

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde

He died for
us



Parish Magazine

April/May 2017

£1



Read the stories behind these pictures on page 8



GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

The Easter season is a time when Christians celebrate in the certain knowledge that Jesus Christ has defeated death and in so doing brought forgiveness to the world, a world that has much need for his love. For many others Easter is simply a holiday, a time for giving chocolate eggs and for enjoying the onset of Spring.



This Easter though many people are feeling vulnerable because of Brexit and talk of Scottish independence. Though there are signs of hope in the economy there is a great deal of uncertainty. This makes the message of Easter even more important; the celebration of the resurrection comes only after Jesus faced the tensions and trials of Holy Week.

In the week following Palm Sunday and his triumphal entry into Jerusalem Jesus was at his most vulnerable. The tensions inherent in the cleansing of the Temple, the weeping over Jerusalem and the Last Supper with friends, were times when Jesus could anticipate what was going to happen over the next few days. In his humanity Jesus must have felt the fear and uncertainty that looking ahead can bring.

To those who are facing the pressures of modern life, within their work or families, Holy Week offers a message of hope. Fears and difficulties, anxiety, and uncertainty are no less real but the truth is that there is always hope. Changes in life and the loss of old certainties are traumatic but they can also be a time to discover that all is not lost.

Jesus had to face terrible suffering so that we might have hope. That hope comes to us because of his resurrection on the third day that brings redemption to all humanity.

The Easter message resonates down the centuries and can bring a special meaning to those who are feeling at their most vulnerable in these difficult times.

The truth of the resurrection for Christians is a message of hope and it is one that we are called to share with our friends and neighbours wherever they are.

I wish you all a happy and joyful Easter.

Paul

April 2017

Sunday 2nd Lent 5

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service

Sunday 9th Palm Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Sue Stilwell

Tuesday 11th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Friday 14th Good Friday

11am one hour Service of Reflection

Sunday 16th Easter Day

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 23rd Easter 2

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 30th Easter 3

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**** Morning Prayer 10 am Wednesdays ******

The Vicar's day off is Friday each week

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

2nd	Romans 8: 6-11	John 11:1-45
9th	Phillipians 2: 5-11	Matt 26:14 to end of 27
16th	Acts 10:34-43	Matt 28: 1-10
23rd	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32	John 20: 19 to end
30th	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Luke 24:13-35

Coffee after 11am Services.

May 2017

Sunday 7th Easter 4

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service

Tuesday 9th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 14th Easter 5

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 21st Easter 6

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Sue Stilwell

Sunday 28th Easter 7

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

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

The Vicar's day off is Friday each week

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

7th	Acts 2: 42 to end	John 10: 1-10
14th	Acts 7: 55 to end	John 14: 1-14
21st	Acts 17:22-31	John 14: 15-21
28th	Acts 1: 6-14	John 17: 1-11

Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service

Kay Richards

A Service of Thanksgiving for Kay was held on 31st January.

Joan Baraclough brought Barney, their dog, and tributes were given by **Terry Bamford** and **David N Jones** who were colleagues. Read about Kay's very full life on page 10. We will miss her very much.

Tim Armstrong-Taylor

Received a special medal on 12 March to mark five years as our Musical Director and Organist. St Johns is truly blessed by his contribution to our worship. See his picture with **Carole Payne**, Choir Leader, inside front cover.

Adam Pallister

We were extremely pleased to welcome Adam, who was our Musical Director when he studied at the University. He and his wife **Kirsty** travelled from Peterborough to introduce us to his baby son **Jacob** (picture inside front cover).

Pilgrimage

See the poster inside back cover about the annual St Albans Pilgrimage held on Easter Monday. Speak to the Vicar if you are interested in taking part in this colourful event.

Fun Quiz 1st April,

See page 20 for details of our next social event to follow the Church Spring Clean that morning.

