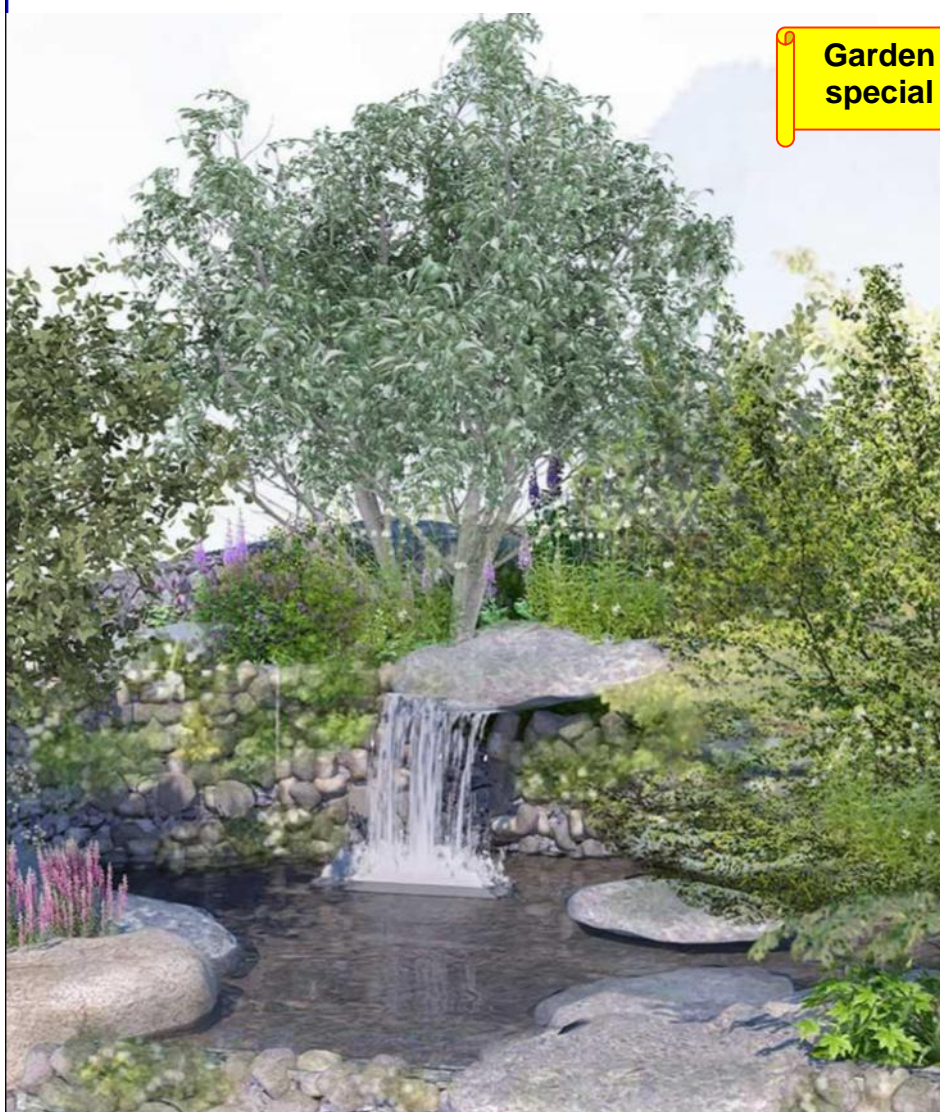


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The intrepid walkers to St Albans page 7
A lovely wedding—see page 5



The front cover shows The Psalm 23 Garden from the delayed Chelsea Flower Show, which has just opened as I write. This garden was sponsored by the Bible Society and designed by Sarah Eberle. She wrote: "Although this garden is diminutive in size, it is huge in stature and in this year of Covid-19, increasingly pertinent and relevant to all, as the need to engage with nature becomes increasingly important. The garden has a feeling of calm, a place where you can be embraced by your surroundings. This is the sense that I took from the psalm. I hope the garden will enable people to reflect on their own lives".



