

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



Parish Magazine

December 2018/January 2019 £1



**Remembrance Sunday
11th November 2018
For details see page 8
Front cover picture is by a Coptic
Christian**



From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Christmas is fast approaching and we are entering the season of Advent. This occupies the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. and so this year starts on December 2nd. It is a time in which we in churches remind ourselves of the richness of the Christmas story.



It actually starts some 2000 to 3000 years before the birth of Christ, so we like to divide up the story into 5 segments. Like many other churches, we at St Johns during this season have an Advent Wreath.

This is a ring of four candles around a central white candle, usually decorated with holly and ivy. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday, and an additional candle is lit each Sunday, until Christmas Eve our Christmas Eve Holy Communion service (10:30pm), when the central white candle is lit.



CONTENTS

Calendars for December and January	pages 4&5.
News and People	page 7
Young People , by Jo Brooks	page 8
Thank you ! From the Wardens	page 9
Faith in Action —social action work in Parishes	page 11
Reports: Lemsford Residents and Shoe box Sunday	page 13
Disabled Cricket , by Richard Hill	pages 14/15
Local History Group	page 16
Farewell to The Bull by Andy Chapman	pages 17,19
Prayer for Christmas/ And Finally	page 21
Parish Directory	page 24

There are several traditions about the meaning of each candle, but the one most commonly accepted is:

The first candle represents the **Patriarchs**, such as Abraham and Moses

The second candle reminds us of **the Prophets**, such as Isaiah and Micah

The third candle represents **John the Baptist**, Jesus' cousin

The fourth candle reminds us of **Mary**, the mother of Jesus

The central white candle symbolises the birth **of Jesus, the light of the world.** By using the candles in this way we allow ourselves to reflect on and remember the history of Jesus and his birth. We also use them to think on what part we are called to play in helping each other to welcome Christ into our lives in the following year.

The patriarchs were obedient to their call;

The prophets spoke out against injustice and pointed towards God's way;

John the Baptist was not afraid to appear different and to challenge individuals to make a personal commitment;

Mary humbly served God in being the Mother of Jesus.



So then I wonder what is God calling us to do this Christmas?

Is there an injustice or a need where we can help to bring his love?

Are we prepared to offer ourselves fully in God's service?

In answering these questions as we prepare for Christmas, may God be working in our hearts to help us to share his peace and joy within the life of our homes and community.

HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

God Bless you **Paul**

Sunday 2nd Advent 1
8am Morning Prayer 11am Family Service led by Sue Stilwell

Sunday 9th Advent 2
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
5 pm **Carols by Candlelight**

Tuesday 11th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 16th Advent 3
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11am **Nine Lessons and Carols**

Sunday 23rd Advent 4
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Monday 24th **Christmas Eve**
4 pm Crib Service 10.30 pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th **Christmas Day**
11 am Family Carols followed by short Holy Communion

Sunday 30th Christmas 1
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

2nd	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	Luke 21: 25-36
9th	Malachi 3: 1-4	Luke 3: 1-6
16th	Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Luke 3: 7-18
23rd	Micah 5: 2-5a	Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)
24th	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)
25th	Isaiah 52: 7-10	John: 1-14
30th	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26.	Luke 2: 41-52

Sunday 6th Epiphany 1

8am Morning Prayer led by the Wardens

11am Family Service, led by Jo Brooks

Sunday 13th Epiphany 2

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

4.30 pm Christingle Making

5 pm Christingle Service

Tuesday 15th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 20th Epiphany 3

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 27th Epiphany 4

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

6th Isaiah 60: 1-6 Matthew 2: 1-12

13th Isaiah 43: 1-7 Luke 3: 15-17, 21,22

20th Isaiah 62: 1-5 John 2: 1-11 Psalm 36: 5-10

27th Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5,6, 8-10 Luke 14-21

Baptisms

On 14th November, Dulcie Lambert. On 4th November, **Zachary Zippell** and **Miley Simpson-Burnett** (cousins). Many congratulations to their families.

