

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde

The
Transfiguration,
pp13/14



Parish Magazine

August/September 2017

£1



Above, Jenny Roden and Carole Payne congratulate Janet English on 10 years of service to the Choir. Below, John Turner and Jason Wratten enjoying the cake presented to Jason to mark his year with St Johns as Ministerial work experience.

Photos by June Copping



What would you have said? In June I was walking through a square in Berlin with my wife when we were accosted by a posse of German girls of a certain age, all wearing traditional costume. One of them asked in flawless English, “I am getting married soon—what advice would you give me? Her friends then raised their iPhones to capture our replies forever on video.



Me, I went a bit pink and said “We have been married for 50 years this summer so it can work.” My wife with only a little more time to think, said “Try to keep them happy and hold your tongue.” (Good advice—I must remind her of it from time to time).

Despite reflection since then I still do not have a definitive answer but some possibilities spring to mind. Firstly, very few couples who are regular Church goers split up. (When they do, it creates quite a shock.) Why should this be? Perhaps it just means that they share common interests but the Church is very supportive of couples.

Jesus certainly valued marriage :”The proud religious law-keepers came to Jesus. They tried to trap Him by saying, “Does the Law say a man can divorce his wife for any reason?” He said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them in the first place made them man and woman? It says, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will live with his wife. The two will become one.’ So they are no longer two but one. Let no man divide what God has put together.” (Matthew 19 v3-6)

My wife and I sing in the Church Choir and so get to see quite a few weddings from close up. Indeed we have a better view than most of the congregation. My strong impression is that the vast majority of those who go to the trouble of getting married in Church mean to keep their Wedding Vows. At a particular point in the Service the Vicar asks the congregation if they will support the newly married couple—this always gets a rousing YES.

So—what would you have said? Do email me with your ideas, so that I can be ready the next time I am accosted by a young hopeful wanting to know the secrets of a happy marriage.

Geoffrey Hollis

Sunday 6th Transfiguration of Our Lord

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Edward Cardale

11am Family Service Jo Brooks

Tuesday 8th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea**Sunday 13th Trinity 9**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Amanda Duncan

11am Holy Communion led by Susan Marsh

Sunday 20th Trinity 10

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Susan Marsh

11am Morning Prayer led by Wardens

Sunday 27th Trinity 11

8am BCP Holy Communion led by tbc

11 am Holy Communion led by tbc

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

6th	2 Peter 1.16-19	Luke 9.28-36
13th	Romans 10.5-15	Matthew 14.22-33
20th	Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15.21-28
27th	Romans 12.1-8	Matthew 16.13-20

Sunday 3rd Trinity 12

8am BCP Holy Communion
11am Family Service

Sunday 10th Trinity 13

8am BCP Holy Communion
11am Holy Communion

Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 17th Trinity 14

8am BCP Holy Communion
11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 24th Trinity 15

8am BCP Holy Communion
11 am Holy Communion

NB Sunday October 1st Family Service –HARVEST

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

For Celebrants see weekly notice sheet issued one week prior

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

3rd Romans 12.9-end Matthew 16.21-end

10th Romans 13.8-end Matthew 18.15-20

17th Romans 14.1-12 Matthew 18.21-35

24th Philippians 1.21-end Matthew 21.23-32

Paul Seymour

Is still unwell, but we hope he will be back with us soon. Do keep him in your prayers. Thank you to the clergy filling in for him.

Baptisms

On 2nd July, **William Brice**; on 23rd July **William Rayment**. Congratulations to their families.

Weddings

On 13th May **Ben Popplestone** and **Alexandra Pugh**; on 19th May **Andrew Rapley** and **Donna Whalley**. We wish them every joy in their new lives.

Funeral/Memorial Service

On 14th June, **Betty Williams**; on 13th July **Philippa Elliston**. See page for 10 for tributes.

Jean Dance

Sadly passed away on Friday 30th June at Lister Hospital. A memorial service will be held at St Johns on Monday, 31st July at noon. A full appreciation of her will appear in the next issue.

