

# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*

See page 5



## Parish Magazine

August/September 2014    £1



## August 2014

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>** 12.30pm Wedding of Jonathan Dean and Katie Evans

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Trinity 7**

8am BCP Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am Morning Prayer Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** 2pm Wedding of Danielle Pratt and Lester Woodard

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Trinity 8**

8am BCP Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Marsh

11am Parish Communion Led by Rev'd Martin King

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** Open Church from 10-12noon

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Trinity 9**

8am BCP Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am All-age Worship Led by Mary Douglas

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Trinity 10**

8am BCP Morning Prayer Led by John Marks

11am Parish Communion Preacher – John Barnard

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Trinity 11**

8am BCP Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am All-Age Communion Led by Rev'd Sue Stilwell

1.30pm Baptism of James Percy Lawrence

6.30pm Evensong at St Johns, Lemsford Led by Viv Marshall

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

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

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Psalm 17: 1-7, 16, Isaiah 55: 1-5, Matthew 14: 13-21

**10<sup>th</sup>** Romans 10: 5-15, Matthew 14: 22-33

**17<sup>th</sup>** TBA

**24<sup>th</sup>** Romans 12: 1-8, Matthew 16: 13-20

**31<sup>st</sup>** Romans 12: 9-21

Please note that Sue Stilwell's Day Off is Friday. Thank you

**Coffee after 11am Services.**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** 4pm Wedding of Jamie McGilvray and Lauren Butterfield

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 12**

8am BCP Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Marsh

11am BCP Morning Prayer Led by John Barnard

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** 2pm Wedding of Paul Preston and Clare Daley

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 13**

8am BCP Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am Parish Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** 2pm Wedding of Jo Douglas and Benjamin White

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – Trinity 14**

8am BCP Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am All-age Worship TBC

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 15**

8am BCP Morning Prayer Led by John Marks

11am Parish Communion Led by Rev'd Jeremy Haswell

Forward Notices:

Harvest Thanksgiving Service – 11am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Harvest Supper – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm

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

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

**7<sup>th</sup>** Psalm 119: 33 -40; Ezekiel 33: 7-11; Matthew 18: 15-20;

**14<sup>th</sup>** Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35;

**21<sup>st</sup>** TBA

**28<sup>th</sup>** Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

Please note that Sue Stilwell's Day Off is Friday. Thank you

**Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service**

**D**uring the vacancy created by Edward's retirement we will need to continue working closely with one another in all that we do to keep our worship life at St Johns fresh and alive, in readiness for a new Team Vicar. Over the coming months we shall welcome a number of familiar and not so familiar faces to lead worship, preside and preach. It is good to share the load at these times and hear the Word preached afresh.



In the meantime, the churchwardens Jackie Spry and Jean Stokes will continue to do a sterling job of being legally responsible for the Parish. But this does not mean they can do everything, so please be aware of things that may arise where you able to assist them.

Please contact me for all enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings. Any queries relating to interments and the garden of remembrance will need to be channelled through Barbara Taylor who is very experienced in these matters.

If you have any questions to ask of the PCC or would like to offer your contribution to the PCC, please speak with Ian Douglas who will continue to be the Vice-Chair during the vacancy or to Martin English – our PCC secretary.

All other contacts and responsibilities remain broadly the same – please just ask Jean or Jackie if you need anything clarifying.

**P**lease continue to pray for this Parish and the Bishops Hatfield Team and for God's will to be done...

**Rev'd Sue Stilwell** Assistant Curate

*Living God, Help us in this time of change to go on living your love. Jesus our lord, teach us to be generous and to serve you by offering ourselves and all our resources to the life of your Church that it may grow. Holy Spirit revive, refresh, and inspire us to strengthen our Congregational life as we seek your will for our Team and Parishes. Help those who have the responsibility to lead our churches and send to us those whom you are calling to active ministry in Hatfield, Lemsford, and North Mymms. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Brian Anderson**

Brian moved to Baldock at the end of May to be near his daughter Gillian and son Graham. Having not been well enough to come to church recently, Sue Stilwell took him home communion monthly which he greatly valued.

