

# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*

Thank you  
Sara!



## Parish Magazine

February/ March 2017

£1



Florence Weston on her 90th; Pat Lewis farewell—see News Section



**W**hat has changed already this new year? What is and will be the same as last year? What is already good about it and what will be better? What is and will be bad about it as a year? Will summer be any hotter, longer drier and will it please only rain at night? Will society be better off at the end of the year than at the beginning? Will my family be OK? Will there please be no problems that seem too big to deal with? Will I be fulfilled and filled with Joy this year?



I am reading an excellent book “The Book of Joy” ; His Holiness the Dali Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu in conversation with Douglas Abrams. Early in the book there are some most helpful thoughts. Desmond Tutu starts by saying “we are fragile creatures, and it is from this weakness, we discover the possibility of true joy, ... .. Life is filled with challenges and adversity... .. fear is inevitable as is pain and eventually death”. All the more poignant now that his prostate cancer has returned.

“One great question underlies our existence... ..What is the purpose of life? After much consideration, I believe that the purpose of life is to find happiness” says the Dali Lama

it is my belief that both are right. The examples I gave above of the sorts of questions that we ask at the turn of a year, are really all about happiness—our happiness, our friends and families happiness and the happiness of society.

The questions also point to the fragility of life that Desmond Tutu mentions. Life can be very complicated and frightening if we try to face these questions alone. The joy of the book for me is that two spiritual leaders of different faiths explore some of the issues that affect our joy or happiness together.

**S**ome would have you believe that the Christian faith is all serious and not a lot of fun. Well that may have been the case once but today we talk about enjoying our services and the worship of God. We hope that people who come in contact with us in church or anywhere will find that we are full of joy.

This is not a fool’s paradise; rather, it is the balance of our lives that matters. We are joyful because we are loved by God in the difficulties that surround us. We find joy when we find God and when we accept his love for us. Whilst thinking about Joy I have been very heartened by the response of so many of you to our request for donations to help cover the cost of this magazine. Thank you for your donations they totalled approx. £250 to date.

I wish you all a Joyful if slightly late New Year **Paul**

## February 2017

### **Sunday 5th            4th before Lent**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am    Family Service

### **Sunday 12th            3rd before Lent**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am    Holy Communion led by Sue Stilwell

**5 pm Carols by Candlelight**

**Tuesday 14th 2.30 pm    Friendship Tea**

### **Sunday 19th            2nd before Lent**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am    Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

### **Sunday 26th            Next before Lent**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am    Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**\*\* Pancake Day** fun for Junior Church

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

*The Vicar's day off is Friday each week*

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

**5<sup>th</sup>**    Hebrews 2: 14-end    Luke 2: 22-40

**12<sup>th</sup>**    1 Corinthians 3: 1-9    Matthew 5: 21-37

**19<sup>th</sup>**    Romans 8: 18-25    Matthew 6: 25-34

**26<sup>th</sup>**    2 Peter 1: 16-21    Matthew 17: 1-9

**Coffee after 11am Services.**

**Sunday 5th      Lent 1**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service

**Sunday 12th      Lent 2**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 14th 2.30 pm      Friendship Tea****Sunday 19th      Lent 3**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Sue Stilwell

**Sunday 26th      Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday**

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)**5<sup>th</sup>      Romans 5: 12-19      Matthew 4: 1-11****12<sup>th</sup>      Romans 4: 1-5 13-17      John 3: 1-17****19<sup>th</sup>      Romans 5: 1-11      John 4: 5-42****26<sup>th</sup>      Corinthians 2: 1. 3-7      Luke 2: 33-35**

## New Year Message from the Bishop of St Albans

For many people 2016 was difficult and challenging. The refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria have had a harrowing time and many died. In Yemen, the ‘forgotten famine’ has left seven million people near to starvation. Here in Britain, in the aftermath of the Brexit vote, there was a depressing rise in hate crime and racial attacks. These were often directed at people in our own society as well as outsiders, such as the refugees for whom only a year ago we voiced such compassion. In 2016, foodbank use in Britain remained at record levels. Around 3.7 million children in the UK are reckoned to be living in poverty. The number of homeless people has risen three years in a row.