Grenfell Tower Coffee Morning

Organised by **Gina Butler** on 25th June raised **£630** for the victims.

Janet English

On 25th Janet received a certificate to mark 10 years service in the Choir; *see picture inside front cover*. Well done Janet!

Charity Bike Ride

This year the sponsored "Bike 'n Hike" for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust takes place on **Saturday 9th September**. Half of the money raised goes to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, and half comes back to St John's. If you are interested in taking part as either a cyclist or walker please contact **Lucy or Kevin Earl** on 01707 390497, or at kevinearl670@btinternet.com for more details and to collect a sponsor form. It is a fun day, and you don't need to be super-fit to take part!

Church Finances

Are not looking too good, with a forecast deficit of around £5,000 this year. Accordingly the PCC agreed that the Wardens should write to every Church Member, asking them to review their giving. The core of this letter is reprinted on page 18.

Rev Ron Ingamells

Is getting married again, to **Ann Polley**, on the 11th August. The ceremony will be conducted by the Bishop of Thetford, in the Jesus Chapel of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich. We wish them every happiness together.

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: **17th September**

Betty's Funeral took place on 14th June, conducted by Rev Sue Stilwell.

Betty was born on 1 November 1929, in Ely, Cambridgeshire. Her brother, John, was born in 1934. Betty and John had a very happy childhood, despite the war. In 1945 the family moved to Peterborough. At 16, Betty left school and began training for a career in retailing. She spent two years in Manchester, staying with her aunt and uncle who managed a men's outfitters.



She proved to be an excellent businesswoman, eventually opening her own shop, 'Betty's', selling children's wear and ladies' fashions in Peterborough. Later she managed franchises within Debenhams and the Welwyn Department store which was later to become a branch of the John Lewis Partnership. Before she married she led a very independent lifestyle. She had exciting holidays with her girlfriends, travelling through Switzerland and Italy on one memorable trip.

It was on one of these holidays that Betty met her future husband, John Williams, in Spain. The romance blossomed and they married in September 1961. They bought a plot of land in Lemsford, Hertfordshire, and while their house was being built, the newlyweds lived in a caravan in the back garden. John sadly died in 1994 but Betty was a strong woman so she continued to enjoy life, whether it was entertaining friends and family or hopping on the Orient Express to Venice with her friend Wendy.

Betty was a good friend to many and a loving and generous aunt to her nieces and nephews: Stephen, Trish, Neil, Elspeth and Joanna. Betty wasn't always in good health but her neighbours in Lemsford, particularly Bill and Jean Dance next door, were always there for her, helping her with domestic tasks and visiting her frequently when she was in hospital. In 2014, after some years of failing health, Betty moved to Lincolnshire to live near her niece, Trish. She passed away peacefully at Abbeygate Residential Home in Moulton, near Spalding, in May 2017. Trish held her hand in those final moments and the carers at the home picked roses from the garden so that she would have a bunch of fresh flowers – so important to Betty – on her final journey.

Philippa Elliston, daughter of **Lesley**, died on 26th June and her funeral was held on 13th July, conducted by **Rev Ron Ingamells**. Extracts from the Eulogy by a teaching colleague, John Cork, will be published in the next issue.

Before you stop me and say, you spelled that wrong, no I didn't! This has nothing to do with road traffic and everything to do with Human Trafficking.



I was asked at the our latest PCC meeting what had happened in a recent Deanery Synod meeting that I had attended. To a man (and woman) there was some shock that it had been really interesting. These things can often be quite procedural. But in this case the synod had invited Ruth Dearnley - CEO of the organisation Stop the Traffik (stopthetraffik.org).

Ruth has to be one of the best speakers that I've ever had the fortune to listen to. She explained that Human Trafficking is the buying and selling of people. If you're thinking, No that doesn't happen in this day and age, think again. Ruth told us that this is BIG business with an estimated global turnover of some \$32 billion dollars. We're talking as big or bigger than many major corporations. As a comparison Apple, the worlds wealthiest computer company these days, sold \$215 billion in 2016, so \$32billion is huge.

