark the 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth.

We were very busy in the early hours, clearly many guests were also watching the weather reports and wanted to get their 'fix' of fun and entertainment in before the rain came. Hopefully everyone could find something to do and enjoy, whether that was the traditional children's maypole dancing, clambering over a fire engine, or the new 'bling you bike' completion.

We shut at 4pm, packed away very hurriedly and only a few of us got soaked at 6pm when the heavens opened! So far it would seem we have managed to raise an excellent £11,000 for the school PTA, church and our other charitable causes.

Thank you again to everyone involved and hopefully we'll see everyone again and newbies in November when we start thinking about next year.

With Easter and the Lemsford Fete both behind us we are truly in full swing for summer at St John's! Our Year 6 pupils have completed their SATs and seem to have been relatively unscathed by the adverse publicity and media coverage which seemed to be ramping up anxieties across the country. They all conducted themselves with great maturity and we know they all gave their very best on the day for each test.



The whole of Class 4 are now on their school journey, enjoying the opportunities of PGL in Caythorpe Lincolnshire after a hard working year. Pictured are a few of the activities they enjoyed there.

The Lemsford Fete was a wonderful success again, and it is always a great joy to work together as church, village and school. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the day and performed beautifully in the Country dancing, Maypole Dancing and whole school singing. Class 4 also gave a great rendition of their Dance Festival piece. Again we were lucky with the weather – long may that luck last!

On 21st April, we all celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with a special assembly. We looked back at her life and sang Happy Birthday and God Save the Queen (both verses!). Sue Tye, our school secretary, and Jackie, our cook, made every child a cup cake



to take home. Each one was in a special Union Jack cupcake case and decorated with red white and blue sprinkles.

Class 3 enjoyed a wonderfully informative trip to Kew Gardens as part of their science topic on plants a few weeks ago. They were blessed with a beautiful sunny day and Miss Ng and other staff were extremely impressed with the workshops and activities laid on for the children – a very exciting and worthwhile trip. Class 1 and 2 will shortly be going to Whipsnade Zoo for the day so we hope they are as lucky with the weather as Class 3 were!

We are very sad to be saying ‘Goodbye’ to **Sue Tye**, our school secretary, at the end of the summer term as she retires after over 12 years devoted service to St John’s School. It seems unimaginable that she won’t be there in September welcoming everyone and supporting us in all we do. We will all miss her greatly.

Wishing everyone all the very best.

Mandy Evans Headteacher

Editor’s note: May I add my best wishes to Sue who has been very helpful to the Church in many ways, and a model for any School Secretary

How well do you know Brocket Hall?

When it comes to a rich and varied history, Brocket Estate has one of the most intriguing of any of the great houses of Britain. Indeed the scent of scandal can be found in the fabric of the building back to its roots in the 13th Century right up to the present day. Here are ten episodes in its long and colourful life.



1. In 1477 a **Thomas Brockett** held two manors locally and his descendant **Sir John Brocket** was a wealthy spice importer and Captain of **Queen Elizabeth's** personal guard. There is a claim that on 15 Nov 1558, Princess Elizabeth, aged 25, was reading under her favourite oak tree in the grounds of Brocket Hall, not Hatfield House, when messengers from London arrived to tell her that her half-sister Queen Mary had died and that she was now Queen.

2. The estate was sold to **Sir Matthew Lamb** in 1746 and he engaged one of the leading architects of the day **Sir James Paine** to build him a splendid mansion, which is the house we see today.

3. His son, **Peniston Lamb** (1745 – 1828), became the first Lord Melbourne and was politically successful largely as a result of the influence of his wife Elizabeth who was a mistress of the **Prince Regent, later George IV**.

4. **William Lamb**, the second Lord Melbourne, became **Queen Victoria's** first Prime Minister, who often stayed at the Hall. His wife, the notorious **Lady Caroline Lamb**, had a passionate and very public affair with the poet **Lord Byron**. Lady Caroline is said to have fallen from her horse at the shock of seeing his funeral cortege passing the Brocket estate; she had not known of his death until that moment.



5. On William's death, the house passed to his sister, **Emily**, whose second husband was another Prime Minister, **Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston**. Lord Palmerston died at the Hall in 1865, 2 days before his 81st birthday, in mysterious circumstances, allegedly involving a chambermaid and a billiard table.

6. On Emily's death, the hall passed to a grandson by her first marriage, **Francis Cowper, 7th Earl Cowper**, (pronounced **Cooper**) though it was his younger brother, Henry (d.1887), who lived at Brocket. St John's church was erected in 1859 as a memorial to George Augustus, the 6th Earl Cowper, by his family to honour his intention to build a church at Lemsford for the benefit of his tenants. The 7th Earl built St John's School in 1872.

7. Between 1893 and 1921 the house was rented to **Lord Mount Stephen**. He was of humble stock in Dufftown, Banffshire, Scotland, the son of a carpenter. After a basic education in a parish school he became a farm worker before emigrating to Canada. He worked his way up to become one of the richest men there, chiefly by building railroads. He took the title from the peak in the Rocky Mountains named in his honour. He is buried with his wife in St John's churchyard by the south door.



8. Lord Mount Stephen died in 1921, and the estate was sold in 1923 to **Sir Charles Nall-Cain** who co-ran the brewing company Walker Cain Ltd; he was created Baron Brocket in 1933. He built the Brocket Chapel onto St John's Church as a memorial to his wife **Florence** in 1930. There are many family monuments and stained glass throughout the Church.