**D**oes 2017 have to be the same or can we make a difference? There are encouraging signs.

Over Christmas people in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire people helped to alleviate hunger. Two and a half tons of food and gifts were collected by Watford churches to distribute at the local foodbank. There are similar foodbanks in Tring, Bishops Stortford, Stevenage, Bedford, Leighton Buzzard and many other places. There were also countless parties for people who live alone and had no one to share Christmas with. Many individuals invited lone neighbours to a meal over the festive season.

Groups of people, often based in churches, have been collecting and distributing aid both to the small number of refugees we’ve welcomed into our midst and for the refugee camps in Syria and Lebanon. Very often they did this in the name of Jesus ‘the one in whom all our hungers are satisfied’.

The New Year is traditionally the time when we make resolutions. It’s tempting to make them for our private lives, a sort of personal manifesto to make my life or my family’s life better. But how about having at least one resolution which is about making the world a better place? This might be about engaging with a local or international charity or doing something practical of a neighbour. Such decisions can make the world a better place, especially if we all do it.

+Alan St Albans

**Funeral**

On 23rd December **Jeremy Summers** see attribute to him on page 12. We are very sorry to report the death of **Kay Richards**, whose funeral is on January 31st. A tribute to her will appear in our next issue.

**Katherine Currington**

Who died last Easter and whose ashes lie in the church grounds has left a generous legacy to St John's. Her children Jenny and Peter write: "The Church played a n important part in our mother's life, and Sue and Barbara in particular ensured she had a lovely funeral." Thank you to her and to them.

**Florence Weston**

Was 90 in 'December and received a floral gift in Church. She writes "I would like to say a big thank you for the beautiful flowers and card you gave me on my birthday. See a picture of Florence with daughter **Dianne** and **Jackie Spry** inside front cover.

**Lent Groups**

Start in March and will last for five weeks. You have a choice of Tuesday or Wednesday evening. See notice on page 11.

**Christmas Collections**

Raised over £360 for Children's Charities. Thank you!

**Sara Poole**

Has retired as Flower Organiser after many years of important service to St Johns. She received a magnificent floral tribute prepared by **Jean Mitchinson** and generous tributes from church members. *See her picture on front cover and letter from her on page 14.*

**Pat Lewis**

Sadly is leaving St Johns as she lives in Codicote and has difficulties with transport. Pat has been a choir member for many years and will be very much missed. She received a floral tribute from **Tim Armstrong-Taylor** *See picture inside front cover.*

**Shoebox Sunday**

From Samaritan's Purse, via **Mary Douglas**: THANK YOU for donating shoeboxes that have been delivered to children in Romania. Your kindness means that they had the joy of opening a very special gift and the hope that comes from knowing that someone, cared enough to pack it especially for them. Thanks to the generosity of individuals like you, 882,647 children, in 17 countries, received a gift to remember!

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **19th March**

*What's on at St John's?*

During these dark winter months, with the Christmas decorations back in the garage and the heating turned up high, it's time to start thinking ahead to the wonderful celebrations of Easter. There's much to enjoy on the journey too!



There will be pancakes and pancake related fun and games on **Sunday 26 February for Pancake Day!**

**Mothering Sunday is on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**, when we celebrate all God's good gifts of family and fellowship,

And we will also be holding a special afternoon of activities for children on **during the Easter holidays (date tbc)** with games and crafts and story telling to remember the Easter story.

*.. 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.

This year we are focussing on the gospel of Matthew – and will be learning about Jesus, the saviour promised by God for everyone.

Children are also very welcome at Friendship Teas, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 2.30 in the annexe, and also at Stay & Play on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9.00, also in the annexe.

