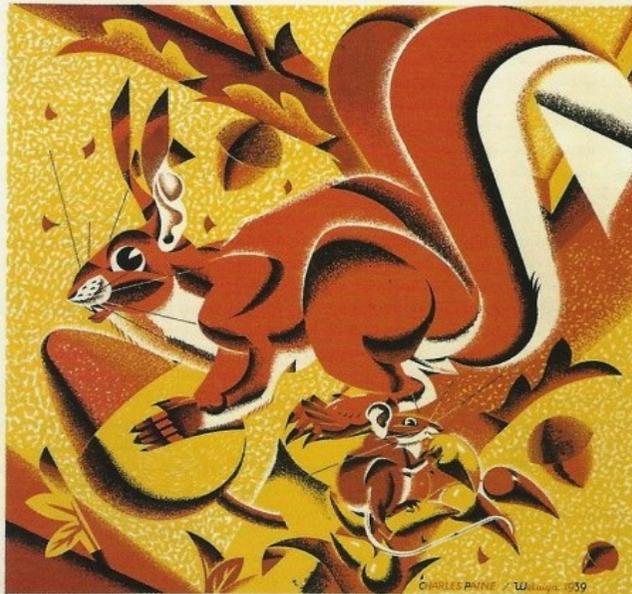


# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*

AUTUMN



in WELWYN

**Parish Magazine**

*October/November 2019*

**£1**



**Top: Allotment Tea in August organised by Marion Cleveland;  
Bottom: left— see page 11; right - three handed organist see page 7**

## From the Vicarage

There's something about Autumn that brings on poetic feelings, although when I was growing up it was sometimes called the Fall (my father's mother was Canadian). It is a time of year that instinctively I'm drawn to; there are many reasons but poetry like the following may give a clue:-



*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells...*

**John Keats, 'To Autumn)**

I think we all love the universality of so many of the ideas held in this poem: the low sun and ripening fruit, the hazel nuts and the unmentioned but inevitable squirrels. We also note the earlier nights and later sunrises until winter days are reached. 

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**Front cover: A 1939 poster by Charles Paine, encouraging a move to Welwyn Garden City where houses cost from £600 to £3,000.**

**J**ust as it starts to get cold we have Harvest Festival reminding us of those in need. This year we celebrate it on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11am. As always we will seek to help the nearest Women's Shelter and a local food bank with the generous gifts that are brought to us on that day.

Harvest draws us together but our nation has been split over Brexit. (Don't worry no political point coming). It seems to me after much soul searching that to bring healing to our nation:-

- We need to honour all points of view and opinions
- We need to recognize that many will feel a great loss regardless of what happens
- Finally, we need to recognise what has happened to trust of institutions, and Politicians, friends and of course family.

I have only come across one prayer that really helps me and I offer it to you in the hope that it may help you too:-

*God of hope,  
In these times of change,  
Unite our nation  
And guide our leaders with your wisdom  
Give us courage to overcome our fears,  
And help us build a future  
In which all may prosper and share:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

**F**inally, toward the end of this season we will be united in our season of Remembrance, first at All Souls as we remember those whom we have loved and lost but care so very much for. Then we remember our service personnel who have heroically paid the highest price so that we may be a united nation. We will again remember the fallen of this parish on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 11am, I do hope many of you will turn out for this important date.

God Bless you all

**Paul**

**Sunday 6th Harvest Festival**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Family Service led by Paul Seymour &amp; Jo Brooks

**Tuesday 8th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea****Sunday 13th Trinity 17**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 20th Trinity 18**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 27th Last Sunday after Trinity**

8am BCP Holy Communion

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

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

**Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)**6th** Philippians 4: 4-9 John 6: 25-35**13th** 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Luke 17: 11-19**20th** 2 Timothy 3: 14- 4.5 Luke 18: 1-8 Psalm 121**27th** 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14

**Sunday 3rd                      All Saints**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service led by Paul Seymour & Jo Brooks

**Sunday 10th                  Remembrance Sunday**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**10.50 am** Remembrance Service led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm      Friendship Tea****Sunday 17th                  2nd before Advent**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 24th                  Last before Advent**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Ian Laine

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

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

**3rd** Ephesians 1: 11-23                  Luke 6: 20-31

**10th** 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17          Luke 20: 27-38

**17th** 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13          Luke 21: 5-19          Psalm 98

**24th** Colossians 1: 11-20          Luke 23: 33-43

**Baptisms**

On 18th August, **Ziggy Dean**; on 31st August **Tess Viall**; and on 11th September **Kyle Didcock**. Congratulations!

**Weddings**

On 27th July, **Gregory Hutton & Beverly Gore**; on 10th August **Eddie Radcliffe & Olivia Watson**; and on 14th September **Harry Hawkins & Camilla Harris**.. We wish them long and happy marriages.

