

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



August / September 2023

£1

Photos from St Johns School production of The Lion King



Cover Photo: Comes from a rose window in Lausanne Cathedral, ca 1170, one month (August) from a cycle of the seasons. Want to see more—see: https://www.wga.hu/html_m/zgothic/stained/12c/2/index.html

Living in Ordinary Times...

For many years, I used to think that my vicar just randomly changed the words of the Order of Service and the colour of the altar frontal every now and again because he'd got bored with the old ones. I then gradually became aware that Christmas and Easter went on for more than a few days, before finally understanding that the Church's year is divided into seasons.

Right now, we are in the middle of the longest season of "Ordinary Time", which takes us through the summer and right into the Autumn. After the wonder of Christmas, the solemnity of Lent, the darkness of Good Friday, the joy of Easter, and the fire of Pentecost, it's now, just... ordinary.

It seems a little strange to have a dedicated period of ordinariness; a kind of default season with no particular theme. However, that's often how life is too – we have highs and lows, but a lot of the time, things just tick along. Ordinary is the very essence of life, despite the fact we live in a culture that often only notices the extraordinary, the new, and the unusual.

For many people living through suffering, stress or sorrow, ordinary is what they yearn for. There's a traditional Chinese curse which goes - "may you live in interesting times"



The unspoken 'blessing' flipside of this would be - "may you live in ordinary times".

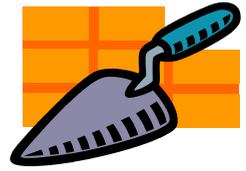
In a similar vein, the second collect (special prayer) at the traditional service of Evensong prays that we "may pass our time in rest and quietness."

Whilst Ordinary Time is less dramatic than other seasons, it isn't about nothing happening. The liturgical colour for the season is green – a colour of life and growth. Although times of challenge and change in our lives often cause us to learn and grow, we also need times of rest, of quietness and ordinariness for the slow and steady rooting of our lives in what matters.

For Christians, Ordinary Time can be a great time to create simple routines and habits that help us root

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The Coronation

Kathryn's message - continued

ourselves in God and grow in our Christian discipleship.

It can be a time to learn to see God in the normal patterns of life, as well as in the grand and spectacular.

So Ordinary time isn't a time to stop, but a much-needed time to

steadily attend to the daily, simple necessities of everyday life and faith.

I hope you all find ways this summer to live in ordinary times.

Rev Kathryn

Rev Kate Douglas

Rev Kate Douglas is joining St John's in September (2023)

Update: Kate's first services at St Johns will be on 10th September. Please come and support her in her first services here.

Rev Kate Douglas will be joining us from September as a Self-Supporting Minister. Kate has just entered her third year of curacy, and the intention is that she will then remain with us as a SSM.

Kate is also becoming full time chaplain at Queenswood School in September, and so will mainly be with us on Sundays and during school holidays.

We look forward to welcoming and getting to know her in the Autumn.



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News and People

The Annual Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike 'n Hike By Kevin and Lucy Earl

"This event will take place this year on Saturday 9th September. This year we are planning to repeat the hybrid event we did last year, which allows for participation by both cyclists and walkers. We are planning to cycle from Lemsford to Hertingfordbury church, then walk to Hertford to visit all the churches there and walk back to Hertingfordbury before cycling back to Lemsford. Participants are welcome to do all of the above or, if preferred, just the walk from Hertingfordbury to Hertford and back, which we can do as a group. If you are free and would like to take part please contact Kevin and Lucy Earl at kevinearl670@btinternet.com , or 01707 390497. Thanks"

You're also welcome to sponsor Kevin and Lucy 50% goes to St John's Lemsford and 50% to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust

Details of the Lemsford, Stanborough & Cromer Hyde Senior Residents Coach Trip to Southend-on-Sea on Thurs 7th Sept By Carole Payne / Carol Hicks / Jenny Roden / Jan Maisey

If you are over 60 and would like to attend this free coach trip please call Carol Hicks on 01707 330591 or Carole Payne on 01707 329697 by 26th August

The coach will leave from the Sun Inn, Lemsford at 9:00am before going on to New Road, Stanborough and dropping us off in Southend for you to enjoy the day at your leisure, leaving Southend at approx. 5pm

If you have family or friends who do not live in the parish and wish to join us there is a charge for the coach of £15 each.