Remembrance Sunday

A good crowd stood at the War Memorial to pay tribute to the villagers who gave their lives in two World Wars. **Jay Puranik** played the Last Post and Reveille. **Richard Cuthbert** wore the medals awarded to his Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Among the visitors were **Robert and Jacqueline Larkin** who had come to pay tribute to two Great Uncles of Jacqueline - **George and Frederick Spriggs** – whose names were among those on the Memorial and read out during the ceremony. **Andy Chapman** of The Local History Group mounted a special display in the Brocket Chapel which attracted a lot of interest after the Service. *See pictures inside front cover.*

Christmas Services

All the usual special services will be available including **Family Nativity, Nine Lessons and Carols**, (in which the School

Choir will be taking part), **Carols by Candle light , Crib Service** and, in January, a **Christingle. Christmas Eve Mass** will be celebrated starting at 10.30 pm. On Christmas Day at 11 am will be **Family Carols** followed by a short Communion. **Do try to make some of these special events.**

Christmas Cards

Kirsty Humphries and **Lucy Earl** will be selling St John's cards right up to Christmas.

Advent Group

A discussion group led by Paul will meet on the first three Thursdays in December, at 7.30 pm in the Church Annex. They will be discussing *Advent for Everyone* by Tom Wright which contains a daily reading for Advent; order from www.eden.co.uk

Friendship Teas

Don't forget these social get-togethers on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 2.30 pm in the Annex. They are becoming very popular and provide a good opportunity for meeting old and new friends.

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: **20 th January**

Christmas will soon be upon us, and we're looking forward to joyful celebrations. But first there is Advent to enjoy, a time of waiting for God, of preparation and of peace. The Bible is full of waiting, and in Luke's account of Jesus' birth we meet a man called Simeon. Simeon has been waiting all his life for God to keep his promise of salvation. Then he meets the infant Jesus in the temple and knows the waiting is finally over. 'I can go in peace now', he said; 'I have seen what you promised long ago God. I have seen the Saviour, Jesus Christ!' Luke's account of Jesus' life will be our focus in Sunday Club in the coming year (the church year starts at Advent!). We'll be learning about the extraordinary things that happened when he was born, about all the people he helped and healed, and the amazing things he did, and how his saving love is for everyone. I hope you can join us for one of our special services, from Advent Sunday through to Christingle in January, or for our regular Sunday Club.



Our **Christmas family service** is on **Advent Sunday 2nd December** at 11.00, with songs and readings and drama. Do come in nativity costumes – shepherds, angels, sheep, stars – the more the merrier!

Next is our **Crib Service** on **Christmas Eve at 4.00** – come and enjoy a moment's peace and calm in church with your little ones, as we get ready for the big day. All ages welcome!

Our annual **Christingle celebration** is on **Sunday 13th January 2019** – come at **4.30 p.m.** to make the Christingles, or join our **candlelit celebration service at 5 p.m.** and for pizza afterwards. All welcome!

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.

Please do get in touch with me if you want to know more about these events and our children's work at St John's. joholifield@gmail.com

Thank you !

9

Recently **Paul and we** attended a “**Team Meeting**” where we were asked by the Rector about Good News from our Church. As we thought about all that had happened this year and related them to the team we felt we had to share our reflections with you all.

In February **Mary opened her garden** for us to admire the snowdrops and enjoy tea and cakes. In June **Marion allowed us to visit and admire her allotment** again with tea and cakes. In June we had “**Cupcakes for Alzheimers**” during coffee after the service, and **Gina took herself off to run “A Race for Life”** for Breast Cancer. Of course in May we had our “**Fete**” where we joined with school to make it a huge success.

In September **Jo** organised a “**New Term Coffee Morning**” held at the school for new and seasoned parents to meet up. In the middle of the month we had “**A Clear Up and Clean Saturday**” in the church and garden. Those working outside were well organised by **Paul Butler. Kevin and Lucy** once again organised the **Charity Bike Ride** which helped both our Church and **Historic Churches**. At the end of September came our **Harvest service** where our school again took part singing to us and **Richard** led the prayers. The service was followed by a “**Simple Lunch**” The food collected at this service and the school Harvest Service was given to the **Food Bank and The Women’s Refuge** with all money collected going to “**Water Aid**”. October brought our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** with the following after service coffee organised by **Emily and Family** .

“**Shoe Box Sunday**” came in November with organiser **Mary** telling us all about those who receive the boxes. On 11th November came **Remembrance Sunday** led by Paul again with contributions of Wreaths made by the schoolchildren and families connected to those who died. Our church was beautifully decorated by **Jean and the flower ladies, Jay played the Last Post and Reveille**. The bell ringers tolled at the eleventh hour as the silence was observed.

