

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



A Traditional
Nativity

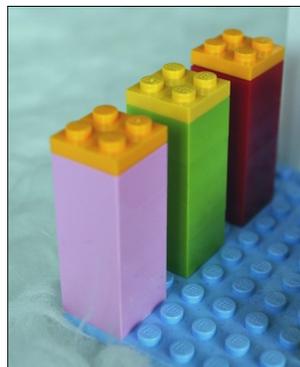
Parish Magazine

Dec 2017/Jan 2018

£1



... or a
Modern one?



This Lego Nativity was built by the daughter of an American Pastor. He liked it.
“Traditional Nativities seem too good to be true. The manger was messy, people are messy, life is messy and my God came down to all the mess, not some sanitized version of us. Somehow the Lego version appeals to me. It suggests the characters— like the three Kings with their little crowns— but leaves it open for me to fill in the rest.”

Which do you prefer?

Last week I went to three thought provoking events: a funeral; the film *Paddington 2*; and a screening of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*.



The funeral was of an elderly ex-colleague who was diagnosed with terminal cancer in time for him to plan his own service and write the accompanying service sheet. He was he said “proud of my Jewish origins but as an adult I lacked the conviction necessary to continue practising the religion. Not a comfortable position.” Nevertheless one of the pieces of music he chose was from a Mass by Monteverdi. Over 80 people were there which testified to a life well lived.

Paddington 2 was at the other end of the age spectrum, written for children but with much for adults to enjoy. (Thoroughly recommended by the way). *Paddington*'s ethic as told to him by his Aunt Lucy was to do the best for other people and everything will turn out alright. Of course they did, although there were moments where that looked unlikely.

Follies is a musical about people with mid-life crises. Every now and then they burst into song wondering how things might have turned out had they chosen different lifestyles. Naturally I reflected as they sang on what might have happened if I had done things differently.

Life is full of twists and turns, and none of us know the hour when it might come to a conclusion. Jesus had plenty to say about how we should conduct ourselves (*see page 20*). So did St Paul in his letters.

In his first letter to the Christians in Thessalonica (verses 1-11), which is believed to be the very first of his letters, he says “You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. ... Let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ... Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing”.

Happy Christmas!

Geoffrey Hollis

Sunday 3rd Advent 1

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Children's Christmas Service, Jo Brooks

Sunday 10th Advent 2

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion and Baptism, led by Sue Stilwell

4pm Christingle ****

Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea**Sunday 17th Advent 3**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Nine Lessons and Carols*****

5 pm Carols by candlelight ***** wine and mince pies in School

Sunday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion

10.30 pm Midnight Communion *****

Monday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

11 am Family Carols ***** followed by Communion, led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 31st Christmas 1

8am No service

11 am Morning Prayer, talk by Geoffrey Hollis

*Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of month
when shortened Communion Service*

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

3rd 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37

10th 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark; 1-8

17th Nine Lessons

24th am Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38

pm Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14

25th Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-14

31st Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21 Psalm 148

Coffee after 11am Services.

Sunday 7th Epiphany 1

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service Jo Brooks

Tuesday 9th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 14th Epiphany 2

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 21st Epiphany 3

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 28th Candlemas

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

7th Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11

14th Revelations 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51

21st Revelations 19: 6-10 John 2: 1-11 Psalm 24

28th Revelations 12: 1-5a Mark 1: 21-28

Baptism

On 24th September, **Albert Crabtree**. Well done to his family.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Jenny Roden writes: A “Macmillan Big Coffee Morning” was held in the church annexe on 29th September.

There was a wide variety of donated cakes to choose from and also a competition. The challenge was to estimate the height of a cake in a picture – a tower of layers with fillings in between. Tricky! There were different items in the composition of the picture to upset the idea of proportions, which generated a good deal of debate. The winner was **Sue Stilwell** who got within 1cm of the actual height of cake (94cm).

The few remaining cakes were later offered at coffee after the service on Sunday ~ for a donation of course! In total **£275** was raised for Macmillan.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy or supported the event. Your generosity will help Macmillan in their valuable work.

Harvest Supper

Our Harvest Supper was held in St John’s school hall on the Friday evening following our Harvest Festival. Although comparatively few in number than in previous years, those who came along enjoyed a splendid buffet supper and some fun.

Before the meal, there were entertaining quizzes for groups to work on. After the meal, building a scarecrow in a “beetle style” game produced lots of laughter and some evidence of competitiveness. Our thanks to everyone who donated food and raffle prizes and all who supported the evening. We were able to place **£210** into church funds.

Fred Olver

We are sorry to record the death of Fred. He normally worshipped at St Michaels but liked the Service of Morning Prayer and often came to St Johns especially for that. He was a perfect gentleman and will be missed.

