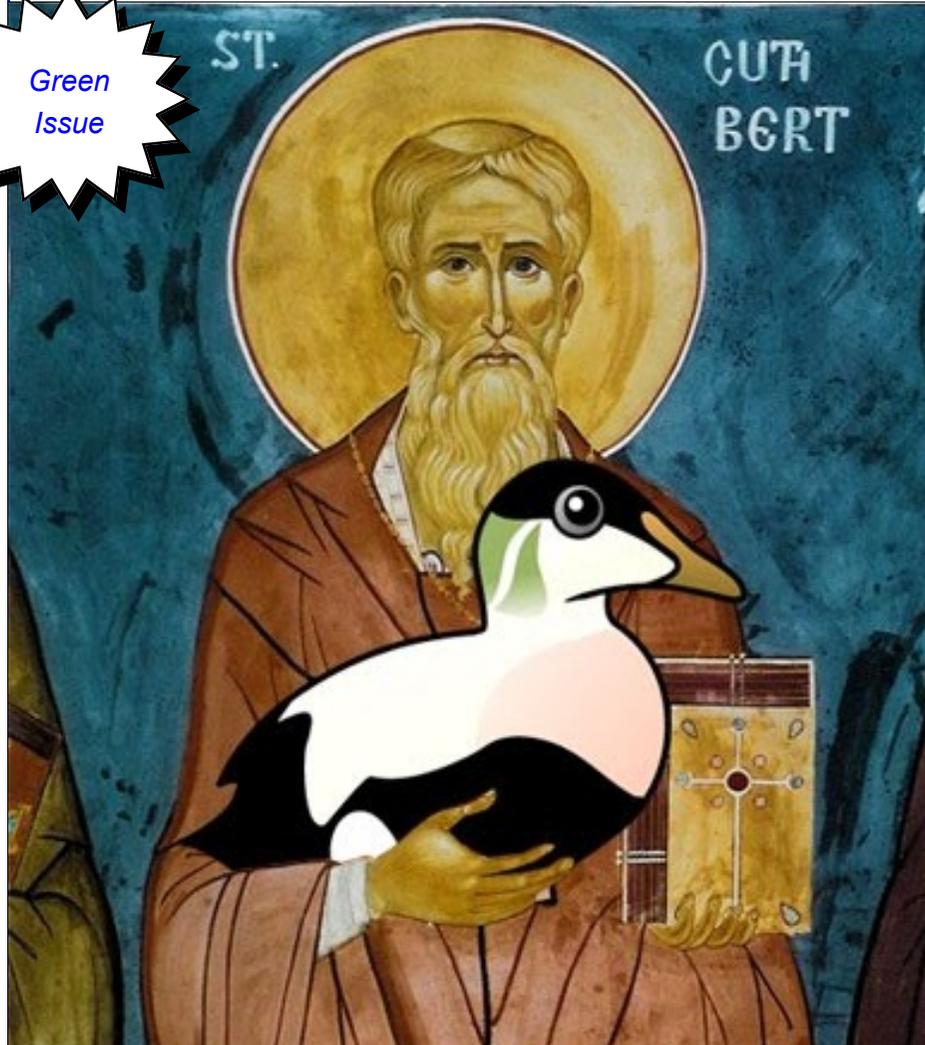


# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*

Green  
Issue



**Parish Magazine**

*February/March 2020*

**£1**



**Front cover—St Cuthbert with Eider Duck (page 7)  
Church tree work (page 14), and School preparations (page 9)**

## From the Vicarage

**F**irst of all Happy New Year and I hope you had a really good Christmas.

Here at St John's we enjoyed Christmas with some wonderful services involving the children of our community, our school, candlelight, and carol singing. We had an amazing Christingle service in which children and adults were reminded that God's love surrounds the world.



Yet this new year has been a shocking time if you are Australian, with the bush fires being so devastating to animal and human life. We are making a special collection in Church to help the victims. Clearly the weather is changing and global warming no longer seems a distant threat. In our congregation we have an expert on environmental matters, my friend **Richard Cuthbert**, and I have asked him to write on the Christian response (page 7). In Lemsford we have an Award-winning environmentalist—**Barry Trevis** (page 13) — a fantastic achievement and a just reward for a life-time of service.

