

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde

*We will
remember them*



Parish Magazine

October/November 2015 £1



Pictures taken during the Sponsored bike ride—see page 7.
Cover picture by June Copping

October 2015

Sunday 4th Trinity 18

8am TBC

11am Harvest Festival led by John Barnard



Sunday 11th Trinity 19

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Amanda Duncan

11am Morning Prayer led by Viv Marlow

Tuesday 13th 2.30 pm

Friendship Tea

Sunday 18th Luke the Evangelist

8am BCP Morning Prayer led by John Marks

11am Parish Communion led by Richard Pyke



Sunday 25th Last after Trinity

****Clocks go back one hour****

8am BCP Holy Communion Reserve Sacrament led by John Marks

11am All Age Family Service led by Tim Armstrong Taylor and Carole Payne

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

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

4th James 3:13-18; John 4:27-42

11th Psalm 2: 1-15, Amos 5: 6-7 & 10-15, Mark 10: 17-31

18th 2 Timothy 4: 5-17, Luke 10: 1-9

25th Hebrews – 7: 23-28, Mark 10: 46-52

Coffee after 11am Services.

Sunday 1st All Saints Day

8am BCP Morning Prayer led by John Marks

11am Parish Communion led by Ron Ingamells

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Josh Young

10.50 am Remembrance Service led by Church Wardens

Tuesday 10th 2.30 pm**Friendship Tea****Sunday 15th Shoebox Sunday**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Susan Marsh

11am All age/Family Service led by Jo Brooks
and Mary Douglas**Sunday 22nd Christ the King**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Susan Marsh

11am Morning Prayer led by John Barnard

Sunday 29th Advent Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Martin King

11am All age/Family Service led by Ian and Mary Douglas

Christingle 4 pm Workshop; 5pm Service; 6 pm pizza**** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday ********Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)**1st** Revelation 21: 1-6a, John 11: 32-44**8th** Matthew 5: 1-12**15th** Hebrews 10 11-14 & 19-25 ; Mark 13: 1- 8**22nd** Psalm 93, Revelation 1: 4b-8, John 18: 33-37**29th** 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13 Luke 21: 25-36

At 6.48 pm on February 23rd 1944 a Lancaster bomber set off from RAF Warboys in Lincolnshire with seven young crew on board. It was part of an enormous attack on a German city, Schweinfurt, designed to damage its production of ball-bearings in which it had specialised. In all, Bomber Command sent 734 planes split into two groups that night. This followed a raid by 266 American B-17s the previous day. Losses by the British were relatively light—22 aircraft in the first wave and 11 in the second, 4.5 % of the force. Unfortunately my father, Sergeant John Hollis, was in one of the Lancasters shot down. His plane was hit by a German night fighter and it crashed on a village called Briey in north-east France. Of the seven crew only two survived; one of them, its Captain, is still alive today and a retired Cathedral Canon. Apparently my father's parachute failed to open. He is now buried in a war Grave in Choloy France (pictured inside back cover) and I will shortly set off to visit it for the first time, as well as a monument to his plane erected in Briey. Although it killed two people on the ground when it crashed the villagers felt it worthwhile listing all those who flew in the plane with a tribute to their bravery to help rid their country of the Germans.



My father was only 21. His was a life cut short, although he did see the birth of my brother and me, twins, three months earlier. The effect on his parents—he was their only son—and my mother was dramatic; none of them really recovered from the shock.

My researches have led me to discover the name of the German pilot who shot down the Lancaster and another one on the same night. He died a natural death long after the war but lost two brothers and a father killed in action. His mother must have suffered terribly too.

And what of Schweinfurt? Although 300 people were killed in the series of raids production of ball bearings was not interrupted as it had been moved into hardened underground factories.

On Remembrance Day every year the congregation of St John's assembles by the War Memorial outside the Church and the names of all those on it are read out. The list is a long one. The Lemsford Local History Group have done a tremendous job in recording information about these fallen heroes, just ordinary people like my father swept up into the cataclysm of war.

Some might argue that this exercise is becoming less useful. However for me it remains a powerful reminder of the true impact of war. It still seems right to honour the local individuals who have been borne away by the ever rolling stream of time.

Those who forget history tend to repeat it.

Geoffrey Hollis

News and People

Baptisms

9th August **Amelie Fuller**; 16th August **James Brooks**; 6th September **Harrison Young**.

