

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



*Edward's
Retirement Issue*

Parish Magazine

June/July 2014

£1



Suzanne Cardale with one of her 3 sons, Luke, at the fete. Below L is Paul Butler who master minded the whole thing and did a lot of work too. Below R is a Selfie taken by Paul's wife Gina with Sharon Gilby, Mary Douglas and June Copping, after an incident-packed Pilgrimage to the Abbey (page 8).



June 2014

June 1st Sunday after Ascension

8 am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer

June 8th PENTECOST – the festival of the Holy Spirit

8 am Holy Communion 11 am Parish Communion
2 pm Baptism

June 15th Trinity Sunday

8 am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast – names please to Edward or June Tomlin*

11 am Family Service with Baptism 2 pm Baptism

Wed 18th 7.30 pm in St Mary's Welwyn Confirmation Service

Sat 21st 3 pm Wedding

June 22nd Trinity 1

8 am Holy Communion 11 am Parish Communion

June 29th St Peter and St Paul

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Family Communion *followed by Bring and Share Lunch in the school hall*

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

1st Psalm 47 Acts 1.6-14, 1 Peter 5.6-11

8th Acts 2.1-21, John 20.19-23

22nd Romans 6.1-11, Matthew 10.24-39

29th Acts 12.1-11, Matthew 16.13-19

Reminder: the Vicar's day off duty is Friday.

Coffee after 11am Services.

July 6th Trinity 2
 8 am Holy Communion
 11 am Morning Prayer

July 13th Trinity 3
 8 am t.b.a.
 11 am Parish Communion

Sat 19th 10 am – 12 noon *Open Church* see page 13

July 20th Trinity 4
 8 am Holy Communion
 11 am Family Service

July 27th Trinity 5
 8 am t.b.a.
 11 am Parish Communion
 3 pm Wedding

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

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

6th Psalm 45.10-17, Zechariah 9.9-12, Matthew 11.16-19 & 25-30
 13th Romans 8.1-11, Matthew 13.1-9 and 18-23
 27th Romans 8.26-end, Matthew 13. 31-33 and 44-52

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

I am near to my retirement. But for this parish I want to look back with thanks, and look forward with hope. Why not try out the simple words of prayer in the diary of a UN Secretary General 50 years ago: "For all that has been – Thanks. For all that shall be – Yes!"

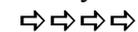
The two most recent events to look back on, right now, are the celebration of Easter, and the Lemsford Fete. Easter is always a time to re-kindle our faith and celebrate the hope which God gives us. That was how it felt in church on Easter Day.



This year's Fete was just brilliant! The sun, the crowds, the atmosphere, the children. The music, the food and drink, the fun, and the attractions. Oh yes, and the proceeds: a record sum of over £14,000, to be shared between the Church and the Lemsford School Association.

What a lot of good flows directly and indirectly from all the hard work which goes into the Fete. Some of you have been around much longer than I have, but this year really was 'one of the best ever!'.

Back in 2005, this parish became formally part of the Bishop's Hatfield Team Ministry. I became a team vicar, instead of being simply 'priest in charge' of Lemsford. People didn't notice it that much, and even now it may seem to be merely church bureaucracy. In fact, the Church of England has had to reorganise for many years, and its resources and personnel are severely stretched. That is why lay leaders and unpaid clergy are more and more important in church life, alongside the paid clergy who may have to be deployed more thinly than ever.



My hope of course is that a new team vicar will be appointed later this year to pick up and share with you in the work of this parish. For various reasons the process *may* take longer than you might expect. That is why it's vital for people to pull together and support **the churchwardens**, who are legally in charge of parish matters, on the Bishop's behalf, during a vacancy. You will all be most grateful to Sue Stilwell, for all that she does and will do, taking services and giving ministerial leadership. Richard Pyke as Team Rector will provide oversight and support. He will also have a major responsibility in planning for the appointment of a new team vicar.

I hope there is no risk that I shall in any way be interfering. A new vicar needs to know that I am not hovering in the background. So I simply offer my very best wishes and prayers for the future of this church and local community.

One of the last special services of my time here will be the Confirmation on 18th June. This one will be in St Mary's Welwyn. We have had some memorable occasions when adults and young people alike commit their lives to Christ, and I am sure that this will be another one. At the time of writing we expect six or seven from our church, young and adult, to be confirmed along with others, and I hope you will support them.

The 29th June is my farewell Sunday. In the church calendar it is the day to honour St Peter and St Paul. Peter – the founder of the church in Rome, and symbol of continuity. Paul – the breaker of barriers, taking the church out of its comfort zone. Today's Church needs both these icons of faith. We look back to what has nourished us in the past, but we look forward to new experience and new ways of being Christian in the future.

