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June / July 2023

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Photos from 'The Fete'



Cover Photo: Celebrating 'World Bee Day' - 20th May - see Nature Notes - p27

Out of balance?

I've been vicar at St John's and St Michael's now for eight months. It's been a brilliant time, but also a very busy time! Lots of my friends often ask me what I do during the week – after all, 'you only work one day of the week' they tell me. They generally regret making this hilarious joke, as I then proceed to tell them at great length all the things that vicars do – ranging from funerals, weddings, baptisms, assemblies, caring for the sick, putting together services, sermons and communications materials, to running a building and organisation and developing relationships with the local community. I'm rapidly discovering that being a vicar is one of those jobs where the to-do-list never get completed. No matter how hard or efficiently you work, there's always lots left to do.

I'm fortunate enough to be able to do lots of my work from home. No more daily sprint to station to catch the 6:52am train to London. This means I should have 3 more hours each day, not just to get the work done, but to spend more time with my family, running, or reading the enormous number of unread books on my shelves. What I've actually found, is that without any clear boundary between work and home, the two areas of my life have rapid-

ly blurred into one, and my ability to 'switch off' has gone a bit awry.

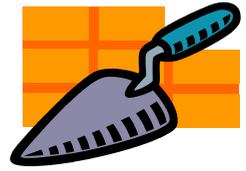


Noticing this trend, led me to pick up a book called 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' by John Mark Comer. As I read through the pages, it struck me that even though I absolutely love being a vicar, my inability to switch off was, in no small part, the result of losing the balance in my life.

There is wonderful Bible passage in Ecclesiastes that reminds us that 'there is a time for everything. A season for every activity under heaven.' In other words, God doesn't want us to use our time for just one activity – he made us to use the gift of our lives for lots of different things. To flourish as human beings, we need a rich and varied life that includes the satisfaction of work, but also comprises times of play, rest, spiritual growth and loving others. It doesn't matter how much we love our jobs, God made us to live full lives of which work is just one part. When we lose sight of this, we can begin to feel 'off'.

(Continued on page 3)

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The Coronation

Kathryn's message - *continued*

So, if life is feeling a bit grey or overwhelming at the moment, perhaps ask yourself how balanced it is. If your life was a pie, would there be a huge slice of work, and a tiny slice of everything else? Or maybe your pie would be totally dominated by a family issue, or by giving all your time to others. Alternatively, you might be a total party animal, and work and relationships have been taking a back-seat recently.

If things have got out of kilter, then maybe have a think about how you could make the slices of your life more equal. I've begun to

block out slots in diary for the important things in life other than work, and I feel so much better!

If this feels too difficult to do alone, you don't need to. You can always ask God for help, and friends, coaches, books and even church ministers are there to help you if finding a way forward feels like a struggle. Life is a gift that is full of possibilities beyond our imagining. As we move into the summer months, I hope we can each take some time to discover new ways to use it to its full potential.

With love. Kathryn



The Coronation - According to St Johns

- see All Together
Services - p10 for
more info

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The Lemsford Fete

We had another fantastic Lemsford Fete on May Day. The weather was good and so was the turnout. You can read all about it in Paul Butler's Fete Report and there is also mention of the very first fete in 1950 together with a photo in the Lemsford History Group's article.

Afternoon Tea & Cake - Alzheimer's Appeal

On **Friday 9th June, 2 – 4pm**, in the Church Gardens, we're holding a tea & cake afternoon [other beverages also available] in support of the Alzheimer's society.



Help us to raise money for this great cause by joining us in the Garden for an afternoon of food and friendship. Raffle tickets available from Jackie Spry.

Cake donations on the day will be very gratefully received!

If you can't attend, or even if you can, and would like to donate then you can scan the QR codes (left) or click on this Give-a-Little link: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/4cdaf193-25fd-4757-96d1-a852e3cbf6ce>



Senior Resident's Day Outing to Southend - Thurs 7th Sept



By Carole Payne / Carol Hicks / Jenny Roden / Jan Maisey

(Continued on page 7)

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Reserve the date in your diary: The next Senior Resident's day outing will be to Southend on sea on Thursday 7th September. This is a free trip for all residents of 60 and over, living in Lemsford, Stanborough and Cromer Hyde; any spare seats will be offered to relatives and friends nearer the time. Full details to follow.

Service of Thanksgiving

All are very welcome to a Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of those we've loved and lost.



This will take place in:

The Garden of Remembrance
St John's Lemsford
on: June 4th 2023 at 3.30pm

The service will be followed by tea and cakes

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



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.