We remember with thanks the many years he gave his time and talents to our church which he joined in 1983. He became church treasurer in 1990 and the following year churchwarden – initially for a year, but continued until 1999: his term as treasurer extended to 2007.



He now lives at 4 Elmwood, High St, Baldock SG7 6AY and would be pleased to hear from friends.

**Frank and Pat Pugh**

Celebrated 60 years of marriage on 29th May. They lived in Brocket Road for many years and now live in Plymouth. Frank has written to thank all the friends who sent cards and best wishes for their Diamond Wedding.

**Marjory Rhoda Oliver 1914–2014**

Marjory was Frank Pugh's sister and came to Lemsford in 1926. She married here in 1938, living in Brocket Road, and took part in many Church activities such as the Welfare Committee. She moved to Bedford to be near her daughter Christine; her funeral was there on 13th June. Her ashes lie in the family grave here.



**Wedding,** on 21st June, **Laura Taylor and Richard Fisher.**  
Congratulations to them.

**Baptisms,** on 15th June, **Noah Conroy and Devon Stevenson.**  
Best wishes to them and their families.

### **Confirmations**

On 18th June at St Mary's Welwyn, by the Bishop of Hertford: James and Louise Lawrence, Frank and Jay Puranik, Megan Greenfield, and Elizabeth Earl.



### **Sponsored bike ride**

This year "Bike 'n Hike" for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust takes place on **Saturday 13th September.** It is also open to those wishing to **walk** between any of the participating churches in the area. Half of the money raised goes to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, and half comes back to St John's. Please contact Lucy or Kevin Earl on 01707 390497, or at [kevinear1670@btinternet.com](mailto:kevinear1670@btinternet.com) for more details and to collect a sponsor form. It is a fun day, and you really don't need to be super-fit to take part!

**Pictures inside covers: Edward's Farewell Party June 28th.**  
**Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: September 19th.**

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

On the 20th July we were delighted to have flowers in Church donated by the ladies from Herenthals, Belgium in memory of our dear friend Terry Payne. This would have been his birthday weekend. They were also remembering friends in the Belgium group who are no longer with us. We look forward to meeting with them all again next year when we travel to Belgium.

*If you would like to place a dedication in the magazine - please contact Jackie Spry (Churchwarden & Assistant Treasurer).*

*A contribution of £20 is suggested which will be divided equally between the Flower Fund and the church's general funds.*

## A Thank You letter

This is to express our very warm thanks, from Suzanne and myself, for the wonderful send-off you gave us on our farewell Sunday, 29th June. We were very touched by all the messages, thoughts and cards. We have just started to have a few moments to read through them and enjoy them – the rest of the time has been spent packing up in High Oaks Road and then starting to settle into our new home in Digswell. We have already much enjoyed being able to sit out in the garden, with the new furniture and the very welcome large red parasol!



Thank you for such a variety of gifts – the very handsome set of garden furniture, the lovely Dartington glass vase, the amazing quality photo book with reminders of so many occasions and people, a beautiful bouquet of flowers, the splendid cake, and on top of all that, the most generous cheque to help us get settled into our new home.

We were also showered with special gifts from children, staff and parents of St John's School, at a farewell assembly in my last working week.

Our sons and family much enjoyed being with us for the day, both for the service and the lunch. They like us will have many happy memories of St John's Lemsford.

We shall be pleased to keep in touch – our address is below. We looking forward to see you all from time to time.

With our warmest thanks once again,

**Edward**

28 Warren Way, Digswell, Welwyn, Herts AL6 0DH

*Editor's note: Edward's Commemorative Album can be viewed on-line via a link from our website: [www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk)*

As we approach the end of the summer term there is always a mix of emotions to deal with: sadness at the farewells, pride in achievements this year and excitement for the new opportunities to come in September! We have said goodbye to Reverend Edward and now a warm hello to Reverend Sue Stilwell who will be leading our Wednesday morning services in church and has already begun to work closely with us. We are so grateful for her enthusiasm to continue the precious relationship we have with St John's Church.

