

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde

National Day of Fasting
April 4th
See page 11



Parish Magazine

April/May 2014

£1



Front cover: Christ Crucified; Christ in Majesty, by Matthew Paris, St Alban's monk d 1259
Above: younger members of the congregation after a morning service (June Copping)
Below: Charlotte Morgan Flin's Baptism on 24th March (David Flin)



April 2014

Sunday 6th Lent 5

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Morning Prayer followed by **Annual Parochial Meeting** at 12 noon

Sunday 13th Palm Sunday

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Procession of palms & Parish Communion, with reading of the Passion

Wednesday 16th 8.30pm Night Prayer (Compline) by candlelight

Maundy Thursday 7 pm Passover full meal with communion service *at St Michael's Birchwood*

Good Friday 12 noon – 1pm Devotional Service, with hymns and address

Sunday 20th EASTER DAY

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Family Communion *followed by Easter Egg hunt & hot cross buns*

Sunday 27th Easter 2

8 am Holy Communion 11 am Family Service with Baptism

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

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

6th Ezekiel 37.1-14, Romans 8.6-11

13th Philippians 2.5-11, John 18 - 19 in drama form

20th Acts 10.34 - 43

27th t.b.a.

Reminder: the Vicar's day off duty is Friday.

Coffee after 11am Services.

Sunday 4th Easter 3

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Morning Prayer

MONDAY May 5th 12 noon to 4 pm LEMS FORD FETE*See poster inside back cover***Sunday 11th Easter 4**

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Parish Communion

Sunday 18th Easter 5

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Family Service with Baptism

6pm Service of Prayer for Healing

Sunday 25th Easter 6

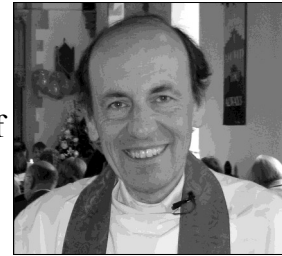
8 am Holy Communion

11 am Parish Communion

12.30 pm Baptism

**** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday ********Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)4th Acts 2. 36-41, Luke 24.13-3511th Acts 2.42 – end, John 10.1 – 1018th t.b.a.25th Acts 17.22-31, John 14.15-21**Reminder: the Vicar's day off duty is Friday.**

As some of you know, I shall be retiring at the end of June. For the last 12 years, I have been both vicar of this parish and a tutor/lecturer training students for ministry. It has been the busiest time of my life. This is the last of six different places where I have been in full-time ministry since 1974, and I am ready to move out of the fast lane.



At the Annual Meeting on 6th April we shall review the past year, and look ahead to the challenges of this year.

Church and Society have changed a great deal over the forty years since I was ordained. I have welcomed and embraced many of these changes, even though the Church institutionally has often been so slow to move forward. For example, the role of women in leadership in the churches has only just begun to be fully recognised. (Actually the proportion of women clergy is now much better than that of women MPs, so Parliament can't lecture us on that one any more!)

I hope and pray that we shall finally have the first woman bishop in the Church of England by the end of this year. It will be almost 40 years since I first attended a service in London led by a woman (ordained abroad), and thought: why can't this happen all the time?

But the Church now faces even bigger issues. How relevant are we to most people's lives? Can our worship and our common life still be attractive enough to commend itself to a largely indifferent society?

I don't have easy answers to some of these questions, any more than I have through all my years in ministry. But I do believe that in the end *how we live* matters more than what we say, or what we say that we believe. This is not news. But it is at the heart of why I am a Christian and what Christian leadership means to me. As we come to the great festival of Easter (my favourite of the whole year), I pray we shall find again the New Life which inspires and recharges us once more.

When the risen Christ lives in us, then his love can also shine through our lives. A Happy Easter to you all, **Edward**

Baptisms

23rd March, **Charlotte Flin**. Congratulations to her parents, who are pictured inside front cover.

Funerals

On 12th February, **George Arthur**; on 7th March **Antonia Hicks**, and in 13th March **William Harvey**. We express our condolences to their family and friends. *Read about George on pages 6.*

We are sorry to record that **David Oswald**, who used to regularly attend the 8 am communion service with his wife **Elizabeth**, died in a nursing home in Jarrow, Tyne & Wear. He had been ill for some time. He is survived by his wife and son Campbell

June Fordham, for many years Assistant Priest at St John's has moved into Autumn Vale Care Centre, Danesbury Park Road, Welwyn. We send our love to her.