Weddings

1st August **Gemma Haley & Anthony Couloras**; 21st August **Caroline Jeffrey & Ashley Peck**; 28th August **Louise Casey & John Warner**.

Funeral

Christopher John Tomlin—*see tribute on page 6.*

Gordon and Elfi Wilson

Congratulations to them on achieving 60 years of Marriage! They have been so important to St John's and we wish them many more years together.

Singing Lessons



Piano/Keyboard

I have vacancies for pupils of all ages and abilities.

Tim Armstrong-Taylor GGSM AGSM

email: tim@operaontherun.com

phone: 07796 268 565

Lessons in WGC

Music Theory

Lemsford Walks

Next events meeting at The Sun at 10.30am for coffee:

October 10th Andy Chapman will lead a Treasure Hunt round the village - finishing off at The Sun for lunch. **November 14th** Walk to The Waggoners where Andy will give us an illustrated talk about the area, and then return to The Sun for lunch.

*More information from June Copping
Hatfield1357@Outlook.com*

Harvest Supper

Friday 9th October 6.30pm for 7pm in the School Hall.

'Bring and Share' Supper, soft drinks provided, bring your own bottle! Clip board with list at back of Church. Fun Quiz - A chance to get together and have fun! *Details from Jean Stokes*

Shoebox Sunday

15th November. Do bring your box packed with gifts for disadvantaged children. **Mary Douglas** has details and this year provides super printed empty boxes for only 40p.

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: **22nd November.**

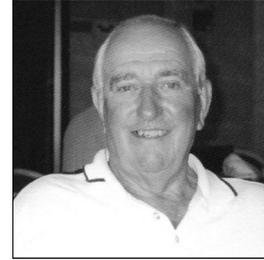
The Archbishop of Canterbury has written recently: We cannot turn our backs on this crisis. **We must respond with compassion.** But we must also not be naïve in claiming to have the answers to end it. It requires a pan-European response—which means a commitment to serious-minded diplomatic and political debate, but not at the expense of practical action that meets the immediate needs of those most in need of our help.”



St John's is donating its collections over the Harvest period to **Christian Aid's Refugee Appeal**. Funds from this Appeal are being channelled through an Alliance of Christian Charities including:

- In **Greece**, providing food and non-food items, and improving conditions at reception centres, as well as undertaking water, sanitation and hygiene activities on the islands of Chios, Samos, and Kos. In August alone, an average of 2,100 refugees were arriving on the three Greek islands of Chios, Samos and Lesbos every day. The total number of refugees in Greece is now more than 160,000.
- In **Hungary**, providing refugees on the border with non-food items. There are estimates that around 1,500 people are crossing each day.
- In **Serbia**, providing food, hygiene and baby kits, shelter and sanitary containers, plus winter supplies (firewood, clothes and boots), and psychosocial support. It is helping an estimated 1,000 refugees a day.

Chris with his wife June has worshipped at St John's for many years. His Funeral took place on 28th August, conducted by Rev Edward Cardale. Here are extracts from the eulogies read at the time.



“After leaving school he joined a firm of Architects in Southampton. In 1950 he successfully applied for a job with Louis de Soisson Partners in Welwyn Garden City, where his Aunt Kathrine was the Matron of the Peartree Maternity Hospital . In 1965 he joined Howard Lobb and Partners in London and was involved with the design of the Dungeness B Power station. Around 1970 he joined Vincent and Goring in Stevenage until 1990 when he focused on Contracts Managed and Quality control.

He was a good games player particularly when the game didn't involve running. Chris did NOT run! He played a crafty game of squash and had the physique and skill to command the centre of a court. He was a better than average tennis player, his positional and shot placing ability often keeping him out of trouble and over exertion. And at golf he had a slow swing, a slow walk and was even slower at getting to the bar afterwards. (That last bit isn't true, of course, for he entertained generously and was a sought after companion.)

Chris did his share of social work and for many years was an active member of Round Table where he made many life long friends. He was particularly proud of the fact that he was a founder member of Welwyn Round Table. At the age of 40 he then went on to be a member of 41 Club. (ex Round Table members)

He was, of course, a family man, and very proud of his children, Simon and Nicola and his seven grandchildren and great granddaughter to whom he was known as Pops.