Looking back as we did at all these events we would both like to offer sincere thanks to all who organised and supported them with their hard work and generosity.

Jenny and Jackie (Wardens)

More than 33,000 social action projects - from food banks to debt counselling - are run or supported by churches, according to figures setting out for the first time the full scale of the Church of England's service to communities.

The findings* – which amount to the largest survey to date of the extent of the Church of England's work with some of the most vulnerable in society – show that 80 per cent of congregations are involved in one or more forms of social action.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, **Justin Welby**, said: "From food banks to debt counselling and lunch clubs to language classes, these figures spell out for the first time the sheer scale and range of our churches' commitment to their communities.

"We are doing more to love and help people in need than at any time since 1945.

"We don't just do this to be 'nice' but because our faith in Jesus Christ compels us to act."



Data gathered from 13,000 churches show that the biggest area of work is in food banks - with 60 per cent, or nearly 8,000 churches - involved in either running or supporting food banks through volunteers, donations and providing venues.

Nearly a third, or 32 per cent, of Church of England churches run or support parent and toddler groups; just over a quarter, or 26 per cent, lunch clubs; and just over one in five, or 22 per cent, community cafes. Holiday clubs and breakfast clubs, often providing meals to children from low income families, are supported or run by nearly 17 per cent of churches.

Other community action projects supported or run by the Church of England's churches involved a range of activities from bereavement support and community gardens to music events and English language tuition.

*Annual Statistics for Mission 2017 survey.

Lemsford Residents Association

The Social Committee of the LRA are organising two Christmas events. The first is a family afternoon on the **1st December** when the children from the village will be invited to help decorate the Christmas Tree, sing carols and then the lights will be switched on by a member of RWH Travel. Afterwards everyone is invited to The Sun Inn for mulled wine and nibbles kindly provided by Fiona and Lewis. A surprise visit from Father Christmas will round off the afternoon.

The second event is on the **7th December** when an evening of festive fun will be held at The Long and Short Arm.

A monthly meet and greet night has been running successfully since September when villagers have an opportunity to meet other villagers to help keep in touch. These are held at The Sun Inn from 6pm to 8pm and the next one will be on Thursday **24th January 2019**. This is also an ideal way for villagers to highlight any events they would like to make known. Concerns have been raised about the rising levels of traffic using the village and The Residents Association are looking for people to form a traffic committee to look into ways to help alleviate the problem. Please watch out for further information.

Janet Maisey

Shoebboxes and other gifts

On Monday 19th November, I took the 41 donated shoebboxes to St Mark's church in Colney Heath. The hall was a hive of activity as folk sorted, topped up and packed the boxes for dispatch to various countries. We will learn later to which country the boxes have gone. On the tables at St Mark's were the headings 'Is it full', 'Is it safe?' and 'Is it fun?' We give some items as requested (soap, flannels, toothbrushes, etc) and some items by choice (lots of different little toys, pencils, crayons etc) and coloured 'with love from St John's Lemsford' for those in church on November 4th - and some greetings in others. The cost of filling a box has increased since we first filled them to show to our children that it is good to give to those less fortunate than yourself. (These days, Samaritans Purse, the official name of the charity that delivers the boxes, will fill a box for you on-line for £20 but I am sure many of us spend more than on our boxes!) We are giving a gift to an individual child, who we do not know, but to whom we are sending love at Christmas. We do this because we believe that God sent his son to us at Christmas to show his love for us; we give because he first gave to us. Thank you to those who filled the shoebboxes. Perhaps before next Christmas, a shoebox might be one of your choices to show love.

Mary Douglas

see picture inside back cover

I have been involved in disability cricket for over 20 years and cricket in general for around 45 years. For the last 7 years I have been employed by the English Cricket Board, charged with creating ways for people with disability to access our game. Also I run the physical and learning disability national county championship, and manage the disability cricket programmes for Hertfordshire Cricket Board and for Cambridgeshire Cricket Board.



Richard, seated on roller

To say that my work is varied would be an understatement! I feel very honoured and privileged to work in a sport that I love and have a never-ending passion for. Working at the national governing body for cricket is a fantastic feeling and having the opportunity to influence and drive our game in new and exciting areas is wonderful.

My particular area is working with people who live with disabilities. Because the whole area of disability is complex, we break our offers down into impairment specific formats. Our work covers people who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities, people who have hearing loss or are deaf, people who have visual impairment or who are blind. We also work with people who have mental health issues and people who have undergone or are about to embark on organ transplants.