Services

June 2023

4th	Trinity Sunday	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am 'All Together' HC
11th	Trinity 1	8 am MP (BCP)	11 am HC with Sunday Club
18th	Trinity 2	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am MP
25th	Trinity 3	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am HC

July 2023

2nd	Trinity 4	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am 'All Together' HC
9th	Trinity 5	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am HC with Sunday Club
16th	Trinity 6	8 am MP (BCP)	11 am MP
23rd	Trinity 7	8 am HC (BCP)	11 am HC
30th	Trinity 8	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

Lemsford Fete Report by Paul Butler - Fete Chair

How time flies, has it really been 12 months since I was writing last year's post event report and breathing a sigh of relief that it had been such a success! Well it has, and thankfully I can again write a very positive report of a successful event and a healthy surplus for the school and church.

In the days and week running up to the event we were all nervously following the weather as it became increasingly erratic as to whether it would rain or not. Thankfully as the weekend approached we were able to plan more comfortably for a dry day, phew!

On set up Sunday it was really heartening to see so many volunteers appearing to help put up the bunting, marquees, stalls and all the other paraphernalia that goes to making the fete what it has become over the years

This year we made a conscious change to have fewer bands and more singing, it was thus great to welcome Harry Beart, from the school to sing solo and open our acts in the field arena. There was also the appearance of Immi Davis (yep, her of BGT fame) to perform a 'set' in our main arena, another talented person still at primary school. These were alongside performances from previous performers, such as the brass band,



Ukulele band, Splitz dance academy and church music and traditional singing and maypole dancing by St John's school. Hopefully the mix provided something for everyone to enjoy?

The fete wouldn't be what it is if we didn't let guests take part in the usual coconut or crockery smash zone, or bounce on a bouncy castle (well the kids hopefully!).

An increasing part of the event was the reintroduction of more displays and activities for people to look at and clamber over. We had several well preserved cars for guests to admire along with displays and vehicles from the local police and fire service,

(Continued on page 10)

Lemsford Fete Report - *continued*

(Continued from page 9)

including a chance to operate a fire hose and water the plant life in the school car park, not that it really needed it given the recent rain.

Again, the beer/Pimms tent did a roaring trade and was a sell-out, especially the locally produced barrelled beer. The BBQ's and other food outlets were equally successful, along with cakes and jams, well done to all the home bakers and local foragers for their efforts in making these goodies.

As a result of the generosity of the public, our growing list of sponsors and the unflinching efforts by our volunteers and helpers we have again raised an amazing amount, in excess of £13,000 for the school PTA,

church and our other charitable causes locally.

Thank you again to everyone involved and we'd love to see many of you again next year and it is always good to see new faces in our organising group, when we start planning in November, hint, hint.

If you have any opinions or suggestions on the event please contact us, as it is always good to know if we are getting it right. If you have suggestions please come to me or via the fete's website <https://lemsfordfete.co.uk/> and drop us a note, otherwise here's to 3rd May 2024

Paul Butler

Lemsford Fete Committee

'All Together' Services

They've written about this before, I hear you say. True, but take a look at the article on the Coronation Day 'All Together' service and Barbeque [see p17]. If you'd like to try a service then this is likely to be the one for you.

In the past these have been called Family services, but that name seemed to appear to exclude people not coming with their families, and that was never the intent. They've also been called

All Age Worship, but somehow that doesn't strike the right note..

The idea is that *everyone* is welcome to the All Together service and the language and style is suitable for everyone, with lots of engagement in the service for children too. **In the last service we had our re-enactment of the Coronation with a melon for the orb.** See page 3 for a fab photo.

Footlights - we're coming for you.

I've just been sifting through my diary, trying to fix in my head the many and varied things happening at home, school, work and church in the next two months. And there are many! And I found myself thinking about the strangeness of setting all that is valedictory against the backdrop of spring and all that newness. It feels like the year is just getting started but at the same time we're gearing up to help our children move on from one familiar classroom or even school, to a new and different one. Welcome and goodbye combined. That of course led me seamlessly to think about where we are in the church year!



Jesus has just said goodbye to his friends and gone back to be with his Father and, as I write, we are getting ready for Pentecost, when he sends the promised 'helper', the Holy Spirit. Jesus earthly ministry has ended, but it is now also wonderfully a beginning for Jesus's friends and us, as we step out into the world in faith and with that helper always with us.

Goodbye and welcome combined.