Easy Fundraising

Have you registered yet? See Frank Puranik’s recap on page 22.

Youth events

Jo Brooks writes on page 10.

School Choir

Will be singing carols for the residents of Stanborough Lodge Care Home on December 11th. They will be appreciated for sure.

Snowdrops

Mary Douglas will be reopening her garden for viewing snowdrops in February, as soon as the little beauties burst into view.

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

Christmas is just around the corner and we're looking forward to the joyful celebrations here at St John's. But we mark the season of Advent first; its all about the waiting while we get our hearts and homes ready to welcome Emmanuel, God on earth with us, Jesus Christ! I hope you can join us for some of our Advent and Christmas celebrations this year.



What's on?

Christmas family service is on Advent Sunday 3rd December at 11.00, presenting the coming Christmas story with songs and readings and drama. Do come in your nativity costume if you'd like to – shepherds, angels, sheep, stars – the more the merrier!

The **Christingle** celebration follows on Sunday 10th December – join us 4.00 p.m. in the annexe to make the Christingles, candlelit service at 5.00 and pizza to follow at 6.00. All welcome!

Then there is our **Crib Service** for the children on Christmas Eve at 4.00 – come and enjoy a moment's peace and calm in church with your little ones, in the midst of all the excitement. All ages welcome!

.. and the rest of the year?

Sunday Club meets each Sunday during term time during the morning service for Bible stories, games, crafts, music and prayer. Everyone welcome to join us and share in God's love, from toddlers to Year 6.

Family services are always on the first Sunday of the month, term time and holidays alike. We meet together for a shortened service of songs, readings, prayers and activities. Everyone is warmly welcome.

Thanks too to everyone who has filled and brought a shoebox to church this year for **Operation Christmas Child**. This year **fifty boxes** were given and go out with our love and prayers to bless many children overseas this Christmas. Thanks to **Mary Douglas** for coordinating.

Contact me at joholifield@gmail.com for more information.

Mission Action Plan

Five years have flown by and we now have to draw up a new Mission Action Plan. Its objective is to ensure that we are providing the things that are needed by the people in our community. All Parishes are expected to have a Plan.



The planning process is shown in the diagram above (which looks better in its original blue and yellow). St Etheldreda's in Hatfield have reviewed their plan and come up with a clear need to support an impending Night Shelter in Hatfield. Team Rector, Darren Collins, gave an enthusiastic summary of their Plan to the PCC at St Johns and we have drawn inspiration from him.

The PCC subsequently asked Jo Brooks to lead a group to start work on a new Plan and she has happily agreed. She is currently recruiting members for the group and hopes to get underway in the New Year.

Readers can expect to be asked some searching questions about their experience of St John's, and what they would like to see us do. Do take advantage of this process. We need your comments both positive and negative if we are to truly be a beacon for Lemsford, and its surrounding villages.

This year has seen significant changes for “The Flower Ladies”. Sara Poole retired at the end of 2016 after twenty five years of organising the flowers, but happily is continuing to help on the weekly rota and at church festivals.



During last year we also saw the departure of Merle Hards who moved to Canada to live with her family. Merle had been a “flower lady” for many, many years.

In the summer we lost our friend Jean Dance. Jean’s speciality was decorating the church porch. Even when very unwell she would sit on her chair in the porch, resolutely making sure the flowers looked as good as always. We miss her.

Jean, Janet and Jenny have now taken on the pleasurable role of organising the flowers. Our very appreciative thanks go to all who help with flowers on a weekly basis, putting together the daffodil bunches for Mothering Sunday, and at Easter, Harvest and Christmas helping to make the church a festive delight.

Thank you, June Tomlin, Kirsty Humphries, Margaret Dowdy, Helen McLean, Lizzie Hurt and Mary-Ann Beech.

We are always delighted to welcome new people to our group. On **Saturday 16th December** we shall be gathering together to decorate the church for Christmas. If you would like to come and see what we do, and help if you wanted to, we would be delighted to see you. If you felt unsure of immediately doing flower displays, then a vase of flowers on the pulpit during the year would be very welcome. We all started knowing very little about arranging flowers!!

We look forward to seeing you – it is fun!

Jean Mitchinson, Janet English, Jenny Roden.

With Advent fast approaching, rehearsals for our school Nativity are already underway and our thoughts are all turning to this special time in the Christian calendar. Please do feel free to come to our Nativity as this is always such a special start to Christmas. We have two performances: both are on Tuesday 12th December; at 2.30pm and 6.30pm, and also, please do join us at our Carol Service on Monday 18th December at 2.30am, led by Reverend Paul Seymour, in St John's Church.