Don't be confused: it has all the elements of big business, brokers, supply chain, procurement, you name it....

The traffickers take the hopes and dreams of the people they use. Despite movies to the contrary, their victims are usually deceived, not abducted on the street. But once deceived they are dislocated from their communities.

To make a point in just one area, Ruth and colleagues gave up chocolate and spoke about this example regularly, due to the link with human trafficking/slave labour. 12,000-15,000 boys are trafficked each year from Burkina Faso to Mali to work on cocoa production. In the same way William Wilberforce had linked slavery to the sugar trade. Ruth admitted that this was very difficult, she'd been sorely tempted by chocolate.

From humble beginnings some 12 years ago Stop the Traffik has built itself into an organisation which has informed the UN and Governments as well as small groups like our Deanery Synod group. Everyone informed matters.

It still needs help though. It's funding is limited - in the end people are far more generous to animal welfare charities than any others. Ponder that for a moment.

We can help them with donations, but we can also help by reporting odd things that we come across. They have built a unique "App" for that, as well as reporting via their website. Then using the help of their computing partners they are able to put small facts together into big pictures which tell the story of how the trafficking is working and begin to defeat it, both in a small and macroscopic way.

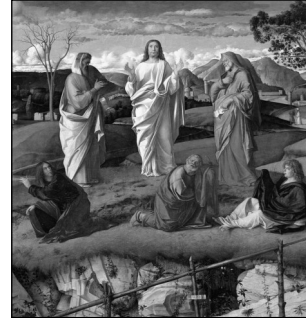


Take a look at their site www.stophetraffik.org and read some of the real life stories there which illustrate the diagram above. You'll be shocked at what you read. Any small detail you spot and enter into the App or website may be highly relevant to defeat the traffickers.

If you have a smartphone then load the App, and consider donating to this vital cause.

Frank frank@puranik.org

The picture on the front cover was painted by Giovanni Bellini in 1480. It represents the Transfiguration of Jesus, which the Church celebrates this year on Sunday August 6th. The church has always treated this event as extremely important in the life of Jesus, but what are we to make of it? The Reading is from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 9 verses 28-36.



“Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” - not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.”

It is perfectly possible to treat this literally. However Father Jerome Murphy-O’Connor, (1935-2013) a Benedictine monk and biblical scholar who lived and taught in Israel for 40 years, preferred to explain this episode as the moment when Jesus had a vision that suddenly led him to understand his mission in life. What a revelation!

“In Luke 9:28-36 Jesus is setting out for Jerusalem. On his way, he takes Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. He needs time with his Father.

As he prays, Jesus talks with his Father and his messengers, his face lights up. Now he understands the meaning of what ‘he is about to accomplish at Jerusalem’.



From Mary and Joseph, Jesus had learnt the extraordinary events surrounding his birth. What did it all mean? When he was twelve years old he had the conviction that he must be about his Father’s business.

Then, at his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus receives a revelation, personal to him. God spoke. The Holy Spirit descended and declared: “You are my Son, the beloved, in you I am well pleased.” The first part of this ‘*You are my Son the beloved*’ comes from Psalm 2.7 which identifies the Messiah, the promised Saviour, the anointed one, the Christ. The second phrase ‘*In you I am well pleased*’ is rooted in Isaiah 42. It identifies the servant of God whose mission will end in suffering (Isaiah 53, the suffering servant of God).

On this mountain Jesus suddenly understands he is the Messiah and is called to be the suffering servant of the people - a stunning revelation. Now he understands his mission. For almost 20 years he had lived as a village carpenter. Now he must assume the role of the Messiah, the Saviour of his people.

The glory that his three followers saw (Luke 9:32) was the radiant joy of his communion with the Father. His death will achieve the fulfilment of God’s saving plan.”

