

# **St John's Church**

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*



**Parish Magazine**

*February/March 2019*

**£1**



**Read about these pictures in the  
News section on page 7,  
or Young People on page 8**



## From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Normally I would write about things that instantly seem positive, this time however I am going to talk about fear.

Every time you turn on the news, its full of difficulties, sorrow, war and disaster, not to mention the misery of our present politics. Nothing positive is said and it is perfectly clear that both sides of the Brexit debate have knowingly used fear to influence not just the original vote but our ongoing perspectives. This may or may not be a good way of getting votes, but it can't be the right thing to do, surely?

**T**he effects of fear are well known. It raises anxiety levels and if you speak to healthcare professionals, they will tell you that anxiety leads to bowel complaints, respiratory illness, heart conditions and that's before we get to depression and other mental health issues. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer (probably my favourite theologian) said:  
"Fear is, somehow or other, the archenemy itself. It crouches in people's hearts. It hollows out their insides, until their resistance and strength are spent and they suddenly break down. Fear secretly gnaws and eats away at all the ties that bind a person to God and to others, and when in a time of need that person reaches for those ties and clings to them, they break and the individual sinks back into himself or herself, helpless and despairing".



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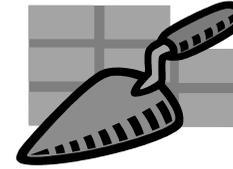
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It's a little known fact that the most common command from heavenly beings in the Bible is "don't be afraid" or "don't be fearful." When reading of the Angel speaking to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds in the nativity story, I have always been struck by the fact that they start with a command of "do not be afraid". Normally I have simply smiled thinking yes! Well! if a large shimmering angel appeared in front of me, I would be afraid too. This year however it struck a different chord.

That chord being that fear destroys hope! Hope being the very message of the angels. Its true in our everyday lives and in our politics, indeed any field of Human endeavour. Fear destroys hope and without hope we are truly in a mess. That is where the Christian message is really loud and clear because we believe that Christ loves us and calls us all, that we have an ultimate hope. The hope of eternal life and the hope of a better world today.

God Bless you **Paul**

.....

### News from the Belltower

Our enthusiastic young learners **Darcey Palmer** (12) and **Sarah Simpson** (10) started to learn to ring in March 2017 and have both made excellent progress. Sarah rings rounds and call changes and Darcey has already mastered touches of Bob Doubles inside. Lemsford bells are excellent for younger learners as they are light (3 cwt) and short draught which has enabled Darcey and Sarah to make good progress quickly at our Monday night practices. Darcey is a regular and valued member of our Sunday service band.

On Sunday, 6th January Darcey rang his first Quarter Peal - his enthusiasm and commitment have enabled him to achieve this significant milestone! *See picture inside back cover*

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 39 minutes**

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>1 Darcey W Palmer - First Quarter</b> | <b>2 Judith E Titmus</b> |
| <b>3 Roger D R Brown</b>                 | <b>4 Julia Pentelow</b>  |
| <b>5 Robert J Crocker - Conductor</b>    | <b>6 Emily K Palmer</b>  |

**Sunday 3rd                      Epiphany 4**  
**Candlemas / Presentation of Christ in Temple**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
 11am Family Service led by Jo Brooks

**Sunday 10th                      4th before Lent**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by **The Archdeacon**  
 11 am Holy Communion led by **The Archdeacon**

**Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm      Friendship Tea**

**Sunday 17th                      3rd before Lent**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
 11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour, talk **Frank Puranik**  
 2.30—4.00pm **Snowdrop Teas** *see page 9*

**Sunday 24th                      2nd before Lent**

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)

3rd Malachi 3: 1-5                      Luke 2: 22-40  
 10th Isaiah 6: 1-8, (9-13)      Luke 5: 1-11  
 17th Jeremiah: 17, 5-10      Luke 6: 17-26  
 24th Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25      Luke 8: 22-25

**Sunday 3rd**                      **Next before Lent**  
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11am Family Service, led by Jo Brooks

**Wednesday 6th**    **Ash Wednesday**  
10 am Special Service

**Sunday 10th**                      **Lent 1**  
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm**    **Friendship Tea**

**Sunday 17th**                      **Lent 2**  
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour,  
**Preacher Father Darren Collins, The Team Rector**

**Sunday 24th**                      **Lent 3**  
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 31st**                      **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, except first of month when shortened Communion Service \*\**