Our House and Vice Captains have been busy organising our annual inter-house Poetry Recital competition which takes place before half term and encourages all children to learn a poem off by heart and perform or recite it to the school before a panel of pupil and adult judges. We were delighted that even Reception class children had the confidence to enter and it was a truly wonderful afternoon of performance! Thank you to all House and Vice Captains who led it and to all who took part.

Class 3 had an interesting opportunity to go to Hertfordshire University for the morning, to work with a circus skills company called Upswing who give aerial performances. The children watched some routines and then had the task of sketching them whilst they performed – a wonderful additional experience which tied in beautifully with their art topic of sketching the human form.

As always, St John's pupils have been active in representing the school in many sporting activities: including Fun Runs for Years 5 and 3, Table Tennis, tag rugby and badminton. It is with great pride that we support such a varied and full sporting events calendar for as many children as possible at St John's.



Our School Councillors, at the request of the Class Councils, organised a St John's Talent Show in aid of Children in Need. Eight acts were voted by the children to perform in the final and a panel of judges, including 2 pupils, decided on the overall winner.



St Johns Talent Show winner, Aimee.

Through this endeavour, over £200 was raised for the charity. What a wonderful breadth of interest and talent we saw: from karate, ballroom dancing, trombone duet, singing, tap dancing, comedy sketches – we saw it all in our talented children.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to our continued 'St John's' partnership as we welcome in 2018!

Best wishes.
Mandy Evans
Head Teacher



According to census information there was just one Wilmot family living at Cromer Hyde in 1841. The family was headed by a widow Elizabeth Wilmot aged 39 who had her 4 younger children living with her. Her late husband John had died in 1836 aged 38. Elizabeth also had two older sons, James 18 and John 16 who had left home in 1841 presumably to work elsewhere. John Wilmot hailed from Watton-at-Stone so he probably moved to Cromer Hyde to work on one of the many farms that existed in the area at that time. Elizabeth worked as a straw plaiter which was a common occupation for rural women in the 1800's. It is Elizabeth's 2nd son John who became the head of the many Wilmot families in Lemsford.

For the next 20 years Elizabeth continued to live at Cromer Hyde but in 1861 census records showed that her son John now 36 lived in Lemsford with his wife Caroline and their 4 children. John worked as a shepherd. During the next 11 years John and Caroline had 6 more children. Their family of 10 consisted of 5 sons and 5 daughters. John continued to live and work as a shepherd right up to the 1901 census when he was 76 years old, he died in 1910 aged 86.

By 1881 John's son Frederick Wilmot now 17 had followed his father to become a shepherd. Two younger sons, William 15 and Joseph 12 worked as farm labourers whilst one of their daughters, Susan now 23, was a dressmaker. The census of 1891 recorded two of John and Caroline's sons as married and living in the area. Joseph with his wife Selina lived at 29 Brocket Hall and had 5 children, 4 daughters and 1 son. Joseph was tragically killed aged 29 when a gravel pit where he was working collapsed on him. Selina and her children had to leave Brocket Hall and moved to Hatfield. Tragedy was to strike this family again when daughter Alice died just one day after giving birth to a son, not from childbirth, but from a flu epidemic. Her sister Caroline also died from this flu epidemic soon after.

So on James with his wife Charlotte now lived in Lemsford with their 4 children, 2 sons and 2 daughters. James was a bootmaker and sub-postmaster. James and his family lived in one of two houses next to the Chapel. The Chapel was deconsecrated in 1930 and the house that James lived in along with the one next door were demolished to make way for the car park at the Long and Short Arm pub. There is some evidence that the Post Office was formed in 1886 with James taking it over in 1890. It ceased to be a Post Office in 1930 when James died.

Anecdotal information tells of the Wilmot family having their own tug-of-war team and also that two of the brothers would walk to St. Albans for bare knuckle fighting (a popular sport of the time) to boost their income.

By 1901 John and Caroline's son William lived in the village and kept a butcher/grocer shop at No. 27 Lemsford Village while living in the house behind the Long and Short Arm pub. His elder sister Susan now worked as an assistant in the shop which stocked a wide range of goods from sides of ham to needles and thread, and most memorably sold sweets. Susan never married but became a popular character in Lemsford village and a friend of the actress Flora Robson. Son Frederick was now married to Elizabeth. They had met whilst working for the Horn family, Frederick as a shepherd and Elizabeth as a cook. They had one daughter in 1901. James and Charlotte now had two more children, a son and a daughter. James still had the bootmakers and sub-post office and their son Frederick now worked at the post office. Their daughter Kate worked as a housemaid at Brocket Hall.

