

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde

Happy Christmas!



Parish Magazine

Dec 2014/Jan 2015

£1



Front cover picture, taken by June Copping, at the altar on Shoebox Sunday;
picture above—see News page 5; picture below—see pages 12 & 13



December 2014

7th Sunday - Advent 2

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

11am Morning Prayer - Led by John Barnard

9th Tuesday 2.30pm Friendship tea Church Annexe

14th Sunday - Advent 3

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

11am Nativity Service - Led by Jo Brooks

1pm Baptism of Alexa Anne Newton

21st - Sunday Advent 4

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

11am Nine Lessons and Carols

5pm Carols by Candlelight

24th - Wednesday Christmas Eve

5pm Crib Service 11pm Midnight Communion

25th - Thursday Christmas Day

8am No Service 10.30am Family Carols

28th - First Sunday of Christmas

8am BCP Morning Prayer - Led by John Marks

11am Parish Communion - Led by Rev'd Martin King

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

7th Psalm 85: 8 to end Isaiah 40: 1-11 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8

14th Readings selected for Nativity

21st Nine Lessons and Carols - tbc Carols by Candlelight - tbc

24th Readings selected for Crib Service

Midnight Communion 1 John 4:7-16 Luke 1: 67 - 79

25th Luke 2: 1-14

28th Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21

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

Coffee after 11am Services.

4th Sunday - The Epiphany

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Marsh
 11am Morning Prayer - Led by John Barnard

11th Sunday - Baptism of Christ

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell
 11am Parish Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell

13th Tuesday 2.30pm Friendship tea Church Annexe

18th Sunday - Epiphany 2

8am BCP Holy Communion - Led by Rev'd Susan Stilwell
 11am Family/All-age Service - Jo Brooks to lead

25th Sunday - Epiphany 3

8am BCP Morning Prayer - Led by John Marks
 11am Parish Communion - Rev'd Ron Ingamells

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

4th Psalm 72: 1-9 Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12

11th Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11

18th Revelation 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51

25th Revelation 19: 6-10 John 2: 1-11

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

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

Dear Friends,

As we move into the closing month of 2014, it's usual to look back on all that the year has brought for us! I expect that as we look back it will be with a mixture of joy and sadness as we remember both the good and the difficult times. However during the season of Advent we are offered time both to look forward, most obviously to Christmas and the joyful celebration of Jesus birth, and also to just look, stop and think as we wait for Christmas Day to arrive and all that brings.



Stopping, reflecting and waiting are not valued much these days - success is measured by doing, achieving multiple tasks and activities and the countdown to Christmas is about getting to the big day as fast as we can... but that's not what it really should be about...

If you'd like to look towards Christmas through a new lens this year - then take some time this Advent to pause and make connections between your own life and the Christmas story. This year St Albans Diocese invites us each day during Advent to make 'Connections with Life' by taking a few minutes to Stop! Think! Pray! and Act!... its easy to register to receive the thoughts for each day... so do look at the details set out on page 14 later in this magazine.

Christmas is such a special time and reminds us that into our world comes a new life... in the form of a baby, born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger ..

Jesus' birth says much to us when sometimes nights are long and days are dark, when life's meaning has sunk into an un-colourful mire, and we are reminded that it was into this darkness that Christ comes!
A cry from the stable: God becomes man! - entering, experiencing, living and showing us how to live - In the light of His Light!
A new dawn! For God is with us!

I wish you every blessing for a peaceful Christmas,

Rev'd **Sue Stilwell** Assistant Curate

Progress in filling our Vacancy

It is now 5 months since Edward retired as our Vicar and the process for selecting a replacement is moving on. Because we are in the Bishop's Hatfield Team, the new Vicar will be a Team Vicar. This means that there are organisational issues as well as the personal qualities of the prospective candidate to match our church's style and aspirations to be considered. We are not the only vacancy in the team; there are two others, namely, at St John's Hilltop and St Michael's Birchwood.