A heart by-pass operation and bowel cancer were courageously overcome and he came back to resume and enjoy social activities. There has gone from us a lovely, warm and outgoing gentleman, firm in his beliefs.

Rain, sun, wedding bells and bats were all features of the Sponsored Bike 'n Hike for Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust this year. The day began with rain, well more of a sort of damp mist really, as we set off from St John's. We headed to St Francis on Parkway where we picked up John Blanch before our ride east to Panshanger and then Hertingfordbury.

Aside from being a beautiful church, St Mary's Hertingfordbury seemed intent on making a "big thing" of the day, with music in church, a craft market, some excellent food, and plans for various outdoor fun activities taking place later in the day – it seemed a shame to have to move on after only a few minutes! However, All Saints Hertford appeared to be trying to match Hertingfordbury with a very warm reception for cyclists, as well as hot drinks and cakes. It might now be a bit beyond summer but we are clearly not beyond the wedding season. We encountered a rather grand wedding at St Joseph's in Hertford which was about to start as we arrived. A soprano and cellist were having a final run-through in church which made for a splendid, though rather brief, treat. We clearly didn't quite fit in with the arriving guests though! A few minutes later we encountered another wedding, at Holy Trinity, Bengo. John attempted to sign us in just as the wedding photographer was lining up the bridesmaids for photos outside the church – I'm not sure if he managed to "photobomb" any of the official photos!

We were made welcome at all the churches we visited, but the oldest church in Hertfordshire currently has some less welcome visitors. We arrived at St Leonard's Bengo to discover plastic sheeting over all the chairs in the church, and assumed they were having building work, but it turned out that the sheets were there to keep bat droppings off the chairs! An unknown number of bats have settled in the rafters, leaving the church with an estimated £1000/bat cost to remove them. Hopefully we won't ever have to deal with that issue at St John's.

Thanks to all those who sponsored us this year, (we raised over £300) and to **John Blanch**, **Sam Kershaw**, **Richard Cuthbert**, **Sharon Gilby** and her friend **Sammy Harrison** for joining me.

See picture inside front cover

The Group had the first meeting for the 2015/16 season on the 17th September. We will be meeting in 2015/16 at 7,30 pm, on:

3rd December Venue to be confirmed

2016 all in Annex St Johns Church:

23rd March , 1st April, 2nd June, 14th July

All are welcome to join us.

On **Saturday October 10th** this year we are supporting the monthly walk organised by **June Copping** by holding a Historical Treasure Hunt around the parish based on the pull-out in the last parish magazine . If you want to join us email info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk to book your place.



Our archives contain over a 1000 images dating back to the 1890s and you can view many of them on our website. **Michael Hopprich** found an image from 1962 donated by local villager **Jean Dance**. He emailed the group with his memories.

“Dear Andy,

I had a quick look around your website and found myself in a picture. It is the one linked to one of my former headmasters Mr. Jones. I am the boy directly in front of Mrs. Mann, who these days you would call a teaching assistant. Her daughter Mary also attended St. Johns but was sadly killed when a lorry mounted the pavement on the old A1. Although I can remember quite a few faces I can only put names to a few. The person I cannot see is Jeremy Griffin who I was good friends with and was the son of Bill Griffin who managed Welwyn Department Store as it was then. I lost contact with him many years ago and only found out this year that he was actually “A Jeremy Griffin” (I have no idea what the A stood for) when I tried to see if I could track him down – his whereabouts for the past thirty odd years remain a mystery... I actually had three headmasters whilst at Lemsford – Mr Whittaker, Mr Jones and Mr Temple. My favourite was Mr Whittaker.

I am in front of Mrs Jones and Mrs Mann is the lady of the right. I had a photo for years of myself with Jeremy Griffin (blonde hair) and Roger Gray. Others that have come back to me are Malcolm Plumb (back row wearing a cowboy hat) and Pauline Aldridge (middle front row, no hat). In fact I am still in touch with her brother Stan (the three of us Stan, Jeremy and myself) used to hang about together... I will let you know if I remember any more names/faces and will ask my sister as she is better at names than I am.

Chris Dance who was in my class and his brother David (if my memory is working). I am not sure which is which. The last time I saw Chris was in the seventies when I was visiting Stan and his parents. Stan's father lived in his father's house (Nairobi – now 86 Brocket Road) until a year or so before his death. Sydney Aldridge (Stan's' grandfather) is buried in St Johns) .”