Fund Raising

The Accounts for 2016/17 have been confirmed as showing a deficit, which together with capital works has reduced our reserves by **£11,000**. We must increase receipts this year and **Mary Douglas** has shown how it can be done by opening her garden at snowdrop time and bringing in plants to sell on Sundays. **Can you help too??**

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

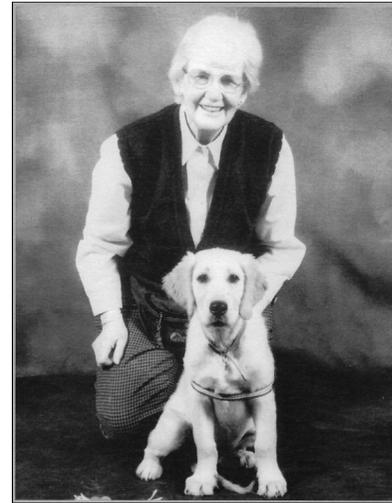
SHERRARDSPARK WOOD WARDENS SOCIETY

www.sherrardsparkwoodwardens.org.uk

SATURDAY 22nd APRIL 7.00 am. - **“SPRING BIRD WALK”**
Geoff Ralph, Wood Warden.

SATURDAY 29th APRIL 2.00 p.m. - **“COWSLIPS AND BLUE-BELLS”**
Neale Holmes-Smith, Environmentalist, Wood Warden.

Kay (actually Kathleen Brenda) was born in Newick Sussex in 1932; her father was a farmer and both parents excelled at sport. She attended the village C of E school, the County Grammar School for Girls in Lewes, and Plumpton School of Agriculture. Despite gaining a 1st class certificate in 1949 Kay found full time farming was not to be her destiny. In 1954 off she went to South Africa to widen her horizons. "Quite simply I grew up in South Africa - 3 years with Vacuum Oil Company; hockey with the only club with English and Afrikaans speaking members; Moral Rearmament the only vehicle within which South Africa's multiracial community could still meet - but these were not enough. Christmas 1958 found me back in Newick vowing to return only when 'one person one vote' was granted to everyone in South Africa."



Through administrative posts at Cuckfield Hospital and the Royal London a new career was to evolve and Kay qualified as a Medical Social Worker at the University of Edinburgh in 1964. A county hockey player for Sussex she delighted in playing for the Scottish Universities team too.

Following work in hospital and local government in Scotland Kay became one of the first Directors of Social Work there. Later she was appointed Senior Lecturer at the National Institute for Social Work, elected Chair of the British Association of Social Workers 74-76, and appointed to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service 1976-79. She came to WGC in 1977 after appointment as Assistant Director of Social Services with the County Council. In 1980 she became a full time student again, at the University of Essex gaining her MA in Social Service Planning, returning to practice with the London Borough of Brent until retirement in 1987.

Retirement gave Kay the ability to be involved again with local groups in particular 12 years as a volunteer with Isabel Hospice and three years with GAP, a Charity which Ron Ingamells chaired. Of St John's she said: "I like its broad approach. I value my attendance at the 8.00 am Communion Services - a peaceful and thoughtful way of beginning each week." She represented St Johns on the Deanery Synod and made a major contribution to the PCC.

Her favourite hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.*

Fete 2017 Helpers wanted

At the time of writing this note we are 44 days away from the village's annual fete (1st May as a reminder). As with many community events, our perennial need is volunteer support to help in both the days running up to the event, but more importantly on the day itself.

So I guess you can see the direction of this note! We really need as many people who can help as possible. Our key stalls are the barbeque, food outlets, Grand Draw, nearly new/white elephant, entrance points. In fact we have many activities that make the event run smoothly and need some level of support also extra help allows other helpers have breaks so that we can all enjoy the day as well as working on it. We have a range of needs and time blocks across the Sunday and Monday, so that volunteers can choose to be the lead for a stall or pencil in an hour or so of your time to help.

If you haven't already been contacted by any of the committee to help out and you want to take part, please contact myself, Richard Cuthbert or Cassie Mayo or through the website as listed below. Equally if you have friends or contacts who can help in any way please let them know as well.

The fete is an important event in the local community each year in terms of its fund raising capability to both the church and school, but equally as an excellent advert for the village, school and church communities. It is also a significant part of the local Welwyn Hatfield calendar of events each year, confirmed by the number of visitors who come to enjoy it.

Many thanks and here's to a dry 1st May 2017

Paul Butler

Fete Chair, on behalf of Lemsford Fete Committee

Email: rfbutler@googlemail.com

Website: www.lemsfordfete.co.uk

Lemsford Fete

Organised by St John's Church and School

Monday May 1st
Noon to 4pm

Come for lunch!

