

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde

See pages 10 & 11



Parish Magazine

Oct/November 2014

£1



5th October - Trinity 16

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am Harvest Thanksgiving Service - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

Friday 10th October

2.15pm Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Liz Potter

7.30 for 8.00pm - Harvest Supper *see page 4*



12th October - Trinity 17

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Marsh

11am Parish Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

19th October - Trinity 18

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am Family/All-age Service -

Led by Tim and Roly Armstrong-Taylor

1pm Baptism of Suzi May Kaloczi

26th October - Trinity 19

8am BCP Morning Prayer - Led by John Marks

11am Parish Communion - Led by Rev'd Ron Ingamells

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

5th Harvest Festival selected readings

12th Phil 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14

19th Matthew 22: 15-22

26th Col 3: 12 -17 Matthew 24: 30-35

Please note that Sue Stilwell's Day Off is Friday. Thank you

2nd November - Trinity 20

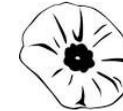
8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am Morning Prayer - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

3pm Memorial Service *see page 13***9th November - Trinity 21**

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Marsh

10.55 am Remembrance Sunday - starting at the War Memorial

**16th November - Trinity 22**

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am Family/All-age Service - Shoe box Sunday

1pm Baptism of Max George Gettliffe

**23rd November - Christ the King**

8am BCP Morning Prayer - Led by John Marks

11am Parish Communion - tba

30th November - Advent Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion - tba

11am Parish Communion

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

2nd Psalm 43 Micah 3: 5 to end 1 Thess 2: 9-13

Matthew 24: 1-14

9th Remembrance Sunday selected readings

16th Shoe Box Sunday selected readings

23rd Eph 1: 15 to end Matthew 25: 31 - end

30th 1 Cor 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24 -37

During the Summer, I spent a day at St Albans Abbey taking my turn as the Day Chaplain. This task is quite simple: offering a friendly welcome to pilgrims, announcing and saying prayers, celebrating the midday Eucharist in the shrine of St Alban and generally loitering without intent – however impossible it may seem to actually loiter without an intention!



But it is entirely possible to do so and I would even go as far as saying it's the most important task for any Chaplain, because making ourselves available to others without 'strings attached' is central to the role. It's a time when you are simply there for others and offering something that is entirely unconditional.

We can learn from this aspect of chaplaincy in our own lives too... we can offer a listening ear to others whether it's in our workplaces, with our families and friends... or even a complete stranger... so be mindful of all those around you who may find your listening ear extremely valuable. We often hear about the way in which Jesus loitered in unexpected places and listened to what others had to share – so what better role model do we have than that?

Spending a day at the Abbey also offers a great opportunity to serve beyond the confines of your own territory or parish. It's not long after you've arrived that you start to find out about the people you share the building with on that day and make new discoveries of what's happening well beyond the life of your own parish. I find that is one of the joys of ministry and I am reminded of the words we so often hear spoken in church, '*We are the body of Christ*'. This means that we are all part of His church in other words part of the worldwide church. We must never think of our church as if it were an island, detached from all else around it. Instead it is the mission of the church and our mission as Christians to connect with all those in and around it and to be aware of the needs of others in the world.

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So as we move into the Autumn, let's continue connecting! We offer a warm welcome to you, your family and friends as we celebrate together our Harvest Festival Thanksgiving service on Sunday 5th October at 11am and share in a Harvest Supper on Friday 10th October at 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

We shall also be holding a Memorial Service in church on Sunday 2nd November at 3pm when we come together to remember the lives of those who have died. After the service refreshments and cake will be served in the church. You are most welcome. The following Sunday 9th November will be the Remembrance Day service, starting at 10.55am at the War Memorial.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of the Parish Magazine and I pray for peace, love and joy in your lives and those around you.

Rev'd **Sue Stilwell**
Assistant Curate

Harvest Supper

Friday 10th October
7.30 pm in the School Hall
Fish or chicken, and chips
Followed by a Fun Quiz
Only £6
Child reductions
Tickets from Jean Stokes

Friendship Teas

2nd Tuesday of every month in the Church annexe from 2.30pm.
Open to all - Mary Douglas 01707 322135

Weddings, on 27th July: **Dawn Spencer** and **Philip Stokes** (son of **Jean Stokes** Churchwarden); on 2nd August **Katie Evans** (Jean's granddaughter) to **Jonathan Dean** *see their pictures inside front cover*. On 8th August **Danielle Pratt** and **Lester Woodward**; on 5th September **Lauren Butterfield** and **Jamie McGilvray**; on 13th September **Clare Daley** and **Paul Preston**; and on 20th September **Joanna Douglas** and Major **Ben White** (*see their pictures inside back cover*). Many congratulations to them all.

