

# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*



*April / May 2023*

**£1**



Front cover: Large (5x4m) mosaic installed in 2016 in St George's Orthodox Church, Houston, Texas by an English artist, Aidan Hart - see page 18 for more

Above Top: Photos of St John's School Winning Team(s) in the Hertfordshire Primary Schools Badminton Team Tournament.

Above Bottom: St John's School Celebrating World Book Day—the children and staff dressed up as book characters

Below: Photos from the Baptism of Jenson Copland in Feb with mum and dad Lucy & Marcus and Rev. Kathryn



### Empty Promise...

Have you ever put your trust in someone only to be let down so completely and unexpectedly that it shakes your whole existence? I really hope not. But if you have, you might be able to empathise more easily with the women who found Jesus' tomb empty on the first Easter day around 2000 years ago.

Their shock discovery of an empty tomb, where they fully expected to find a dead body to anoint and mourn over, threw them into chaos. Instead of a sealed and guarded burial place, they found it open and empty. It was bad enough that Jesus, their beloved teacher and friend was dead. Now it seemed, someone had taken his body.

Why that tomb was empty is important. If it was empty because someone indeed did come and steal the corpse of Jesus – if all that took place on that first Easter was a criminal's death and an ordinary burial – then hope would have died with Jesus on the cross. Trust in everything Jesus had said about God's life-changing love for each and every one of us, would have been destroyed. Jesus would have been nothing more than an epic, life-shattering let-down. And that, at first, is what the devastated followers of Jesus thought had happened.

However, far from being let-down, Christians across the world greet Easter day with shouts

of 'He is Risen!' We shout 'He is risen!' because beyond all expectation, Jesus did not stay dead. Christians believe the impossible happened on that first Easter day. Despite the worst evil humans could inflict on that cross, we could not stop Jesus - God - loving us. He would not stay dead!

It blows our western, rational minds to even think about the resurrection – despite some very compelling (and rational) evidence that supports it. It blew the minds of the first disciples too. They took some convincing - Jesus had to appear to them several times, to let them touch him and to eat in front of them to bring the point home.

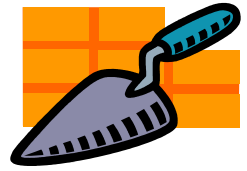
However, the resurrection of Jesus kick-started the growth of Christianity, and over 2 billion people in the world today hold the hope that stems from that first shock discovery of the empty tomb - God's not dead, nor is he a distant being up there in the clouds. Because of Jesus, any human being can know



*(Continued on page 3)*



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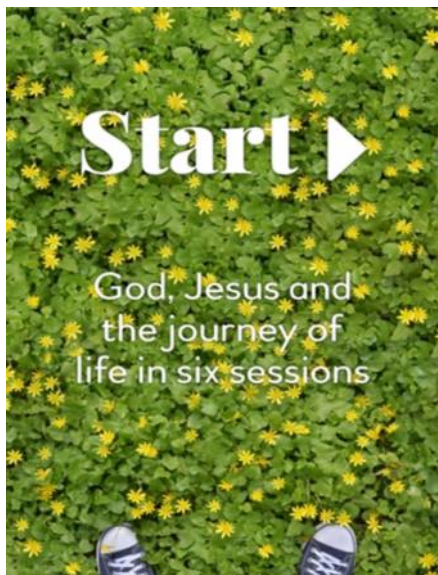
## Kathryn's message - *continued*

what it is to be loved by God. The tomb was empty, but the risen Jesus is here for all us to find. And once, discovered, life will never be the same again.

If you'd like to find out more about the Easter story and the Christian faith, we'd love to see you see you at our Holy Week and

Easter service (see p. 4). You'd also be very welcome to join our 6-week Christian Exploration course starting on 25th April at 7pm, St Michael's church. For more details see the 'advert' below.

Rev Kathryn



ly does start from scratch.

All who are thinking about confirmation, or who are new to the Christian faith, will find this six week course a great foundation to build their faith upon.