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

3rd Exodus 34: 29-35 Luke 9:28-36  
6th Isaiah 58: 1-12 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21  
10th Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Luke 4: 1-13  
17th Genesis 15: 1-12. 17-18 Luke 13 31-35  
24th Isaiah 55: 1-9 Luke 13: 1-9  
31st Exodus 2: 1-10 Luke 2: 33-35



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**Baptism**

2 December **Posey Valentine Malo**

**Weddings**

30th November **Emma Dance & Vetaia Kawea**; 1 December **David Barnes & Emma Pollitt**; 30th December **Hannah Mitchinson & Lee Patis**. All these went splendidly and brides and grooms looked terrific. (see pics inside front cover). Emma Dance is Bill Dance's granddaughter; Hanna is Jean Mitchinson's granddaughter; and Emma Pollitt's family donated the Church Christmas Tree. Weddings at St John's really are special.

**Christmas Collections**

Raised £400, the Penny Pot Appeal £200 and Christingle £50, total £650 all of which will be donated to Children's Charities. Well done indeed.

**Christmas Cards**

"Thank you to all those who supported our Christmas card sales. We sold a fantastic 2000 cards to members of the church, village and school. After costs, we raised £515 for church funds. A particular note of thanks to Huttons Newsagents on Handside Lane who kindly sold our cards to customers during December. We are very grateful for everyone's support."

**Lucy Earl and Kirsty Humphries**

**Frank Puranik**

Was awarded his 5 year Choir medal on 30 December (picture inside front cover with **Carole Payne**). Come to hear his talk in Morning Prayer on 17th March.

**Flower Ladies**

Are looking for reinforcements. Each week we marvel at their creations. Do consider joining them to make the Church beautiful. No experience needed as lots of help will be available. Speak to **Jean Mitchinson, Janet English, or Jenny Roden**.

**Murray Peacock**

We have just learnt of the death of Murray, who was a very active Church member with wife Dawn for many years. More next issue.

**Richard Hill**

Our previous issue had an article by him about his work for disabled cricketers. Richard is the son in law of Brian and Jackie Spry and has just been awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours. Congratulations!

**Spring Clean**

**Important** - is on **Saturday 16th March from 9.30**. Refreshments will be provided—DO COME

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **24th March**

Christmas feels long past now, although we have only recently drawn that season to a close with a fantastic **Christingle** celebration on January 13th (pictured inside front cover). We made the Christingles together, sang and prayed and thanked God for all his gifts and amazing goodness to us, all by candlelight in church, then finished off with the gift of pizza!



But now here we are, in February, waiting for the sun and the daffodils – the snowdrops are already here in the churchyard for all to enjoy – and still holding onto the light and love of Jesus, expressed in the Christingle. There's lots to look forward to now as we approach Lent and Easter and we have the usual mix of family services and Sunday Club for our children in church.

#### **What's on?**

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

In Sunday Club this February and March we will be reading some wonderful stories of Jesus in Luke's gospel. We'll see how Jesus intervenes in ordinary lives to bring healing, calm, peace and love. And we'll see him recognised as Lord and Saviour too. Then in March we'll focus on preparing for Easter with Luke's account of all that Jesus did in the week leading up to his death, and the extraordinary and world changing events after his death. You can see what we are reading and who is leading each week on the Sunday Club schedule in the church vestry.

We'd love to welcome you too to our family services on 3rd February and 3rd March. Family services are always on the first Sunday of the month, term time and holidays alike. The whole church meets together for a shortened service of songs, readings, prayers, plus some fun and games for the children. Everyone is warmly welcome.

Finally, we will be celebrating **Mothering Sunday** on March 31st with a communion service, activities for children and flower distribution.

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

## Electoral Roll *Lucy Earl*

**A**n entirely new Church Electoral Roll must be prepared this year. Whether you are on the current roll or not, everyone will need to sign a new form of application to join and be included on the new roll.

It is important that we prepare a new roll which accurately reflects membership of the church. The roll is the nearest thing we have to a local membership list. By joining the roll, it shows that you want to be known as an active member of this church. One further purpose of the roll is to enable the Diocese to measure our health as a church and it plays a significant part in decisions on resourcing.

Forms of application are being issued to all those on the current roll from 20<sup>th</sup> January and need to be completed by **20<sup>th</sup> February**. Additional forms are available in Church, or from Paul Seymour or me, for those considering joining the roll for the first time. The new roll will be prepared and displayed in advance of the Annual Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. An Ethnicity Monitoring form is also included to assist the Diocese in its understanding of the diversity of the community it serves.

Completed forms must be returned to the Box in Church or to Lucy Earl (4 Scotts View, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HF) as soon as you are able and by 20<sup>th</sup> February at the latest.