LEMSFORD FETE

5 May 12 noon to 4 pm *see inside back cover*. Volunteers needed—contact **Richard Cuthbert** sarahrichc@sky.com, or **Michael**

McLean

mkmclean@btopenworld.com.

NB Don't forget to buy raffle tickets—books available in Church

Magazine - Annual Subscription

An annual subscription for the parish magazine can now be purchased at a price of £5 for six issues (currently £1 per issue). The subscription year will start with the June / July magazine. Payment of the £5 subscription should be made to the Assistant Treasurer, Jackie Spry, no later than the end of May 2014. Mrs Spry will maintain a record of subscribers and be in a position to remind people next year when their subscription runs out.

It is hoped people will find this initiative helpful in ensuring a year's supply of a high quality parish magazine, without having to fumble in their pocket for a coin when they find the next issue has appeared

Parish Magazine

Copy for the next double issue, June/July by **18th May**.

What a result - Thank You

We gave more money to St John's, generated more income, in 2013 than we had to pay out to keep the church running. The surplus may be small – about £600 – but after four years of deficits, the Accounts for 2013 show us 'in the black', just (*more in the Treasurer's annual report, available at the AGM*).

How? First of all, the money we put in the collection plate, our mainstream income, increased by 10%, or c. £4,000. We showed how much we valued St John's by increasing our giving to some £47,000. What a wonderful response - the Treasurer is still in a state of shock!

Of course, our share of the record Fete (£6,300) also made a big difference to the church's income

- but that too depends on the commitment and participation of the great majority of church members. And we pared down our expenses where possible.

2014 - Are we out of the woods? If we can maintain, or even increase, our regular giving to St John's we are well on our way. But, like everywhere else, costs are rising and we cannot count on such a high level of Fete income every year. So we are holding our breath and the Treasurer and the Finance Committee will be keeping a close eye on the position in the coming months.

But for now a huge 'thank-you' to everyone who gave so generously to St John's this past year.

Gina Butler *Treasurer*
 Martin English *PCCSecretary*

CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers in church on Sunday 17th May are dedicated by June Tomlin to the memory of her mother **Lilian Hoare**.

If you would like to place a dedication in the magazine - and at the same time support the work of the Flower ladies and the church - please contact Jackie Spry (Churchwarden & Assistant Treasurer). A contribution of £20 is suggested which will be divided equally between the Flower Fund and the church's general funds.

George grew up in Ruislip where he spent a happy childhood.. While he was an apprentice at the British Thompson Houston Engineering works in Rugby, he attended night school and took a degree in Electrical Engineering. After leaving Rugby he had studied Patent Law, and joined the firm of Kilburn & Strode in London, where he eventually became Senior Partner.



His sister, Jane had become a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital, and roped him in to take part in Gilbert & Sullivan Productions. The first time Elizabeth saw him he was rehearsing *The Pirates of Penzance*, striding about as the Pirate King, in a black full-bottomed wig like Charles I. Elizabeth was also a nurse at the Hospital and they got to know each other singing carols around the wards at Christmas time.

They were married in 1955 and found a house in Welwyn Garden City, where George promptly joined the Digsweil Cricket Club, the Horticultural and the Music Societies. He was a keen singer and spent many hours at the piano practising the tenor line. He and Elizabeth sang in the St.John's church choir for over 30 years, and taught in the Sunday school for a time. He qualified as a lay preacher. As well as being President of the Horticultural Society for several years he played cricket for Marylebone Cricket Club occasionally and enjoyed coaching the aspiring young WGC cricketers who became enthusiastic players for the club.

Throughout his life he was a fully committed family-man who gave limitless hours to support his children Jim, Louise and Juliet and grandchildren in all their endeavours.

In his retirement George joined the MCC chess club and was still travelling up to Lord's, playing in the local chess club and also the bridge club at the Gosling Stadium. The Cricket club made George a Life member. George and Elizabeth travelled widely but in his last years he loved to relax in Welwyn Garden City enjoying the companionships of his many friends.

Ron Ingamells writes: 'It was our privilege to count George Arthur as one of our very good friends. George was a very special character with his relaxed approach to faith and life. He was always a pleasure to meet and the very best company. Our whole family enjoyed many meetings at the Oval during the Test matches in the days when it was possible to buy at least 10 tickets!