Why Do We Go To Church? A Poem By Ted Webb

We go to church on Sunday, to pray and worship God.
Not all our neighbours do this; some think it's rather odd.
But knowing God is there for you, to help you through the day,
is more than just a good reward for the time you take to pray.
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Term is finished, children, teachers and staff on holiday, the buildings and grounds quiet and closed until September. The rabbits and the mice will take over for a bit perhaps, enjoying some freedom! Then it's back to the running and rushing, shouting and laughing when we start a new school year. It will be quieter at church too while Sunday Club is on holiday and we pause our all-together worship for August. But church and school in Lemsford are bound together – we share the same space, meet for Collective Worship, or at Sunday Club and All-together services, are partners in our annual fete, open our doors to each other.



In the Bible, the prophet Zechariah, normally pretty gloomy like most Old Testament prophets, presents a beautiful vision of God's whole community sharing the same space, living, working, resting and playing together. He describes older folk sitting and talking, spinning tales, and the children running and playing, all in the same space, the city of Jerusalem. It's God's vision and ours too of our community: 'a good city to grow old in... a good city to grow up'. (From Zechariah 8 v 4-5, The Message translation)



After the summer pause and rest we are back together in September:

Sunday 3rd September – All-Together worship at St John's at 11am

Tuesday 5th September – Welcome Back Coffee Morning hosted by church for parents joining or returning to St John's School at the start of the new school year, 8.40 at school.

Sunday 10th September – Sunday Club returns, part of our 11am service.

Contact revkathrynalford@gmail.com or joholifield@gmail.com

Services

August 2023

6th	Trinity 9	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am HC (no All Together service this month)
13th	Trinity 10	8 am MP (BCP)	11 am HC
20th	Trinity 11	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am MP
27th	Trinity 12	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am HC

September 2023

3rd	Trinity 13	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am 'All Together'
10th	Trinity 14	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am HC with Sunday Club
17th	Trinity 15	8 am MP (BCP)	11 am MP
24th	Trinity 16	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am HC

HC Holy Communion; MP Morning Prayer (Matins); BCP Book of Common Prayer; NB Kathryn's day off is Friday each week

Gina & Paul's Trip to Prague by Gina Butler

I've wanted to visit Prague for many years. So, for my 50th birthday Paul bought me a guidebook for Prague, I have to admit I looked inside hoping there would be plane tickets in it, but no, it was just a guide book.



We finally decided we would go for our 25th wedding anniversary, which was 27th May 2020. Can anyone spot the problem? We had the flight and hotel booked and our spending money arranged, but of course like everything else that year it had to be postponed.

Finally, we rebooked for this year around the time of our wedding anniversary again. Out came the guide book which Paul read from cover to cover and I had a quick skim through.

As we sat at the airport it suddenly dawned on me that this was the first flight we had taken, just the two of us, since our honeymoon 28 years earlier! It was the perfect journey; we took off 15 minutes late, but the pilot said he'd put his foot down and we landed earlier than scheduled. Our suitcases

came really quickly and were 2nd off the carousel. Paul texted our taxi driver and 2 minutes after arriving at the designated meeting spot, outside Mattoni's bar, a man walked up to us and said "Mr Butler?" and took us to his car.

The driver took us the scenic route to our hotel, the only blip happened when we tried to pay him with a banknote that was no longer in circulation. Obviously, they'd had a note change since we bought them in 2020. He was a lovely man though and swapped all our dodgy notes for the new ones. He was taking them to his bank, who would still take the old ones, but we would have struggled in the shops and restaurants.

We had a beautiful large room looking over the Vltava River on the edge of the old town and about 100m from the famous Charles

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Gina & Paul's Trip to Prague - *continued*

(Continued from page 9)

Bridge. That evening we just sat, had a drink overlooking the river then a little walk around to get our bearings taking in Charles Bridge [see below],

windows and paintings on the ceiling. My favourite part however were the poor houses, still preserved how they would have looked. Tiny spaces no bigger than the box room in my



the astronomical clock and then had a nice meal.