Baptism, on 16th August of **James Lawrence**—best wishes to his family.

Funeral on 28th August, of **Patricia Queenie Younger**; we send our condolences to her family and friends.

Liz Potter

With great sorrow we record the very recent death of Liz in Lister Hospital after a long illness. She worked tirelessly for the Church over many years. The Service of Thanksgiving for her life is at 2.15 pm on Friday 10th October. A full appreciation in the next issue.

Janet Ingamells

Another tremendous loss—please read our tribute to her on page 9. **Ron** is preaching on 26th October.

October 11th - one hour walk Stanborough lakes for all ages, and dogs! Meet 10.30am at the Sailing centre café.

Cleaning Rota for 2015

Names are need to fill the Rota and keep our Church beautiful. Please contact Eileen Martingale.

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: November 21st.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The flowers on October 19th are dedicated by **Merle Hards**
'In loving memory to all my close family and friends - miss you all so much'

.If you would like to place a dedication in the magazine - 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.

Kevin Earl writes:

After the excitement of having Edward in our bigger-than-usual Lemsford team last year (he did promise it would be for one year only!!) it was a smaller team that set off from Lemsford on Saturday 13th September this year.



Sam Kershaw and I set off from St John's and travelled to St Francis and on to St Mary Magdalene Hatfield Hyde before being joined by Rachel Hahn at the entrance to the Cole Green Way. Rachel was riding on the same German bike that Michael had used so effectively on the hills of Bengo last year, so expectations were running high!

We travelled to Hertford via Hertingfordbury and then toured all seven of Hertford's churches before attacking those hills in Bengo to reach St Leonard's and Holy Trinity. We also met up with the Cuthbert family in Hertford who were walking or scooting the route between the various Hertford churches and also enjoying the various refreshments.

After Bengo we followed the Lea towpath to Ware with its five open churches before a brief lunch. Then we had to dig in for the eleven miles back to WGC as the weather seemed to get ever warmer, quite a contrast to the showers of last year. In all we travelled 29 miles this year, visited 18 churches and almost attended one wedding in Bengo, signing in just as the guests were gathering at the church and the bridegroom was nervously fiddling with his buttonhole!

Thanks to Sam and Rachel for joining me on the ride, to the Cuthberts for joining in on foot, and to all those who sponsored us this year.

We had a delightful, sunny return to school at St John's with our new intake settling in beautifully – it really does seem like they have been here for a lot longer than 2 weeks! All the other children have settled well into their new classes and with their new teachers and we have also already had some return visits from our Yr 6 leavers from the summer to tell us how much they are enjoying their new schools. We also had some exciting news on our return to school that Gemma (our Class 2 teacher) and Mark Kennedy are expecting their first child after Christmas. You may remember that Gemma and Mark were married at St John's in March 2013 and I know you would all join with us to congratulate them.

Year 5 Fun Run between the Stanborough School Sports Family took place this week and our children participated with great enthusiasm and energy. We were very proud that Ollie and Ben J



both were selected for the Welwyn Garden City Primary Schools' final of this event to represent the Stanborough Partnership primary schools. Well done to them both.

As I write this we are just watching a huge marquee being erected in the school grounds ready for the reception for Jo Douglas' wedding at on Saturday 20th Sept – the children are very excited to see such an enormous structure being put up in front of their very eyes!

We are looking forward to Harvest Festival at church on Sunday 5th October St John's children will be participating in the service as usual. We hope to see you all there!

Mandy Evans

A further tribute to Gwil Walker

I was so sad to hear that Gwil recently passed away. Others are far better qualified to talk about his time at St John's, and indeed his life in general, but I have some musical reflections.

I can still remember sitting in assembly at St John's School and Gwil asking if anyone played the piano and would like to try the organ over at the church. I must have been nine or ten at the time and, as it happened, I was the only one in the school that had started learning the piano. Over I went to church and found myself playing piano pieces on the organ before services on a Sunday. Gwil's gentle encouragement as my first organ teacher, and his extensive (and probably much underrated) musical knowledge led me to a career in cathedral music for which I will always be immensely grateful.

John Eaton, another of Gwil's pupils, became his successor as Organist and Director of Music at St John's. Gwil gave so much of his time to St John's. I remember the pocket money that came my way for singing at weddings, typical of Gwil's kindness, and even today I regularly dip in to the numerous scores of music he passed my way to play voluntaries and recital pieces.



He also once gave me a dissertation he had written about Messiaen, and here I saw not only his great attention to detail but also the academic scholarship he was capable of.