Coincidentally, only a few days ago the Borough Council's Planning Committee voted conclusively to refuse an application to build blocks of flats ten stories high near the Shredded Wheat site. This rejection delighted those local residents who had campaigned vigorously against it, using the slogan "Keep the G in WGC" - (keep the Garden in Welwyn Garden City). The flats of course had no gardens, and there were very few green spaces around them.

The application was not as ambitious as one launched in 1962, which sought a point block of flats on Parkway, opposite the Fountain, for no less than 19 stories. It was put forward surprisingly by Louis de Soissons who had laid out the original plan for the Garden City in 1920. Apparently needled by post-war criticism that his creation was boring, he wanted to introduce "vertical interest". Unsurprisingly his plan failed too.

For what it is worth, my view is that rows of virtually identical tower blocks of almost any height are not great places for human beings. We are all unique, although in God's image, and flourish where that individuality is demonstrated.

In my researches into Louis de Soissons for the WGC Heritage Trust I visited some flats he had designed in the 1920's. They were similar to Oxbridge Colleges, with an enclosed quadrangle allowing some residents to have gardens, while the others had balconies. They were four or five stories high. Speaking to some residents I formed the impression that here was a real community in a secure place—a model for our age I think.

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October

- 3rd.** 8 am HC-BCP tba
11 am **Harvest Festival** Rev Kathryn Alford
Genesis 2. 18-24 and Mark 10. 2-16
- 10th.** 8 am HC-BCP Rev Susan Marsh
11 am HC Rev Fiona Souter
Amos 5. 6-7 & 10-15 and Mark 10. 17-31
- 17th.** 8 am HC - BCP Rev Edward Cardale
11 am MP Rev Roger Chapman
Isaiah 53. 4-12 and Mark 10. 35-45
- 24th.** 8 am HC-BCP Rev Susan Marsh
11 am HC Rev Iain Lane
Jeremiah 31. 7-9 and Mark 10. 46b-52
- 31st.** 8 am HC-BCP tba
11 am HC or MP tba
Isaiah 25. 6-9 and John 11. 32-44

November

- 7th.** 8 am HC-BCP tba
11 am Family Worship Fr Darren Collins
1 Kings 17. 8-16 and Mark 12. 38-44
- 14th.** 8 am HC-BCP tba
** **10.50am Remembrance Sunday Service**
Rev Edward Cardale
Daniel 12. 1-3 and Mark 13. 1-8
- 21st.** 8 am HC-BCP tba
11 am HC Rev Roger Chapman
Daniel 7. 9-10 & 13-14 and John 18. 33b-37
- 28th.** 8 am HC-BCP tba
11 am MP tba
Jeremiah 33. 14-16 and Luke 21. 25-36

HC – BCP = Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer
MP = Morning Prayer

Macmillan Tea

" Thank you everyone for your support at the Macmillan Tea on Friday 17th September. The sum raised was £315.56 brilliant. A special thank you to Jenny, Jean, Gina, Carole, Jo, Kym and Brian who all made the afternoon run smoothly.

Jackie Spry"

(pictures opposite, June Copping)

Zoom chats

Our own Poet Laureate, Ted Webb, has written:

*The threat of Covid's nearly gone
and yet our Zoom chats still go on.
The topics vary week by week
as still more fellowship we seek
by meeting up in cyber space;
a peculiar lot, the human race.
But slowly numbers have reduced;
as by other things we are seduced.
And now there only are a few,
like me, and you and you and you.*

Reply from Hazel:

*Yes we are a few I know ,
But conversation it does flow,
From this and that and back again,
serious and humour its all the
same,
So much appreciated by my lock
down brain.*

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



Volunteer Gardeners

Ian Douglas took this picture of Beth Ann Hunter with four lads working on our gardens, for which we are very grateful. *See page 13*



I had the great pleasure of marrying **Francesca Norton** and her fiancée **Sam Maese** on Saturday 7th August 2021 at St Johns. It was a lovely service – the church looked wonderful, adorned with the most beautiful flowers. Francesca’s Aunt Ada, arrived from Germany just a few days before the wedding so that she was able to play the organ for the service. She played beautifully, and accompanied three of Sam and Francesca’s friends in singing several pieces, including an arrangement of The Lord’s Prayer written by another of their friends, Richard James, sung by Cecily and Marie Colahan.