BBQ - top quality beef

Beer + Pimm's Tent

Live music

Train rides

Bouncy Castle

Big Helium Balloon Race

Face Painting, tea-cup ride, crockery smash...



Admission
Adults £2.00
Senior Citizens £1
Children under 16 free

*...And loads of traditional
fete stalls and rides*

lemsfordfete.co.uk

Free Parking
Sorry, no dogs

What a wonderful reminder the daffodils are in the school grounds, to really confirm to us that Spring is on the way. It is almost impossible to believe we only have a couple of weeks before we break up for Easter.

With Mother's Day Service fast approaching, where some of our choir will sing with St John's Church choir, and then the Easter School Service on Wednesday 29th March at 9, these events really affirm what an important and precious relationship we have with the Church – something we value greatly at the school.

We are also embracing Spring by eagerly anticipating any evidence of frog 'residency' in the new pond – it would be so exciting to have frogspawn to watch and then some new frog life to follow. Do let us know if you spot any frogs around the pond area!

We have had a wonderfully busy term with some exceptional 'extra' activities for the children. The LSA funded a whole school '**Lego Wonder Day**' where the children worked together in planning and

construction teams, to build a whole Lego village with all the facilities a town would need. The outcome was not only an example of amazing co-operation amongst the children (which was also our value of the month) but also a fabulous, huge Lego village! Some staff admitted it was one of their best ever school days!



We have had two different story telling workshops which the children have inspired the children in different ways this term. Firstly, we had an African story teller at the beginning of the World Book Day week in early March, which kicked off our activities to celebrate this important event.



The children then wrote their own collaborative stories, with a partner from a different class to work with. World Book Day was a great success as always with everyone, including staff, dressing up and getting completely involved.

Our second story teller was from Gripping Yarns and related stories to the children which focused on the values that underpin our society and encouraged them to think about why these values work to keep us free and to keep society as fair and safe as possible.

On Wednesday 14th March we had a Science Day for all the classes, run by a parent, Martin Fillmore. We have been lucky enough to experience these exciting science-based days in the past and the children and staff really enjoy the hands on, informative activities Martin and his team run.

We have continued to promote music and the learning of instruments in school through inviting in musicians who offer workshops to various classes, with many children now learning piano, trumpet, trombone and other instruments. We may be able to work towards a small band to play in church one day in the future.

Lastly, our excellent House Captains and Vice Captains are organising St John's Bake Off towards the end of term – an inter-house competition involving the whole school being able to enter their own home baked cakes or cookies. We are all *really* looking forward to helping judge this one!

Thank you, as always, to those involved in St John's Church who work with us in so many different ways. Have a wonderful Easter.

The sound of the bells ringing on a Sunday morning in Lemsford Village seems timeless and you would think they have been with us since the church was built in 1859. It may come as a surprise to know that 2017 celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first peal in December 1977: First peal, Plain Bob Minor in 2 hours 18 minutes: 1 Joyce Dodds 2. Theo Crowder, 3. Michael Gloistein, 4. Russell Brown, 5. Eric Edmondson, 6. Geoffrey Dodds, Director

How did St John's acquire its bells so late? Luckily we have an account by Geoffrey Dodds. "A Hatfield bell ringer, Bob Cochrane, who preferred to worship in Lemsford, donated £1,000 to buy a ring of bells. However, an estimate from the Whitechapel Bell foundry for one new bell, tenor 3 - 4 cwt., was I believe, about £1,350. Help! Someone in the Parochial Church Council remembered my name and asked me what could be done. Many churches, several with rings of bells, were being made redundant and on a list kept by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Committee for Redundant Bells. Being a representative of the Hertfordshire County Association of Change-Ringers' on the Council, I knew my way around. They came up with two possibilities, a ring of five or a ring of four bells.