The next day, Tuesday we walked up to the Castle. No crumbling stones here it is still being used by the Czech President for meetings. The Castle guards were so funny they wore designer uniforms and when watching the changing of the guards it was like it had been Disneyfied with piped music and no band. The proper soldiers in their camouflage outfits appeared to look down on the 'Toy soldiers'.

We had a guided tour around the castle which started at the Cathedral a large dark imposing building which belied the amazing view when you got inside. Lots of gold, beautiful stained-glass

house and here they lived and worked.

On Wednesday we had arranged a walking tour to take us around the old city. There were only three English speakers, us two of course and a German girl called Meera who decided she'd rather join our tour than the German one (Big mistake), to practice her English. A wonderful lady chatted to us beforehand but she was leading the German tour, then an odd-looking man came over who said he was taking our tour. He then put his hand over his mouth and said "I'm sorry, I've lost my teeth". He proceeded to take us through the streets pointing at buildings saying "that's baroque" we began to think that was the

Gina & Paul's Trip to Prague - *continued*

extent of his English and we weren't too far wrong. He talked but we couldn't really understand and if we asked a question, he had no real idea what we were saying. Thank goodness for Paul, he'd read the guide book and he knows a bit of history so he filled in some big gaps that our Guide left.

At one point the Guide took us down a small side street to an old church door, which didn't look like it would be very exciting behind, but open the door..... and wow. The amount of gold everywhere and the paintings were amazing, but on exit came out into a café, obviously no one cares about the outside of the churches just the inside. A colossal difference from the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona where we had been last year. Our tour took us through two more churches that seemed to get grander and more opulent, I went from thinking they were wonderful to hideous and had to ask myself "What would Jesus think?"

We continued down to the area where all the Embassies are that had a totally different feel from the old town detouring into the Church of Our Lady Victorious and the Infant Jesus of Prague. This holds a Jesus doll with the most amazing outfits, in fact over 300 amazing outfits which are changed by the



Carmelite sisters daily in accordance with the church calendar. They were red for us as it was Pentecost and we went to see some of the different outfits that would befit a King, assuming they were 18 inches tall. I'm not sure my picture [see next page] does him justice but I also don't think it's something St John's should emulate either.

Thursday, our last full day we did all the things that Paul hates, heights and boats. We climbed up the hill to the Eiffel tower (not the real one, obviously) their name for an observation tower with an awful

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lot of steps. The views over the town were amazing and we were able to see our hotel from the top. Then a boat trip down the river with a glass of Aperol Spritz, very

civilised.

The atmosphere in the city changed that day, it became rowdier and we began hearing a lot of younger voices usually pouring out from a bar. In the evening there was a boat load of football supporters chanting loudly and flares being let off on Charles Bridge. Although we had had a wonderful time, we were quite glad to leave all that behind us the next morning. We were glad we'd gone from Monday to Friday and not the other way around.

Friday morning before our taxi came, we had a last wander around the old town and bought ourselves a painting of the bridges across the Vltava [see below] so we could remember our 25th wedding anniversary (+3 years). We had walked 20,000 steps a day and had a wonderful time. Thank you, Prague.





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News from St John's School - July 2023

I would like to begin my article with a section of an old school diary which sits in my office.

May 19th 1890

School visited by Mrs W Bone who distributed sixpence for the best attendance during the last year

Summary of an inspector report dated 4th July 1890

The present mistress has changed the school, it was in a backward and disorderly condition, and under the circumstances she has done a good deal to bring it back into order and is not responsible for its defects. At present the upper standards are very weak indeed, especially in handwriting, arithmetic and Grammar, it was very bad. But very fair work was done in the other standards and discipline, though this requires attention in several respects, is, under the circumstances satisfactory. In the infant class the methods of instructions are faulty and the disciplines and training are very bad, hence a majority of the children are backward, the object lessons, Drill and Recitations are useless and the general condition of the class is very unsatisfactory. Sewing is good in the upper and should improve in the lower divisions.

21st July 1890

Whole school holiday given to the all the children on account of the



choir excursion to Hastings.

I am delighted to say that our present day school is not in a 'backward and disorderly condition!' Far from it in fact!