Currently my focus now is working with people who are wheelchair users (of which I am one) and people who are living with dementia. Whilst I could fill this whole magazine with information about the various projects and offers for people with disability, I would like to give you a little insight in these two areas.

Wheelchair Cricket: I have spent two years developing a format that enables wheelchair users to compete at a high level. It is based on a hard surface (indoor basketball court or outdoor perhaps a tennis court). It was important to have restricting walls or fences to prevent the ball going great distances when hit. The walls and fences also play a significant role in the scoring system too. Essentially our creation is a game of seven a side, ten overs per side, fast and exciting cricket, which includes powerplays and always has a result!

Working in partnership with WheelPower, who oversee wheelchair sport in the UK, has allowed us to run workshops with most of the Spinal Injury Units across the country. Our aim is to hold a three-day cricket tournament at the Inter-Spinal Unit games to be held at Stoke Mandeville in March 2019. As well as this, we are developing an easy entry format that we can take to schools that will allow a wheelchair user to take part in a taster game with school friends who are non-disabled and who don't need to use a wheelchair. Over the next two years we are working on having over one thousand wheelchair users playing our great game!!

Clock cricket has been designed to be played by older people and people who are living with dementia. This format came about when I was working in a day service for people with learning disability. The group sat in a circle in their dining area, all facing in and using a soft touch ball and a plastic bat. Each person in the circle would have a turn at batting and they would be bowled to by the person directly opposite them in the circle.

All kit is now made from sponge (bat and ball) – the balls even have sound in them, this enables people who have visual impairment to track the ball. Three years down the line, we have tested this format out in over 60 establishments and the feedback each time has been very positive.

My passion for getting people into our game just grows stronger and stronger. I truly believe that anyone of any age or gender, irrespective of disability or complex issue that may be going on, can play our game. We definitely have a format that is accessible!!

In September, the Group held its AGM which was quickly followed by a meeting in October to discuss the 2019 Lemsford Fete display. We try to plan our displays around events from the past with a significance.

First choice was **Ebenezer Howard's** purchase at auction 100 years ago (30 May 1919) of 1,458 acres of land for £51,000. Howard had been searching for a site for his second Garden City after Letchworth and this eventually became Welwyn Garden City. Around the same time some other smaller parcels of land were sold and much of the rest let to tenants including Stanborough farm to its farmer and to Hatfield rural district council who built eight houses called Bury Cottages (also known as Crescent Cottages). They still stand opposite the Jaguar garage.

The second choice was **Lemsford War Memorial** which was unveiled in July 1919. We also decided to create a graveyard tour and highlight a selection of past residents of Lemsford Parish who we feel would be of interest to the public.

November has proved a busy month. The group were invited to Hertford Association for Local History to their **39th Symposium** 'Hertfordshire's Development from Roman City to New Towns'. The event was held in Lemsford Village Hall and Andy Chapman, Chairman of LLHG, was asked to present the housekeeping, not a bit of dusting and hoovering but informing a packed hall about the emergency exits, where the toilets were located and a detailed review of local hostelrys based on many years of research by the group. The event lasted over six hours and included 6 major talks on subjects as varied as 'Saxon Burghs' and 'Medieval Market Towns', 'Writers and Thinkers on the Welwyn Garden City Idea' to talks on Letchworth and Stevenage. There were also 4 short talks including one from LLHG titled 'The Golden Age of Lemsford'. The Group were grateful to Carol Hicks who sold several books at the event on their behalf.

On **Armistice Day** LLHG provided a display in St John's Church showing the graves of the twenty men who died from the parish in WW1. We round off November with our **annual Quiz** with Welwyn District History Society, teams from the Ayots and Welwyn Garden City who will join us for a very enjoyable evening. For the latest news, go to www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk

On December 31 2017, 'The East' formerly 'The Bull', served its last pint and shut its doors for ever. After nearly 300 years there is no longer a pub in that area. A certain member of LLHG had the honour of drinking that last pint. The sad demise of what was a great pub was due to several factors: a combination of tax, high business rates and high rents leading to overpriced drinks and diminishing numbers of customers.

The final 10 years of the Bull was as a Chinese Restaurant with a small area for locals to drink. In 2016 Punch Taverns who had owned the Pub for many years sold out to Heineken who decided the pub was not viable and decided to demolish it. Planning permission has been sought to build 7 detached houses.