“For all that has been – Thanks. For all that shall be – Yes!”

Edward

Wedding, on 10th May of **Caroline Cellier and Vincent Teniere.** Congratulations to them.

Baptisms, on 18th May: **Darcey, Brett, and Fearne Palmer.** They did look angelic!

Fete 2014 was a tremendous success. The total raised was a record—over £14,000, to be shared equally between the School and the Church. The latter gives half its share to good causes; (last year there were 15 including Age Concern, Isabel Hospice, Water Aid, and Church Mission Society).

Music on the field and in the Church was very popular –see pictures inside back cover.

On **Sunday 29th June,** after our last Parish Communion Service with Edward, we invite you to the school hall for a '**Bring and**

Share Lunch' and presentation of gifts to Edward and Suzanne. We would be happy to receive any contributions to these gifts (cheques payable to PCC St Johns Lemsford). If you would like to contribute food towards the lunch we would be delighted to hear from you, addresses and phone numbers at back of magazine.

Jean & Jackie Churchwardens

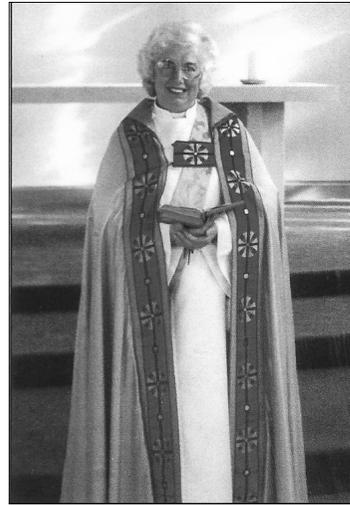
Daisy and Gina Butler are running/walking the **Race for Life** on Sunday 8th June, to support a friend battling with breast cancer. A sponsorship form is at the back of church, and they would be delighted if you would like to sponsor them. Also, Daisy has made some friendship bracelets, which could also be a nice bookmark, in aid of a charity in Uganda for orphan children. She will have some for you to buy at the lunch on 29th June.

Copy date next issue: July 20th.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers in church on Sunday 6th July are dedicated by **Kay Currington** to the memory of her husband **Leslie** who died July 2008. *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.*

June's Funeral was held on 28th April, with the address by Ron Ingamells. June practised as a radiographer in the NHS until she was one of the first women to be ordained, in April 1994. She was Assistant Priest at St John's from then until 2002. Her husband Geoff was for many years our Tower Captain, so between them they made a major contribution to our Church. They were exceptional people and will live long in the hearts of those who knew them.



Ron writes: I knew June for a number of years before she became one of the very first women priests 20 years ago. So, it was a delight when she asked if she could join me at St. John's. She knew my enthusiasm for the ordination of women and we also related very easily.

Before joining us she had a wide experience as Deacon at Christ the King and within the St. Albans Diocese responsible for Family Life and Education.

June soon became a valued colleague. For me it was a great help as I was often away on training courses and conferences for the YMCA and the British Council of Churches both nationally and internationally. She loved working with the couples preparing for their weddings and even more enjoyed conducting wedding services. I was very fortunate that she chose to come to Lemsford and took part in everything so enthusiastically.

I am pleased that her photo is in the Vestry – a reminder to many of her pastoral care and love of people.

Janet and I enjoyed a continuing friendship with her after I left and we had many enjoyable meetings and meals together with her and with Geoff.

I was a little surprised that no Bishop or Archdeacon came to represent the St. Albans Diocese at her funeral.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Reverend Edward

One of the great privileges of working at this wonderful school has been to work so closely with Reverend Edward. He has been a great strength and guide to all of us in the St John's School community – pupils, staff and parents alike. Over many years we have enjoyed his gifted 'talks' during Wednesday morning services which have always engaged the children and given us all a clear understanding of God's message of love and forgiveness. His ability to create the characters in his 'stories' has enchanted the children of St John's and there will be many children whose experience of school church will be one of joy and hope.

Reverend Edward has worked with three Headteachers at St John's since he has been vicar of the Parish of St Johns and has been a leading light on the Governing Body, both as Chair and Vice Chair in that time. He has given endless time to serve on school Governor committees as well as being a stalwart of the legendary Fete Committee for our annual Church and School event. His time has always been generously given, in addition to the work he undertakes for us all each day as vicar.

I would personally like to thank Reverend Edward for the strong support and encouragement he has always given me in my time as Head and his genuine interest in education and for schools providing excellent education for all children – he has been an inspiration.

We shall be saying our farewells to Reverend Edward as a school just before he retires at the end of June but I would like to take this opportunity to thank him from all of us at St John's for his dedication to our school. We hope there will be many informal visits to see us in the future as we will sorely miss him! Our very best wishes for his retirement and our grateful thanks for all he has done for us in so many ways.