**Three Handed Organist?**

*(Picture inside front cover).*

It was in fact **Tim Armstrong-Taylor** and **Karl Puranik**,



playing *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* after the 11 am Service on 15th September, which was Karl's last before going to Drama School. Fear not though music lovers—Karl will hopefully be back in the choir for special events. His perfect pitch and all round musical abilities will though be greatly missed.

**Gardens**

*Mary Douglas writes:*

The first monthly Green Coffee Morning was a good success!! There were gardeners and coffee drinkers – tea and cake eaters as well. There was a good effort in ‘Ivy Stripping’ which will help in improving the health of the tree we started on.

Please join us to do more on our lovely asset of the Church Gardens on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 10-12midday** and/or join us for the ‘Outside and In’ Work Party 9-12.00 **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October** where the tasks range from weeding to dusting and polishing!

*Editor:* congratulations to Ian and Mary on celebrating their Golden Wedding with a Service of Thanksgiving at St Johns on 21st September.



**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **17th November**

**A**utumn is a season of thanksgiving, perhaps best summed up in the words of a familiar harvest hymn: ‘All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love’. Do join us at one of our Family services, or Sunday Club sessions to say thank you to God.



**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. Our next one will be **Harvest Festival, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**. All are invited to bring gifts of food to support people in need in Welwyn Hatfield as usual, and our gifts of money will go to support WaterAid’s life-saving work in Africa. We’ll be joined by the school choir and there will be activities and drama for the children to get involved in. The Bible reading for the day tells how God can take even the smallest gift and do extraordinary things with it.

**Sunday Club** meets each Sunday in term time during the 11am service to hear the Bible read, and to praise and thank God for his goodness to us through stories, games, craft, music and prayer. We run two groups for Reception to Year 3, and Year 3 to Year 6 and every child is welcome, whatever your church experience or background. In October and November we continue to explore how amazing Jesus is with more wonderful stories from Luke’s gospel:

October 6: Harvest Festival Family Service

October 13: Luke 17.11-19: Saying thank you!

October 20: Luke 18.1-8: Keep praying and don’t give up

October 27: Bible Sunday - Luke 4.16-24 – Jesus the promised rescuer

November 3: Family Service - All Saints

November 10: Luke 20.27-38: All about heaven

November 17: Luke 21.5-19: The future is in Jesus’ hands

November 24: Luke 23.33-43: Jesus is king!

**A**nd don’t forget that adults and children alike are very welcome at **Friendship Teas, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of the month, from 2.30 in the annexe.  
[joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com)

**I**t is great to be back.... and still enjoying some summer weather!

We were delighted to be included in the Anglia in Bloom 'walk around' for Lemsford Village at the end of last term when some of our younger pupils explained all about our new **Nurture Garden** (*picture inside back cover*). Naturally we were thrilled to hear the village won the Silver Award.



The Nurture Garden has produced the most amazing produce this year; enormously tall sunflowers; a bountiful supply of cherry tomatoes grown from the seeds of tomatoes the children in Class 2 cut up and placed onto compost; beautiful dark shiny aubergines grown from seed and some gorgeous yellow squashes. Well done to the children for all their care and watering!

We have had an excellent start to the new academic year with our first day for the new **Reception children** free of tears ...from both children and parents! By 9:00 am on the first morning all parents had left the children playing happily in the classroom and many had popped into the Coffee Morning in ASK, hosted by members of St John's Church. This is such a lovely welcoming event and we would like to thank St John's Church for hosting this again this year.

We also have a **Cheese and Wine evening** at school to welcome new parents and introduce them to the staff and Governors so they can put names to faces. This event is always well attended and is followed by our LSA AGM.

We are only two weeks into the term as I write this, and looking forward to many exciting activities and achievements in the term ahead; we do have quite a packed calendar over the next few weeks, with lots of sporting activities and other activities ahead.

**Harvest Festival** is fast approaching and we will be sending out invitations from school to all parents to join the church celebration on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Our children will be participating in the service and some of the school choir will be singing with the Church Choir, which is always a real treat for our children.

With all best wishes, **Mandy**

The annual sponsored Bike n' Hike for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust took place on Saturday 14th September. The weather this year was glorious, the best in almost twenty years of taking part in the event. This year Lucy and I were the only Lemsford cyclists starting off from St John's, (*pictured inside front cover*) while John Blanch separately headed off from home to Hertford to complete his own route of 11 churches. Lucy and I visited 21 churches this year, over a 36 mile route taking in Hertingfordbury, Hertford, Ware, Great Amwell and Stanstead St Margarets. We were joined by Gina and Paul Butler in Hertford, and together we walked between all seven of the central churches in Hertford. There was also time for lunch at the "cafe" running on the day at All Saints in Hertford.