Francesca and Sam sent me a photo (*inside the front cover*) the day after the service thanking us at St Johns for all we did, saying ‘Thank you so so much from us both for the most beautiful service yesterday! We had the absolute best wedding we could ever have wished for!’

May they both be blessed for the rest of their lives together.

On the 25th July I had the great privilege of baptising **Jaden Upson**, his **Dad James**, and another James, **James Clark**. It was a great day to baptise all three candidates. It’s always special when unbaptised parents offer themselves for baptism, so I was delighted to baptise Dad James. His wife **Jodie** wrote to us after the service: ‘Thanks again for such a lovely service, everybody commented on how upbeat and jolly it was, which was just what we wanted’! (*pictured with Jaden and James*)



St James Day is a special day for me as it is towards the shrine of St. James that I have slowly walked as part of my pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella. Since 2015, I have walked the Way, starting at Le Puy en Velay in central southern France. So far I have reached Pamplona in Northern Spain, about 700 kms to go. Like everything in the Christian faith – it’s a work in progress. That’s the same message to all who come for baptism— **Baptism is just the start of a life time’s journey in which we move closer and closer to God.**



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Two years running! I mean two years of walking rather than cycling in the Beds and Herts sponsored Bike n'Hike. Two years of dry weather and perfect walking temperatures. Two years of walking from St John's to St Alban's abbey, a spot of lunch and a walk back. Team Lemsford are seasoned walkers, so what could possibly go wrong?

Ok, this article may feature slight exaggeration but nine adults really should be able to find their way to St Albans across fields and lanes without needing to resort to Google Maps or having to ask couples out walking their dogs how to find the way. Unfortunately we "experimented" with our route this time, in an attempt to add interest and variety. There was variety, some new paths were discovered, and there were some differences of opinion within the team about which way to go (enough about that).

Despite St Albans being more elusive than last year we did eventually stumble across it (nearly an hour later than planned) and touched the walls of the abbey before heading for pizza. Gina, Paul and Charlie Butler then proceeded to purchase most of the items on the menu at the lunch stop yet managed to display impressive eating form and only slightly delayed the start of our return journey. Just as we were getting back into our stride another "essential" stop was required for ice cream (Italian gelato, so worth the stop). Then the march home resumed, with one final pause to pick sloes for future Greenfield gin production, but this still allowed for us all to return to St John's at 6pm.

Sixteen miles according to Fitbit and some sore feet as proof but a fun day all round, despite getting a bit lost. Thanks to my fellow team mates (pictured inside the front cover) – Lucy, three Butlers, Mary, Neil and Megan Greenfield and Frank, and to all those who sponsored us this year.



For families in October and November

Sunday Club has not formally resumed, but children are always welcome in church, and there are activity packs, books and toys for you – just ask when you arrive. Please do get in touch with **Jo Brooks** (joholifield@gmail.com) if you would like to bring children regularly to Sunday Club when we do resume, or if you would like to be help out in any way.

Until then, we have two events for children and families in the next two months and we'd love to see you here:

God is good!

Help us to celebrate God's goodness at **Harvest Festival**



We are holding an all-age service on **Sunday 3rd October**, with Holy Communion and a time to present gifts of food which will go to those in need locally. There'll be plenty for the kids to get involved in, and we'll follow the service with a bring-and-share lunch in the school hall.

**All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above,
then thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord, for all His love!**

Join us for an Advent Sunday celebration, Sunday 28th November, 4 – 5.30 pm

Advent Sunday marks the start of our count-down to Christmas and we'll be getting ready to welcome Jesus again at a family-friendly event. There'll be candle-lighting, story-telling, costume wearing, singing, flag-waving and processing through our church in our informal worship.

We'll have hot-dogs (including vg-friendly) afterwards.

Everyone is warmly welcome!