Mandy Evans

All went well for the first half an hour.....

It all began on Easter Sunday when Sue Stilwell mentioned that she was doing the pilgrimage next day with St Michaels at Birchwood. Sharon Gilby, Mary Douglas and myself thought it sounded good. We checked the weather, it looked fine so that was it, we were going, but starting from Lemsford, so we could leave cars at home.

All went well for the first half an hour as we walked in the sunshine. We passed some beautiful woods with the bluebells in full bloom and marvelled that we hadn't walked very far from home and you would think we were in the middle of nowhere.

Then it happened! Mary decided we were on the wrong path and we should be on the other side of this barbed wire fence. She retraced her steps and found a place where she could get over the fence and with that "she was over" and on the other side saying "come on girls it's this way". Pointing at her 14 year old map she said look the path goes straight on, this is the right way. Sharon and I hesitated and pointed out that it looked like somebody's garden but Mary was adamant and, let's be honest Sharon and I didn't have a prayer (pardon the pun). It wasn't long before it became obvious, we were indeed in somebody's garden. Now, how do we get out without anyone noticing we were there in the first place? Keeping to the fence line we eventually got to a climbable fence which was shortly before we would have had to brazen it out and walk down their driveway.

Phew we were back on the public highway. Once again Mary and her map took control, she pointed out a house, that must be the dot on her map and we went into this field and started walking again. I'm not totally sure this was a public footpath but we were walking against the hedge and not trampling any crops so hoped we were safe. We then arrived at the top of a field with not really any choice without walking a long way out of our way, but to walk down the middle of the field. Once again we did walk along a path clear of crops but half way down there was an enormous boom and we thought we were actually being shot at. Brave Sharon with the heart of a lion dived behind myself and Mary, presumably to allow us to get shot first, thanks Sharon! We did have to then walk all the way around a field to then get back onto the road where we would probably have been if we'd just kept on our original course. Maps are really quite dangerous in my humble opinion!

We finally arrived at 2pm, and bumped into Sue and June Copping. We were escorted by the Bishop of St Albans around the Abbey and had a lovely chat with him, he really is a very personable man and wanted to know where we'd come from and how many times we'd made this pilgrimage. We then sang hymn upon hymn which when over 1000 people are singing sounds brilliant. There was a welcome speech and a play and then we started communion. During "The Peace" we were allowed out of our pen and could greet our St Michael's friends. As there were *soooo* many of us there were 10 communion stations and you were supposed to go to your nearest. However I did notice that the Bishop was still going when all the others had finished!

Ian Douglas came to take us home, presumably to save us from being shot at again. It was a super day. Let's do it again next year with maybe a few more joining us and I promise to make sure Mary leaves her map at home! *See Picture inside front cover.*

Sermon Series

Starting on the Sunday when this magazine comes out, May 25th, I am preaching three sermons on the subject of *believing in God*:

- Why believe in God? (May 25th)
- What kind of God? (June 1st)
- Standing up for God's justice (June 22nd)

In the middle of them, comes Pentecost Sunday when the theme of God the Holy Spirit comes to the fore. On Trinity Sunday (June 15th) the all-age service with Baptism will focus on the threefold nature of how God relates to us and the world. And on the 29th it will be all ages in church again, for a Family Communion, followed by the Bring and Share Lunch. My sermon too will I hope include all ages, not just adults.

So I invite you to get your thinking caps on, and be ready for a bit of congregational interaction, not just a one way conversation. I wouldn't want anyone to be nodding off during one of my last preaching occasions here!

Edward

On the centenary of the start of WW1 Lemsford LHG remembered the contribution and sacrifice of Lemsford parishioners during the Great War by mounting a large display at the Fete. (*Editor's note—it was impressive*). Our research showed that of the 97 men and one woman who joined up, 20 did not return. We produced detailed information of the dead as well as stories from local families who remember these men and women who served in the War.

We have framed 20 articles about men who died in the Great War and will be presenting this to the school later on in the year. One was about **Gordon Malcolm Panter**, who was born in Hatfield in 1897, the younger son of Albert Edward and Ada Elizabeth Panter. His father was a railway clerk on the Great Northern Railway and at the time of his birth they were living in the Great Northern Station House, Hatfield. In 1914, at the age of 17, Gordon became the organist at St. John's church. The Lemsford Notes of the Bishop's Hatfield Parish Magazine for October 1914 record that he played the organ for the Harvest Festival Services that year. 'There was no anthem and every effort was made to bring the services into close connection with the war.'