The clergy group have made one suggestion but have not provided any information on alternatives which might have been considered or the rationale for their suggestion. As a result, the PCC have felt that we have not been properly consulted and have expressed their concerns to the Bishop of St Albans. Therefore, Bishop Alan has invited a retired bishop to cast a fresh pair of eyes over this situation and advise him. The person leading this is Bishop Stephen Venner, formerly Bishop of Dover, who is now living in our diocese. I have had one brief meeting with him and have sent him copies of the letters I had sent to Bishop Alan; our Mission Action Plan; and a copy of our magazine.

Bishop Stephen brings immense experience to such situations and we are very privileged that he is taking on this role. Please do pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us and Bishop Stephen with all wisdom as he considers the way ahead for us at St. John's.

Ian Douglas PCC Chairman

A great way to share the Christmas Story

The **Real Advent Calendar** is a new and fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. Behind each of the 25 windows there is a Fairtrade chocolate star and a few words from the Christmas story. Behind the final window there is a 24-page Christmas story booklet to read, keep and enjoy.

As well as celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, the calendar makes a charity donation to The Funzi and Bodo Trust in Kenya from every sale. The Real Advent Calendar is available from Tesco stores nationwide and selected retailers for **£4.00**.

Baptisms: on 19th October **Suzy Kaloczi** and on 16th November, **Max Gettiffe** congratulations to their families.

Jean Stokes

Best wishes to her for a speedy recovery from an operation at the end of October.

Jean Dance

Has not retired from running the Lemsford Old Folks as we reported in the last issue—apologies to her.

Choir medals

Well done to **Anya Garratt** and **India Palmer** for gaining their two year service medal. *Picture inside front cover, with Andy Garratt and Emily Palmer.*

Thanks

To those who took part in and who supported the Sponsored Bike Ride in September organised by **Kevin Earl** which raised £320; to those who gave gifts on Shoebox Sunday (*picture inside front cover*) coordinated by **Mary Douglas**; and to all those who contribute to our church funds by regular giving, from **Jackie Spry**: “It is not always easy to thanks people on a personal level but I would like it known how much your gifts are appreciated.”

Car Parking

Following Brocket Hall

International’s decision to prohibit parking along the Brocket Hall driveway, the Headteacher of St John’s school and the school governors have kindly agreed to allow members of the congregation to park in the school playground on Sundays during the Sunday 11 am services. This is however at the car owner’s risk, and drivers are asked to take extra care driving from the school premises into the road.

Safeguarding

Our church takes safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults very seriously. There is a policy statement on this in the porch. It follows guidelines from the Diocese and the Church of England. Photo images are also included within the policy. It enriches our magazine to see adults and children enjoying various church activities.

However if, at any time, you are concerned or do not wish your children to appear, please ensure that you inform the Safeguarding Officer, who is **Ian Douglas**.

Cleaning Rota for 2015

Names are need to fill the Rota - contact **Eileen Martindale**.

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: 18th January

Enter the real spirit of Christmas with
music and story!
Come and share with us at St Johns
Church all our Christmas services:



Sunday 14th December at 11am
Nativity Service

Tuesday 16th December at 7pm
Hertfordshire Police Carol Service

Sunday 21st December
11am Nine Lessons and Carols 5pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service 11pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
10.30am Carols for all the family

All welcome!

Lemsford Village Christmas Party Friday 12th December

**Gather on the Village Green at 7 pm to sing carols and drink
mulled wine.**

7.30 off to the Sun for food and fun.

**A superb Christmas Meal; Table Quiz; Crackers;
Christmas Raffle**

Tickets: Adult £18; children under 12 £12
Contact Tony 328943, Carole 329697, or Jane 371692.

Don't delay as numbers are limited!

It hardly seems possible that we are almost ready for our Nativity Play to take place! It is, admittedly, a little earlier than usual as our Class 2 teacher Mrs Kennedy is off on maternity leave from 8th December. We have had a 'full on' term already and we still have the best to come!

Over the past few weeks, we have been preparing the children in class and assemblies for centenary commemoration of WW1. We held our own 'Remembrance Service' on 11th November and had the reading of *In Flanders Field* by John McCrae, two minutes silence and the Last Post, after which we all sang 'I Vow to Thee My Country'. After this every child and member of staff took out a poppy they had made and created our own 'Tower of London' display by the school gate. The names of those who died in the conflicts of WW1 and WW2 were written on the front of particular poppies. This has been a very moving experience for us all.