The 1911 census recorded Frederick and Elizabeth with four more children, three daughters and a son. James still ran the bootmakers and sub-post office and his son Frederick had become a bootmaker. Youngest son Albert was a junior electrical clerk and youngest child Celia (later known as Cis) now 14 was at school. John and Caroline's son William had married Clara and continued to run the shop with his elder sister Susan. The population of Lemsford in 1911 was 404.

During WW1 Joseph's son John went to train at Bury St Edmunds while waiting to serve and on his return married Ivy and went on to have 6 children born during the 1920's.

Records for 1939 show that James's son Frederick still worked as a bootmaker having taken over his father's business after he died.

In conclusion, the Wilmot family of Lemsford grew from 1 family in 1841 to several over the 100 years. All the information has been collected from county and census records and anecdotal information from current family members. Thanks in particular go to Lorrain Nicholls, great granddaughter of Joseph and Selina, Margaret Pugh, granddaughter of Frederick and Elizabeth and Kathleen Dickson daughter of Cis and Edwin Merrit.

See pictures inside back cover—the bootmakers shop circa 1917; and Susan Wilmot with her younger brother Frederick. Also, see invitation on page 18.

The Lemsford Local History Group, formed in 2001 is interested in all aspects of the history and people of this area – both ancient and modern.



We are pleased to invite all local residents to our first meeting of 2018 to be held in The Sun pub on **Tuesday 30th January at 3pm**. We hope to have a guest speaker. **Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.**

Music at Stanborough School
(featuring junior members of St Johns)

Christmas concert at the school Thursday 30th November at 7pm. Tickets £4, concessions £2.

If you'd like to come and want a ticket in advance please ask me. Tickets will also be available on the door.

Carol concert at URC Church Road WGC at 7pm. Entry free with retiring collection.

Lorraine Puranik lorraine@puranik.org

For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath. (Mark 4:25 Authorised Version) Or in a more modern translation “For to the one who has, it will be given, and from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.”

This same thought is repeated in Matthew 25:29, although in a different context, so we can be sure it was a direct quote from Jesus. Indeed to the Jews it was a common idea. One famous Rabbi (Johanan) said “God gives wisdom only to him who possesses wisdom, while another (Hillel) said “He who increases not, decreases”.

This does not mean that the Rich inevitably get richer and the Poor poorer. The biblical scholar William Barclay points to a “a famous and a pathetic passage in the autobiography of Charles Darwin. He tells us that when he was a young man he found delight in music and poetry. As he became older he grew so immersed in the study of biology that he gave absolutely no time to reading poetry or listening to music. He eventually came to a stage when poetry meant nothing to him and music was a meaningless noise; he goes on to say that if he had his life to live over again he would see to it that some time was given to these things so they would not go lost as they had done.”

We may have certain skills and abilities, Barclay continues, but if we fail to use them we shall lose them. We are all born with differing abilities and the test is how we use those we have. The whole duty of life is not to envy someone else his or her ability or skill but to make the best of ourselves. Barclay quotes Marshal Foch “The art of warfare consists in doing the best one can with the resources one has.”

Life is like that. But this remains—though we cannot be equal in achievement we can be equal in effort. The one ultimate aim in life is to be able to say in all truth “I have done my best.”

A reminder to enrol with Easy Fundraising, which could help St Johns every time you shop online without costing you a penny. Full details were in the last issue so this is just a recap.



First you register on their website : <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>. There's nothing to pay and no bank acc details to put in! Next you choose "St Johns Church Lemsford" as the destination for donations. Then, when you shop online with people like Amazon or John Lewis, go to their online stores via the Easy Fundraising site before you check out your shopping basket. It's that easy.

John Lewis (online) donates 1% of purchase price; Amazon gives 1.5% Gearformusic 2% to 3%; Waitrose, Ebay (2.5%), House of Fraser, M&S, and lots of travel sites. The full list is on - the Easyfundrasing website.

PLEASE SIGN UP AND USE IT

Frank
frank@puranik.org

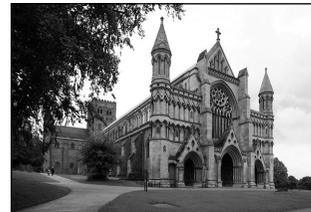


St Albans Abbey Carols on the Hour

Sat, 16 December 2017

Each carol service lasts just 30 minutes - enough time to sing some uplifting carols and to get a real taste of Christmas in this beautiful, atmospheric Cathedral. No tickets required.

- 11am: St Peter's Choir
- 12pm: Classical Chorus St Albans
- 1pm: Classical Chorus St Albans
- 2pm: Parish Singers & Parish Junior Singers
- 3pm: St Albans Big Sing
- 4pm: Abbey Girls Choir and men of the Cathedral Choir



O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in the profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women the peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

Pope John XXIII

And finally



The Wilmots of Lemsford (see pp 15/16)