## **Snowdrop Tea Sunday 17th February** *by Mary Douglas*

‘Some snowdrops are already well out! So I could tell you enthusiastically about the variations in these wonderful little flowers now. However, the weather will probably turn colder before Spring appears and more of the named varieties will come up.



Also, snowdrops will last for a while and be joined by other bulbs. Do visit us to see the bulbs in the garden and have tea and cake in the warmth of the house!! If the daffodils are out by then we will still be delighted to see you at 137 Handside Lane, from 2.30-4pm. NO charge but Donations to Church Funds are welcome!

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2 WOOL: any type for small jumpers (see picture inside front cover) and small hats for premature babies; small balls for crochet blankets; thick wool for beanie hats for the homeless.



3 LONG SCARFS for a Cancer Hair Care Charity in Stevenage, which advises patients who have lost their hair after chemo-therapy.

4 PLASTIC MILK BOTTLE TOPS (each worth 1p) and STAMPS for the Dogs Trust which provides training for dogs to assist people with sight problems

5 BRAS— (New or used) to be sent to Sub-Saharan Africa by another Charity because women who wear bras there are less likely to suffer sexual abuse (sad but true).

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Ramblers Walking Holidays have supported St John's Church in many ways. They have advertised on the back page of the Parish Magazine for years, and have been generous when asked for help with the Fete, or other special events. They are also important to the Village as occupiers of The Old Mill. But how much do you know about them as an organisation? Over the coming year we plan to write up their history and achievements.

Ramblers Walking Holidays are a Social Organisation with the Mission Statement "To generate funds for walking charities by providing outstanding outdoor activity holidays worldwide". The company began life in 1946 as a part of The Ramblers Association, now simply The Ramblers. It



sought to encourage the peacetime spirit of discovery of Europe's mountainous landscapes and at the same time generate funds. These were intended to support its campaigning and encourage participation in its local walking groups around the country.

Although separating from The Ramblers when it achieved charitable status in 1970, the organisation's purpose and philosophy remained unchanged. All profits generated from the organisation's holiday operations which are not required to be ploughed back into the company are invested into a charitable trust and other environmental and conservation projects.

They continue to support The Ramblers at a national level by disbursements through the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust. At local level they provide direct financial support to local walking clubs through an initiative called Walking Partnership.

They also have a venture called Heart & Sole, which aims to make a real difference to the people living in the places to which they travel. This supports small projects in the developing destinations, which include SOS Children's Villages in Costa Rica, Cape Verde, Malawi and Morocco.

Next time: The early years

**H**appy New Year to all our friends at St John's Church and thank you for all the support you gave us in 2018.

**Yvonne Walsingham** continues to read each week with our Class 2 pupils; **Jenny Roden** comes each week to help our very youngest pupils and often joins in on our Class visits as an extra, valued pair of hands; **Jo Brooks** supports us in many ways at



Wednesday morning church and with our older pupils at secondary transfer time with the 'Moving On' programme. **Carole Payne** and **Tim Armstrong-Taylor** liaise with **Joanna Nolan** our singing teacher to strengthen links with our two choirs whenever possible. **John Barnard** continues to engage the children in his Wednesday morning Church Worship. And of course, we all value the commitment **Reverend Paul** gives to the school in a number of ways, as our vicar and as a Governor. We all feel so blessed to enjoy such generous support and strengthening links with St John's Church – long may it continue!

**I** feel the Autumn term galloped away at incredible speed, although it was a very long term! We seem to have had so many exciting and enriching activities, starting off at the beginning of term with **Mr Riley**, our new Class 2 teacher organising a class visit to **Symonshyde Farm** to link in with the children's English and Science topics. I was lucky enough to go along too and we had a great morning looking at how crops grow, some exciting and very large farm vehicles, learning about how wheat is made into foodstuffs and much more! Class 2 then made cookies later on back at school with wheat ground from the farm – what meaningful learning.

We have had a very successful term of **sporting achievement** with our athletes in particular shining brightly in the local running competitions. It is so good to see our enthusiastic and skilful runners in Years 5 and 6 sweeping the board in the local fun run events and **Keeyan** winning overall from all WGC schools!

Our choir had a very busy term. They took part in the Diocesan Schools' Harvest Celebration at **St Albans Abbey** with **Keeyan** and **Harriet** in Class 4 reading prayers. Our celebration of **Harvest at St John's Church** was important to the children as they brought gifts of food for the Women's Refuge and other local causes.