Visiting some of the same churches for this event each year can be rather interesting. It was clear from talking to church members at several of the churches that some of the trends we sometimes detect at St John's are very much reflected elsewhere. Congregations that seem to be declining in number, a reduction in the number of younger families, and difficulties in finding enough volunteers to keep the churches ticking over were all mentioned. Of course the biggest issue seemed to revolve around money - the difficulty of finding the money to meet Parish Share, to cover all the maintenance bills, and even to keep the churches sufficiently heated were all raised.

Nevertheless, all the churches we visited remain open, many are still well maintained and all seemed to have enthusiastic members to greet the visiting cyclists and walkers. That positive spirit was certainly very welcome, and made for an enjoyable day.

**Thanks again to those that sponsored us this year.**

**Harvest Festival 11 am October 6th**

*Followed by Refreshments*

*Gifts of non perishable foods much appreciated*

**W**hy do you go to church? Or should the question really be - why don't you go to church? Pondering a recent sermon about the parable of the lost sheep and the efforts to find one sheep leaving ninety-nine to look after themselves protected only by a fire and a gate, I found myself hearing the vicar saying words to the effect of 'you go to church for fun' or 'going to church is fun'.



So what is fun? Words can change their meaning over time. Has fun changed like 'wicked' to mean something quite different? In my twenties 'fun' meant meeting up with friends, going to parties, doing something special and generally having a good time. Certainly going to church should mean being in the company of friends and doing something special, but fun seems too narrow a definition.

In the busy world of today some people say they do not go to church because there are too many competing claims on their time. Sporting activities help their children keep fit and enjoy life, the shops are open and they like exploring this wonderful world by walking or cycling. Some admit they do not believe there is a God and rely on growing scientific knowledge to support their beliefs about the origin of the world. Such approaches to life may feel fun and meet social and emotional needs.

St John's does a good deal by way of encouraging social interaction. Each year there is a Fete; each month a Friendship tea and an annual Harvest lunch as well as coffee after church each week. Singing in the choir, ringing the bells and tending the church gardens all bring people together and give an added purpose to life as well as being useful to the community.

**H**owever in these vexatious times it seems to me there is a greater need for emphasis on the spiritual aspects of living. There is a need to find time for solitude, to listen to that still small voice of calm, to develop greater knowledge of the bible, to reflect and contemplate if we are to find ways to combat the pressures and stress of this rowdy world. Coming to church should enable us to find that way, to pray without jokes or asides. Solitude is not loneliness or isolation: rather *it is the peace of God which passeth all understanding*.

Britons are traditionally reluctant to accept immigrants, unless they have a pressing need for workers, such as bus drivers in the 1950s. Some groups have sought to help foreigners in distress such as the Quakers in Welwyn Garden City who made great efforts in the 1930s to resettle Jews persecuted by Hitler, at a time when the Government was not sympathetic. Today local Quakers are making similar attempts to help Syrians afflicted by their cruel civil war.

They are part of a group “Herts welcomes Syrian Families” (HWSF) that is doing its best to assist innocent Syrians swept up in a conflict for which they are not at all responsible.

In response to widespread public pressure the Government in September 2015 launched the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme aiming to bring 20,000 Syrian refugees to the UK over a five year period (2015-2019). With the success of the scheme being dependent on the participation and support of local councils, HWSF was formed to encourage local councils to participate in this Scheme. Working collaboratively with other organisations, including the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network, nine of Hertfordshire’s ten District and Borough Councils committed to receiving Syrian families through the Scheme. (Only Broxbourne—the wealthiest District in the County—chose not to participate).

HWSF provides a range of assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Hertfordshire. Typically this includes:

- Providing a welcome meal
- Providing items of furniture and home furnishings that may not be present in their allocated property; TVs and TV licences; kitchen and gardening equipment; books and toys
- Sourcing, repairing and delivering bicycles
- Supporting ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) by matching volunteers with individuals and running informal conversation groups
- Linking arriving families to supportive communities and providing support to the British Refugee Council and local council case workers

- Organising events to bring the families together  
Giving talks to local groups and communities to raise awareness of the global refugee crisis and on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers coming to the UK.

**A Case Study** In December 2016, Syrian teenager Karim arrived with his family in Hertfordshire. He could speak very little English, but was welcomed into his new community by members of HWSF and the Refugee Council. Now, Karim is headed to the University of Birmingham having earned an A\* in Physics and an A in Maths and Chemistry.



Karim has shown impressive determination in his pursuit of an education. He took his first job in the UK about a month after arriving. “I was trying to surround myself with people who spoke English so I could speak it myself,” he said. “I worked hard on the ESOL course so I could acquire a good enough level of English to do A levels in the next academic year and not do ESOL for another year.”

He faced significant challenges and set-backs, but managed to maintain good study habits throughout. He explained, “Young Syrians have so much talent and they never cease to prove it, however, sometimes it is easy to lose faith. I think people need to keep focused on their goals and have faith and patience as the process might take a long time.”