Gordon enlisted in December 1915 and joined the 14th County of London Battalion, (London Scottish) as Private 5311. He died on the 1st of July 1916, the very first day of the Battle of the Somme, aged only 19. The Bishop's Hatfield Parish Magazine for August 1916 reported that he had been officially recorded as missing and there was still no news of him by the time the September magazine was issued. He is remembered with honour on the Thiépval Memorial Pier and Face 9C and 13C. The Memorial commemorates 72,191 missing British and South African men who died in the Battles of the Somme with no known grave.

We will produce a booklet later on this year which tells the story of the Village and how it changed for ever. **LEMSFORD WAR MEMORIAL 1914 – 1918 - TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR.**

Andy Chapman

Easter Holiday Activity afternoon

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Jo Brooks carefully put together an afternoon of story telling and activities for the children. We started with the Easter story with the celebration of Palms Sunday – moving into Holy Week with the Last Supper and the events of the Cross on Good Friday. We then went outside into the grave yard to witness the empty tomb and heard about the story of Jesus' resurrection... Alleluia!

After the stories had been told, we made Easter trees in the annexe - re-telling through art the Easter story. Thank you to all those who helped that day and stayed to make it so successful.



Sue Stilwell

Concert entitled "**Musical Moments**"
by **Singing for Pleasure**

At St John's Church, Monks Rise, WGC AL8 7NX

On Saturday, 5th July 2014 - 7.30p.m.

Tickets £6 only.

Proceeds from the concert will be given to:
McMillan Cancer Support
and St John's Church, Lemsford
(in memory of Terry Payne who sang with them).

Box office 01707 377543

Jenny Roden will have tickets to sell at church.

*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/>.*

I hear the pitter patter of their feet as they come up the stairs. Most of the time I am sitting on the porch and I get to listen to their whisperings, as they carry on unaware of my presence. They stand on tiptoes to ring the bell. Miss? Miss? They yell up at me. I smile, grab my dupatta from its place on the chair and open the creaky screen door to let them in.

Sometimes it is just Hina and Sita, sometimes their younger brother Kewal comes too, sometimes they bring a friend. Hina always begins by asking to take pictures. She knows how to use my iphone to get to the camera, to change the filter, and to take more selfies than is probably healthy at her age, which is 8.

After a short photo session, if she has brought a friend, she makes them sit down across from me in the other wicker chair. She takes the photo album a friend made me for a bridesmaid's gift and gingerly lifts the cover. She knows the pictures by heart. This is Miss Caroline's friend, she says. Her name is Lindsey. This is Hannah (pointing to Jess), this is Jess (pointing to Hannah), and this is...this is.... Karen? Callie, I say. Callie.

This is Miss in an ocean (hot tub). This is Miss eating cake. This is Miss sad because all the cake is gone. This is Miss dressing up like a lion (Thank you Step Sing.) Miss, why do you look like a lion again? This is Miss at her ceremony because she passed her class (graduation). She asks if I have any new pictures, which most of the time I do not. This is followed by requests for me to braid her hair, for candy, for another photo shoot with me, or for a dance. Most of the time, we dance.

Her favourite song is a Bollywood one called Hookah Bar. I have no comment regarding this or its appropriateness for an 8 year-old. But it does have a good beat.



After 15 or 20 minutes, the others are ready to move on. C'mon Hina, they say, lets go. And Hina looks for reasons to stay. Something new on my fridge. Another photo idea. A cat on the stairs. An unmade bed to scold me about.

Reluctantly she clomps down the stairs back into the compound, her sister hitting my bell as she goes past. Hina's hand slides around the corner wall and she smiles back up at me, See you later okay bye! Every time I come into the compound from the market, from the office, from anywhere at all- Hina runs up to me. She is always playing outside, she always waves. And regardless of whether I can wave back or whether my hands are full, she gallops up towards me. Her admiration is ~~enchanting, slightly overwhelming, and mostly so incredibly affirming~~ in ways she cannot possibly know. She quietly, unconsciously tells me **that this is indeed where I belong**

Lemsford Open Church

Saturday 19th July 2014 & 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.

Enjoy!



More details June Copping Hatfield1357@Outlook.com

Does this ring any bells with you??

Andy Chapman of the Lemsford Local History group would love to put names to these faces. The picture was probably late 1970s.

Please email any information to him at chapman.lc@btinternet.com , preferably with your telephone number and/or address as well as your email address and he will reply as quickly as possible.

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.

And finally

A new Vicar moved into town, and he went out one Saturday to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he had knocked several times.



Finally he took out his card, wrote "*Revelation 3:20*" on the back, and stuck it in the door.

The next day, as he was counting the offering, he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was written "*Genesis 3:10.*"

Revelation 3:20 "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."
Genesis 3:10: "He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

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