**I**n the next two months you can look forward to two excellent and contrasting Clergymen who have very kindly accepted my invitation to preach at our 11.00 Service. On 16<sup>th</sup> February, we are honoured to welcome the Dean of St Alban's, the Very Reverend Dr **Jeffrey John**. Jeffrey is a Biblical Scholar and author, distinguished preacher, and campaigner for LGBT rights. I am looking forward to hearing him.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March the Reverend **Harry Steele** will be taking the Service. Based at the Abbey, Harry moved from Sheffield recently to become Church Growth officer for Hertfordshire, as well as Associate Director of Leading your Church into Growth. "Talk to me if you want to find out more about mission and church growth, tattoos, or basketball." (Googling reveals that he was Chaplain to the Sheffield Steelers Basketball team). It should be fun to hear him. **I do hope that you will make a note in your diary to hear these interesting men who came to God from very different backgrounds.**

The one thing I am certain of in these difficult and uncertain times is that God's love is for us all. **Paul**



**Sunday 1st          Lent 1**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Family Service led by Paul Seymour &amp; Jo Brooks

**Sunday 8th          Lent 2**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Rev **Harry Steele****Tuesday 10th 2.30 pm    Friendship Tea****Sunday 15th          Lent 3**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Saturday 21st Church Work Morning 9—12****Sunday 22nd          Mothering Sunday**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 29th          Lent 5**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of***Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)**1st      Romans 5: 12-19    Matthew 4: 1-11****8th      Romans 4: 1-5,13-17    John 3: 1-17****15th    Exodus 17.1-7    John 4: 5-42      Psalm 95****22nd    Corinthians 2: 3-7    Luke 2: 33-35****29th    Romans 8: 6-11    John 11: 1-45****Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service**

St John's Church, Lemsford

**SPRING CLEAN!**



*(indoors and outside)*



**Saturday**

**21st March**



**9.30am start**



WHATEVER TIME YOU ARE ABLE  
TO GIVE - YOU WILL BE  
WELCOME TO JOIN US!



*Refreshments provided!*



**Christmas Collections**

We handed out a total of £482 raised from the Christmas collections to four charities: Save the Children and The Children's Society which we've supported for many years, and for the first time the Hygiene Bank and Herts Young Homeless. Thank you to all those who donated.

**Dean of St Albans**

Dr **Jeffrey John** is preaching here 16th February. Don't miss him!

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

**SNOWDROP TEAS**



**Sunday**

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**2.30pm until 4.00pm at**

**137 Handside Lane**



**Are all snowdrops the same?**

**Come along and find out!**

**Enjoy Sunday afternoon with tea, cake and a friendly chat**

*Proceeds to St John's Church, Lemsford*

**M**any Churches are doing 'green' things, from installing LED lights to building a community hall out of straw bales. At St John's volunteers collect bottle tops for recycling, and women's bras for reuse. We are also cutting down use of energy-hungry kettles, turning to the urn and the teapot instead.



If we start with Genesis and God creating everything, the onus is on us to try not to destroy it. Mankind's dominion over animals brings with it responsibility and stewardship. Plants and animals are essential for sustaining ecosystems that give us food, fuel, health and wealth. Responding positively to climate change is essential if we are to safeguard God's creation. The Church of England has a campaign to enable the whole church to address - in faith, practice and mission - this issue. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury said; "Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation." I'm not sure St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and environment could have put it any better! He may be viewed as the original Earth Day advocate.

Our own churchyards are an important part of the diverse natural habitat of England, where we can help care for and protect the environment literally on our doorstep.

**M**y family has for many years practised Veganism, because we believe that a plant-based diet has a positive effect on the environment, using less valuable resources of land and water while producing more sustainable food. This is not new. During the first 1,000 years of the Christian Church there were many saints who loved animals. They lived with them, rescued them, nursed them and saved them from hunters. Of course I must mention St. Cuthbert (634—687 AD) who protected the birds around his hermitage on the Farne Islands particularly Eider ducks, which are still known locally as Cuddy Ducks. Coincidentally his Saint's Day is March 20th each year. Bringing us right up to date, the Diocese of Salisbury has become the Church of England's first Eco Diocese. Hertfordshire County Council has declared a climate emergency and is focussing on transport emissions, water use and tree planting to help our environment.