Did you know that in the late 19th Century British agriculture was so depressed that special trains were bringing Scottish farmers to settle in Hertfordshire? Well they were, and one of those families was that of Robert and Marion Cochrane pictured right. They travelled in 1876 with Mr Peart, the farmer that Robert worked for in Lanarkshire, with all the farm animals, farm machinery and farm workers. Initially they worked in Essendon but in the 1880s Robert started working for Mr Horn at Handside Farm (profiled in our previous issue). They lived in one of the Riverside cottages near Lemsford Mill (now No.28 Lemsford Village) and had 10 children, of whom sadly four were lost at an early age. Twins girls born in 1871, died in infancy of an infectious disease. Their eldest son Robert died in the Sudan War in 1898, one of the many soldiers killed by drinking poisoned water. David, their youngest son was killed in action in France in 1917, and is one of the many names on our War Memorial.



It is interesting to trace their many descendants. Several emigrated, mostly to Canada. This was undoubtedly because of the influence of Lord Mount Stephens (1829-1921), who was also a Scot and at one time ran the Canadian Pacific Railway. After retirement in 1888 he lived in Brocket Hall, and is now buried with his wife in a prominent grave by the front door of St Johns.

First of the Cochrane's children to emigrate was Margaret, the eldest daughter who was born in Renfrewshire, Scotland, in 1868. She married Robert Enkel from South Mimms in 1890. Shortly afterwards they moved to Canada and established a shop in Montreal. They remained in Canada where their eight children were born. Margaret died in 1945.

The Cochrane's eldest son, John born in 1871 also went to Canada but in dire circumstances. His eldest son, also named John had settled on a homestead in a remote part of Northern Alberta in 1910 but was killed in a boating accident in 1918 on Lake Saskatoon.

His parents, John and Lucy and his brothers James and David, went to Canada in 1919 to work John's homestead. (David Cochrane had previously worked as a footman for Lady Mount Stephens at Carlton House Terrace). The weather did not agree with the parents who had to return almost immediately due to ill health but James and David remained in Canada logging on the Peace River until they were able to take over the homestead in November 1919. They farmed there for the next fifteen years. James returned to the Garden City in 1934, married and worked at Norton Grinding Wheel Company for another 30 years.

Two of John and Lucy's sons who stayed in Hertfordshire, William and Robert, became well known coal merchants. William, 1895-1989, started his working life with Mr Horn at Handside Farm. Born with only one hand he was unable to enlist in the 1st World War. He became an active Trade Unionist for farmers in Hertfordshire, trained at Ruskin College, Oxford. In the early 1920's he and his brother Robert started the Cochrane Coke and Coal Merchants operating from the sidings at Hatfield Hyde. Initially using a horse drawn ex brewer's cart they converted to a lorry later on. Over the years they were joined by William's sons John and Henry and Robert's son Peter.

Another of Robert and Marion's grandsons, also called Robert (son of their second daughter also called Marion), remained in Hertfordshire all his life and was the Bell ringer who featured in our April/May issue as the driving force behind the installation of St Johns' bells in 1977.

There are lots of other interesting members of the Clan but one who must be mentioned is Robert and Marion's third son, William, born in 1876, died in Lemsford in 1945. He was born at West End, Essendon moved with his parents to the cottage near the mill in the 1880's and remained in Lemsford for the rest of his life. He worked on the roads and highways for Welwyn Council for many years. At the 'Long Arm and Short Arm' he was known as the 'forthright' Cochrane (one can only guess why) and ran a Christmas Slate Club there each year. He remained a bachelor all his life—possibly because of his forthrightness??

William is buried in our Churchyard along with his parents, founders of the Clan, Robert and Marion. *See historic pictures inside the back cover.*

In the middle of July a letter was sent from the Wardens to all Church members, individually. Below is a significant extract.

At St John's we have much to be grateful for – the fabric of our church is in generally good condition, we have a good mix of ages in our congregation, strong bonds between church and school, and a respected position in our wider community. Over recent years we have continued to invest in our church building, with new lighting and sound systems installed, new stonework and pointing to parts of the outside of the church. Some of these projects were made possible thanks to regular giving, and others came from the generosity of legacies, through wills that were made years ago.