Sunday Club is on the second Sunday of the month, and on **June 11th** we will be celebrating Pentecost, sometimes known as the birthday of the church, appropriately with a party (think balloons, games, cake...) Then on **Sunday 9th July** our focus will be on the family of God, with another party, this time for the end of term (does that mean more cake!?). At Sunday Club there is always a Bible story, something to make, and plenty of time to play together. Children of all ages welcome.

In between we have our wonderful **all together Sundays** on the first Sunday of each month, with a simpler service and songs and activities for all ages.

We look forward to seeing you!

Contact Jo Brooks or Kathryn Alford for more information
joholifield@gmail.com / revdkathrynalford@gmail.com

Young Life - by Beth Ann Hunter

Hello friends at St. Johns! I work for Young Life in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield (<https://welwynhatfield.ylinternational.org/>), which is a Christian charity that reaches out to young people and share Jesus' love with them through our lives and weekly activities like contact work in local schools, clubs, Bible studies and day and summer camps! We have a range of young people joining us who either have no church background or are already on their journey with Jesus but we love to share our lives with them to help them navigate the tumultuous teenage years.



If you read the other article written by one of our teenagers you will see that because of technology, though it has some advantages of connecting young people, most young people feel less connected and worse about themselves because of these online

influences. We believe that in Young Life we can provide places where young people can come and connect with one another, and this connection fights the loneliness that many of them feel. While they are here at Young Life, they have fun, find adventure, and interact with one another and adults who can point them towards a meaningful life in Jesus.



This summer we are taking 33 young people and leaders to Cairn Brae Scotland (<https://cairnbrae.younglife.org/>), Young Life's beautiful residential holiday centre in Perthshire. Some of the young people cannot afford to go so we've set up a "cash for camp" system where we ask them to serve in the local community

Young Life - *continued*

whilst earning their camp bursaries. Then a few of us raise funds from local grants to help provide camp bursaries. So our day in early April at St. Johns is where our two ministries intersect. We brought a group of young people to the church to help clean and garden and were able to help your community of faith while also giving the young people



a chance to serve and “earn their bursary.” It was a great day of gardening in the sun. We even have two Iranian refugee boys coming to camp this summer that we are raising the funds to pay for their camp trips as they currently are living in a local hotel in difficult situations and without any excess finance.

Thanks for letting us come and serve you! Enjoy these joyful teenagers who helped on the day. If anyone wants to help give towards any of these camp bursaries we'd love any extra help



and you can just speak to Mary and Ian Douglas. And I know we'll be back again to serve in the future.

Beth Ann Hunter, Welwyn
Hatfield Young Life Area Director
bahunter@ylinternational.org

Here's an anonymous article from one of the teenagers who came and served on the day:

“Understanding what it’s like as a teenager today”

Technology has evolved drastically in the last 20 years, with the development of iphones, apps like twitter and tiktok, and virtual reality. As a result of these developments, especially social media, it has become much easier to share information and interact with people across the world. Technology has allowed the economy and businesses to grow and flourish, however it has also

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Young Life - *continued*

(Continued from page 13)

had a major impact on our generation.

Now, lots of children have access to social media, so from a very young age they are being exposed to an unmoderated version of the world and start comparing themselves to people online, unaware that a lot of social media influencers use photoshopping and filters, an unrealistic representation of natural human bodies. This comparison creates insecurities and challenges amongst young people, and creates a warped impression of realistic beauty and relationships. It is no coincidence that as technology becomes more commonly used, suicide rates for children under 18 have increased also. On top of this, there is immense pressure from school and parents about grades and school has become a stressful place to attempt to navigate relationships and education.

In my opinion, parents and guardians should attempt to educate themselves on the dangers of modern technology, and aim to enrich the lives of their children with methods other than iPads and television. I understand that parenting is not easy, and not everyone has the time or energy to care for their children without the help of technology, however for the well being of our future generations the alternative solutions, e.g playing outside or drawing, are much less harmful to young minds.

Young Life shows children how to have fun away from the screen. They provide us with fun challenges and games and they have created a community of kind people who support children through these difficult times. They have allowed me to distance myself from social media as well and many other children.



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Hello everyone,

The school year is moving on at quite a pace, I cannot believe that we are about to begin the second half of our summer term. Our children in year 6 have now finished their SATs. They have worked very hard and showed perseverance as well as commitment in preparing for their tests. We are very proud of them; they give so much to our school.