St John's pupils silently 'plant' their memorial poppies with great respect for those who died

We have had another of our 'Wonder Days' this term and this time we have had a huge inflatable Science Dome in our school hall, with each class spending an hour inside experiencing the wonders of the universe! This was definitely a day of 'Awe and Wonder' which I know the staff enjoyed as much as the children.

We would like to say a big thank you to Reverend Sue Stillwell and John Barnard who have re-arranged their commitments to be able to continue our much valued Wednesday morning Collective Worship in St John's Church, after Reverend Edward's retirement.

We are now looking forward to Christmas at St John's with all the traditions of our whole school pantomime visit, children's Christmas Shopping day in school our Nativity play and of course our Carol Service in St John's Church. We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas 2014!

Mandy Evans Headteacher

Welcome to Cafe Church at St John's!

Some two thousand years ago in the occupied Middle East, a small group of men and women gathered in a closed room in a packed city to pray together. They had just witnessed the most extraordinary events in human history – the death of the Son of God at the hands of the Roman authorities and the religious elite, his resurrection from the dead some three days later, and his ascension into heaven forty days after that. The Bible tells us there were just 120 of them. They were wanted people, associated with a man who had challenged every belief and principle of society, who had asserted that anyone could know God and that he and he alone was the way to God. They were the church!

Church tradition has moved on a long way since then, but Christians still meet together, to share the good news of Jesus, to pray, to read the Bible, to eat together and enjoy each other's company, and to support those in need. At St John's we have always offered lots of different ways for Christians to meet, drawing on different traditions and experiences. Since September we've added another regular service, **Café Church!**

We have no formal service, it's just an informal get-together, and in the 21st century the 'eat' takes the form of a cup of tea and some cake! We also spend a lot of time just talking about our lives and the things that are important to us! We welcome anyone and everyone, you don't need any previous experience of church or any great knowledge, just come and join us, listen, talk, ask questions, and share... oh, and enjoy the cakes!



Café Church meets **on the second and fourth Sundays** of the month between **5.00 and 6.30 p.m.** in St John's Church **Annexe**. For more information contact **Jo Holifield** joholifield@gmail.com

The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Liz Potter was held in the Church on Friday 10th October. It could have been nowhere else as she was so involved with St John's, and our community owed her a great deal. Her father was killed in Italy in the war so she grew up an only child with her mother, Pat Woodcock. One of the comments at the Service was that this had turned her into a tough old bird—pun fully intended. She worshipped at St John's with her mother and sang with her (as an alto) in the choir. Much later on she was a Churchwarden for many years who—as wardens do—worked very hard to keep the show on the road.



Another major contribution was to Chair the Fete Committee from 1984. She and her husband Alan were planning the event virtually the whole year round. They were very much hands on: Alan would haul large items from their house in the Garden City up to the field, on a trailer towed behind their trusty car. Liz was everywhere directing and encouraging. When things got a bit hectic she would “pop over to the Church to have a quick prayer”.

Her day job was initially as a nurse but she moved to John Lewis which is where she met Alan. She formed the local RSPB Group, taught swimming to the disabled, was Secretary of the Welwyn Garden City Music society Chorus for six years, and still found time to organise the kneelers in Church; she recorded every one and made a few herself.

Alan and she were keen supporters of the Organ Museum in St Albans. Latterly she had a rough time. First she lost Alan, then a melanoma appeared on her foot which developed into a very painful large ulcer. She was in and out of hospital for several years to no avail and her friends in the Church rallied round to help with her chores and getting her there and back. She still managed to hobble up to the altar at Communion but it was clearly a painful struggle. This summer she went down hill quickly. Sue Stilwell our Curate was with her at the very end of her life and felt that Liz was at peace with herself and with God.

My employer, Roche Product Ltd (the UK affiliate of Hoffmann-La Roche, Switzerland), supports orphan children in Malawi. Every year since 2003 they have run a global charitable event, the Roche Children's Walk, a lunchtime local walk, for which participants find as many sponsors as they can. This has raised more than £7 million. To encourage participation, Roche award a trip to Africa for the most successful fund raisers, to see how their funds are being spent. Having raised £600 in two consecutive years, I had achieved global ambassador status as the top fundraiser at Welwyn and was lucky enough to be chosen this year to visit Malawi.