I invited George to preach and there was always something interesting - not always 'orthodox' but always exploring and questioning and making us think. As loyal members of the choir George and Elizabeth attended many of the 450 weddings I conducted over those years as well as regular services!

We could not have wished for a better friend and we feel the sadness and a large gap in our lives.'

Ron and Janet

Doreen Bradley

Doreen died on Sunday 20th February age 87. She has been attending St John's for the past 2 years. She came regularly to 11 am on Sundays, Thursday study group at Carole Payne's home and also to the Tuesday Friendship teas.



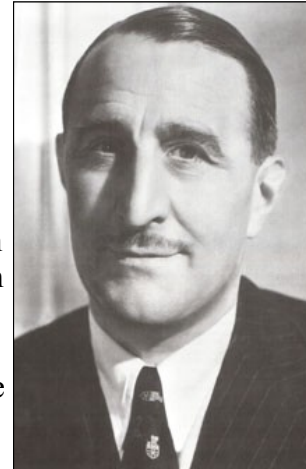
She had very poor sight but would recognise people's voice even if she couldn't see them properly. On Sundays we had to make sure she had the large print service books, and then she would put a book mark in each page numbered so that she could join in as the service progressed.

Doreen was very sociable and had a sense of humour, and until recently used to go up to London to the Opera performances. Although she was brought up in Leeds Doreen lived in the same house in Moorlands, WGC for 57 years.

She had 2 sons Charles and James, and 2 grandchildren Adam and Lea.

In the last issue of 2013 we reviewed the book written by the Bishop which describes 366 of the Christian men and women who have shaped this Diocese. His entry for 24th April is J Arthur Rank who founded Pinewood Studios. This is his story.

Joseph Arthur Rank was born in 1888, the son of Joseph Rank, a prominent Yorkshire mill owner. At the age of 17 he joined his father's flour milling business, in which he was employed throughout the earlier part of his life. Rank was a devout Christian and it was his interest in showing religious films to children in the Sunday school of his local Methodist church that first brought him into the work of cinema and so changed the course of his career. Starting by financing the production of films, he went on to acquire and develop interests in all areas of the industry - exhibition, distribution, production, studios and technology.



The companies Rank controlled produced some of the finest British films of the period, including: *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* (1943), *Henry V* (1944), *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946), *Black Narcissus* (1947), and *The Red Shoes* (1948). From the 1950s fewer adventurous films were attempted and solidly commercial ventures, largely aimed at the family market, were made instead. These includes the popular Norman Wisdom comedies, The various Doctor... films. However some films of note were produced during this era including: *Carve Her Name With Pride* (1958), and *Victim*, (1961) as well as a clutch of prestige topics such as the coronation of Elizabeth II in 1953 and filmed performances by The Royal Ballet.

He and his wife Nell undertook a wide range of charitable work and in 1953 they set up the J.Arthur Rank Group Charity (now The Rank Foundation). He was made Baron Rank in 1957.

In 1956 the Rank Organisation was looking for a product to sit alongside a small business it had making camera lenses. They formed a joint venture with an obscure photographic-supply company in Rochester, New York, named Haloid, which was turned in to Rank-Xerox. This company became a market leader in photocopying and later produced many of the ideas that have shaped modern computing—including the Mouse. Xerox subsequently bought out the Rank share, and are an important company in Welwyn Garden.

Rank's daughter Shelagh wrote of him: "My father had a wonderful simple faith and trust in the Almighty. He put his whole life in the hands of God. It was a faith envied by many who knew him well and the object of cynical disbelief by others. Every morning of his life he walked in his garden, praying and seeking advice from God in his public and private life, for the coming day and living it out with this help from above. A fellow director of one of the boards of which he was chairman said after a very controversial meeting "It is no use arguing against J Arthur and God!"

But his great, great belief in the power of the Holy Spirit led him to his lifelong work to bring the joy of his belief to other people, starting with his teaching at Sunday School. One of the clearest memories of my father, during the War, seeing him set forth, come rain or shine, his overcoat streaming behind him as he bicycled to Sunday School in Reigate Methodist Church School. Petrol rationing was not going to stop him. He believed that the media of films and the cinema would be a way to reach out to the people. Those who were not churchgoers might learn of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit."



'Decomposed: My brother's turning into a zombie!'

A co-production with The Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh.