The Lemsford Fete was a roaring success! It was fantastic to see school and church working so closely together to prepare such an amazing event. Paul Butler's preparation was meticulous and the Fete team gave so much of their time and energy, we are very grateful! The weather stayed fine and the crowds came. It was lovely to maintain the tradition of the whole school singing and the various classes performing their traditional dances. There was not a knot in sight during the maypole dances which was a great relief! Well done to Mrs Youngs, our class 3 teacher, I don't think we mentioned having to prepare maypole dances during her interview last year!

[See inside front cover for colour photo of St John's pupils Singing and Dancing at the Fete - Ed.]

Other events have included a K'nex Challenge afternoon, singing workshops, a trip to Mill Green for



class 1 and the 'Three Faiths' tour for classes 3 and 4. Class 3 have also started working towards their Archbishop's Award which aims to develop leadership skills through helping the community. Do let me know if you can suggest a project that they might take on that could help the local community.

The next half term is set to be a busy one filled with a residential trip for class 4, sports day, Camp St John's, report writing, concerts and so much more! Class 4 will be working on their planned performances of The Lion King which we look forward to very much.

Best wishes,

Michelle Boylan
Headteacher



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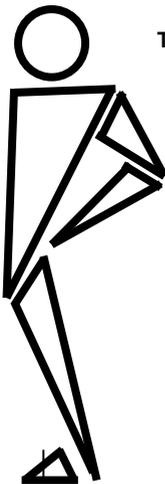
My journey to work regularly takes me to the roundabout where the Great North Rd meets Lemsford Village, the A1 (Northbound slip Road and the road that goes under the A1 towards WGC. Which led me to spot this sign:



I think it speaks for itself but in case you difficulty reading it: It's on Sunday 2nd July at 7pm. Tickets are £15 from susan.forrow@ntlworld.com

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Coronation Sunday - 'All Together'

Coronation Sunday's 'All Together' service [the day after Coronation Day] was a fun affair. As you can see from the photos below we had kids from St John's school re-enacting the coronation. Described by Rev Kathryn as 'almost identical to that in



Westminster Abbey yesterday...almost...' but sadly we lacked the funds for a gold orb, and so a small melon had to do! We finished this off with a coronation barbecue, where we had coronation quiche and a coronation cake, amongst the other vittles as you can see. [See p10 for more on All Together - Ed.]

The Group enjoyed its monthly lunch in April in Old Hatfield with a walk and talk about the area. Our host was the expert on Hatfield, Paul Savage.

My early recollections of Old Hatfield were during the mid-1970s researching the many public houses on a Friday night with like-minded people. It still boasts three hostelrys, all with history attached, including the Eight Bells (Bill Sykes' local). The sad truth is, like most pubs today, they are struggling. After talking to the landlady of the 'Horse and Groom' the reasons are many - drink driving laws, smoking ban, cheap alcohol in supermarkets, the pandemic and, maybe the last nail in the coffin, a youth culture that does not see the pub as a place to meet. The result is none of the pubs offers food and all are open for limited times. Our own village is also a victim of the times with the demise of the Long and Short. I have tried to find out what the future holds for the L & S and there are lots of rumours, but reliable sources tell me planning permission has been requested for four houses in the car park and a blue circle drawn around the pub itself. Our records show it's not a listed building but the blue circle suggests the building might stay, if only as a frontage, (Like the Old Cherry Tree pub in town which Waitrose converted). Watch this

space.

Old Hatfield is not all doom and gloom however, Paul's tour was excellent, and I was surprised how much history there was in the area including a magical dip into the past with a climb up Jacob's ladder, a wander through St Etheldreda's graveyard and a view of historic Hatfield House including the resting place of the Cecils (Salisbury.). As you descend Fore Street you can really imagine what it was like to live there 100 years ago. Well worth a visit and a short stroll up the Great North Road leads you to the old coaching inn 'The Red Lion' which is where we ended up for a convivial lunch.

The Group attended the May Day Fete in Lemsford with a simple slideshow presentation and a stall selling our books. It is always a great pleasure to meet old friends who have memories of Lemsford and new friends who pass on their memories. Thank you to all members who contributed to setting up and helping at the Fete. A special mention to Paul and Richard and everyone on the Fete committee who makes this annual event so special. It has come a long way since its humble beginnings in the 1950s. In 1950 a new member to the church, Mrs Trench, suggested instead of a jumble sale they should organise a

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(Continued from page 19)

fete to raise money for the organ fund. For the full story go to www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Article_Fete.html



[Lemsford Fete 1950]

In the last edition of the Parish Magazine, we mentioned Dickie Davis. David Lewis sent the group an email relating to this.