### **Start! – Beginning 25<sup>th</sup> April!**

#### **A 6-week course exploring the Christian Faith**

6 x Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm, St Michael's Church (Birchwood Ave, Birchwood, Hatfield AL10 0PS)

Start! introduces Christianity through six interactive, small-group sessions. The course makes no assumptions about participants' background, experience or knowledge of Christianity or the church. It real-

## Services

### April 2023

- 2nd Palm Sunday**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am HC with Sunday Club
- 3rd Holy Monday**  
7 pm Compline (Night Prayer)
- 5th Holy Wednesday**  
7 pm Compline (Night Prayer)
- 7th Good Friday**  
2 pm Seven words from the cross or other reflections
- 9th Easter Day (Easter Sunday)**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am 'All Together' HC & Egg Hunt
- 16th Easter 2**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am MP
- 23rd Easter 3**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am HC
- 30th Easter 4**  
8 am MP (BCP)                      11 am HC

### May 2023

- 7th Easter 5**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am 'All Together' HC
- 14th Easter 6**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am HC with Sunday Club
- 21st Easter 7**  
8 am MP (BCP)                      11 am MP
- 28th PENTECOST (Whit Sunday/Whitsun)**  
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*

## Holy Week and Easter

As you'll see from the service calendar, just as you receive this magazine, either in print or electronically we'll be entering the Easter period which starts Holy Week on Palm Sunday (2nd April).

Holy Week begins with the commemoration of Christ's triumphant arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (2nd April). But it's all gone wrong, according to Judas Iscariot at least, who betrays Jesus on Spy Wednesday (5th - Holy Wednesday). We commemorate the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday (6th) and the Passion (the story of arrest, trial and suffering) of Jesus on Good Friday. Holy Week concludes with Christ's rest in death Holy Saturday.

This year Rev. Kathryn is celebrating Holy Week with additional Evening Prayer (Compline) services on Monday (3rd) and Wednesday (5th) [and also at St Michaels and All Angels on Tuesday (4th)]. Also for those of you that would like to go to a service on Maundy Thursday there is one at St Michaels at 7pm.

We then reflect on the circumstances of Jesus' death on Good Friday (7th at 2pm) in a quiet service. And, of course we celebrate

the joy of his resurrection on Easter Sunday (9th).

Whether you come to church regularly or not you're most welcome to come to any of our Holy Week, or Easter Services, or indeed any other services.

## Huge Thanks for Large Donation By Kevin Earl

The church PCC is delighted to report that St John's has received a *sizeable gift from Gordon and Elfie Wilson*, who have been members of the church for many years. We are extremely grateful to them for their generous support.

## The Lemsford Fete

is on *Monday 1st May (12pm-4pm)*. There's much more to say about it, which you can find in the pages dedicated to the Fete later on in this magazine, but start now by putting it into your diary!

## Geoffrey's retirement as editor of the Parish magazine by Martin English

[I was] taken aback to learn that Geoffrey Hollis had been editing and producing the St John's Lemsford parish magazine for over 25 years. [So was I - Ed.]

*(Continued on page 7)*

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That means soliciting articles, chasing for the copy, soliciting advertisements (and chasing payments), fitting the whole readably (and accurately) together, arranging decent printing, placing in church and parcelling up in packs for local distribution by willing helpers. Deserves both thanks and some celebration.

THANKYOU - Geoffrey

[I spoke to Geoffrey who did not want a fuss made, but I'm not sure the rest of us will let it lie there - Ed.]

## **A New 'Best Seller' by Tim Armstrong-Taylor**

Our extremely versatile Musical Director and Organist, Opera Singer, Music Teacher (and much more) at St Johns has just launched a new bestselling book [in certain specific categories :) - his words not mine - Ed.]. It's called 'An Urn for the Worse - an uplifting coming-of-middle-age story'. Tim says: A sudden death, a bucket list, a missing urn, a failing marriage, a make-or-break business deal, an irritating old uncle on a motorbike and a psychopath who refuses to die. How bad can one man's midlife crisis get? - Interested? Enter 'An Urn for the Worse' into Amazon.co.uk's search bar. Available in Paperback, Hardback and Download (Kindle Edition)

[Editor's note: I'd love more info from around the parish! - email me]

## **St John's Newsletter**

Did you know that every week St John's Church publishes a newsletter about what's going on in the church for that week and further ahead. For instance, at the moment there's info about Holy Week, the Easter services including Easter Egg Hunt (after the service) and the Fete.