We have also said a very tearful farewell to our Year 6 children who moved us, made us laugh and cry during their Leavers' Assembly on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July. They showed their maturity, confidence and humour in this presentation – all qualities which will help them succeed as they make their way through life, alongside the many other qualities we hold dear at St John's. We wish them the very best of luck and know they will thoroughly enjoy their next adventure of secondary school.

We had a beautiful day for our school sports day which is always a hotly contested event and well supported by parents and grandparents. This year the honours went to Cowper House, with Brocket winning the Best Sporting Team cup. Well done to all participants for a superb event and excellent sporting behaviour. We also had a very successful District Sports this year with several finalists and some winners in the finals.

This term, Class 3 went on the 3 Faiths Tour in Bedford and I was lucky enough to accompany them. It was an excellent day visiting three different places of worship – a mosque, a gurdwara and a church and we were given a talk by leaders from all three religions. It was a fascinating day which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

We have had The English National Ballet in to run workshops for all the classes in the school and this was a 'Wonder Day' which we have each term to give children a variety of experiences and these days are kindly funded by our LSA. Our thanks go, as always, to the LSA parents who work tirelessly to raise funds for the school.

Our school play this year was a triumph. 'Olivia' was an amusing, rip roaring gallop through many well-known musicals and stories and based very loosely on the show 'Oliver'. Class 3 and Class 4 kept us entertained and entranced from the moment they came on stage to the last curtain call. Well done to all actors, singers and dancers; a wonderful performance!

It just remains now to wish you all a very relaxing and happy summer. See you all again in September!

**Mandy Evans**

## John Arthur Gwilym Walker 1918—2014

Gwil's Memorial Service was held on 11th June, with the address by Ron Ingamells.

Born in Watford, his father was a Baptist Minister, and he went to Watford Grammar. When he was 15 one of his pals broke a leg so Gwil acted as a go-between with his girl friend, Jean, who he later married! They enjoyed a very happy marriage of over 60 years.

Called up in 1939 he spent the next 6 years as an observer for the Artillery a hazardous job. He served in Belgium then France (briefly behind enemy lines) then Africa, India and Burma. He deeply admires the Gurkhas one of whom saved his life on the front line against the Japanese.

Always a keen musician, he did his Master's thesis on John Taverner, Tudor organist and Composer. English though was his main subject and after the War he taught in Watford and Welwyn Garden City. Glenys his daughter, who cared for him in later life, spent 15 years as an Educational Missionary. (She is seen here with Gwil and Duncan Ferguson, when Gwil retired from St John's).



He was organist and choir master in 3 churches before being recruited by Rev Mitchell to St John's. He loved the organ and once walked to St Albans and back during a bus strike so as not to miss his weekly lesson from the Cathedral organist. He was proud of several talented organists who started out under his wing, particularly Duncan Ferguson and David Humphries. Duncan had planned to journey from Edinburgh to play the organ at Gwil's funeral but at the last minute he was taken ill—to the point that he also had to cancel recording sessions for the Cathedral Choir where he is Music Director. Duncan hopes to give a concert in St John's in Gwil's memory.

## First World War Centenary Commemoration

The church will be open on  
Monday, 4 August 2014,  
between 10.00 am and 1.00  
pm for quiet prayer and  
Reflection.



*“Those who can not remember the past are  
condemned to repeat it”*

### Lemsford Open Church

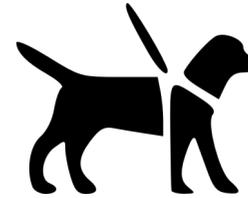
Saturday 16th August 2014

10am - noon Coffee or tea at the church  
10.30 am a one hour walk in Brocket Park.  
suitable for the family or dog walkers, and others!

This is a new venture for the benefit of people living in and around Lemsford who would like to see the church, or show it to friends. There will also be a short walk in the park which will give time to get to know others.