The website has many other images showing the school over the last 150 years. If it brings back happy or even sad memories send them to us and we will share them by publishing them on the website. Contact us on info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk

The summer term flew by in a flash and here we are again at the beginning of the Autumn term, wondering where the summer went!

St John's is always a hive of activity and particularly so in the summer term. Sports Day is a highlight of the term and this year's event was no exception, brilliantly organised by Mrs Kennedy and supported by staff and sports leaders from our Sports' Partnership School Stanborough. The sun shone and the crowds cheered and great fun was had by all.



Our youngest children enjoyed a weekly Forest Schools experience during the summer term, with a visit each week to the new Forest School centre near Panshanger. This is a new venture which has transformed the old quarry areas into an outdoor learning experience. Feedback from this great opportunity was excellent from both pupils and staff and we hope to be able to be involved again.

Our eldest children had their school journey to the Isle of Wight, led by Mrs Davies. They visited Osborne House, spent time on the beach, visited attractions and had an excellent time. As always I feel so fortunate to have staff who are prepared to give up their time to take our children away and give them these valuable experiences.

Class 1 and 2 enjoyed a super day at Southend-on-Sea to support one of their topics this term- 'Seaside and Coast'. They visited the Aquarium and spent time exploring the beach and as always we were so proud of their excellent behaviour.

Class 4 were invited to The Royal Veterinary College Farm to look around and to learn more about animals and their welfare. This was a super learning experience for all and we received great hospitality from everyone there.

Our KS2 production this year, involving Classes 3 and 4, was a production of 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat' which really raised the roof – a truly outstanding performance from all the children; full of fun, singing, dancing and instrumental performances. A wonderful testament to everyone involved!



I would like to finish this update by say a huge and special thank you to John Barnard who has taken on the weekly Wednesday church assemblies in the absence of a vicar at St John's. We value this weekly service so much and feel it is such an important part of our Collective Worship and are so grateful to John for all he does for us. We are now looking forward to Harvest Festival at the beginning of October and hope to see you all in church that day as some of our children take part in the service.

Best wishes to all,
Mandy Evans

Yes genuinely it is that time of year again where we start to think, if nothing else, about what we want to do for next year's event. We clearly have a number of entertainments and displays that go down well with the public each year, but we are always looking to try out new things to keep the event 'fresh' and to encourage visitors to come back again.



As a bit of a reminder, here is the 2015 event in some numbers:

Over 2,000 people attended

£14,000 has been distributed to the School Parent Association, St. John's Church and local charities from the proceeds

Over 1,100 cans of drink were consumed,

1,100 burgers and hotdogs cooked and sold by our volunteers

We bought more than £3,000 worth of food and drink for sale

Temperatures hit 19C in the sunshine before the rain arrived at 6pm as we finished packing away!

As we plan for 2016 (2nd May, by the way) we have to be mindful that whilst we were able to distribute £14,000 to our charities the event cost us close on £7,000 to run. We are ever mindful of keeping that cost under control and finding cheap or free entertainments and gifts to make sure we maximise our giving ability without cheapening our successful event.

So, if you are interested in helping organise or pass on ideas of good things you've seen elsewhere please join us on the evening **14th October at 7:30pm at the school**, where they can be thought about alongside the usual displays and entertainments. If you have any pictures or web links of ideas please pass them through to me or the fete's website.

Paul Butler

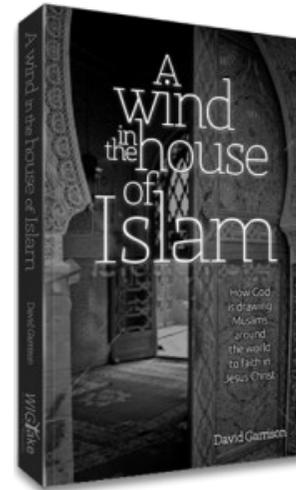
Fete Chair on behalf of Lemsford Fete Committee

Email: rfcbutler@googlemail.com Website: www.lemsfordfete.co.uk

‘A Wind in the House of Islam’ by David Garrison

Sub titled *‘How God is drawing Muslims around the world to faith in Jesus Christ’*, I found this book intriguing.