Contact Jo Brooks at [joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com) for more information about children's activities at St John's.

**L**earning to ring is not instant and it takes time and commitment to achieve good striking and progress to learn a variety of methods.



Our most recent learners, Emily and Rhia Palmer, have been with us just over two years and have regularly attended practices and Sunday morning ringing. On Christmas Day they both rang their first Quarter Peal which is an excellent achievement in such a short time. They were also nominated as Full Members of the Hertfordshire County Association of Change Ringers at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, 21st January.

**Sunday, 25th December**  
**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**  
(in 42 minutes)

1. Ron E Titmus
2. Rhia H Palmer
3. Roger D R Brown
4. Judith E Titmus
5. Robert J Crocker (Conductor)
6. Emily K Palmer



### **SHERRARDSPARK WOOD WARDENS SOCIETY**

SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2.00 p.m.

**“BEFORE SHERRARDSPARK WOOD - THE ROCKS BE-  
NEATH THE TREES”**

An introduction to the geology of Sherrardspark Wood.

With Nikki Edwards, Wood Warden.

[www.sherrardsparkwoodwardens.org.uk](http://www.sherrardsparkwoodwardens.org.uk)

This is the first of four articles that look at the writers behind the four gospels in the New Testament. There may be later articles on other books or letters contained in the Bible. The reason I start with the Gospels is because they record the life, works and words of Jesus, the word Gospel means glad tidings, and in Christian thought this concerns salvation and the kingdom of God as announced to the world by Christ. So really the word gospel best thought of as meaning good news.

### **Part 1 – The Gospel According to St Mark**

We are all taught that the order of the gospels is Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as that is the order they appear in the Bible. However, the first of the four gospels to be written was the Gospel according to St Mark. It was probably written between AD 60 and 70, about thirty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. This would still have been in living memory but any remaining disciples would have been considered elderly. Mark's gospel was not however the earliest surviving writing of the New Testament to be written, that honour goes to Paul's letters. Paul wrote his letters as instruction, guidance and sometimes reproof to the churches he founded, most if not all of these were written before the Gospels were compiled.

We know very little about the author of the Gospel of Mark but it is likely that he was known to the Apostle Paul. What is very clear is that he was very well connected in the early church and understood it situation very well.

Before Mark wrote his gospel, stories about Jesus circulated in the early church both in writing and of course orally. The main source of the letters, histories and stories of Christ would naturally have been the disciples. The reason Mark decided to bring these together into a gospel was, probably, the inevitable deaths of the original twelve disciples, in many cases through martyrdom. Mark took their accounts of events and wove them together into his gospel.

Mark's gospel is not at all long nor is it unnecessarily wordy or complicated, it could be read in one sitting in as little as two hours. It is not ordered as the life of Jesus would have been.

It has little in the way of chronology except for the last week of Jesus' life, to which Mark devotes a quarter of his gospel. A little like those blankets made of knitted squares all different colours or patterns, Mark assembled them in the way he felt they would go together best, acting both as an editor and writer.

It starts with Jesus being baptised by John the Baptist and ends in chapter 16 verse 8 with the women fleeing from the empty tomb. The rest of the chapter is in all probability an addition to the gospel, written by someone at a much later date. Theologians are divided in their opinions



as to whether Mark originally finished his gospel on such an a shockingly dramatic and sudden note.

Some think Mark's original ending was lost, others that he died before he could complete it while still others feel that was the way Mark intended to end it, leaving the reader to draw the conclusion, through faith, that Jesus had been raised from the dead. I would be fascinated to hear your opinion. For what its worth I am uncertain but somehow love the idea of it ending on the drama of the women running from the tomb and us being left looking in. Looking in with wonder and awe.

Mark wrote the first Gospel and in doing so changed history because the stories of Christ were preserved by the whole Christian community. Indeed, as we shall see, his gospel acted as a template, particularly for the writers of Matthew and Luke who copied great chunks of Mark's gospel into their own writings but John as we shall see in due course is written in a very different way.