When reflecting on my first year as headteacher at St. John's I can truly say that it is delightful and lovely place to be! The children, families, staff team, governors and local community, including the church, have made me feel very welcome. Nationally, what a year it has been - beginning last September with the death of Queen Elizabeth through to the coronation of King Charles. In school it has been an eventful year as well with so much going on every week. Recent events have included Sports Day, an activity and residential visit for class 4 and beautiful performances of The Lion

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News from St John's School - July 2023 - Continued

King presented for parents, families and the school by our classes 3 and 4.

It is the time of year where we also say both hello and goodbyes. We have welcomed our new reception children and their families recently and will soon be saying goodbye to our year 6 children They have been a fantastic year group who have taken on many leadership roles in the school with confidence and consideration. As role models as

they have shown the younger children our school values in action. We wish them all the very best as they journey on to their new school and look forward to hearing about their future achievements.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer break.

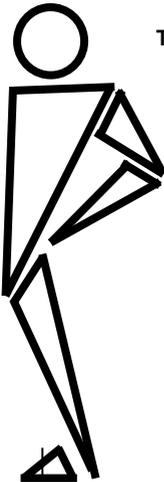
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Headteacher

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I was asked to take over distribution of the Parish Magazine in the Stanborough area. After completing my allocated round, I had some magazines over. It was suggested I include the seven houses on the site of The Bull, or as it was known, The East. As I walked from my house in Great North Road to the new houses, it reminded me of the countless times I had made that journey. Thirty years ago, it would be to visit a great steak house, meet Ken the landlord and many locals for



a pint or two. When Ken left, The Bull became a 2-4-1 meal concession and had a steady stream of landlords and landladies. About fifteen years ago, it was refurbished and reopened as a Chinese restaurant called The East, which closed in 2016. When talking to the residents on The Bull site, few knew of its history. Lemsford Local History Group has recorded memories like this for over twenty years and always appreciates memories from the local community to pass on to future generations. Contact us on info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk if you have a memory to share or require information about the local area history.

History is about change and as I get older, it becomes harder to remember what Welwyn Garden City looked like when I was a child living in the Howlands area over sixty years ago. I think the reaction to change for the older person is a combination of rejection and fear, thoughts of 'my past is invested that building' or 'what was so wrong it had to change'. Normally, change in our mind is for the worst. I imagine many in the Parish have had these thoughts about the closure

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of The Long Arm and Short Arm. History does show why we need change; mainly because our circumstances and requirements change. The Stanborough area is a classic story of how we evolve. The house I live in was built in 1921.

The reason given for the building of eight houses at the end of The Great North Road called Bury Cottages or Crescent Cottages (due to the layout of them, see image [right] from 1923) was to provide homes fit for heroes returning from WW1, built by Hatfield Rural Council. The first tenant was James Walby (1877 –1932) and his wife Rose. The map also shows the old Bull on the same side of the road as the cottages. How it got built explains how house building evolves and the reason for its location.

We start with how the land for Bury Cottages was acquired. The Cowpers of Panshanger House owned the plot on which Bury Cottages were built. Panshanger House was built in about 1720 by Sir William Cowper (1665–1723), who became Baron Cowper of Wingham. He was raised to Earl Cowper by George I in 1718. The second Earl Cowper was to leave the house largely untouched but commissioned Capability Brown in 1756 to landscape the parkland in which it sat. Cowpers' neighbour at Brocket Hall was Matthew Lamb who engaged one of the leading architects of the day Sir James Paine to build a new Brocket Hall and Paine did just that. Sir Matthew died around 1765. Sir Matthew's son became the first Lord Melbourne and widened the river into the lake; the work was complete by 1775. A surprising fact about Brocket Hall at this time was that horse races were held in the park. Possibly the first example of keeping up with the Cowpers.

Peter (b. 1778 – d.1837) became the fifth Earl of Cowper in 1799 and was, by now, the largest landowner in Hertfordshire. The second Lord Melbourne, William, who inherited Brocket Hall in 1805, married Caroline Lamb. On the death of Melbourne in 1848, Brockett Hall passed to his sister Emily Mary who was married to 5th Earl Cowper of Panshanger. After the death of his wife Emily in 1869, the house was passed onto Emily's grandson, Francis 7th Earl Cowper. The seventh (and final) Earl Cowper, Francis Thomas de Grey, was born in 1834. He may not have resided at Brocket Hall but remained at

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LLHG - Know the past to understand the future

(Continued from page 18)

Panshanger as the census of 1881 shows the Hall to be occupied by his younger brother Henry Fredrick Cowper (1836 – 1887). 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.