How wonderful to be back in our beautiful St John's church on a Wednesday for Church Collective Worship Service! This is truly a blessing and our current Year 1 children have not ever had the opportunity to be inside the church since starting at St John's over a year ago. Thank you to the staff team at St John's and Bishops Hatfield who are taking the service



for us and cleaning afterwards – we so much appreciate you enabling this very important part of St John's School life to return to 'normal'. We are also able now to have our daily Collective Worship as a whole school again, and like our church service, we are all delighted to be a gathering together again to sing, reflect and pray.

The beginning of term has been so positive and exciting and staff, children and parents alike are rejoicing in being a real school community again in the way we know and love at St John's. Thank you so much to Jo Brooks and her team from the church who hosted a wonderful coffee morning on the first day of term at school, welcoming new parents as well as existing families. This is a really special start to the year and much appreciated by parents.

We were also able to hold our annual Cheese and Wine Evening for new parents which is then followed by the LSA AGM – another encouraging start to the year and filling us with optimism for social events and ...hopefully.... a Fete this year!

We are of course experiencing some cases of Covid in school but we no longer have to send the whole class home and our children's learning is much less interrupted now. Bubbles have disappeared unless we get an outbreak then we would have to return to these for an agreed time. The children are enthusiastic to be operating more normally and are looking forward to having House Assemblies on Monday 27th to vote in House Captains and Vice Captains. We are looking forward to many different events, especially leading up to Christmas and are hoping and praying that these will be able to go ahead.

We are also looking forward to continuing our wonderful relationship with St John's Church and deepening it as the year goes on. With every blessing to you all. **Mandy Evans** **Headteacher**

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Archbishop Justin Welby has just completed a Sabbatical break at Trinity College, Cambridge (where he studied history in the 1970s), writing a new, as yet untitled, book on reconciliation. He was interviewed by the Church Times, and the full text is available on their website (very well worth reading).



Here are a few short extracts.

He repeated his belief that, in retrospect, the Church's response during the **first lockdown** was the wrong one. But there was a context, he says: "We were getting calls from all kinds of people in our role not just as a Church but as the Church of England and the Church *for* England . . . saying: 'Please can you set a stringent example to help us deal with the problem?' From other denominations and other faiths and from Government.

"And I think in one sense we did set a very good example. It was stringent, it was difficult, it was very painful, enormously painful for some people, and I wonder if part of it isn't just the cost of being the Church of England. "I'm not trying to justify myself. I would do it differently."

The Archbishop talked about his **ten years as a Parish Priest**. He was "fortunate, blessed providentially, whatever, by the fact that the number of people going to church grew a lot, and it grew through the basic disciplines of weddings, funerals, and baptisms, through being at the school-gate, through running nurture courses . . . tea parties for those who have been bereaved, by after-care, by visiting. "It was standard parish work, and it wasn't complicated. But it was unbelievably hard work. . . I can't ever remember being as psychologically, emotionally, or physically exhausted. . . "I am not just in favour of the parish. I am passionate that the parish is essential."

He **concluded** "I am just more and more convinced of something I've always believed: that the core of the Church's witness and evangelism is a community of normal people who can talk normally about their faith to those they love."



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Young Life is a Christian charity that works with young people from many backgrounds, economic, ethnic or religious. As well as weekday activities we hold summer camps for groups of kids to come, laugh, have fun and learn about Jesus.

In order to ensure that every kid has an opportunity to join, no matter their financial background, we also hold work projects, where kids can come and work to earn money off their camp trip. You may ask why four boys would want to spend two hours of their afternoon clearing the tangle of weeds in your Church Garden, (*see picture inside front cover*) but they would all agree that it was worth it for an amazing week at BASH camp. These Camps are jam-packed with activities such as go-karting, trampolining and football, as well as talks about the Gospel and chances for the kids to ask questions and delve deeper into their beliefs during small group time.

Young Life works to ensure that the kids can develop relationships with their leaders from their specific area, allowing them to gain support and reliable friendships, which can be a lifeline in the turbulence of school, exams and teenagehood. If you know a young person who'd like to get involved, see our details below.