You can bring kids to this one - recommended ages 6 and up.
Tim and Roland Taylor are putting on the first performance at Campus West - The Hawthorne Theatre - on **Saturday May 10**, at 3pm. Then the show is off to the Brighton Fringe later in May and onto the Edinburgh Fringe for the whole summer!

Our Bishop, Alan Smith, was one of 27 Anglican Bishops plus prominent Methodists and Quakers who signed an open letter to the Government in February:

Sir,

Britain is the world's seventh largest economy and yet people are going hungry.

Half a million people have visited food banks in the UK since last Easter and 5,500 people were admitted to hospital in the UK for malnutrition last year.

One in five mothers report regularly skipping meals to better feed their children, and even more families are just one unexpected bill away from waking up with empty cupboards.

We often hear talk of hard choices. Surely few can be harder than that faced by the tens of thousands of older people who must "heat or eat" each winter, harder than those faced by families whose wages have stayed flat while food prices have gone up 30% in just five years.

Yet beyond even this we must, as a society, face up to the fact that over half of people using food banks have been put in that situation by cut backs to and failures in the benefit system, whether it be payment delays or punitive sanctions.

On March 5th Lent will begin. The Christian tradition has long been at this time to fast, and by doing so draw closer to our neighbour and closer to God.

On March 5th we will begin a time of fasting while half a million regularly go hungry in Britain. We urge those of all faith and none, people of good conscience, to join with us.

There is an acute moral imperative to act. Hundreds of thousands of people are doing so already, as they set up and support foodbanks across the UK. But this is a national crisis, and one we must rise to.

We call on government to do its part: acting to investigate food markets that are failing, to make sure that work pays, and to ensure that the welfare system provides a robust last line of defence against hunger.

Join us at www.endhungerfast.co.uk.

National Day of Fasting April 4th

11

End Hunger Fast is calling for a National Day of Fasting during Lent. This is an extract from their manifesto:

Britain is hungry! No one should go hungry in Britain. More and more people are just one unexpected bill away from facing bare cupboards. This is a national and moral crisis and government must act to protect the half a million going hungry in Britain.

By pledging to join the fast, you will help our call on the government to ensure:

- That the welfare system provides a robust last line of defence against hunger in Britain
- That work pays enough for working people to properly provide for their families
- That food markets function, promoting long term sustainable and healthy diets with no one profiteering off hunger in Britain

Please join us on a national day of fasting on April 4th and help us show that Britain is hungry for change!

OTHER TYPES OF FASTING

If you would like to do more than just join the national day of fasting, there are plenty of other ways to fast:

Miss a meal every day

Some people choose to just miss one meal, if they've never fasted before and feel uncertain or have decided to fast for more than a day – for example: missing lunch for a week

3-day foodbank challenge

If you've never used a food bank you might not know that it's "just enough" food but a long way from what most of us would expect. Try living off the equivalent of one Food bank food parcel for three days: approximately £14.30 per person over three days.

Giving up a food group

Giving up a particular type of food, for example sugar or meat, can be another way to take part. Giving up luxury goods can be a safe and educational method of fasting and is one that is particularly associated with the period of Lent.



*Below is the latest blog from **Caroline Noland**, the young American who is working with **Jane Jerrard**, our Church Missionary Society (CMS) Partner in Pakistan. Her blog, complete with videos, is at <http://carolinenoland.wordpress.com/>.*

Ap kis ciz per ay? What thing did you come here for?

There is a sanctuary in my city filled with boxed cereal and scented candles and imported cookie mixes and canned corn. This grocery store is a lovely, AC-filled, place of joy where there are aisles and things have prices and labels are on every item and people hand out free samples and it is just so easy. I've only been there a handful of times because the markets near my house are so much closer and cheaper. But there are days when this store becomes my oasis, my refuge. Where I get giddy over the possibility that maybe, just maybe, they will have popcorn this time.



On one particular Friday afternoon, I happened to run into 4 different people I knew at this haven in the heat. We smiled and small talked. "Did you see they have this now?" and "I've been looking for that..." And I felt I was in community; that somehow grocery store small talk meant I had made a home for myself; that chance encounters with friends justified using Pakistan as my home address.

One of the ladies kissed my cheek and asked me what I came for. I laughed and said the AC but I ended up with a basket of peanut butter, mango juice, and coconut hand soap. She said, "me too" and showed me her own basket full of ends and odds.

