

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



Parish Magazine

June/July 2017

£1



Above, our Wardens and Deputy Wardens, from l to r Jean Mitchinson, Brian Spry, Jacky Spry, Jenny Roden, and Eileen Martindale (by June Copping). Below, Ben and Alexandra Popplestone with the choir after their wedding on 13th May. *Cover picture* from a 14th Century Missal.



It was a great pleasure to man a gate at the Fete. I got to chat briefly to a lot of people coming in and going out, as well as several other helpers, and they all seemed very happy, despite the occasional shower.



There was a tangible spirit of goodwill in the air which was mostly child-centred: children enjoyed themselves while their parents and grandparents looked proudly on. Volunteers felt they were doing a worthwhile job because of the happiness they were helping to create. In short, everyone won.

Gina Butler our Treasurer was especially happy that we had managed to raise £13,000—more than last year—of which half will come to the School and half to the Church. This will enable us to maintain our charitable giving and help to defray our considerable expenses.

However, to my mind the money is secondary—more important is the service we are giving to the local Community.

My first Church as an adult was a United Reformed which was the result of a merger between the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches. When discussion turned to fund raising the Congregationalists wanted bazaars, while the Presbyterians favoured direct appeals. At St John's we really need a combination of both. The Fete is important but we also have to step up our collections significantly to offset yet another forecast deficit. To achieve this all members on the Electoral roll will shortly be receiving a letter asking them to review their Giving. I hope they respond positively.

In truth we have been given huge gifts by God both individually and as a community and it seems only right to give something back in thanks.

The season of Pentecost is approaching, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. That Spirit is with us still, for example in the fellowship at St Johns and in the goodwill felt at the Fete. It is always at our elbow giving advice if we but choose to hear it. In the piece by Mary de Soyres of the Lemsford History group (further on in this issue) you can read of the great contribution to St Johns made by one local family over several generations. Many local people like them have kept St Johns shining as a beacon on a hill; it falls to us to carry on their important work.

Geoffrey Hollis

Sunday 4th Pentecost

8am BCP Holy Communion led by the Archdeacon of Hertford

11am Family Service

Sunday 11th Trinity 1

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Amanda Duncan

11am Holy Communion led by Martin King

Tuesday 13th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 18th Trinity 2

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Sue Stilwell

Sunday 25th Trinity 3

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

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

The Vicar's day off is Friday each week

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

4th	Acts 2:1-21	John 20: 19-23
11th	2 Corinthians 13: 11-13	Matthew 28: 16-20
18th	Romans 5: 1-8	Matthew 9: 1—23
25th	Romans 6: 16-11	Matthew 10: 24-39

Sunday 2nd Trinity 3

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service led by Sue Stilwell

Sunday 9th Trinity 4

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Tuesday 11th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea

Sunday 16th Trinity 5

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 23rd Trinity 6

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 30th Trinity 7

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Archdeacon of Hertford

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

The Vicar's day off is Friday each week

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

2nd Romans 6: 12 to end Matthew 10: 40 to end

9th Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25 to end

16th Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

23rd Romans 8: 12-35 Matthew 8: 24-30 and 36-43

30th Romans 8: 26 to end Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Paul Seymour

Is unwell—we wish him a speedy recovery.

Jenny Roden

Was elected unanimously as a Church warden at the Annual Church Meeting. Thank you to her for taking on this important role. *See her picture with our other wardens inside front cover.*

Baptisms

2nd April **Imogen Thorne**; 16th April **Abbie Rapley**; 23rd April **Gracie Lawrence**; 30th April **Isabella Rachford**.
 Congratulations to their families.

Weddings

8th April **Mark Joseph & Harriet Trehwella**; **Luke Dutton & Emma Johnston**; 13th May **Ben Popplestone & Alexandra Pugh**; 19th May **Andrew Rapley & Donna Whalley**. We wish them every joy in their new lives.

Jason Wratten

Is coming to the end of his stint as a Pastoral Assistant. We have valued his contribution and hope he does well in applying for training to become Ordained. *See his reflections on page 14.* He is undertaking a challenging trip soon, and has written

As some of you may know, I am hoping to trek to Everest base camp in September in aid of the Charity Hope for Children. You can find more about the charity at hope-for-children.org. If you would like to **sponsor me** there will be a collection tin at the back of church. Thank you in advance for any support you can provide.”