Gwil's immense modesty about his music was entirely unjustified and he will be remembered with great affection as a notable musician, selfless and kind.

Duncan Ferguson

Editor's note: the obituary for Gwil which appeared in the previous issue included the picture above of him with his daughter Glenys and Duncan. It was in fact taken at the celebration in Church of Gwil's 90th Birthday. Duncan was appointed **Organist and Master of the Music at St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh** in 2008, at the very early age of 28. From the Cathedral's website: "Duncan's recordings with St Mary's have earned him significant critical acclaim."

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Janet, wife of the Revd. Ron Ingamells Vicar of Lemsford from 1979 to 2002, after a long illness. Janet was much loved; her work in the parish through her support to Ron, the church and its parishioners brought joy through the beauty of her personality.



She was very musical and had a glorious soprano voice. She met Ron when she was in the Chapel Choir at King's College London, and he was studying Theology there. She sang with the Broadland Singers in Norfolk while they were in Norwich and for 12 years in the Aldeburgh Festival Choir at the time of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears. She delighted in visiting London particularly for operas, concerts and for rehearsals and performances with the BBC Symphony Chorus. She formed choirs locally for the annual Women's World Day of Prayer and bravely formed a choir of non-singers at Lemsford to perform Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat (she liked a challenge!). Whilst in Lemsford she taught the piano to many young people, (*including David Humphreys who played at her service*). Keen on the fine arts, Janet was also Chair of the WGC NADFAS for several years.

When Ron retired in 2002 they moved to Buckden, soon becoming fully involved in the community and welcoming many to their home. Sadly Janet's health deteriorated, she lost the ability to sing and play the piano and became severely disabled. The positive way she handled this was an inspiration – she always focused on the increasingly few things she could still do, showing a keen interest in everyone right up to the end of this life.

St John's was well represented at her Thanksgiving Service at Buckden which was beautiful, uplifting and filled with music. Our sincere condolences to Ron, daughters Liz and Sue, sons in law, four grandchildren and great grandson.

97 men and 1 woman went to The Great War from the Parish of Lemsford; 20 never returned. To honour their memory the Lemsford Local History group has built a magnificent website which went live on 9th September 2014. To view it type in www.lemsfordww1.co.uk.

This site is based around the 98 servicemen and women, with each having a separate page. Most have the basic information of regiment, DOB and where they were born. The hope is that relatives will email memories which can be added to the pages. Each serviceman who died in action has been researched in depth to produce articles (written by Mary de Soyres) describing their life before the War and how they died. The page for the dead is linked to a document showing an image and location of where they are buried.

In addition there are sections containing: issues of the Parish Magazine, The Home Front; Memories; Letters; and Battles of WW1. These contain much more information thanks to the detailed researches carried out by the Group. For example, the Parish magazine link gives you the opportunity to view sections from the original articles from the Bishop's Hatfield Parish Magazine (held by Welwyn Garden Library at the Campus). which relate to Lemsford Parish. It has all the articles between 1914 to 1919 which related to War, broken into 3 sections: War News, Social (Home front) and Church, collated into separate years. These are the key to understanding what was happening in the Parish including the incredible loss that must have been felt as well as the closeness and spirit of the home front during this dark time.

Congratulations are due to the Group for this great achievement. Andy Chapman devoted a year of his life to it, Terry Morris did much research and many members made contributions. (*There is more detail about their effort HERE*). Welwyn Garden Library have an exhibition on WW1 featuring memories of Lemsford, Digswell and Hatfield Hyde over the Remembrance Weekend. The LHG will be there on Saturday 8th (10 – 3.30 pm) and Sunday 9th (1 – 4 pm) November. There will be a poppy trail from the Howard Centre and War memorial, leading to the library to encourage attendance.

David Cochrane 1884 – 1917: born at Handside, the youngest son of Robert and Marion Cochrane. He lived in Lemsford as a boy and started at St Johns school at Lemsford in 1886. In 1911, he was living in Hertford and was married with a one year old daughter. His wife Ada Maud was born in Stanborough. David was killed in action on the Arras sector on the 5th of July 1917 aged 33. He has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial in Fauberg – d’Amiens Cemetery near Arras. His wife was left with 4 little children when he died. Their eldest son, David William had already died at an early age.

Lemsford News September 1917

Roll of Honour: News has been received by Mr & Mrs Cochrane of the death of their son, Private D. Cochrane, of the West Kent Regiment, killed in action on July 5th. Private Cochrane formerly lived in Stanborough. Much sympathy is felt for his parents, and widow who is left with four little children. Mr & Mrs Cochrane’s eldest son died in South Africa, so this is the second they have lost in the service of their country.