Karim decided to study Nuclear Engineering because of its potential to be “colossally beneficial to humanity” as non-renewable resources become scarce. He credits his secondary school physics teacher for drawing his attention to the subject. “He kept telling us about how we can produce enormous amounts of energy from mere nucleons that even exist in water,” Karim said. “I started reading articles about it and about its potential which really appealed to me and made me want to be a part of it.”

**A**fter graduating with his degree, Karim hopes to either pursue a PhD in Nuclear Fusion or to work in the nuclear industry. We wish him all the best as he begins his university career!

The Group started its 2019 -20 season with a talk on 'The History of the Great North Road' after this year's AGM. The meeting was attended by over 30 people including past and present vicars of St Johns, Edward & Paul respectively. A big thank you to everyone that came and a special thank you to those who became new members. The group are in a strong financial position and hopes to enjoy a full and varied year with meetings, lunches, days out and, of course, research of Local History. If you wish to join us email [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk).

We found out where Lemsford got its name and the part the Romans played in developing Lemsford. In the Golden Age of Lemsford when the Great North Road went through Lemsford it is said as many as 150 coaches a day passed through. All the inns would have offered food and drink for the travellers. Accommodation would have been provided if required. Wheelwrights and blacksmiths were available to service the wagons and horses. Stabling for the horses would also have been provided. The talk also included the history of Brocket Road, New Road and Great North Road as it developed in the 1920's .



Fowler steam road locomotive on Great North Road, late 1920s

**Challenges**

There have been some significant challenges over the decades. Apart from the existential crisis which followed the mid 70s sale of the Wings operation, the Gulf Wars of 1991 and 2003 both caused a severe drop hiatus in bookings.

Easyjet's trailblazing of the UK budget airlines revolution from 1995 heavily impacted the market for short-haul city break programme, although this appears to be returning. The foot-and-mouth crisis of 2001 severely affected a small but important programme in the Lake District.

In April 2010, the Icelandic ash cloud caused worldwide chaos following the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano and a financial cost of £50,000. The 224 clients of Ramblers overseas at that time kept their holidays and were brought safely home after a great deal of effort.

**Going Forward**

Since 1946, Ramblers Holidays has been providing outstanding walking and activity holidays across the globe. Now it's introducing experiences that showcase new ways to appreciate our beautiful world.

Their holidays have come a long way since the 1940s, when some rambling experiences came with the instruction that 'nailed boots must be worn'. Having evolved through the package holiday culture of the 1970s to the present day, where people seek real experiences led by like-minded experts, that pioneering spirit continues.

For over 70 years they have been travelling the globe, with a love for exploring the great outdoors, and a passion for creating unforgettable moments. Their commitment to ethical travel remains at the heart of everything they do. On a Ramblers Walking Holiday you will enjoy intimate encounters with each destination you visit. Whether you want to saunter around cities, seek out iconic landmarks or hunt for cultural hotspots, they have discovered the best routes, paths and trails our wonderful world has to offer.

*St Johns gratefully acknowledges the support of Ramblers Walking Holidays, long term advertisers in this Magazine.*

The family fun afternoon and picnic held in July was well supported by villagers and thankfully the weather was warm and sunny. The first event was the renowned duck race, creating much excitement with everyone crowding around the bridge to watch the ducks being thrown into the river and then bobbing along to be eventually caught in nets and the winners duly noted.



Rounders, trampolining and other games brought along by the villagers followed, picnics were opened and shared and all enjoyed to the accompaniment of music. A big thank you to Jane and Nigel for hosting the event in their garden and to Tony Tutton for organising a good selection of music.

We now look forward to our two Christmas events. The first will be held on **Saturday 30th November** with the children invited to help decorate the Christmas tree and meet **Father Christmas** and the second on **Friday 6th December** for the traditional **Christmas meal**.

The next **Meet and Greet sessions** will be on **Thursday 24th October** and **Thursday 28th November** at the Sun from 6-8pm.

### **STOP PRESS**

**Exciting News:** I have just seen the awards on the Anglia in bloom website and Lemsford won a **Silver award** in the Villages category. So we are very happy with that result!

Bob Facer

Father, the trees are ablaze with your glory.  
The seasons change, but you never do.  
You are always beautiful,  
in the green and freshness of spring  
as in the golds and reds and chills of autumn.  
Make me like you.  
Let my life reflect your beauty,  
season after season,  
as the calendar of my life turns and turns and turns.

**And finally ...** *Vince Rozmiarek, resident of Indian Hills, Colorado, has made his community famous by unusual signs for motorists. An idea for Lemsford??*



The School's Nurture garden is mentioned in both the School Report, page 9,  
and the Lemsford Village Residents Report on page 19





# TOGETHER

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