In October I flew to Johannesburg where I met eight other global ambassadors whose role is to raise awareness of the charity and report back to their local affiliates on progress. This year representatives came from Peru, USA (2x), The Netherlands, Switzerland (2x), Turkey, Hong Kong and the UK. On Tuesday, 7th October our group visited the cancer ward of a Johannesburg hospital and then the Maharishi Institute (<http://maharishiinstitute.org/our-campus/johannesburg>).

The latter was memorable for several reasons: firstly, there was an electrifying atmosphere created by a welcoming choir. Then there was the inspiring personality of the Institute's CEO (Taddy Blecher) who had given up a high profile career to help under-privileged youngsters obtain university degrees. And then the students themselves: three of them gave testimonies which were overwhelming evidence of the successful "inside out" teaching approach practised at the institute. Not the knowledge of the lecturing professor but the inner strength of the individual pupil is the focal point of the method.

The next morning we flew to Blantyre in southern Malawi. The scale of the poverty hit me hard. Even by African standards, Malawi is at the bottom of the pile.

The country has no significant exports in terms of minerals so it's difficult to build a growing economy. There is plenty of arable land but that's only arable during the rainy season due to lack of irrigation systems. And then there is the impact of AIDS – nearly 11% of the 17.3 million Malawians are HIV positive.



Most of the money raised by the Roche Walks benefits children in Malawi via the European Coalition of Positive People (ECCP). The ECCP is a non-governmental organization that works with local partners to provide care and support – most notably a daily meal - and ensures that the children can continue to live within their communities. Members of ECCP showed us around 2 (out of 8) local orphan daycare centres that have been set up by this charity. One of the local partners of ECCP is the “Comboni Technical College” in Lunzu. It was established by missionary brothers following in the steps of St Daniel Comboni, the 1st bishop of Central Africa and offers placements to pupils who have successfully completed their secondary education. The skills taught here include carpentry, welding and those of an electrician.

On the last day of our stay in Malawi we visited a teacher training college under construction. Following the spread of HIV in the 90s a vast number of people died of AIDS-related illnesses – including a lot of teachers. Class sizes in schools roared to 150 pupils and are still ~ 100 now in many regions. The new teacher training college - built by UNICEF and sponsored by Roche - is designed to address this problem: 450 teachers are to qualify each academic year from 2017.

Before I knew it this deeply moving experience came to an end. It has left me humbled by the children Malawi and the inspiring people that try so hard locally to improve their lives. What better words than those of South Africa's most famous son to sum up my impression: “*Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world*”!

In our last issue we carried an article about the new WW1 website set up by the Lemsford Local History Group to commemorate the Villagers who fell in the Great War. Andy Chapman reports that this has sparked a good deal of interest from around the world.

For example he has received a series of emails from a descendant of Thomas Chapman who was born in Cromer Hyde in 1872 and who won the British War Medal. The first enclosed a photo of a Lemsford School Stoolball Team from 1920/21 showing his daughter Millie. Andy sent back a picture of a Lemsford School play (The Enchanted Rose) in 1919 which had Millie in the cast (but not pictured). See the picture inside front cover.

Eight more emails followed which explored Tom's Family tree with some interesting photographs, (sample to right) and detailed annotations. For a full account and all the images go to the WW1 site at www.lemsfordww1.co.uk



18 day party, Heathside Dwell Hall

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF DEATH
 Issued at a fee of one shilling in pursuance of the INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT, 1948.

Registration District _____

DEATH in the Sub-District of _____ in the _____

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Rank or profession	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of Registrar
255	Twenty fifth December 1955	Thomas CHAPMAN	Male	83 years	of 18 Newfield Welwyn Garden City Herts a retired Park Keeper	Hypostatic pneumonia and senile myocardial degeneration accelerated by burns. Collapsed near a domestic coal fire P.M. Accidental Death	Certificate received from A. Gordon Dales Assistant Deputy Coroner for Middlesex Western District Inquest held 30th December 1955	Third January 1956	C.R. Pottinger Registrar

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above is a true Copy of an Entry of Death in a Register Book in my custody.