I found a four bell church was Holy Trinity, Hatford, Berkshire, near Faringdon. The church was to be sold as a private residence. I phoned the vicar, who directed me to the Oxford Diocesan Office, who directed me on to the Church Commissioners, who directed me to their Redundant Churches office, who directed me to their Estate Agent, who suggested I try the vicar! I decided to visit the church and found a Mr Silcock up a ladder sticking tape over cracks in the church windows, having bought the church and moved in on the Tuesday. He considered my suggestion of returning the bells to church use a good idea. I guessed a value of £500. That evening, I passed the news onto the Lemsford Vicar (Frank Leonard). The next Wednesday the Vicar phoned me; he had bought them! Early in October a working party went over and moved the clock clear of the trap, dismantled the fittings and lowered the bells, using a piano trolley to the church gate where we loaded everything into a builder's lorry. All was stored in the school.

Money could be saved by DIY. To keep costs down, extra bell metal was obtained by getting the 4 cwt. 1858 bell of redundant Christ Church, St Albans for a £70 donation for their choir robes. We even added the ½ cwt. factory bell of Ballito's /Marconi's, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, which was about to be demolished. Of course, the Lemsford Bowen bell (in situ) also contributed.

11th February:

Roland King and his lorry loaded all the bells and took them to the Whitechapel Bell foundry. With an estimate cost of £4450, a bells appeal was launched.



Friday 3rd June: With Roland King's lorry collected the bells,

frame, RSJ and all fittings from Whitechapel Bell foundry and placed the bells in the churchyard (picture) and the wheels and small items in Charlie Wager's garage.

The project was started in June by cutting holes for foundation east-west RSJ, cast cement sills, lifted RSJ into place and cemented it in and the project was completed in September:

25th September: Harvest Festival: Try out, for all six bells.

18th December Dedication by Robert Runcie, Bishop of St Albans.”

Geoffrey Dodds’ dedication and inspirational search for suitable bells, his overseeing of the volunteer construction team and the many hours of hard practical work was an amazing achievement. He is on the right of the picture we think, with two Wardens, Charlie Wager and Cyril Roden on the left The Vicar is in the middle but the fifth younger man is unknown. Do you know who he is?? **Please get in touch if you do.**

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th May 2017, St John’s Church Annexe.

Justin Welby addresses the Church

On 13th February the Archbishop of Canterbury addressed the General Synod of the Church of England. Here are extracts from that address.

We are in a time when the future offers a wider range of opportunity, or of threat, than we have been used to, culturally, politically and economically.

This is a moment to reimagine Britain, a moment of potential opportunity, certainly combined with immensely hard work and heavy lifting. It is a moment of challenge, but challenge that as a nation can be overcome with the right practices, values, culture and spirit. This could be a time of liberation, of seizing and defining the future, or it could be one in which the present problems seize our national future and define us.

Which is where we come in. Let's not be too self-important. I don't mean we, the Church of England, are the answer. But we can be part of the answer, we have a voice and a contribution and a capacity and a reach and above all a Lord who is faithful when we fail and faithful when we flourish.

STANBOROUGH

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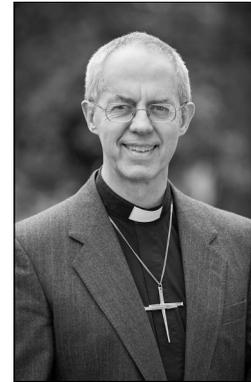
We educate a million children. We are in every community. We are embedded in the national history. We can work in partnerships, ecumenically, interfaith and across society, partnerships that have grown stronger in this century.

There is before the churches of this land, over the next many years, an extraordinary opportunity to be part of reimagining a new Britain, its practices, values, aspirations and global role. To do so we must ourselves be cross shaped, Jesus following, confident in faith and humble in service, above all outward looking. In the necessary reimagination of our country we cannot dictate but we must participate. Participation means being a listening, suffering and reconciling presence, not a hectoring, self-interested one. The language of public life at present is deeply, savagely divided and may become worse. Our power is found only in selfless service and the cross.

The tapestry at the east end of Coventry Cathedral is one from which I have drawn huge inspiration and comfort. Sitting in my Canon's stall on the eve of another overseas journey, often likely to be complicated, I would look at the tapestry during Evensong. Between the feet of Christ in glory is a human figure. The person is safe, secure, protected, looking outward into the world. Yet they cannot see Christ, only the wounds of his feet, and they are naked, exposed and unprotected except by the Christ they cannot see. It is in closeness to the crucified, in sharing in the burdens of that crucifixion by our own cross carrying, that we are truly secure in our future in this world at this time.