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Another Pub Quiz special is St Phocas, the patron saint of gardeners, agricultural workers, farm workers, farmers, and fieldhands. [Saint Valentine is the patron saint of lovers and small intimate gardens. Saint Patrick is the patron saint not only of Ireland but also apparently of organic gardening] .

Catholic and Orthodox tradition has it that he was a third Century gardener who lived at Sinope, on the Black Sea and used his crops to feed the poor. Having a small garden, he lived modestly. He sold what he grew, and supported himself on the proceeds. He helped the needy and paid for the housing of vagrants. The piety of the saint had a great influence on other people and under his influence many of them became Christians.



He also aided Christians persecuted by Diocletian in 303 AD which earned him the death sentence. Nobly he provided hospitality to the soldiers who were sent to execute him. The soldiers, not knowing that he was their intended victim, agreed to his hospitality. As they slept, Phocas dug his own grave and prayed. He made arrangements for all his possessions to be distributed to the poor after his death.

In the morning, when the soldiers awoke, Phocas revealed his identity. The soldiers hesitated and offered to report to their commander that their search had been fruitless. Phocas refused this offer and bared his neck. He was then decapitated and buried in the grave that he had dug for himself.

He was made famous by a Bishop of Sinope around 400 AD, when the Church there became a magnet for pilgrims coming to venerate his head which had been preserved.



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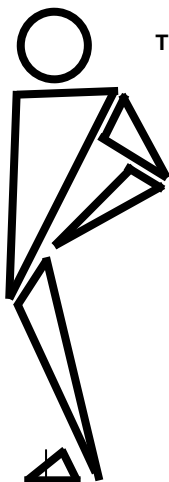
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As society starts to open up and we get back to a new normal, the Group is planning to resume where we left off in April 2020. Our last public meeting then was a 'walk down Memory Lane' in the church annex with a very enjoyable lunch. The general consensus of the members was that we shouldn't plan any meeting or public talks this year and review plans for next year in Spring 2022.

The group is still flourishing via our website www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk which provides information for a worldwide audience interested in Lemsford parish. We receive many enquires from all over the world via email every month, mostly asking questions which we can usually answer and then providing us with new information about the subject. We would like to share three enquires we have had since the last Parish Magazine.

The first was from **Paul Taylor**: *My family (the Taylor's) moved from Essendon to Stanborough in around 1880. As were many in the area, they were agricultural labourers. Before the Great War my Great Grandfather (Arthur Charles Taylor) worked for Mr D Crawford at Birchwood Farm, Newtown Hatfield and then for many years for the Mackays on Symonds Hyde Farm and also at Cromer Hyde. They are on the 1911 Bishops Hatfield census. The family worked for the Mackays for over 50 years where they rented a farm cottage. My Gt Grandfather would eventually pass away in in 1974.*

The attached photograph is of my Great Uncle John (Jack) Taylor (left of the photo). The picture is said to be taken in the Crooked Chimney and I know it's a bit of a long shot but I wondered if anyone could verify it? Although it may well have been taken in any of the nearby pubs, probably late 50's.



The group knew of the Taylors and we had a comprehensive list on our census page www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Census/Taylor.html. We could not confirm which pub it was, but memories from an old member, Ron, of how the Crooked Chimney (Chequers) looked in the 1950s, suggests that the décor was a bit more basic than today's interiors. The fact they worked around Cromer Hyde suggested it was taken in the Chequers. For more information on the Crooked Chimney go to www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Article_Chequers.html. I thanked Paul for his wonderful photo and information, that summed up an agriculture worker enjoying a pint after work.

The pub at the time was run by Lew and Alice Smith (1956 – 1962), parents of Brian Smith known to the Parish, and born in the Long and Short and gives me an excuse to print one of my favourite photos from the archive, from 1956 (upper picture inside back cover).