My treasure finds bagged, I headed home. Yet her question lingered, even after the doors closed behind me and the last swoosh of AC brushed my feet. What had I come here for? To show love? To fight injustices? To learn about another culture? To prove something? To seek God's presence? To not disappoint? To follow my heart? To chase a dream? To do good?

Maybe we come here for one thing and realize half way through that what we wanted most was to feel at home. Maybe it isn't as important what we came here for, but who is with us in the journey. Maybe we get distracted along the way and still something beautiful rises up to meet us. Maybe coming with empty baskets allows us to fill up with joy and laughter and peace.

I didn't come to the grocery store that afternoon to learn a lesson in how I posture myself. But learning the beauty of community was a far better deal than the peanut butter I bought.

SHERRARDSPARK WOOD WARDENS SOCIETY

GUIDED WALKS

SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2.00 p.m. - "BEFORE SHERRARDSPARK WOOD - THE ROCKS BENEATH THE TREES"

An introduction to the geology of Sherrardspark Wood. With Nikki Edwards, Wood Warden.

SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2.00 p.m. - "COWSLIPS AND BLUE-BELLS"

With Neale Holmes-Smith, Environmentalist and Wood Warden.

SUNDAY 4th MAY 10.00 a.m. - "DISCOVERY TOUR OF THE WOOD"

With Gary Dobrin & Peter Cade, Wood Wardens.

SUNDAY 11th MAY 2 p.m. - "COMMON WOODLAND & HEATHLAND MOSSES"

With Dr Agneta Burton, Botanist. (Bring a hand lens if possible).

Donation £3 per person. Walks start from the Pentley Park entrance, near Templewood School, unless otherwise advised. Dogs on leads please. Remember to wear suitable footwear.

For enquiries and pre-booking telephone 01707 324718

Church of England Attendances are stable

The C of E released attendance figures for 2012 on 21st March this year. On average 1.05m people attended Church of England churches each week showing no significant change over the past decade. Figures for all age average weekly attendance show around 1 in 5 churches growing, and just over this number declining with 57% remaining stable.

In 2012 the Church of England conducted over 356,000 services of baptism, wedding and funerals at an average of about 6,700 each week - almost 1,000 per day - marking the rites of passage in people's lives in communities across the country. The Church of England baptised almost 140,000 people (2,700 per week), performing around 56,000 marriages in (1000 per week) and conducted 160,000 funerals (3,000 per week).

Christmas and Easter services continue to attract higher numbers with services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day attracting around 2.5m people and services at Easter attracting 1.4m people.

The 2012 statistics also suggest that around 38,000 people who had not previously attended church were welcomed in to a worshipping community in 2013, compared to just over 19,000 who died or who left due or illness. Nearly 23,000 joined a church due to moving into an area compared to 18,500 leaving because they moved away.

The 2012 figures also show that more than 100,000 young people aged 11 to 25 attended activities connected to the Church in 2012. Around 28,000 adults work voluntarily with young people aged 11-17 and around 2,000 are employed to do.

Dr Bev Botting, Head of Research and Statistics for the Archbishops' Council said: "These statistics for 2012 show that weekly attendance over the past decade has not changed significantly. "

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever

St. Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

**And
finally**



	Web site	www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk	
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	57 The Crescent, Welwyn AL6 9JE		01438 715868
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	44 Jordans, Hilly Fields WGC AL7 2HD		327873
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	33 Gt. North Road Stanborough AL8 7TJ		372062
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	8 Astwick Manor, Coopers Green Lane, Hatfield AL10 9BP		257673
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	Mr John Cox		265367
	Mrs Jean Mitchinson		329023
	Mr Brian Spry		01438 715868
Choir Leader	Mrs Carole Payne		329697
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Flower Arranging Organiser	Mrs. Sara Poole		320358
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St John's School	Head Teacher Mrs Mandy Evans		322589

Lemsford Fete

Organised by St John's Church and School

Monday May 5th
Noon to 4pm

Come for lunch!

BBQ – top quality beef

Beer + Pimm's Tent

Live music

Train rides

Archery Face painting Bouncy Castle

Teddy bear zip wire from the church tower – bring yours!

*And loads of traditional fete
stalls and rides*

Admission

Adults £1.50

Senior Citizens £1

Children under 16 free

Free Parking

Sorry, no dogs



www.lemsfordfete.co.uk