*Picture: St. Luke and St. Mark, by Matthias Stom. 1635*

– *creating active, enriching, experiences for health, heart & soul*

I discovered Lemsford Village when my Father Edward Cardale was the Vicar. I may have taught some of your children French as I worked until recently at St John's School, Lemsford teaching all years. When my Father (Edward) retired in 2014, my parents moved to Disgwell Village, not far from the railway viaduct. They still miss the life of St John's Lemsford, and everyone they have known when he was a vicar. But it was time for him to "move on". He takes services sometimes, in Tewin, Woolmer Green or Datchworth, does a *little bit* of teaching for ministry students, and (a new thing) he is now editor of a national journal of Christian Social Ethics.



I have been working for Ramblers Walking Holidays for over three years now and thoroughly enjoy working in the Marketing Department and Post room. As a keen walker with a passion for languages and travel I was fortunate to gain a short work experience which then led me to gain a part time role in the Marketing Department where I am now working three days a week. And it's been a busy year...

Since 1946, Ramblers Holidays has been providing outstanding walking and activity holidays across the globe. To mark our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary we've given ourselves a fresh, new look and launched Chapters Experience Holidays which concentrate on delivering active, enriching experiences with less walking but the same convivial Ramblers Holidays feel.

The Mill itself is a beautiful place to work, there is a huge variety of wildlife in the grounds such as Canada Geese, ducks and red kites as well as eels in the River Lea and opportunities to eat lunch outside during the Summer months mean I am very lucky to be working in one of Lemsford's oldest buildings.

Lemsford Mill generates its own electricity using a water wheel that is down in the lower ground floor where I work in the Dispatch/Post room.



I have also been fortunate to enjoy a company works night on Fred. Olsen

Cruise Lines, our Cruise and Walk partner, on their cruise ship Black Watch a few years ago. One of the benefits of being based in lovely Lemsford is being able to enjoy pub lunches and delicious Christmas lunches with colleagues in the local Long and Short arm or the Sun Inn just a few steps away.

If you would like to know more about what goes on at the Mill please visit: [www.ramblersholidays.co.uk](http://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk) or email me on: [william.cardale@rwhtravel.com](mailto:william.cardale@rwhtravel.com)

The **Lent Course** this year will run across both parishes with everyone being welcome at either venue. The course has been written by our Bishops and others specifically for our Diocese and is five weeks long. There will be refreshments and course booklets will be free each week.

**Wednesdays at 2pm:** 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> April  
St Michaels and All Angels (Meeting room in the hall)

**Tuesday at 7:30 pm:** 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March. 4<sup>th</sup> April  
At the Vicarage (9 Great Braitch lane, AL10 9FD)

Jeremy, who died aged 85 on the 14th December last year, and whose funeral took place at St Johns on 23rd December, is remembered with great fondness by the Lemsford Local History Group.

He joined the Group at its inception in 2001 when the Revd. Ron Ingamells became our Chairman. The following year Jeremy generously took over this role. As he had lived in the parish for many years, had spent some of his childhood in Parkway WGC and was used to dealing with people, he was the ideal person and steered us gently through the early years until his resignation as Chairman in 2007. He was particularly interested in the history of Cromer Hyde and was the author of our booklet 'Jeremy's Walk through Cromer Hyde' which is still in print.



At his funeral at St John's we learnt more of his 40 year illustrious career as a film and television director. His father was also a film director who had worked at Welwyn Film Studios. Jeremy started as a runner at Elstree studios and went on to direct films starring many well known actors, such as Tony Hancock, Roger Moore and Barbara Windsor. During the 80s he greatly enjoyed working for the BBC directing Tenko and Howard's Way. He later directed episodes of several familiar TV soaps such as - Coronation Street, Emmerdale and Brookside. Occasionally he could be persuaded to regale us with hilarious stories of his experiences.