The next email was from **Jeremy Pym** on **headmaster Mr. Dennis Whitaker** 1954 to 1960: *I was surprised to see that the entry for Mr Whitaker in the roll of head teachers of St John's contained no details other than his name and dates of service. I only attended St John's while he was Headmaster just over the last year of his time there, but my older siblings attended for most or all of their junior schooldays through the 1950s. All of us were in awe of him, and my parents respected him absolutely. My mother said he had been in the parachute regiment in WW2, unenviably parachuting into difficulty at Arnhem in 1944. He was a strict disciplinarian but very fair.*

Unfortunately, we do not have an image of him or many memories. If you have either, please send them to info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk. There is a history of St John's School on our website, www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk.

Our last, and probably favorite, was from **Elaine Norman-Davis**, granddaughter of **Jim and Rose Warden**: *My grandparents lived for many years at 21 Lemsford village. I don't know the exact dates but I remember them being there for most of my childhood. I was born in 1962 and lived in nearby WGC. Granny Rose was the housekeeper at **Bridge House** and Grandad was their gardener. Their cottage was a grace and favour one and grandad used to access the garden of Bridge House by walking across a wooden plank, from the garden of 21, over the river Lea. They had 9 children, 8 of whom (including my mum) lived within a few miles radius of Lemsford. Every week all of us used to cram into the front room of the house (a whirling array of up to 16 adults and their children 24 or so children haha!) drink tea, chat, gossip and eat biscuits. The teapot was enormous and there was never enough seats for everyone so people used to sit on the stairs. My grandad was often holed up in the back room, curtains shut, watching or listening to the racing on the TV/wireless. We kids used to entertain ourselves by either catching tiddlers or swimming in the river. On occasion, grandad would take us over to the greenhouses in the garden of Bridge House and show us what he was growing, digging or mowing. He had a potting shed on his side of the river, with all his pots and tools in.*

All of my memories of this time, in this house, are idyllic. Hot summers, with my cousins, snorkelling in the river, looking for clay pipes thrown off the bridge into the water. Kingfishers, ducks, robins, great tits and muntjak deer, coots and water rats were all in close proximity.



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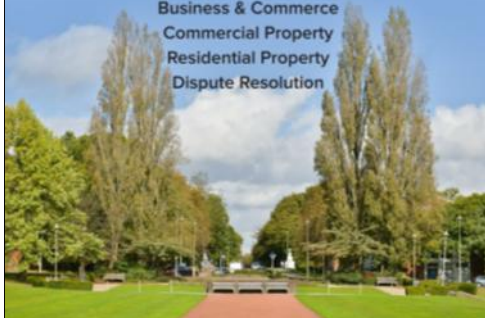
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I would dearly love to visit this house again, and to show my remaining aunty and uncle (children of Jim and Rose) around the house and garden. They are both in their 80s and still live in WGC.

We sent Elaine all the images and information we had of Number 21. She kindly responded with a lovely photo of Granny Rose and her clan enjoying a summer's day on the river in the 1960s. *Thank you Andy for the photos, they are great! I will send them to my aunty carol and ask her if she has any she can send me of life at number 21 when Granny*



Rose and Grandad Jim lived there. I have attached a few that I have, showing the house (it's the end of terrace one with the long side garden). The pics are of my Granny Rose, and various aunts and cousins.

I copied the email to the group and had a reply from one of our members, Marion. *I knew Granny Rose and Jim very well . My eldest son and his friend James Groom went to St John's together and are still good friends to this day . James lived with his mum Pam and sister near Handside - but they always went to Granny Rose after school for her homemade ice cream !*

One of the images we have in our extensive image library is a post card from 1910 named the Post office (lower picture inside back cover). The original photo was in black and white but was hand coloured. It shows an Edwardian girl next to the door of number 21. Opposite, the Old Wesleyan Chapel used in 1910 as a Post Office and later as a cobblers, with the three cottages (with columns) was knocked down to make a car park for the new 'The Long Arm and The Short Arm' which in 1928 had its licence renewal temporarily refused. 'The Long Arm and The Short Arm' licence was afterwards regained. About this time the old building was pulled down and a new public house was built and opened in 1929. The building next to the cottages is still there and known as number 2 and 4 Lemsford Village. The black plank buildings were condemned as uninhabitable and knocked down.