It's not just for regular church goers either. If you'd like to receive a copy in your inbox then please email [warden1@stjohnschurchlemsford.org](mailto:warden1@stjohnschurchlemsford.org) and we'll get you on the list).

And, don't worry about us spamming you. You can unsubscribe from it easily by simply clicking a link provided on the emails themselves.

## **Friendship Teas**

Ian Douglas says: "Did you know that every Second Tuesday of the month we hold 'Friendship Teas' (Coffee and Cake/Biscuits also available!) from 2:30pm-4pm. Everyone is Welcome (young & young at heart alike)":





# Lemsford Fete

Monday 1st May 2023

12 - 4pm

- Live music and dancing
- Archery
- Meat and vegan bbq
- Beer and Pimms tent
- Fire engine
- Traditional fete stalls
- Car displays
- Inflatable obstacle course
- Raffle
- Teddy bear zipwire
- Coronation competitions

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[www.lemsfordfete.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordfete.co.uk)

Following last year's successful return, we're really hoping we can have another great event in 2023 and the weather is kind again. We're again hosting our classic coconut shy, archery and crockery smash stalls along with traditional maypole dancing and brass band.

There will also be a chance to meet local members of the Herts Fire and Police Services, during the afternoon if you want to clamber over a fire engine or try on the kit, or maybe you'd like to admire a couple of classic Morgan cars? For those of you with thrill seeking teddy bears please bring them along and give them a treat of a ride on our teddy bear zip wire from the church tower.

Our musical programme for the afternoon will have a very strong vocal feel with several choirs and solo signers/musicians including local girl Immi Davis, of BGT fame.

With the King's coronation a week after the fete there will be a strong theme for this and we will be running a competition for you bring along or create your own crown and regalia and have your picture taken on our throne.

An afternoon out wouldn't be complete without a little refreshment so try a Pimms or local real ale in our beer tent, maybe something non-alcoholic

instead or a local gin. Having quenched your thirst how about something from our BBQ (meat or vegan), a cake or two or maybe just a simple ice cream.

Our commitment to environmental awareness and responsibility will continue as we reduce our use of single products and increase the use of recyclable materials. We will also not be selling plastic bottled water, but will happily fill up any water bottles you bring along, as often as you want for free.

In 2022 we introduced use of debit card payments on a number of the higher value stalls, and will be doing that again in 2023. This partial move to cashless payments will be available again, but won't be possible on all stalls so please bear with us, as our volunteers learn how to use the devices, but also having to work with both cash and card payments.

Whilst you can bring your favourite teddy bear, please DON'T bring your dog along unless they are a registered guide or assistance dog. As we have a no dogs rule on the school grounds.

The fete is run completely with volunteers from the school and church communities of St John's Lemsford and all proceeds go to support local charities, and

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Lemsford Fete - *continued*

(Continued from page 9)

school and church activities, so please come along and support us. We hope you will come and enjoy an afternoon of great food, drink, music and games. For a complete

insight to the event, timings, and attractions check out our website: [www.lemsfordfete.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordfete.co.uk)

Paul Butler, Fete Chair"

## Young Life Volunteers Helping with Gardening

You can imagine that keeping up the ground of St Johns Church is a full time job, so we're always grateful for help.

Mary Douglas writes:  
[Here are ] Some of the Young Life local volunteers, on a discipleship weekend, helping us with some of the gardening jobs.

We say, Thank you very much!



## 'All Together' Services

Looking at the service calendar you've probably noticed some services called 'All Together', and are wondering exactly what they are. Well, in the past these have been called Family services, but that 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 the triple act of Rev. Kathryn, Rev. Ian Lane and Jo Brooks together with lots of Individuals, Families & Children, and even a dog. All I can say is watch out 'vaudeville'!

**Sunday Club** is back!

Sunday Club is for children of all ages to play and learn together alongside our usual Sunday worship.

We normally meet during our 11 am service on the second Sunday of the month (but see below for a difference in April).

There are games and crafts and Bible stories for children of all ages.