The image on the front cover shows David with Ada, a beautiful young woman, with their first surviving child in 1910. They had 4 surviving children, Isabella 1910, Irene 1912, James 1914, and William 1917 the same year David was killed. The image above shows Ada and the four children in 1918. She is a widow aged by the war. Her children will grow up without a father. This is the true cost of War. The innocent suffer and this was not after all the war to end all wars.



After you have read this article and looked at the images, perhaps you share with me the one question, why?

In perfect symmetry
 they stand to attention,
 dutifully,
 bravely,
 humbly.
 Crosses of white stone
 as far as the eye can see
 falling into the horizon.



Neatly manicured flowering beds
 offering lasting glimpses of colour in the autumn sun,
 conceal the sacrifices of the past
 of lives,
 so many lives lost,
 as they fought together for peace.

Now placed side by side,
 by special request,
 brothers, pals
 sergeants and corporals.
 Now ranked equal in God's sight
 a lasting memorial to all they gave.

Once mourned by communities left behind
 they bade farewell,
 hoping,
 praying
 for a safe return.

And now they stand in God's perfect symmetry
 each known to Him.
 This immaculate landscape of sacrifice
 which in fullness of time,
 becomes the source of new life.

*This poem was written by **Sue Stilwell**, inspired by a visit to the
 memorials and war cemeteries in Northern France. Stone crosses are
 the feature of US cemeteries.*

Thanksgiving and Memorial Service Sunday 2 November at 3pm.



All are very welcome.

The service is open to anyone who would like to remember before God a loved one. There will be a time to quietly reflect on those who have died, to listen to readings and gentle music and to pray together. The service will last for about 40 minutes and will be followed by refreshments and home made cakes in church

Individual invitations have been sent to those bereaved in the last three years, however this service is open to anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one - recently or a while ago.

*For more details please contact Barbara Taylor on
01707 329553 or
Rev'd Sue Stilwell on 0143871 6338.*

Celebration of 100 years of the Diocese

June Copping reports on the Diocesan Celebration at Keysoe on 25th August: "Well it rained - all day. However the organisers coped by shuffling venues around so that most things were held indoors. The communion table was transferred from outside at a very early hour in the morning, and willing helpers put out many chairs in the equestrian arena for us. Despite the conditions there were about 1000 people there - quite a few clergy (the ones with Persil white collars) and a number of dogs!



A coach for people from Hatfield and WGC arrived promptly to transport us. Pam Rhodes - of TV Songs of Praise fame - who lives in Letchworth, was hands-on with much of the organising and preparations before and on the day. She also conducted interviews on stage throughout the day - the first being with Jane Garner, Rev Carl Gardner's wife from Hatfield, giving us an account of mission work.

There was a continuous programme of events through the day in the Arena, including choirs with a variety of styles so there was something for everyone to enjoy. There were several venues - a craft tent, the children's Messy church tent, the fair ground, the dog display, classic cars etc. It just wasn't possible to see everything - but I did see the St Albans Flower arrangers, and the cakes that various parishes had made in shapes to Celebrate 100, various stalls, some from local churches raising funds, and others clergy advertising various programmes that the diocese organises.

The final Worship Service was in the Arena - with a large screen so that everyone in the room could see what was going on. Sue Stilwell was carrying the last banner.

The Lemsford reps (Sue, Barbara Taylor, Mary & Ian Douglas, and I) heard the Dean of St Albans, Jeffrey John, speaking on prayer. We also listened to the very versatile Jonathan Veira with his varying styles of music. To round it off we helped with stacking the chairs.

Pam Rhodes said "Don't let's wait another 100 years - let's have another event soon!"

**Creator God, provider of all
we bring our thanks today.
And we bless each other
that the beauty of this world
and the love that created it
might be expressed though our lives
and be a blessing to others
now and always.**

John Birch.

And finally *Frozen out*

Harvest Sunday is drawing near at a village church in rural England. At this popular service the congregation bring their home-grown plants and vegetables as donations for the needy.

But this year will be different. The local village cricket team has just won their league and the village is in a celebratory mood so the vicar decides to do something special - to combine the normal harvest service with a cricket theme.

The day of the service arrives and the church is filled with flowers. People are bringing in their offerings of vegetables, and in the middle of the display is a cricket wicket, a strip of turf with a set of wooden stumps at each end, on which people are laying their offerings. Everything is going well until one lady comes up to the front of the church and places a bag of frozen peas among the other vegetables. She is stopped by the vicar and returns to her seat still clutching her peas.

"What happened?" asks her neighbour in the pew.

She shrugs her shoulders: *"It seems there's no peas for the wicket."*



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