“Thy Kingdom Come” leading up to Pentecost : Thursday 1 June, Messy Church, St Michaels 3.30 pm; Friday 2nd June Midday Prayer and Lunch Red Lion Hatfield; Sunday 4th Finale Service St Albans Cathedral 6.30 pm. Details: v.hadley-pencer@herts.ac.uk

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: **23rd July**

SHERRARDSPARK WOOD WARDENS SOCIETY

www.sherrardsparkwoodwardens.org.uk

SUNDAY 4th JUNE 11.00 a.m. **FORAGING IN THE WOOD FOR FOOD & MEDICINE** Mary Barton, Medical Herbalist and Health Coach..

SATURDAY 10th JUNE 2.00 p.m. **SUMMER BUG WALK** Rory Dimond. Ecologist (Bring a hand lens if possible).

SATURDAY 1st JULY **FLOWERS & BUTTERFLIES OF THE MEADOW**. Bring a picnic. Neale Holmes-Smith, Environmentalist & Wood Warden. **Limited numbers. Please pre-book for start details.**

SUNDAY 23rd JULY **YOU CAN'T SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES** An art walk, some drawing experience necessary. Chris Phillips, Artist. **Limited numbers. Please pre-book for start details.**

As I write this report I look out across a lovely sunny evening and remember how challenging it had been over the fete weekend. On the day, we dealt with a few windy rain showers that got us wet, but didn't really dampen our spirits. Bizarrely it also seems to have had quite a positive effect on our audience as more people actually came this year than last year and it may well have been the rain showers that persuaded them to stay local for the day. Our website took a lot 'traffic' as people checked out what we were doing and our message that the event was still on, despite the rain forecast.



The afternoon was hugely entertaining, with again a good mix of new musical acts and stalls alongside some familiar faces. Everyone I hope could find something to do and enjoy, whether that was the traditional children's maypole dancing, clambering over a fire engine, or getting rid of that pent up energy throwing a ball at the coconuts or crockery smash zone.

A rain shower just before 4pm seemed to persuade people that the fun was over and it was time to go home and the event closed down quite quickly after that.

As I mentioned earlier we seemed to have a larger than normal attendance, which has meant that we have raised an excellent £12,000 for the school PTA, church and our other charitable causes locally.

Thank you again to everyone involved and hopefully we'll see many of you again and coax some new blood in ready for our November planning start for 7th May 2018. If you have any opinions on the event please let us know, it is always good to know if we are getting it right.

Paul Butler Fete Committee

What's on at St John's?

It's wonderful to be out and about as spring turns to summer, playing and enjoying all the wonderful things God has made for us. We are approaching the end of the school year though, and many children are occupied with exams and all the worry that brings. This term we are reading from **John's gospel** and learning that we can always trust Jesus – that he loves and cares for all his children, and that he is always with us to help and guide us.



Family services are on the first Sunday of the month and on **Sunday 2nd July we will be having an end of term celebration** in our service with lots of music and games. After the service there will be a **Church Family picnic** on the school playing field (with thanks to the Head and staff of St John's school). So bring your own picnic, something to sit on and a game to play with everyone.

.. and the rest of the year?

Sunday Club meets each Sunday *in 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. *We are on holiday from 23 July to September.*

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.

Children are also very welcome at **Friendship Teas, on the 2nd 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 for more information about these events or our children's activities at St John's.

No it wasn't an April fool. We really did launch the Facebook page for St John's on 1st April this year, right after the fantastic quiz we'd had, which gave some lovely photos to kick it off with. Why? Because we want to tell people what we do. It's a great way of sharing information about church events both coming and past. Young people use social media extensively and they are our future.



Sharing the good things we do, and the fun things we do, engages people and gives us the opportunity to open up other conversations. Sharing keeps our congregation engaged with us. In Facebook it's very easy to share things and "Friends" are kept in touch automatically.

If you're not a Facebook user, then you might like to consider becoming one. It's as easy to use as email. You don't have to let anyone have any more information about yourself than your name. You don't have to have Facebook "Friends", and you don't have to accept other people's Friend requests, though it's a good idea to "friend" your real friends and family. So you **can** get on Facebook in a quiet way and just use it to view Church, Club, Society information, and share things you want your "Friends" to see.