I did consider a campaign to save the pub but, after talking to several well-known pub chains, there was little interest, so I resigned myself to the end of an era and to enjoy my fond memories of The Bull.

For many years the property was owned by the Battell family. The main building stood a little to the north of the present building, roughly where the Aston Martin Garage is located. In 1724 it came to William Tomkin and was known as the 'Seven Stars'. Later it was run



by William Thorpe, farmer of Stanborough Farm. In 1756 it was called 'The Horse & Groom' or 'Horse & Jockey'.

In the early 1800s, the North Road at Stanborough was re-aligned and a new public house was erected in 1822 on the tongue of land between the present day Brocket Road and the Great North Road. It was called 'The Bull'; Christie's Brewery of Hoddesdon were the owners and Joseph Langton the licensee.

In 1928 the pub was acquired by Cannon Breweries later a subsidiary company of Taylor Walker and Co. It was demolished in the early 1930s, when a further re-alignment of the North Road was made and a new pub was erected and opened in 1938 at its present site.

Pictured. It was again called 'The Bull'.



A little known fact about the Bull: in the 1930's it housed a garage behind it. A much missed member of the group, Ron Fosdike, donated this image of the garage to the Group.



In the 70's and 80's the Pub was called 'The Cavalier'. The owners changed from Ind Coope to Allied Breweries.

The late 80s and most of the 1990s the pub was owned by Punch and various managers including Ken managed the pub. Under Ken it was a popular pub with the youth of Welwyn & Hatfield including myself. In the 1990's I moved to the area and 200 yards away from The Bull. Ken ran a great pub with lots of locals and great menu.

Ken left and it became a 2-4-1 restaurant which was the start of its decline. In 2008 it was bought by the owner of 'The East' in Borehamwood and also named the 'The East'. It became a popular Chinese Restaurant.

The image inside the back cover is a sorry looking Bull, waiting for the demolition squad to start work. A sad end after 300 years of history.

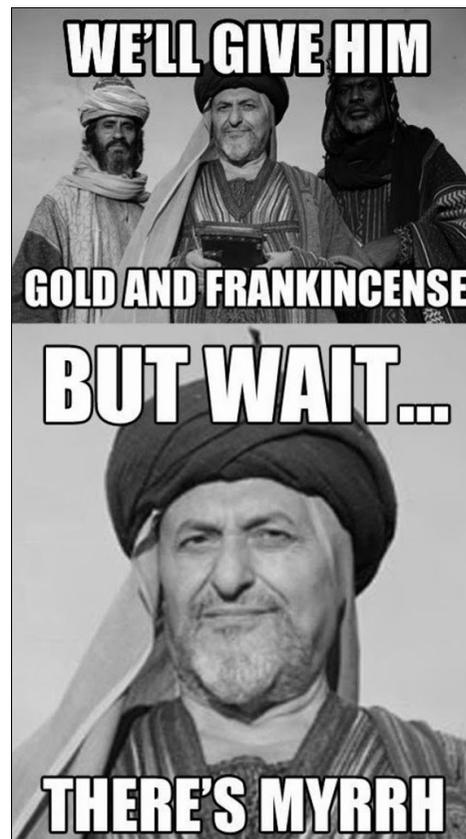
Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us:

for shining star and angel's song,
for infant's cry in lowly manger.

We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child.
We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Catholic online

And finally ...



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 9JG		01438 715868
Churchwarden	Jenny Roden 54 Brocket Road Welwyn Garden City AL8 7TU		339141
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	Mrs Lucy Earl		390497
Deputy Churchwardens	Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry		329023 01438 715868
Baptism/Christening Coordinator	Ms Patricia Brough triziab99@gmail.com		01707260640
Choir Leader	Mrs Carole Payne		329697
Church Cleaning Organiser	vacancy		
Flower Arranging Organisers	Mrs Jean Mitchinson, Mrs Janet English		
Garden of Remembrance & Records	Miss Barbara Taylor		329553
Hire of Church Annex	Liz & Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com		323785
PCC Chair & Magazine Editor	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis g.hollis2@ntlworld.com		265617
Organist /Musical Director	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor		0779 6268565
Notice sheet	Frank & Lorraine Puranik lorraine@puranik.org		
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



*Last days of The Bull at Stanborough— see pages 18 & 20.
Shoebboxes and poppies—see pages 7 & 13*