World Environment Day, on June 5th, is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. The Church of England has a Christian presence in every community across England and representatives world-wide. It is committed to making a positive impact on the environment. See: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/world-environment-day>

The Christmas lights and the reindeer and the Santas are all packed away now, ready for next year's celebrations. But we don't feel sad! The snowdrops are here in the churchyard looking beautiful and there's lots to look forward to now as we approach Lent and Easter. We have the usual mix of family services and Sunday Club for our children in church and a great programme of activities to enjoy in February and March.



### **Christingle celebration**

To help us move from Christmas into the rather more ordinary days of January we had a fabulous and joyful Christingle celebration on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, with a packed church, lights and music. We made the Christingles together, sang and prayed, thanked God for his amazing goodness to us, and celebrated Jesus' light in our world through the lovely candlelight and some disco lights in church. We finished the evening with pizzas in the annexe. Look out for Christingle next year – it'll be the second Sunday of January – we'd love to see you there.

### **What's on this term?**

**Sunday Club** continues to meet each Sunday during term time during the morning service for Bible stories, games, crafts, music and prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us and explore God's goodness and love, from toddlers to Year 6. In **Sunday Club this February and March** we will be reading the stories of Jesus from Matthew's gospel.

We have family services on **2<sup>nd</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> March** this year. In February, we will hear the story of Simeon and Anna, who meet the infant Jesus in the temple and praise God for keeping his promise of salvation. In the church, the festival is known as **Candlemas**. Then in March, we move our family service to the third Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and celebrate **Mothering Sunday** together with activities for the children, music and flower distribution. Oh and do look out too for pancakes at the end of February, to mark the beginning of Lent.

Contact me at [joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com) for more information about these events or our children's activities at St John's.

Although Christmas now seems a distant memory, it was, as always, a really special time at St John's with the whole St John's family coming together to ensure our children understand the meaning of Christmas and have a wonderful time celebrating. This means dedicated hard work from our lovely staff, the Church Team and our LSA who all contribute so much to this very special experience at St John's. Thank you!



'The Nativity' was a delightful, traditional telling of the Christmas story, with children narrating, acting and singing with such confidence, energy and enthusiasm! Well done to all Class 1 and Class 2 children

The school choir has had another fantastic term and we are so proud of their commitment and achievements. They love singing with the church choir and many of them came to sing alongside the choir at St John's 'Carols By Candlelight', which was a lovely service and well attended by many parents from school. We are looking forward to many more opportunities to join together in song!

Our Class 4 pupils have been really excited by the National 'Young Chef of the Year' programme we have undertaken at school, with all the children designing and cooking menus, both at home and school, learning new cooking skills and how to balance a healthy, tasty meal. One pupil has been chosen to represent St John's at the next stage of this ongoing event, and will compete with pupils from other schools for the Hertfordshire Primary Young Chef of the Year Award! A big thank you to staff who have helped facilitate this venture.

As you all know, the Welwyn Garden Centenary (WGC100) celebrations are now underway and St John's School were there at the launch as part of the Lantern Parade. Class 3 enjoyed a whole day workshop to make beautiful flower lanterns and 21 children made it to the parade on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January and proudly processed with other schools to launch the year of celebrations. We hope to be involved in many events during the year!

We are all gearing up for the Fete – starting to practice the songs and Maypole dances, ready to perform on the day.

A belated Happy New Year to all our friends at St John's Church and thank you for all the support you have given us in so many ways during 2019.

Mandy Evans

With all best wishes, **Mandy**

## Jack Beswarick - more memories

11

In the last issue we gave a tribute to Jack who died in October. By mistake we said he and Eveline married in 1951, when in fact it was in 1949. . Eveline has lived in the Garden City since she was a small child, her father having come to work for Welwyn Builders. He soon bought a house under construction in Great North Road. Eveline attended Parkway School then won a Scholarship to Hitchin Grammar School. She went to Sunday School at St John's.