I'm planning on running a session soon on how to sign up for Facebook in a minimal way. There's nothing to be scared of. **Please let me know if that would interest you.** I've had a couple of people interested already.

If you are already on Facebook, our name is StJohnsLemsford (but don't confuse us with the group St. John's LEMS福德 which has not been posted to since 2010). Don't forget to "like" our Page (so you get told when we put new things on it) and do tell anyone relevant in your friends list about it, so they can like it in turn.

If you want to take a look at our Facebook page without signing up then go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLemsford/> although Facebook makes it hard use that way, by deliberately hiding half the screen. They want to you sign up.

See you on Facebook!

Frank frank@puranik.org

Having experienced days of deluge recently, looking back on the varied but overall bright weather on Fete Day we can consider ourselves as truly blessed on May 1st! It was a wonderful team effort from St John's church and school, bringing together our committed, enthusiastic communities. Thank you to everyone.



We have just had our latest rounds of SATs testing for the oldest children at the school, which they all coped with very well. Class 4 are now looking forward to their school journey to The Isle of Wight and so am I, as I will be part of the staff team going this year. Let's hope the rain has stopped by the 12th June when we leave! We are very much hoping the strong links developing with the church choir continue into the future and we are also very keen to develop music throughout the school in many different ways. We now offer lessons for children to learn to play rock music in a small band each week with a tutoring company called RockSteady. We have about fifteen children currently learning drums, electric guitar, keyboards and vocals each week and from the groups I have seen in action they are thoroughly enjoying it and learning fast!

Class 1 went to Willows Farm this week (May 17th) to link in with their topic of Animals and had a very enjoyable and educational time (if rather wet). They had talks on looking after guinea pigs and rabbits, lots of interactions with animals and great learning opportunities all round.

Class 4 were presented with a Certificate of Thanks in assembly this week from Harpenden Spotlight on Africa (HSoA) following an evening of dance performance, organised by the children in the class for their parents. This idea came from the children who had voted to adopt this charity as one of the school's focus charities, and the children requested that they be able to raise money to help change the lives of children in a Uganda village school, who are supported by HSoA. We were so proud of this initiative coming directly from our pro-active Year 5 and 6 pupils. Well done to all involved.

With best wishes to all.

Mandy Evans Headteacher

I am a pastoral Assistant in the Hatfield Root Group, which is designed for young adults who are exploring a vocation within the Church of England. Three of us are on the scheme this year, working half in the University of Hertfordshire Chaplaincy and half in the parishes of the Hatfield Team Ministry. Each of us has one of the team members as our parish supervisor; mine is Paul Seymour and I have spent my parish time working between St Johns and St Michaels.



At the beginning I had to face one of my worst nightmares: standing in front of a room of people and introducing myself. To make it worse, I had to do it multiple times! But my fears have been washed away by the hugely warm welcome I have received from every single one of you. You helped me feel at home from the offset, but the year has flown by and my time with you is nearly up: my last Sunday will be July 16th. I'm not going too far though, as I am to take part in the Root Scheme for a second year, during which I will be based with one of the other priests in the team to give me experience of a different parish. So I hope to stay in touch.

I came into this scheme to explore the possibility of becoming a priest and to gain experience. You'll be glad to hear (I hope) that none of you have managed to put me off, not even you Paul! My next step is the selection process that will determine whether or not I am suitable to train as a priest. If I am successful I will be spending 3 years at Theological College followed by a further 3-4 years working as a curate.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time based in St Johns and St Michaels. It has given me the chance to write and give homilies and sermons, lead Lent group sessions, take assemblies and much more. There have been many great memories that I will treasure and carry with me wherever I go. I have learned much this year. You have all had a hand in helping me grow since September and there are still two months to learn more. Thank you for your patience and for a wonderful experience!

Between 1868 and 1948 one, and at times both, of the churchwardens at St John's, Lemsford was a member of the Horn family of Handside farms.