It explains that “There are nine rooms in the House of Islam and a Wind is blowing through every one of them” The rooms are the nine geographical areas into which the spread of Islam can be divided. Various maps show this spread stretching from Eastern Europe across to Indonesia and from Turkestan down through North Africa and into East Africa. Garrison explains that each room has a different culture and that we must not see Islam as an umbrella under which all the different nationalities might hide.



He explains how after the shock of ‘9/11’ there were rumours of Muslims becoming followers of Christ. In 2011 a Christian Foundation stepped forward with a proposal to fund a project to investigate the truth of the rumours. This book is the result of the research that was undertaken through many interviews using a structured questionnaire but also allowing people to explain their faith for themselves. Critical issues and criteria for the research are all clearly explained.

Garrison starts each section with a history of how Islam and Christianity first arrived in the area. He explains how religion is viewed in each area and the different triggers that enabled the people to find out about Jesus. One of these triggers has been the movement to translate the Qur’an from the original Arabic into modern languages. These translations are provoking reading and thinking among Muslims. This is similar to what happened approximately four hundred years ago when the Bible was translated from Latin into English. The conclusions from the research and suggestions about our approach to Muslims are the final chapters of the book. I found it fascinating and would recommend it to anyone interested in today’s world.

Christine Hardman, who trained for the ministry on the St Albans Ministerial Training Scheme, is to be the next Bishop of Newcastle.

Christine has an M.Th. in Applied Theology from the University of Oxford and a BSC in Economics from the University of London. Among her interests she includes making connections between the worlds of economics and Christian faith.

She was ordained Deacon in 1987 and served her title at St John the Baptist, Markyate Street. She took up the role of Course Director on the St Albans Ministerial Training Scheme in 1988 and was appointed Director of Mission Studies in 1991.



In 1994 she was one of the first women to be ordained priest in the Church of England and she became Vicar of Holy Trinity and Christ the King, Stevenage in 1996 and also Rural Dean of Stevenage in 1999. She left the diocese in 2001 to become Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich. She retired in 2012 and returned to live in St Albans Diocese.

Speaking about her appointment, she said: *“I don’t really have the words to express my excitement at coming to this vibrant, warm and proud part of the world. “God cares about the world – not just about the Church. The rule of Christ is over the whole of our lives. That’s why it’s so important for Christians to engage and work with key partners for all that leads to the flourishing of communities. As Bishop of Newcastle I will take every opportunity to engage in the public square and especially to speak on behalf of those whose voices are not heard.”*

*God of Eternity, for whom a 1000 years is but a day
Forgive us when we squander the precious gift of time
And grant us grace to use our lives wisely
That each moment may be filled with thanksgiving and
praise
And offered to you and for your service
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen
Bishop of St Albans—Saints and Pilgrims*

And finally Some Timely Thoughts

The only way of catching a train I have ever discovered is to miss the train before. ~ G.K. Chesterton

People who cannot find time for recreation are obliged sooner or later to find time for illness. ~ John Wanamaker



I certainly do not drink all the time. I have to sleep you know. ~ WC Fields

Time is a great healer, but a poor beautician. ~ Lucille S. Harper

I am definitely going to take a course on time management... just as soon as I can work it into my schedule. ~ Louis E. Boone

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by. ~ Douglas Adams (Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy)

The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time. ~ Bertrand Russell

Web site		www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk
VICAR	Vacancy	
Churchwarden	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn AL6 9JE	01438 715868
Churchwarden	Mrs Jean Stokes 44 Jordans, Hilly Fields WGC AL7 2HD	327873
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	Mr Andy Garratt	322731
Deputy Churchwardens	Mr John & Mrs Olive Benson Mrs Eileen Martindale Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry	325663 01438 715868 329023 01438 715868
Choir Leader	Mrs Carole Payne	329697
Church Cleaning Organiser	Mrs. Eileen Martindale	01438 715868
Flower Arranging Organiser	Mrs. Sara Poole	320358
Garden of Remembrance & Records	Miss Barbara Taylor	329553
PCC Chairman & Magazine Editor	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis g.hollis2@ntlworld.com	265617
Organist /Musical Director	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor	0779 6268565
Notice sheet/ secretarial assistants	Liz and Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com	323785
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



See Editor's message on page 3.
The window in Warboys Parish Church commemorates those who flew from the local RAF station.