Each year since I have been Head we have invited the Young Shakespeare Company to work with our two older classes. This year's performance was **Twelfth Night** - thank you to the LSA for continuing to fund this popular event. Our pupils now know a lot about his plays and love reading the children's versions that we have in our school library.

It was very moving to lay wreaths at the **Centenary Remembrance Service** at the War Memorial in the churchyard, alongside St John's Church. The children and staff made at least one felt poppy each to create the two wreaths, which were kindly put together by a grandparent. Class 4 sang at **Quantum Care Christmas Party** for the elderly, this year at Tewinbury Farm. We are always impressed by how well the children chat to the elderly folk and add so much to their afternoon. Thank you to **Joanna Nolan**, our music teacher and **Chris Banks**, our wonderful pianist/keyboard player, who led this for the school.

This year **Brocket Hall** invited our choir to sing at the first Brocket Babies Christmas Lunch. The children walked there on a lovely crisp wintery morning to rehearse, then sing carols and Christmas songs to the guests in the beautiful Hall. What a super experience! Again thanks to Joanna and Chris for providing musical support for this, and for our annual choir visit to **Stanborough Lodge** to support **Ian Douglas** in giving the residents a Carol Service. What a privilege.

Our Nativity was a delight again this year ....and not a spaceship or lobster in sight! Our traditional focus on the real meaning of Christmas is a wonderful start to the Festival and 'Prickly Hay' was no exception this year! We were delighted to see so many parents at our **Carol Service** in the church where the story of the Nativity was played out by our lovely Reception children and supported beautifully by our choir.

There is so much more to tell but hopefully this has just given a taste of the opportunities the children at St John's have had in the first term of the new school year. We would all like to wish our friends at St John's Church the very best for 2019.

**Mandy**

**T**he 5th Welwyn/Lemsford **History Quiz** was enjoyed by all who attended in November 2018. We renewed friendships with Welwyn, Welwyn Garden City, and Ayot History groups. A big thank you to our hosts Welwyn DHS and its chairman Paul Jiggins for arranging the venue. The evening was a great success due to the hard work of the members who arranged the food, drink & raffle.

The winners for a second-year running were team TOYA from Ayot, congratulations to them and thank you to all teams who took part and supported the event by buying raffle tickets. I look forward to next year's quiz as I hand the baton over to Paul.

**I**n December one of our members Carol Hicks with Carole Payne organised **Lemsford Senior Residents Christmas meal**. Several of our members attended with nearly fifty from the parish enjoying the event at the Stanborough restaurant in WGC. A good time was had by all and it was great to catch up with old friends. The organisers' hard work and attention to detail made it a great success and was appreciated by all.

As a historical footnote, one of the benefactors of this event is the **Lord Mount Stephen** estate. Lord Mount Stephen lived at Brocket Hall Estate. After the death of Henry Frederick Cowper in 1887 the Hall whilst in the ownership of the 7th Earl Cowper was rented out and between 1893 and 1921 the house was rented to Lord Mount Stephens. To read more go to [www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk) click on navigation button ARTICLES and from the drop down menu LORD MOUNT STEPHEN

**A**n updated **Memorial Inscription Booklet** was published in 2018 (£2.50). This includes all the inscriptions on gravestones since the first burial in 1863 (church consecrated in 1859).

**W**e will be meeting in March 2019 with a talk & walk around Ayot ending up with a lunchtime meeting at the Waggoners. Details will be published on our news website [www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk) If you would like to join us contact Andy on [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk)

**T**he Jaguar showroom in the Stanborough area has moved to a new 20-million-pound building on the Hatfield business park. The showroom is now the home for the McLaren sports car and Aston Martin are still in the old Shell garage building. I have been informed both will join Jaguar in six months at the business park. An unofficial source has told me two new franchises will move in and it will stay a showroom for cars. Watch this space.

To many readers calling the garage 'the Shell garage' will bring back memories and to help the little grey cells I have found a photo (*inside back cover*) from the archives that shows the working petrol station on a very busy Great North Road in the 1960s.

Many years ago I was asked to take a photo that matched this image for a before and after article. I thought it was taken from a bedroom window at number 3 Great North Road. At the time the occupant of that address was a larger than life character called Fred and his lovely wife Mary. Fred provided many stories about the area and refused to accept the address 3 Great North Road and insisted the post Office called the address 3 Bury Cottages its original name, which they did.

Fred informed me the photo was taken from a footbridge that crossed the road next to number one GNR. I followed this up by finding two concrete blocks with bolts in them next to number one GNR (foundations of the bridge) and on the opposite side of the road a matching set. They are still there today, not quite The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, but worth a look if in the area.