More details June Copping [Hatfield1357@Outlook.com](mailto:Hatfield1357@Outlook.com)

Welwyn HAtfield Talking Newspaper is a Registered Charity, that provides a talking newspaper for the blind and partially-sighted of Welwyn, Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield and the surrounding area. Every 8 weeks they distribute a CD with local news to registered listeners, completely free of charge.



The very first talking newspaper was launched in January 1970 in Cardiganshire following an approach by Aberystwyth Round Table as to how they could help the local community.

WHATnews was formed following a public meeting in November 1977 in the Campus West Library, Welwyn Garden City. The chairman of the Hatfield Round Table, Robin Sedley, explained how a talking newspaper worked and tried to gauge the local interest. Such was the response that the first edition was published on Saturday 4 February 1978 and it has continued to be published on a fortnightly basis ever since.

**T**he audio-newspaper is put together by a team of volunteers. There are 4 teams each comprising an editor, a recorder, a copier and readers. Each team produces the newspaper once every 8 weeks using articles printed in The Welwyn and Hatfield Times, which freely gave permission for this.

The newspaper is recorded onto CD in the Hertfordshire Society for the Blind at The Woodside Centre every other Saturday morning and distributed the following Monday, free, by courtesy of Royal Mail. The Charity even provide free CD players and show how to use them, if needed.

**D**o you know a blind or partially sighted person who might like to receive their CDs? If so, log onto <https://sites.google.com/site/whatnewswelhat/home>; or email them at [info.whatnews@gmail.com](mailto:info.whatnews@gmail.com); or ring Marijelle Bartholomew on 07870 142759. They have spare capacity at present so now is a good time to help a friend.

## Celebrate 100 years of the Diocese

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**The St Albans Diocese will celebrate its centenary on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August 2014 with a Festival Day of Fun and Praise.**

**I**t will be the largest ever gathering of parishioners from across the St Albans Diocese. The event and all activities are free and will take place in 60 acres of beautiful Bedfordshire countryside at the The College Equestrian Centre at Keysoe, north of Bedford. Marquees will be provided for seminars and displays will showcase talents and interests from across our Diocese. There will be speakers, musicians, an orchestra, choirs and Christian performers including 'Songs of Praise' presenter Pam Rhodes, singer Jonathan Veira, children's worship leader Duggie-Dug-Dug, speaker Canon J John, the Very Revd. Dr. Jeffrey John and the Holy Kapow Circus.



Throughout the day there will be many displays on Church crafts and attractions, including displays by the acclaimed Essex Dog Display Team. Classic cars from across the past 100 years will be on show, with a history of MG cars. There will be free fairground rides for children to enjoy, it's a Knockout and much, much more. The three Bishops will also take part in a sheep herding event.

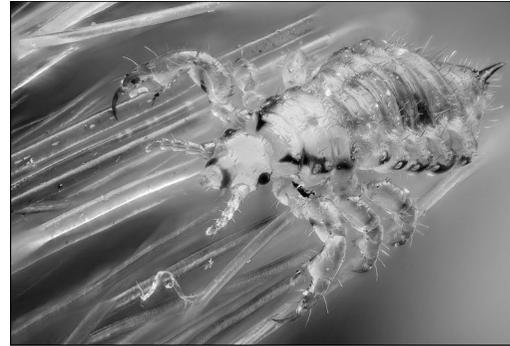
**T**he focus throughout the day will be events on the main stage, flanked by two large screens. The climax event will be an open air worship service which will include a Eucharist at which Bishop Alan will give an uplifting address. There is a back-up indoor arena in the event of inclement weather.

The event starts at 10am and ends at 5pm. Coaches will be running from Welwyn Garden and Hatfield. Sign up on the list in the church porch or contact our Curate, Sue Stilwell.