Earl Cowper, Francis Thomas de Grey married Katrine Cecilia (1845–1913), eldest daughter of William Compton, fourth marquess of Northampton. There were to be no children. The closest he came to having children was his virtual adoption of his niece, Ethel (Ettie) Fane, following the death of his sister and brother-in-law in 1870. It was to Ettie (who later became Lady Desborough following her marriage to Baron Desborough) that he left Panshanger. Lady Desborough had little need for Panshanger as her main house was her husband's seat, Taplow in Buckinghamshire, and so Panshanger became a holiday home which she and her husband visited only two or three times a year. Though Lady Desborough retained many of the lands she inherited after 1913, she did sell via an auction on 30 May 1919, 1,458 acres of land for £51,000 to Ebenezer Howard, a pioneer of the Garden City movement, which eventually became the basis for Welwyn Garden City. Around the same time some other smaller parcels of land were sold including the plot of land that Bury Cottages sits on today. If the history of the Cowpers had been different, then the land would not have been for sale and Welwyn Garden City would not exist including the house I lived in which led to the development of Brocket Road and Great North Road. In the archives we have an image of the indenture for the sale of the land. [see right]

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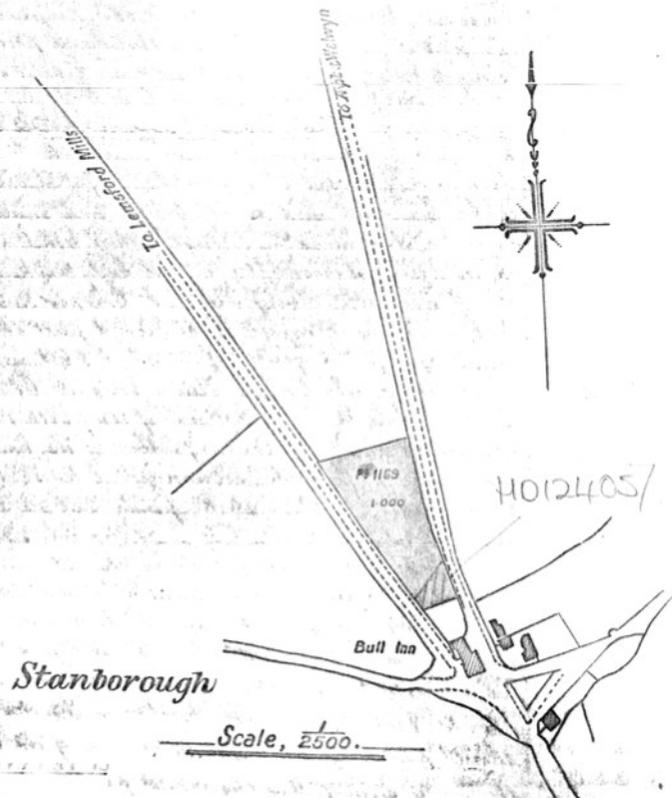


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thousand nine hundred and nineteen **Between** The Right Honourable William Henry Baron D'Aubigny K. G. T. G. (hereinafter called "the Vendor") of the first part Herbert Haynes Twining of 4 Pitts Emmsmore Gardens in the County of London Esquire and Whitfield Glanville Adams of No 75 Dartmouth Park Hill in the same County Esquire (hereinafter called "the Trustees") of the second part and The Rural District Council of Hertford in the County of Hertford (hereinafter called "the Council") of the third part **Whereas** under and by virtue of an Indenture (hereinafter referred to as "the former Settlement") dated the twenty fourth day of October One thousand and eight hundred and seventy and made between the Right Honourable

1899
No. 48
2 FEBRUARY
1900
P.P.O. Secretary



(Continued from page 22)

Knowing the past helps you understand the future and this map is an example of what is happening in 2023 with the pursuit of more houses. The same thing happened in the parish from 1923 to 1938. Did Mr Walbey one of the first residents in Bury Cottages in 1921 think 'Not in my back yard' or did he welcome new neighbours, a garage opposite and a new pub? Why this explosion of houses? The population of the UK in 1919 was 17,803,000 and in 1938 it was 21,423,000. The other factor in this area was the development of Welwyn Garden City, its new town centre as well as its infrastructure. The best example of the influence of Welwyn Garden City can be seen by the number your landline telephone begins with. If it's a 2 you're connected to the Hatfield telephone exchange near Asda. If it's a 3 you're connected to Welwyn Garden City telephone exchange. In the town centre, the cut off is the New Road houses below beginning with 2 and above 3.