### **D**o you have a relative buried in Lemsford Churchyard?

**Barbara Taylor** writes: The Group is making preparations for Lemsford's annual Fete, held this year on Monday 6th May. Many families visit the churchyard regularly and we thought they might like to write something about those buried here. We plan to have an A4 sheet of information including photograph(s) on the grave. There will also be guided tours and other information in the School Hall.

If you are interested in taking part in this project you will need to know much more! Further information will be gladly given by the Chairman, Andy Chapman [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk) or me. We will update progress of this event in the next copy of the Parish Magazine.



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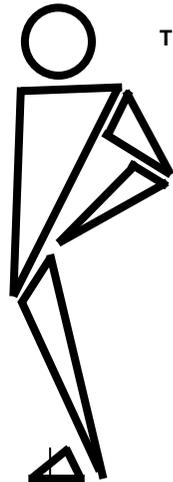
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The two Christmas events held by the social committee were extremely successful. The family afternoon was well supported by villagers and 14 children turned up to decorate the Christmas tree and meet Father Christmas. The decorations were hung expertly and enthusiastically by the children and the arrival of Father Christmas caused great excitement. It was delightful to see the children queue up to see him and receive a small gift. A big thank you to Fiona and Lewis from The Sun for laying on a tasty complimentary buffet, to



Tashes n Tails for the balloon display and to RWH Travel for donating the Christmas tree. The afternoon was rounded off by switching on the Christmas tree lights and singing carols. Our thanks again to RWH Travel for generously supplying mince pies and mulled wine during this part of the afternoon.

The Christmas meal at the Long and Short Arm was attended by 67 people and a big thank you to Ian and his staff for doing a sterling job in serving up a delicious meal to such a large group.

The meet and greet evenings at The Sun continue to be popular and these will now be held regularly on the 4th Thursday of the month between 6pm and 8pm. Dates for the next 2 meetings will therefore be on Thursday 28th February and Thursday 28th March.

A reminder that the social committee are looking for people to form a traffic committee to actively try to alleviate the rising traffic problem. If you are interested please contact a social committee member at one of the meet and greet evenings who will be happy to help with setting this up."

**Janet**

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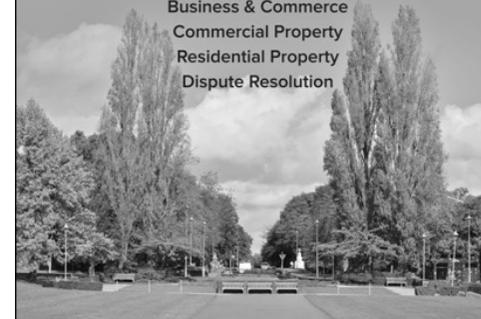
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**Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit  
to be tempted by Satan;  
Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations;  
and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us,  
let each one find you mighty to save;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**  
*Anglican Collect for the 1st Sunday of Lent*

**And finally ... Shrove Tuesday = Pancake Day**

I can't believe it's pancake day again. It has creped up on me.

My friend is normally good at remembering special occasions. He flipped when I reminded him it was pancake day.



Tried to break the ice at a party the other night with a pancake joke, but it fell flat.

Dreamt last night I was making pancakes whilst driving along a twisty road. Kept tossing and turning.

Went to a pancake restaurant, and asked if my dinner would be long. "No, sir, round" came the reply.

Phoned another pancake restaurant and asked for a table for two. Chap said I had the wrong number so asked for a table for four instead.

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<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn AL6 9JG		01438 715868
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Jenny Roden 54 Brocket Road Welwyn Garden City AL8 7TU		339141
<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
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<b>Electoral Roll Secretary</b>	Mrs Lucy Earl		390497
<b>Deputy Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry		329023 01438 715868
<b>Baptism/Christening Coordinator</b>	Ms Patricia Brough triziab99@gmail.com		01707260640
<b>Choir Leader</b>	Mrs Carole Payne		329697
<b>Church Cleaning Organiser</b>	vacancy		
<b>Flower Arranging Organisers</b>	Mrs Jean Mitchinson, Mrs Janet English		
<b>Garden of Remembrance &amp; Records</b>	Miss Barbara Taylor		329553
<b>Hire of Church Annex</b>	Liz & Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com		323785
<b>PCC Chair &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</b>	Frank & Lorraine Puranik lorraine@puranik.org		
<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



Bellringers from left Emily & Darcey Palmer, Julia Pentelow, Judith Titmus,  
Leonard Crocker, and Roger Brown (page 3)  
Below Shell Garage 1960s courtesy Ken Wright (page 17)





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