If the occupier of number 21 Lemsford Village is happy to arrange a visit for aunty and uncle (children of Jim and Rose), please email me at info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk and I will pass it on to Elaine to arrange a trip down memory lane. The same email address is available if you have any enquires about Lemsford Parish or the people who have lived there or memories you would like to share with us.



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Do you like lawns and verges: trimmed and neat, or undisturbed and natural?

A debate on these alternatives broke out in the neighbourhood website *Nextdoor* in mid-summer. It started when someone complained that the Council was failing in its duty by not cutting verges. “They take our money yet do nothing for it”. This gained quite a deal of support. Individual areas of the Borough were singled out for criticism. Long grass encouraged dog walkers not to clean up their pets’ waste, it was alleged. Not so said a dog walker—it makes it harder to scoop the poop.

Others asserted that uncut verges allowed flowers to bloom and were environmentally friendly. I supported this standpoint by posting a picture of a verge near our house with attractive wild flowers.

This was only consistent because for some years I have not cut our front lawn, just strimming it in autumn. This approach stemmed from dissatisfaction with the lawn which despite my best efforts always looked terrible in high summer. It is surrounded



by beech hedges and dries out quickly. Also it has no real use since it is a long time since our children played ball games on it. After several years of this benign neglect it is developing quite an interesting look, and does boast wild flowers, although not in sufficient quantity or quality to be called a meadow.

Recently it has become a source of smug satisfaction, because leading gardeners like Monty Don have said that people should stop mowing their lawns to save the planet. He insists cutting grass with a lawnmower increases climate change and is one of the worst killers of wildlife.

My wife is not however totally convinced. Occasionally I catch her looking wistfully at our neighbour’s immaculate lawn. Nor am I entirely consistent, because I do like to see a neat well clipped hedge.

There are though undoubtedly more insects in our lawn than hitherto. Under the long grass the ants have flourished leaving their hills, which are becoming trip hazards. Still this is a minor drawback when compared with the satisfaction from being an Eco Warrior.

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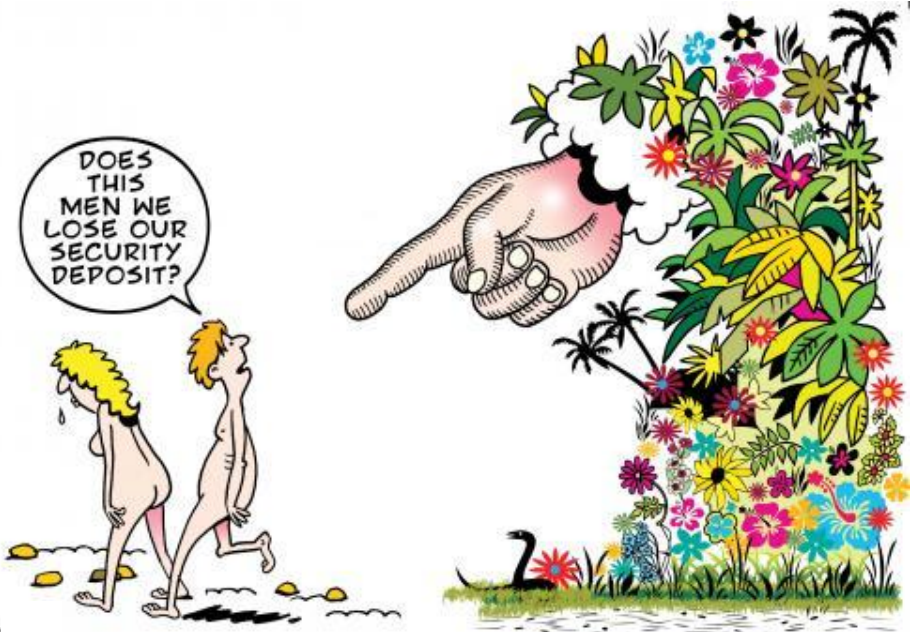
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Collected prayer, Anglican Communion

And finally— It was sad to say Farewell to the Garden of Eden







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