*Below is the latest blog from **Caroline Noland**, the young American who is working with **Jane Jerrard**, our Church Missionary Society (CMS) Partner in Pakistan. Her blog, complete with videos, is at <http://carolinenoland.wordpress.com/>.*

### Four Letter Words

**I**t started with a casual itch. I denied anything was out of the ordinary. I mentally rejected the possibility that I had *them*. I had heard tales of sweet, innocent children secretly carrying these repugnant critters in their braids and under their prayer caps. But then I started feeling *them*. On my head.



I lay awake at night, paralyzed in fear, because I could literally feel them **moving** around under my hair. I am so disgusted by lice that it is difficult for me to even type those 4 letters. But I choose to be courageous. I decided, as shameful and gross and vomit-inducing as this was, I needed to tell someone. I texted a nurse here I knew and she told me what medicine to buy. **Then she jerked all my pride issues to the surface and said I needed to get someone else to check my hair to comb them out.**

What? Someone *else* has to know? Uh-Uh. Nope. Not happening. Oh the shame. I wallowed. I squirmed. I succumbed to the humiliation. I bought the stuff. I bought the special comb. I felt nauseous. I pretended they were for someone else. I waited.

After another restless night, with things creeping around my head, I decided I had to stop by my friend's house on the way back from work. I called her name and she came out, all smiles. I sat her down. *I need to ask you something*, I told her, *but you can say no*. My tone said that this was serious and essentially life-threatening and not a joke at all.

With all the bravery I could muster and in my best Urdu so I wouldn't have to repeat myself, I said- *You know those small bugs? Would you check my head for them?* She paused for half a second, laughed, and replied, *Yes yes! Hold on.*

I fumbled in surprise and tried to grasp what was happening- *Well you don't have to do it right now! Just whenever you might be free.* I told her. *Oh no,* she said. *Sit still,* she said. *Let me get a comb,* she said. *I can run to my house and get the special comb, I told her.* (The one I had condemned to this awful fate.) *Really- it's fine,* she said confidently. *I'll boil and clean this one after.* And she bounced right into her house and brought out her own comb.

And right then and there, in the middle of everything else that afternoon, in the middle of chores and cooking and minding the kids, like it was of absolute no importance at all, she sat me down. For an hour, she looked through and picked out bugs from my hair with no gloves and her own comb while she made small talk about her studies.

This task I had loathed and shuddered at, the favour I had asked with so much shame and nausea- **it was nothing less than exactly what was expected in her understanding of friendship.**

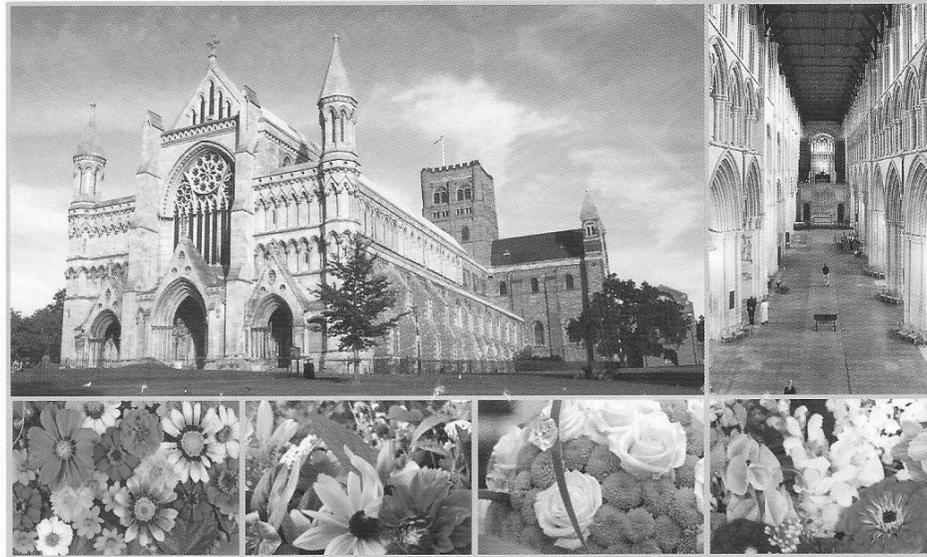
And I understood- this is love. **Getting down and dirty.** Seeing each other at our worst. Choosing to show kindness right then and there. **Using what we have to demonstrate the power of one four-letter word over another four-letter one.** This is what love looks like.



ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL  
FLOWER FESTIVAL 2014  
MUSIC IN BLOOM



From 25th - 28th September 2014, St Albans Cathedral will be transformed into a stunning oasis of colour and sound with the 2014 'Music in Bloom' Flower Festival.



Hundreds of beautiful and imaginative flower displays will clothe the ancient stones and architecture of this unique building – from delicate posies to majestic designs that scale the heights of the Cathedral nave.

The arrangements will be themed on musical titles of every genre. Classical pieces from **Vivaldi**, **Handel** and **Holst** will take their place alongside modern classics from **Abba**, **Elton John** and **Katy Perry** to name but a few. Enjoy seeing **hymns**, **nursery rhymes** and **famous film theme tunes** come to life in what promises to be a feast for all the senses.

There will be a programme of live music throughout the Festival and flower arranging classes. The Abbot's Kitchen and the Festival Marquee will be serving a delicious range of drinks and refreshments.

We look forward to welcoming you!

*Mother Earth by St. Francis of Assisi*

*Dear mother earth, who day by day  
Unfolds rich blessing on our way,  
O praise God! Alleluia!*

*The fruits and flowers that verdant grow,  
Let them his praise abundant show.  
O praise God, O praise God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

**And finally .....**

What do you get if you divide the circumference  
of a pumpkin by its diameter? *Pumpkin pi.*

What do you call a stolen yam? *A hot potato.*

What is small, red and whispers? *A hoarse radish.*

What do you call an apparently dead pink flower that has been  
nursed backed to life? *A Re-in-carnation.*

Why are husbands like lawn mowers?  
*They are difficult to get started, and don't work half the time.*

*Knowledge* is knowing a tomato is a fruit; *wisdom* is not putting  
it in a fruit salad

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a  
weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of  
the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

The only way to guarantee some colour all year round is to buy a  
garden gnome.

Gardening and laughing are two of the best things in life you can  
do to promote good health and a sense of well being.

	Web site	www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk	
<b>VICAR</b>	Vacancy		
<b>Curate</b>	The Revd Sue Stilwell Field View, Kimpton Road, Welwyn AL6 9NN	susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk	01438 716338
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn AL6 9JE		01438 715868
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Jean Stokes 44 Jordans, Hilly Fields WGC AL7 2HD		327873
<b>Treasurer &amp; Parish Clerk</b>	Mrs. Gina Butler 33 Gt. North Road Stanborough AL8 7TJ		372062
<b>Assistant Treasurer (Gift Aid)</b>	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn, AL6 9JE		01438 715868
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mr. Martin English 13, The Valley Green, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7DQ		334074
<b>Electoral Roll Secretary</b>	Mr John Turner 8 Astwick Manor, Coopers Green Lane, Hatfield AL10 9BP		257673
<b>Deputy Churchwardens</b>	Mr John & Mrs Olive Benson Mr John Cox Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry		325663 265367 329023 01438 715868
<b>Choir Leader</b>	Mrs Carole Payne		329697
<b>Church Cleaning Organiser</b>	Mrs. Eileen Martindale		01438 716162
<b>Flower Arranging Organiser</b>	Mrs. Sara Poole		320358
<b>Garden of Remembrance &amp; Records</b>	Miss Barbara Taylor		329553
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis	g.hollis2@ntlworld.com	265617
<b>Organist</b>	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor		0779 6268565
<b>Notice sheet/ secretarial assistants</b>	Liz and Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com		323785
<b>Tower Captain</b>	Mr Roger Brown		01727 859059
<b>Transport Co-ordinator</b>	Barbara Taylor		329553
<b>Youth Co-ordinator</b>	Jo Brooks		256702
<b>St John's School</b>	Head Teacher Mrs Mandy Evans		322589