Jack left Mevagissey in 1942 to train as a mechanical engineer in Bristol. In 1947 he moved to Hatfield and took up a position at De Havilland on the design of aircraft propellers. He rented a room in Green Lanes and started to look for a church, and soon found St John's which he liked. It was a good choice as it led to him meeting Eveline.

Their first encounter was in 1947 at a dance advertised by the church, held in the Village Hall, on what is now the Archery field. A couple of weeks later, by chance, they both went to another dance, this time in the Parkway Restaurant (now part of John Lewis). They started meeting regularly at the Sunday Evening Services as Jack spent every weekday evening studying.

After their marriage they initially lived with Eveline's parents but by luck an opportunity came up to buy the bungalow in New Road where they have lived ever since. Their bedroom looks over fields with the tower of St John's proud on its hill in the distance – a great view. Jack's career prospered because he was extremely talented, and he became Head of the Engineering Design Department at Lincoln Electric in Broadwater Road. In 1969 he had a change of career in when he became a Senior Lecturer in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering at The Hatfield Polytechnic where he was keen to share his wealth of experience with his students. Whilst there he spent six years working in the evenings and weekends on a thesis for a PhD which he was awarded in 1978. He remained at Hatfield Poly until retirement.

Jack and Eveline worked tirelessly for St John's, which he once said "is my life". Many of the improvements to the Church were the result of his labours. Eveline still has the framed certificate given to Jack by Christopher, Bishop of St Albans, in September 2000 to mark 50 years' service on the PCC, including four years as Church warden – an achievement that will be hard to beat.

Many congratulations to Barry, who lives by Lemsford Springs and has been named Hertfordshire's Outstanding Naturalist 2019, by the Herts Natural History society. Even St Cuthbert would have been impressed by his work for birds!

Barry has worked voluntarily at the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust's Lemsford Springs reserve since 1977 and has been its honorary Warden since 1981. During those 40 years he has organised and supervised more than 500 work-parties and community events there and collaborated in a scientifically valuable project on the Green Sandpipers *Tringa ochropus* that migrate to the reserve each winter. As past Award-winner Peter Oakenfull observed when making the presentation "For most people who know the reserve, he *is* Lemsford Springs".

His colour-ringing of Green Sandpipers at Lemsford Springs, with others, started in 1983 and is now the longest running project of its kind on waders in Europe. More than 200 individuals have been ringed and three scientific papers (on site fidelity, feeding behaviour and requirements, and the use of geolocator harnesses) have been published

However, Barry's ringing activities have not been limited to one species. He was the first to ring Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* in 2003 as it reached Hertfordshire as a breeding species, and likewise Red Kite *Milvus milvus*. He remains actively involved in the colour-ringing of Little Egrets at Verulamium Lake, St Albans and Stanborough Lake, Welwyn Garden city, where 71 pulli and full-grown birds have been ringed to date. He has been responsible for heronry census surveys at three sites since 1987.

More widely, he has assisted with ringing projects around the British coastline, across Europe and in South Africa and Tanzania. He is also an enthusiastic trainer of new 'ringers', while assessing more expert ones for permit advancement.

In professional life, Barry was Welwyn Hatfield District's Environmental Strategy Officer from 1990 to 2000. He initiated local conservation and public engagement projects while developing the council's environmental policies, including publication of the first nature conservation strategy for a Herts local authority. He is also a past Chairman of the Herts Bird Club (1986-7) and former writer of the 'waders' section for the Herts Bird Report. Well done indeed!!



**A**t Friendship Teas in January, Evelyn Beswarick told us about the high wall surrounding the churchyard. “Many years ago - well over 70—it was unstable and had to be repaired. Several Saturday mornings were spent by the congregation knocking the mortar off the bricks in order to use them again. The wall was rebuilt but at a reduced height.” Thankfully, it still seems pretty secure.