We shall miss him.

*Barbara Taylor, Mary de Soyres*

Ref: The Guardian 26/12/16. Welwyn Hatfield Times 29/12/16  
*see more pictures inside back cover*

**A**t our last meeting in 2016 we started to prepare for this year Fete Display. Our subject this year is 'The families of Lemsford Parish' concentrating on well known families: **Brown; Cochran; Eagle; Flitney; Horn; Sherriff; Smith; & Wilmot**



The fine image is from 1924 and was taken outside the Long Arm & Short Arm when it was a Beer House. L to R William Smith, Charles Timms, Bert Wilmot, Stan Bunnage, George Crawley, Alf Taylor.

We will record and display history of the selected families from 1841 to 1945. Why, when, where and how they settled in Lemsford parish to where they were in 1945. We will also record there life from settling in Lemsford Parish to 1945. **If you can help us with memories or photos please send any information to [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk).**

Our website provides a list of the census for each family from 1841 to 1911 with images and memories, :  
eg Brown ..... [www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Census/Brown.html](http://www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Census/Brown.html)

***Date of next Meeting Thursday 2nd March St Johns Church Annex***

**I** was quite overwhelmed by the presentation and kind words made to me on Sunday 8th January and should like to say a big thank you to everyone at St John's Church.

When I took over from Jane Mackay quite a long time ago flowers were arranged weekly either side of the Altar, behind the pulpit as well as the main pedestal. We were then averaging twenty five weddings a year as other venues were not yet registered. Quite often in summer there were two or three on the same day. To suit the various colours of bridesmaids dresses we always kept to a theme of green, cream and white flowers.

It was always a joy to have Gwil Walker practising the organ whilst I was doing the flowers. Dennis van Meijden our curate was often in Church always praising the Dutch cut flowers I was using and chatting about the different flowers.

Once when I was walking around the corner of the Church my arms full of flowers I had a fright when an armed policeman leapt out from behind a gravestone. Unknown to me there was a high powered conference at Brocket Hall and there was security everywhere.

**T**he flower festival held on a very hot weekend in May 2009 was very special. Without the help of Janet English and Kevin Earl and Mike at home as organisers it would not have happened. Also vital were our flower arrangers, as well as all the volunteers who helped condition the flowers, make the teas, coffee and cakes. We had the encouragement of Edward all the way and it was absolutely wonderful how all the congregation came together that weekend. I remember we had to reprint programmes for all the many visitors and St. John's looked magnificent. No flowers would be found in Church without our volunteer arrangers and I owe them a big debt of gratitude. We have gradually reduced in number through people moving away or retiring, it would be lovely to have more. We have lots of laughs and it is a very relaxing hobby. We are lucky to have such a wide variety of flowers in our shops and we give flowers in times of sorrow and happiness with love. It is with love that we arrange flowers in St Johns.

**Sara**

**O Lord, who has mercy upon all,  
take away from me my sins,  
and mercifully kindle in me  
the fire of your Holy Spirit.  
Take away from me the heart of stone,  
and give me a heart of flesh,  
a heart to love and adore You,  
a heart to delight in You,  
to follow and enjoy You, for Christ's sake, Amen**  
*St. Ambrose of Milan (AD 339-397)*

***And finally, how well do you know the Bible?***

**Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?**

When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

**Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?**

Because Noah was standing on the deck.

**Q. What animal could Noah not trust?**

The Cheetah

**Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?**

Samson. He brought the house down.

**Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?**

Ruthless.

**Q. Which Bible character had no parents?**

Joshua, son of Nun (Joshua 1:1).

Lastly, with apologies.....

**Q. Where was Solomon's temple located?**

On the side of his head.

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



The late Jeremy Summers, on the set of the TV series Randall and Hopkirk in 1969, with Annette Andre and Mike Pratt ; and below directing Christopher Lee. (page 12)