We are called to be the people of the cross, to live as those whose only hope is God, closely nestling in the presence of Christ, seeing and loving the world around as Christ does, so that in this time of a choice between national hope and opportunity or threat and fear we may play the part to which we are called in reimagining our country and seizing the best future that lies before us.

These are brief extracts from a long and powerful address. It is published in full on the Archbishop's website.



St John's Church, Lemsford

Saturday 1st April 2017



St John's School Hall

7.30pm



FUN QUIZ

Tickets: Adult £6.00 Child £3.00

Includes ploughman's supper

Soft drinks on sale

Bring your own wine and glasses



Raffle

Proceeds to St John's Church

Come along and join in the fun!



TICKETS from the Social Committee, Gina Butler or Jenny Roden 01707 339141

Me and My Music



Janet McKenzie
Archdeacon of Hertford

Talks about her life and
chooses her favourite music

Thursday 4th May at 7.30pm
Tickets £8 inc. Cheese and wine.
Contact 07766 952113



St John the Evangelist
Monk's Rise,
Welwyn Garden City
www.digswellstjohn.org.uk

In aid of St John's mission fund

***Praise to you Lord for the empty tomb
Praise to you Lord for your return from the dead
Praise to you Lord for men and women redeemed
Praise to you Lord for a new world.
Risen Lord, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly
and follow you more nearly
day by day.***

And finally *The article about the Bells of Lemsford reminded the Editor of the story below, which is however of dubious taste, and should not be read by anyone of refined sensibility.*

A church had a vacancy for a bell ringer and advertised it in the local paper. The very next day a man came in with no arms saying he would like to apply for the post. The Vicar was inwardly sceptical but felt he should do everything possible to help someone with an obvious disability, so he let him try it. They climbed the bell tower and the man ran toward the bell and hit it with his head, producing a beautiful melody. He did not seem at all discomfited so the Vicar gave him the job. The next day the man went to ring the bell but tripped, bounced off the bell and fell to the pavement below. Two priests were walking past. One asked, "*Do you know this chap?*" The other responded, "*No, but his face rings a bell.*"

The next day, the dead man's twin brother—who also had no arms—came in to apply for the newly vacant post of bell ringer. The Vicar was alarmed but led him up to the bell tower, to give him a trial. Despite warnings to take care the brother ran at the bell, tripped and also fell to the pavement below. The same two priests happened to be walking by again. The first asked, "*Do you know this one??*" The second responded, "*No, but he's a dead ringer for his brother.*"

Web site	www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk	Post Code	AL8 7TR
VICAR	Rev Paul Seymour 9 Great Braitch Lane, Hatfield AL10 9FD	revpaulseymour@gmail.com	271966
Churchwarden	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn AL6 9JE		01438 715868
Treasurer & Parish Clerk	Mrs. Gina Butler 33 Gt. North Road Stanborough AL8 7TJ		372062
Assistant Treasurer (Gift Aid)	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn, AL6 9JE		01438 715868
PCC Secretary	Mr. Martin English 13, The Valley Green, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7DQ		334074
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr Andy Garratt		322731
Deputy Churchwardens	Mr John & Mrs Olive Benson Mrs Eileen Martindale Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry		325663 01438 716162 329023 01438 715868
Choir Leader	Mrs Carole Payne		329697
Church Cleaning Organiser	Mrs. Eileen Martindale		01438 716162
Flower Arranging Organiser	Mrs. Sara Poole		320358
Garden of Remembrance & Records	Miss Barbara Taylor		329553
PCC Chairman & Magazine Editor	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis g.hollis2@ntlworld.com		265617
Organist /Musical Director	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor		0779 6268565
Notice sheet/ secretarial assistants	Liz and Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com		323785
St John's School	Head Teacher Mrs Mandy Evans		322589
Tower Captain	Mr Roger Brown		01727 859059
Transport Co-ordinator	Barbara Taylor		329553
Youth Co-ordinator	Mrs Jo Brooks		256702

EASTER MONDAY PILGRIMAGE 2017



St Albans Cathedral



Monday 17th April
Gather from 1pm
Service at 3pm

Journey together - Play together - Sing together



#StAlbansEMP

Share your pilgrimage