As we now look ahead we have new challenges to meet in the life of our church. In five of the last seven years the Church has been running a deficit as a result of our ongoing expenses exceeding our regular income. Our annual income has started to decline in recent years while our expenses, and particularly our Parish Share commitment (for ministry support), have risen substantially. We must now try to address this trend. Our first objective must be to eliminate our ongoing annual running deficit which is gradually eating away at our remaining reserves. Perhaps we could all review and renew our level of giving for the future. Fortunately, just a small increase of around £1.50 per person per week in regular giving from each of us would achieve that. It would leave us much better positioned to face the challenges of the future.

As well as thinking about how much we can give it is also useful for us all to consider the way we give. We offer various options, from white envelopes in pews, to green weekly envelopes, standing order arrangements and now the new direct debit system offered by the Parish Giving Scheme. All of these methods give us the opportunity to reclaim valuable Gift Aid for all donations offered by tax payers. If you want to review how you give please speak to the Churchwardens.

Thank you, once more, on behalf of St John's Church, for all that you do and give to support the life of this church community and its mission.

An open letter from Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans.

In recent months we have witnessed three terrible atrocities on our streets. First, there was the attack on Westminster Bridge, when six people were killed, including PC Keith Palmer, and around fifty people were injured. Then on 22 May Salman Ramadan Abedi set off a bomb in the Manchester Arena, killing twenty-three adults and children and injuring a further 119 people. On 3 June eight people were killed around Borough Market in Southwark and forty-eight injured.



Her Majesty the Queen spoke for many people in the nation when she commented that it was “difficult to escape a very sombre national mood” as we have “witnessed a succession of terrible tragedies.”

These mindless acts of violence remind us of the dreadful reality of evil, which has resulted in the murder of innocent people and the maiming of many others. In response to each attack, the police acted swiftly and exercised the power of the state to maintain law and order and protect the innocent (Romans 13. 1-7).

However, we need to ask “What can we do to help prevent further attacks?” and “What is our responsibility as Christians?”

Jesus was quite clear what he wanted his followers to do: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect”. (Matthew 5. 43-48).

Continued on page 22

As Archbishop William Temple asked: “What is the Christian method of correction? Not retribution, nor deterrent, nor even reformative punishment, but the conversion of the offender’s heart and will by the readiness of his victim to suffer at his hands. That is the Christian way of meeting wrong-doing.”

In the case of the three recent attacks, it is too late to engage with the perpetrators as they are all dead. However, in cases where it is possible, many people are now involved in the process known as restorative justice, where in certain circumstances the offender can meet the victim of their crime and understand the impact of their actions. One particular expression of restorative justice is the Sycamore Tree Course, which is run by the Prison Fellowship in more than forty prisons in the UK.

But if we are not able to get involved in restorative justice, all of us can reach out to others and build bridges with them. For example, we know that the vast majority of people in the Muslim communities are as horrified as we are at these atrocities. Many of them are afraid to go out for fear of being verbally abused. How can we get to know people of other faiths and cultures and understand them better?

I hope that our churches will think about how we can be bridge builders as we strengthen our civic life in the communities across the Diocese of St Albans.

Bishop Alan, St Albans

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Email: Bishop@stalbans.anglican.org

SHERRARDSPARK WOOD WARDENS SOCIETY
www.sherrardsparkwoodwardens.org.uk

Do You Know Your Woodland Trees?

SATURDAY, 12 August 2017 at 2.00 pm

With Neale Holmes-Smith, Environmentalist and Wood Warden.

Bat Walk in Sherrardspark Wood

SATURDAY, 26 August 2017

With Ian Flack, Naturalist and Wood Warden.

Limited numbers. **Please pre-book (01707 324718) for start details.**

Long warm days...
The pace of life slows...
A time for picnics and rest in the shade...
Lord, help me to rest awhile
in the cooling shade of your presence.
Slow down my restless heart and fill me
with gentle compassion for all your people. Amen.
Catholic Digest

And finally



The Cochrane Clan (see pp 15/16)



1. Margaret & Robert Enkel in front of their shop in Montreal
2. John & Lucy Cochrane, Cromer Hyde.
3. Cochrane' Coal & Coke Merchants Hatfield Hyde sidings