9. His son **Arthur, 2nd Baron Brocket**, was a keen member of the Anglo-German Society in the 1930s. **Hermann Göring**, leading member of the Nazi Party, is alleged to have stayed at the Hall. A room there was named after him (now the Victoria room) and a long-time local resident claims to have seen a photo of Goring with a pint in his hand outside the Chequers Pub (now the Crooked Chimney).

10. **Charles, 3rd Baron Brocket**, b 1952, is a grandson of Arthur. **Baroness Thatcher** spent time at the Hall where she wrote her memoirs.

The Bishop of St Albans, has appointed the Revd **Janet Mackenzie**, to be the next Archdeacon of Hertford, in succession to the Venerable Dr Trevor Jones, who retires this summer. Janet is currently the Vicar of St Augustine of Canterbury, Luton.

Following a career in education, Janet was ordained in St Albans Diocese in 2006 and served her curacy at St Swithun, Sandy. In 2010 she moved to St Augustine Limbury in Luton and since 2012 she has also been Area Dean of Luton.



Speaking about the appointment,

Bishop Alan said:

‘Janet is an experienced parish priest and is a pastorally and strategically effective minister. I am looking forward to working with her in her new role as Archdeacon of Hertford. She will be a member of my staff team and she will, I know, make a significant contribution to the diocesan vision, ‘Living God’s Love,’ through which we seek the spiritual and numerical growth of the church.’

Janet says: ‘I am looking forward to serving the people of East Hertfordshire in my new role with new responsibilities but sad to be leaving the people of Luton who have supported and encouraged me as we have walked the way of faith together.’

Janet’s present position is overseen by the Bishop of Bedford, The Rt Revd **Richard Atkinson**. He commented:

‘Janet Mackenzie has provided visionary and wise leadership as both a parish priest and Area Dean in Luton. She is held in the highest regard by her colleagues. I am delighted that she is to be the next Archdeacon of Hertford and that she will continue to be a close colleague.’

It is expected that Janet will take up her new duties in September.

God of truth, give us grace to debate the issues in this referendum with honesty and openness. Give generosity to those who seek to form opinion and discernment to those who vote, that our nation may prosper and that with all the peoples of Europe we may work for peace and the common good; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church of England

And finally Some European pleasantries

Q: How do you know it's going to be a double-dip recession?

A: Greek exports of taramosalata and tzatziki have plunged.

"We've just heard that in the English Channel, a ship carrying red paint has collided with a ship carrying purple paint. It is believed that both crews have been marooned." (Ronnie Corbett)

"We'll be talking to a car designer who's crossed a Toyota with Quasimodo and come up with the Hatchback of Notre Dame." (ditto)

A universal one: A Welsh¹ man walking through a field, sees a man drinking water from a pool with his hand. The Welsh¹ man shouts "Paid a yfed y dwr mae'r gwartheg yn cachi yn y dwr"² (Don't drink the water, it's full of cow muck.) The man shouts back "I'm English³, Speak English,³ I don't understand you". The Welsh¹ man shouts back "Use both hands, you'll get more in."

(To make this appropriate for your own country replace numbered items as follows: 1 = your own Nationality; 2 = your own language; 3 = Nationality of any bordering country)

*And really finally.....*An Englishman, Frenchman, German, Belgian, Italian and Spaniard walk into a pub... and the landlord says "Is this some kind of joke?"

Web site		www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk
VICAR	Rev Paul Seymour 9 Great Braitch Lane, Hatfield AL10 9FD	revpaulseymour@gmail.com 271966
Churchwarden	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn AL6 9JE	01438 715868
Churchwarden	Mrs Jean Stokes 44 Jordans, Hilly Fields WGC AL7 2HD	327873
Treasurer & Parish Clerk	Mrs. Gina Butler 33 Gt. North Road Stanborough AL8 7TJ	372062
Assistant Treasurer (Gift Aid)	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn, AL6 9JE	01438 715868
PCC Secretary	Mr. Martin English 13, The Valley Green, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7DQ	334074
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr Andy Garratt	322731
Deputy Churchwardens	Mr John & Mrs Olive Benson Mrs Eileen Martindale Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry	325663 01438 716162 329023 01438 715868
Choir Leader	Mrs Carole Payne	329697
Church Cleaning Organiser	Mrs. Eileen Martindale	01438 716162
Flower Arranging Organiser	Mrs. Sara Poole	320358
Garden of Remembrance & Records	Miss Barbara Taylor	329553
PCC Chairman & Magazine Editor	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis g.hollis2@ntlworld.com	265617
Organist /Musical Director	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor	0779 6268565
Notice sheet/ secretarial assistants	Liz and Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com	323785
St John's School	Head Teacher Mrs Mandy Evans	322589
Tower Captain	Mr Roger Brown	01727 859059
Transport Co-ordinator	Barbara Taylor	329553
Youth Co-ordinator	Mrs Jo Brooks	256702



Above, on the Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans: from left Mary Douglas, Sharon Gilby, Emily Palmer and June Copping.
Below, the Fete was heaving as usual despite the indifferent weather forecast





CHOOSE THE PATH LESS TAKEN...
...with the original walking experts



- worldwide & UK guided walking • trekking
- sightseeing • short breaks • great journeys
- special interest • small groups

Don't forget! When you book, tell us the name of your walking group, to ensure your group receives Walking Partnership funds.

For advice, rewards and a brochure call

01707 386804

www.ramblersholidays.co.uk



Walking holiday partner