Witness my hand this 6th day of January 1956 _____ Registrar.

Person to whom issued Name and Surname (in full) Freda Mary WELLS
 Address 20, Four Acres, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

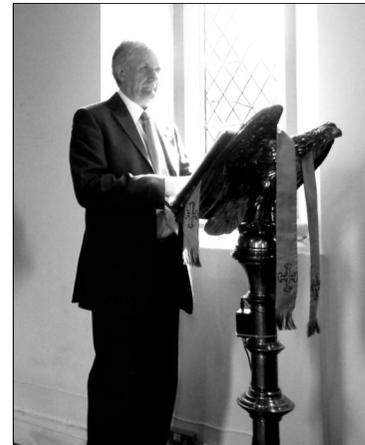
Relationship to deceased: child, ~~grandchild, great-grandchild~~ (Delete whichever is inapplicable.)

CAUTION :- Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars in this certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

From knowing very little about Tom Chapman we are now privileged to know about his Birth, Marriage and tragic death—he fell into a domestic fire at 14 Newfield WGC in 1955 (*See the copy of his death Certificate opposite*).

In conclusion, Tom marries Rose and lives in Cromer Hyde. They have 9 children and 8 survive. They all go there separate ways, but we know their husbands and wives, where they lived and worked. The power of the internet provides this window into the past.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Andy for giving the keynote address during the Remembrance Service on November 9th, when he drew on the research behind the WW1 website to remind us of what life was like for Villagers during the Great War. Tim our Choir Director read the history of Gordon Panter the organist in 1914; Edie, choir member, read the history of Cecil White Captain of Lemsford FC 1908 -1914; both these men were killed in WW1. Thanks also to LLHG for laying on a display of framed history's of the men who died from Lemsford in WW1 in the Brocket Chapel.



Word of Life Group

You are warmly invited to the next meeting, **on Monday 15th December at 2.30pm at the Focolare House at 39 Lemsford Village.**

Every month a small group of people come together to share friendship and fellowship whilst exploring the chosen monthly Bible verse from the Focolare publication the ***Word of Life***. This group offers a gentle 'way-in' for those who may be new to speaking together about the Bible. The emphasis will be on *how* we live the Word of God rather than in-depth bible study. Come along for an hour or so and share a cup of tea or coffee together and a Mince pie! *For more details please speak with Sue Stilwell 0143871 6338.*

connections for life



Connections for Life is a daily opportunity to think prayerfully about your relationship with the world, with other people and with God - and to allow that reflection to shape your life and actions.

Receive a brief email: a bible verse, a short reflection, an image and a challenge for each day.
Or get texts to your phone, or follow **@live_challenge**.

Stop and think. Pray and act

Connections for Life begins Sunday 30th November 2014.

Sign up at
www.livethechallenge.co.uk



Jesus our Prince of Peace, we pray that every time a carol is sung, a Christmas greeting spoken, a nativity play performed, that your name be honoured and glorified and that hard hearts be melted to receive you afresh. Amen

Lynne Newland

And finally These might drive you Crackers!

What's the most popular Christmas wine?
'I don't like Brussels sprouts!'

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?
They always drop their needles!

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
One that's deep pan, crisp and even!

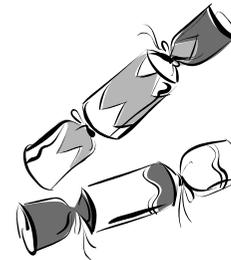
How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet?
25. There's "no EL"!

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?
He got 25 days!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsilitis!

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Which famous playwright was terrified of Christmas?
Noël Coward!



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



“ the world’s
more beautiful
on foot...”

...with the original walking experts

For unforgettable sights, incredible experiences and memories that will last a life time – discover the world with us.

GROUP TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

Especially for individual clubs or groups of friends we can help you organise your trip AND give you money off!

Call us for more details

Worldwide • UK • Cruise • Family • Private Groups

01707 386804

www.ramblersholidays.co.uk ABTA V5094 Atol protected 0990 AITO

**TAILOR
MADE
GROUP
WALKING
HOLIDAYS**