The number of houses being proposed in building plans for the parish seem excessive and the Long Arm and Short Arm being developed for houses is a blow to the community. If you limit the number of houses and put community facilities and local opinion before greedy profits, we might reach a compromise between those who do not want change and those who need a home to call their own. Ebenezer Howard's dream was to provide decent housing with a garden for the workers of overcrowded London and to build an industrial area close by with retail areas within walking distance of where you lived. In 1957, when I moved to the newly built Howlands estate, we had a doctors, dentist, community hall, church, pub and a row of shops which included a chemist, paper shop, supermarket with a butcher's counter, Green grocers and haberdashery (all essential for daily life) within 10 minutes' walk. Today, the same shops boast the original Co-op, a paper shop, angling store, pizza takeaway, Indian Restaurant, hairdressers and an empty shop. I know the generation who fought in the second world war and lived in overcrowded dilapidated housing in North London thought Welwyn Garden City gave them a future and their children a start in life that would stay with them forever. I hope the developers in 2023 will provide for the future of the younger generation in Lemsford Parish with affordable housing as well as considering the effect on the older generation who love living in the Parish.



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One of my sons gave me a scarf on his return from New Zealand, made of merino wool. Not wishing to lose it I only wore it on special occasions. Imagine my horror when I got it out one day only to find that it had been attacked by moths and was full of holes. Not surprisingly moths do not have a good reputation, and that is especially true in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments.



Isaiah 50:9: *Behold, the Lord God helps me; Who is he who condemns Me? Behold, they will all wear out like a garment; The moth will eat them.* **Job 13:28** - *While I am decaying like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten.*

Matthew 6:19-20 has one of Jesus' most famous sayings: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal."

In fact, as you know, it is not the moth that does the damage but its larva. And most species do not eat clothes; some moth adults do not even eat at all because they live off the food stored when they were a caterpillar, and only live a short time as an adult.

Quite a few species of adult moth do not eat but drink nectar. This means that they are valuable pollinators; a UK study found moths dusted with pollen from 47 different plant species, including seven species largely ignored by bees.

Also, they are a useful part of the food chain. Nocturnal insectivores often feed on moths; these include some bats, some owls and other species of birds. They are also a significant source of food for humans. Larvae are harvested in large parts of southern Africa and traded in markets.

Pub Quiz Q1: How do you tell moths from butterflies? Answer: moths have small globes at the end of their antennae; butterflies do not.

Q2: Why do moths fly in circles around light bulbs? Answer (probably) because they have evolved to fly in straight lines by reference to the light of the moon which is a long way away. When they try the same trick with a light bulb it quickly leads to a sticky end.

So the next time you curse a moth because of holes in a favourite piece of clothing, think of their environmental value and rejoice in another marvel of nature.

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during these months of summer and vacation
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Saint Paul's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Saskatoon, Canada

And finally All about moths

What did Mick Jagger do when he found his cupboard was infested with moths?

Nothing. A rolling stone gathers no moths.

A man walks into a dentist's office and says "Doctor, you have to help me! I think I'm a moth!"

The dentist says, "I think you want the psychiatrist down the hall."

And the man replies, "Yes, but your light was on."

Why didn't the butterfly go to the dance?

Because it was a moth ball.

A moth walks into a church
He found the light.

What is the biggest moth called?

A mammoth.



Scientists had heard rumours of a new species of butterfly in London...
But it turned out to be an Urban Moth



Above (Then – 1960s): The Great North Road, showing the Shell Garage and a lot of Traffic!

Below (Now): The Forecourt has gone, and so has the traffic (now on the A1) but the building remains as AMT selling high end 'pre-owned' cars





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