‘My mum (Janet Lewis) has just sent me a copy of LLHG p20 & 21 and the photo of Dickie Davies. I went to St John's school at that time, so I do recognise quite a few other people in the picture as well as Dickie Davies and Mr Dunn (my old headmaster). The children that I believe I recognise are (L-R sitting): -Richard and Andrew Willis - they were twins, but not precisely identical. And Phillip Stokes. To the immediate right of Dickie Davies is a contemporary of mine - Sarah Cox. I think the smaller girl to the right could perhaps be called Sophie. The boy standing behind them both may have been called Richard (Hughes?). The lady teacher is (I think) Mrs Alison Mitchell.



[Dickie Davies photo repeated from last edition]

I don't remember the event, although I do remember the school adopting the pond opposite the Waggoners pub in Ayot Green for a while and I thought that some of the display items could be related to this.' [image below]



Thank you, David, for taking the time to send your memories. if you

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LLHG - concluded

(Continued from page 21)

have any questions about local history or have any memories you wish to share contact us at info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk.

The 'Lemsford Now and Then' feature on the inside back cover of the current issue shows the cottages opposite The Sun over the River Lea called Riverside Cottages, Nos. 26 to 32 Lemsford Village. These Victorian cottages were built by the Brocket Estate for their workers. 30 & 32, sometimes known as the 'Gamekeepers Cottage', has been one house for many years. The then photo shows Mr Smith (gamekeeper to Lord Mount Stephens in 1920) sitting on the Lea fence. We also have a photo of Mr Smith with fellow gamekeepers and weapons. [below]



The month of May was dominated by a once in a generation historical event, 'The coronation of our King 'and Mr Smith would have served King Charles' great Grandad, George V.

And our final image [bottom] shows Lord



Mount Stephen with his very good friend and regular visitor to Brocket Hall in the early part of the twentieth century - King George V on a shoot.



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The United Nations has designated 20 May as World Bee Day. This was chosen because it was the date in 1734 that Anton Janša was born in what is now Slovenia. He was the pioneer of modern apiculture.

Anton became interested in bees early on, since his father had over one hundred hives at home and neighbouring farmers would gather at his village to discuss farming and bee-keeping. In 1769 he began to work full-time as a bee-keeper and a year later became the first royally appointed teacher of apiculture for all Austrian lands. He kept bees in the imperial gardens and travelled around Austria presenting his observations in regard to moving hives to various pastures. He died in Vienna.



He wrote two books on bee keeping. In one he said: "Bees are a type of fly, hardworking, created by God to provide man with all needed honey and wax. Among all God's beings there are none so hard working and useful to man with so little attention needed for its keep as the bee." The Empress Maria Theresa issued a decree after Janša's death obliging all teachers of apiculture to use his books.

But why do we need a World Bee Day? The UN says: "World Bee Day presents an opportunity to call for global cooperation and solidarity to ensure that we prioritize efforts to protect bees and other pollinators, thereby mitigating threats posed to food security and agricultural livelihoods and defending against biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. World Bee Day is also an occasion to raise awareness of how everyone can make a difference to support, restore and enhance the role of pollinators."

How may we help bees? We can let lawns grow so that they bear flowers. We should definitely not use artificial grass. We can plant bee-friendly flowers including primrose and aubretia in spring, honeysuckle, lavender and yarrow in summer, and ivy, hyssop and ice plants in the autumn.

The hum of bees is the voice of the garden – Elizabeth Lawrence

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Prayer for Inspiration

Dear Lord, help my actions stem from a place of love rather than from a place of imbalance. Inspire me to be a loving presence everywhere I go. Guide me so that I may sow and reap love.

And finally all about Bees

Why do bees hum?

Because they can't remember the words.

Which bee gives you a second chance?

The plan bee.

Where did Noah keep his bees?

In the ark hives.

A bee is an exquisite chemist.

Royal Beekeeper to Charles II



How doth the little busy bee Improve each shining hour, And gather honey all the day From every opening flower! *Isaac Watts*

Bees work for man, and yet they never bruise Their Master's flower, but leave it having done, As fair as ever and as fit to use; So both the flower doth stay and honey run. *George Herbert*

If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man. *Albert Einstein*



Below: Lemsford Then - Mr Smith (gamekeeper to Lord Mount Stephens in 1920) sitting on the Lea fence
Above: Lemsford Now - Cottages opposite The Sun over the River Lea called Riverside Cottages, Nos. 26 to 32 Lemsford Village





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