1. William James Horn: People's Warden 1868-1903; 1907-1923; Vicar's Warden 1905-1907. William James was born at Lower Handside Farm in 1837 (all that remains of this farm is now the Barn Theatre). In the early 1830s his father, William Cooper Horn, and his bride, Mary Ann Woodward, had rented the 130 acre farm from the Panshanger Estate. Thomas, their first son died in infancy, and tragically William Cooper died in 1838 aged only 27 leaving Mary Ann to run the farm with the aid of her mother. The farm prospered and by 1861 she had added many acres so that when William James married Sarah Cox (née Beasley) in 1860 she kept the by then 200 acre Lower Handside Farm and the young couple moved into the 130 acre Upper Handside Farm. They knocked down the old farmhouse and built a new red brick house which in time they extended; the new dining room could accommodate a 30 foot long dining table – needed for the generous farmhouse teas they provided after tennis and croquet parties and for parish events.

They had ten children, all baptised at St Johns. Two daughters died in infancy and a son when he was eleven. They are buried in the North Churchyard together with their grandmother, Mary Ann. Of the other children Sarah and Elizabeth married farmers, Mildred Annie, their youngest child, never married. Three of their sons, Thomas Cox, William Cooper junior and John Beasley became farmers; only Harold, their youngest son, broke the tradition by becoming a banker.

William James and Sarah were devout Christians and generous with their time and money. They donated the imposing brass lectern in the form of the eagle of St. John the Evangelist in 1912. William was a churchwarden for 53 years, a manager of Lemsford School, organised the Smith's Charity which gave bread to the poor of Lemsford and was on the Committee of the Medical Club formed in 1910 for Lemsford parish residents - payment one penny per week per person with no family to pay more than sixpence.

A wooden plaque on the south wall of the nave reads: *To the memory of WILLIAM JAMES HORN and of SARAH his wife much beloved for their good deeds and works This tablet is erected by many friends May 1930.*

Apart from being a successful farmer William James held numerous posts including Chairman of the Farm Committee of Hill End Hospital; the first chairman of the Rural District Council and in 1889 one of the first aldermen of the County Council. He was a JP and a director of the Hatfield Gas Company. He died in 1923 and is buried in the Horn family grave in the South Churchyard almost immediately outside the porch together with Sarah, and his children William Cooper and his wife May, John Beasley and Mildred Annie.

2. William Cooper Horn Vicar's Warden 1903-1905; 1937-1948; People's Warden 1910-1937. He was born at Upper Handside Farm in 1879 and He became a farmer, helping his father run the Handside farms. In 1890 he married May Harvey and they moved into Brickwall Farm which, by then had been absorbed into the farm, where their only child, William Harvey Cox Horn, was born in 1901.

William Cooper like his parents was deeply involved with St. Johns where he served as a churchwarden for 40 years. His great nephew gleefully reported that when reading the lesson he would alter the wording if he found it too explicit and coughed and spluttered his way through the "woman taken in adultery" passage. He was a Lemsford School Manager for many years. He took an active part in the newly created Welwyn Garden City where he was one of the first Parish Councillors, becoming the last Chairman of Welwyn Garden City Parish Council and then the first Chairman of the Urban District Council on its formation in 1927. He was Magistrate for 23 years and in 1939 he became Deputy Chairman of the Welwyn Branch. He was on the committee of the Hertfordshire Agricultural Society and was on the Board of Guardians.

After the Great Panshanger Sale of 1919 when Ebenezer Howard bought the farms, including Handside farms, which were to become Welwyn Garden City, the Horns continued farming until the encroachment of the new houses made it uneconomic. William Cooper offered advice to the Agricultural Guild run by the Welwyn Pioneer Trust, which was based at Lower Handside Farm. Their son William Harvey Cox Horn transferred his allegiance to St. Francis in Welwyn Garden City becoming one of its first churchwardens before leaving Welwyn Garden City to become a rubber planter in Malaya. William Cooper died in March 1964; May lived till November 1972.

3. John Beasley Horn People's Warden 1924-1937 Born in 1874, at Upper Handside Farm, and baptised at St. John's, he was the eighth child of William James and Sarah, and younger brother of William Cooper. Jack, as he was known, joined his father and brother Will in farming the Handside farm, living with his father until he died and then with his sister Mildred Annie in 111 Handside Lane. He never married.

Jack served for many years as a sidesman at St. Johns, Lemsford before becoming People's Warden from 1924 to 1937. He was also took his turn on the Church Council. His particular interest was in the Reading Room and he served on the Committee for many years, including Chairman, helping to make it the social centre of the village. He was treasurer of the Football Club. He died in 1965 and is buried in the family grave.

See historic pictures inside the back cover.