I start with this anecdote because before Christmas three Sycamore trees were removed by contractors from the boundary wall adjacent to Lemsford House. The ivy covering them was masking damage which was deemed to be a danger if the trees were caught in a strong wind. The stumps have been ground out and the bank will be tidied and planted in this next year. *See pictures inside front cover*

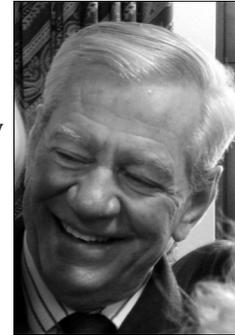
Volunteers have made a big difference already to the Church gardens – it’s year 2 now of the 5 year plan! It’s not all hard gardening, some jobs are light and we need records kept and coffees made on our working party days. The Gardeners meet on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month** ( 9.30-12.00) and once a quarter on Saturday mornings. The next day for “**Inside and Out**” work is **March 21<sup>st</sup>** 9– noon. This includes church cleaning and gardening – do bring relevant gloves.

**T**here are costs involved in caring for the gardens and if you feel you would like to help we would really appreciate a contribution. Removing the trees cost nearly £1000; we have other challenging trees to keep an eye on; the paths surrounding the church are unstable in places and need to be re-bedded; our garden tools are old and need to be replaced... I could go on. We have had plants and bulbs and ‘beebombs’ donated to brighten us up throughout the year and lots of good ideas for getting to a point of generally lower maintenance. **Do contact me if you have ideas or plants too.**

Plastic flowers and vases are not encouraged in Church graveyards and we will be removing various items at the end of January. Please make contact if this is something you feel needs to be discussed.

**Mary** 07850 527 050. maryd1003@outlook.com

On the second Wednesday of each month, we hold a short service for the residents of Stanborough Lodge. Usually about 12 of the 23 residents come along. I only became aware of this service during Edward's time of ministry and used to accompany him to give him some support. Fortunately now, Mary and Jenny are also able to join in. The main part of the service is to sing hymns and carols. There is a reading from one of the Gideon Bibles in the home (and in other care homes); a short talk; and a time of prayer together.



To supplement (or lead !) our singing we select from about 60 hymns on three CDs and a hymn book with large print. It's a joy to see many residents singing away happily as they remember the words of well-known hymns from their youth.

At Christmas time, children in the St. John's School Choir come along to sing in a carol service which is always a highlight for the residents.

We are always grateful to the Manager, Beauty Maruta, and her staff for welcoming us and helping us to hold these services.

**Ian Douglas**

Sanctuary care home in Hatfield is a residential and nursing home caring for older people, those living with Dementia and those with physical health challenges. It's located on the site of the former De Havilland Aircraft factory.



A monthly service on the first Monday of each month was established several years ago by Sue Stillwell and I continue to keep it going. We sing hymns accompanied by CD, have some prayers and a short bible reading. The whole service lasts about 30 minutes. Some residents used to attend church regularly and welcome the opportunity for community worship within the Home.

It's wonderful when a resident with dementia who has difficulty communicating is able to enjoy singing the hymns from memory. Sometimes family members attend the service as well and they enjoy seeing their loved one so animated.

I'm always looking for people to come along and help in any way. The residents also like meeting new people. If you'd like to find out more please contact me.

**Patricia Brough**

The 5th Welwyn/Lemsford **History Quiz** last November was enjoyable. We renewed friendships with Welwyn, Welwyn Garden City, and Ayot History groups. A big thank you to our hosts, Welwyn, and its chairman Paul Jiggins and his wife Helen for arranging the Quiz, food, drink and venue. The winners for a third-year running were from Ayot; congratulations to them and thank you to all teams who took part and supported the event by buying raffle tickets. I look forward to next year's quiz which LLHG will plan and Welwyn will host in November.

We had no events in December but one of our members Carol Hicks, with friend of the group Carole Payne, organised a very successful **Christmas lunch** at the Long and Short in the village for Lemsford Senior (over 60) Residents. It was attended by more than 50 people. The Long & Short did us proud and the day was a credit to our host and his staff. A big thank you to Carol and Carole.

As a historical footnote, one of the benefactors of this event is the Lord Mount-Stephen Estate. **Lord Mount Stephen** lived at Brocket Hall Estate. After the death of Henry Frederick Cowper in 1887 the Hall, whilst in the ownership of the 7th Earl Cowper, was rented out and between 1893 and 1921 the house was rented to Lord Mount-Stephen. To read more go to [www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk) click on navigation button 'ARTICLES' and from the drop down menu 'LORD MOUNT STEPHEN'.

Our next **meeting is on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>** in the Church annex for a lunchtime get together, when we will be discussing the 2020 Fete display, followed by a talk by the group on Lemsford memories. This will consist of the groups' favourite photos from the archive being shown and members and friends remembering and talking about them. The buffet lunch is open to anyone and starts at 13.00; a small donation of £3 will entitle you to sandwiches, wraps, cakes and a hot drink. The talks will start at 2.30 and finish at 4.00. Everyone is welcome and it will be a great opportunity to see how the parish has developed with the bonus of meeting old and new friends in the parish.

If you wish to attend the **buffet lunch**, you need to book via email to help us with organising the food. Contact us on [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk) with your name and contact details.

We are actively preparing the display for **Lemsford's annual Fete** held this year exceptionally on a Sunday, May 3rd, as the May Bank Holiday is moving from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. This will enable people to pay tribute to those who served in one of the most significant events in our country's history.

The group has started to research **WW2** to mark this special day. If you wish to join us in finding out about WW2 and the parish of Lemsford or have information you would like to share contact us at [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk). You do not need to be a member to send us your memories and images, but you would be very welcome if you did join our group. Please send all contributions by email to [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk).

To help jog your memory I have found a few images from the archive (*inside back cover*). The first image is of **the choir in 1947**, two years after VE day. All would have experienced the war in Lemsford Parish. Are you in this image or do you know someone in the photo? The next image is a sweet little boy standing in a dirt track in Lemsford Village High Street who transformed into a Brylcreem boy during the war; his name was **Bernard Smith**. The final image is Arthur Ronald Nall-Cain with son and heir, Ronald Charles Manus Nall-Cain (Lord Charles' Father). Arthur used **Brocket Hall** to entertain supporters of Germany including Hermann Wilhelm Göring and he attended Hitler's 50th birthday celebration in 1939 (not sure what present he got him, what do you buy someone with world domination on his bucket list? Maybe a map of the world and a chunky marker pen...) and was a close friend of Joachim von Ribbentrop. According to Neville Chamberlain, Foreign Secretary, the Earl of Halifax used Brocket as a conduit to convey the views of the British government to the leading German Nazis.

The group is happy to share its archive and research with the community and provides walks and talks to groups for more information go to [www.llemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Walks\\_Talks.html](http://www.llemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Walks_Talks.html) For more information contact us on [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk).

The two Christmas events organised by the social committee were a great success. A total of sixteen children along with their parents turned up to decorate the village Christmas tree. Once this was finished



the families moved across to the Sun pub where the children waited with great anticipation for the arrival of **Father Christmas**. After meeting him and receiving their small gifts it was time to switch on the tree lights.

This year Fiona and Lewis from the Sun did the honours. It was then time to socialise back at the Sun over drinks and food. A big thank you to RWH Travel for donating the Christmas tree, to Tashes 'n Tails for the balloon display and to Fiona and Lewis for their hospitality.

The **Christmas dinner** at the Long and Short Arm pub turned out to be fun evening with a quiz and raffle. Our thanks to Jay and his staff for their hospitality and to Tony Tutton for being MC for the evening.

Please note that the next **Meet and Greet** sessions will be on Thursday 27th February and Thursday 26th March at the Sun pub from 6-8 pm.



Heavenly Father,  
Who has created everything,  
Grant us your grace that we may  
Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth;  
Tread lightly upon it;  
And cherish its resources;  
That our children may enjoy its riches,  
throughout all generations,  
And your name be glorified through all that you have  
made.  
Amen.

*Rt Revd David Walker Bishop of Manchester*

And finally ...



Pictures from WW2—see History Group pages 16,17