On Easter Monday a group from St John's walked to the Abbey in St Albans. It was a good combination of exercise, chatting and relaxing culminating in a service in the Abbey.

You could dismiss it as just that, a grand day out as younger folk joined us at Sandridge. But there was, and is more to it than that. The Easter Pilgrimage finishing at St Albans has been held for more than 60 years. It is a time for church members to join in worship at the Cathedral, as pilgrims have done over two centuries.

It is a reminder of the two disciples who walked to Emmaus on Easter Day. They were troubled and talked about the events of the past week, something all of us need to do. Jesus came alongside them and answered all their queries and chided them for not knowing the Master Plan shown throughout the Old and New Testaments -that is, the word of God. He stopped with them and over supper he blessed and broke the bread and they recognised him and he melted away.

They were so thrilled that they went straight back to Jerusalem and told the other disciples. We have seen the Lord! It is important for today's Christian worshippers to not forget why they were so thrilled. You can find the account of their journey in Luke chapter 24.v1-35.

Next year we expect to have a bigger group as some dads came to check it out!! An invitation will be in this magazine before next Easter.



The Revd Professor William Clocksin is Assistant Priest at St Etheldreda's

In these weeks after Easter we reflect upon how the disciples encountered the Risen Christ. The Gospels tell how the disciples were disappointed and confused because they were hoping Jesus would have been the one to redeem Israel. They had expected a Messiah who would ride to their rescue on clouds of glory to crush their enemies. They seem to be disappointed that Jesus was not the redemptive conqueror they were hoping for: The Messiah who would bring down the oppressive Roman rule in an impressive show of God's might and vengeance. They were hoping to be redeemed by violence, but the violence part of it just didn't seem to happen.

The idea of redemptive violence is very powerful in the human psyche. This is where we get the ancient Babylonian teaching of "an eye for an eye". This is where we get Vendetta: an endless cycle of violence as each side tries to get even for the insult made against it. This is why we hold grudges, sometimes using religion to identify with a cause against rivals. And somehow, the longer a grudge is held, the more important it becomes to defend it. Compromise and forgiveness seem to be signs of weakness. "We'll never forget", they say. Grudges and vendettas can and do last for generations and generations, and they blight everything they touch.

But the life of Jesus, together with the Resurrection, shows a different way. Jesus discredited the ancient teaching of an eye for an eye. Jesus showed us the way by speaking out for the oppressed, commanding us to love one another, and showing that the weak, powerless, outcasts, and victims of bigotry and prejudice, are still included within God's loving integrity. That is the way to bring about a redeeming kingdom of love, and that is a hard thing for people to learn: In the Gospels the disciples didn't recognise the Risen Christ on repeated occasions in those weeks after the Resurrection. Finally, at the Pentecost, God's message of redemption and salvation for all – and not just for an elite few – was made as clear as could be within the mysterious grace of the Holy Spirit filling and empowering us all.

Continued page 22

With all this in mind, this month we hold especially in our prayers those who need to be rescued: Refugees from war and violence, victims of grudge and vendetta, those who are trying to cope with the pain of a broken heart or a wounded mind, those being trafficked and abused by organised crime, those being oppressed by harsh rulers. These things are happening now, and we ask that God's will is done. God's will *must* be done. And pray that through the gift of the Holy Spirit we may never fail to recognise the Risen Lord alive in each other.

Fr William

Singing for Pleasure Summer Concert

St John's Church, Monks Rise, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7NX

Saturday, 1st July 2017 at 7.30 pm

A light hearted programme of popular songs from musicals, film and light classical.

Refreshments and a raffle.

No tickets - a retiring collection at the end of the concert.

Proceeds to **Marie Curie** organisation.



Loving God,
We ask for the assurance of your Spirit
to know your presence with us in our daily lives:
in our relationships;
in our work and service;
in our worship;
in our times of joy and pain.
Holy Spirit: Help Us.

Church of Scotland

And finally



The Horns of Handside Farm (see pp 15/16)

Top: William James Horn and Sarah Cox, taken at the celebration for their Golden Wedding on the 19th July 1910.



Centre
Front row: Frances May Horn, (William Cox Horn's daughter), William Cooper Horn and May Horn;
Standing: John Beasley Horn.



Bottom
L Handside Lane with the Backhouse Rooms in the distance, once the cart shed for Upper Handside Farm
R Upper Handside farm