Here we are at Sunday Club in March, playing camp and making stars together to remember the story of Abraham and Sarah.



However, having said all that **the next Sunday Club will meet on Sunday 2nd April at 11am - it's Palm Sunday so there'll be a procession with palms and lots of things to do and make for Easter.**

We will be 'All Together' [see opposite—Ed.] in church on Sunday 9th April for our Easter Sunday celebration with Holy Communion.

Contact Jo Brooks for more info – [joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com)



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## Safeguarding at St John's

I can hear you sighing already. The subject of Safeguarding seems to do that to people. DBS checks, training requirements, policy statements – it's all extra demands on people's precious time. We trust each other. So why bother? Please indulge me and read on.

I took over from Ian Douglas as Parish Safeguarding Officer late last year. The training has required me to really think about what safeguarding is for. I thought I might share some of that learning. Safeguarding in any setting - Church, school, hospital - is about protecting our most vulnerable. It is about ensuring children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe. That is something I'm sure we can all support. In a Church, we don't control who comes through the door each Sunday or who attends any groups in the wider church community. At St Johns, we are lucky. As a small supportive community, we know and trust each other well. But that might not always be the case. We need our community to be as open and welcoming as possible and to do this, we need to be sure that everyone is safe.



And whose job is it to make this happen? As parish safeguarding officer, I organise the paperwork (along with Jo Brooks as deputy). Importantly, we are key points of contact should anyone have concerns. However, one of the important learning points from my training is about our collective responsibility. One individual and one vicar cannot be the eyes and ears of the whole church community. We can all look out for each other and can all think about how children and vulnerable adults can be safe in church. Anyone can raise a concern with myself, Jo or Kathryn and we will be available to listen. Anyone can think about risk and how things might be improved. So, let's not think about safeguarding as tiresome paperwork and checks, but think of it

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Safeguarding - continued

(Continued from page 13)

as about safety which is as much a part of our Church life as any other. 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of One Body with many members and concludes "If one member suffers, all suffer

together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together!"

**Lucy Earl** - Parish Safeguarding Officer



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We are in the midst of another busy term which has been full of sporting, fundraising and other exciting events. We are particularly proud of our badminton team who took part in the Hertfordshire Primary Schools Badminton Team Tournament. Here is part of the report of their success as written by John Stobo who led their training:

“...the girls' team of Isabelle Curtis, Ella Reece and Bethany Redmond finished in third place in the girl's event, and the boys' team of Dylan Curtis, James Pett and Lewis Thomas matched them by also taking the bronze medals. The icing on the cake came when the result from the girls' and boys' events were aggregated, when it emerged that of the schools who had entered both a girls' and a boys' team St John's had the best overall results. Thus they won the gold medal and took away the tournament trophy! This was an especially pleasing result, and reflected the fact that all the players tried really hard in every game, and though they didn't win every time, they scored enough points to haul themselves up to the top of the ranking when overall results were aggregated.

In other words, they weren't always brilliant but they were always consistent and determined, and they richly deserved their success.”

[See inside front cover for a colour photo of the winning team(s)- Ed.]

The children have been busy fundraising in recent weeks. During our Feeling Good Week, a group of our year 6



children raised money by selling sensory bottle and bracelets that they had made. They sold them to parents and families who were visiting our LSA café just before half term and raised over £70 for a cancer charity. One of our Year 5 children, Harry, spent some time during half term busking at the Galleria. The young guitar player has raised over £2000 for the Turkey Earthquake appeal – amazing! Our Eco-council have been encouraging the school to take part in an Eco challenge. All the children have been encouraged to bring in one unused toy to donate to charity. It is so lovely seeing our school values of hope, perseverance and responsibility in action.

We enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. This year the children and staff dressed up as book characters. As World Book Day fell on a Thursday all these amazing characters took part in Collective Worship at church – what a sight!

[Also see inside front cover for a colour photo dressed up students - Ed.]

*(Continued on page 16)*

## News from St John's School - *Continued*

*(Continued from page 15)*

We are now preparing for the Lemsford fete. The children have started learning the songs and dances for their display. They have also brought in items for the stalls including bottles for the tombola and a range of chocolate. We are also preparing for Easter. We are looking forward to our Easter

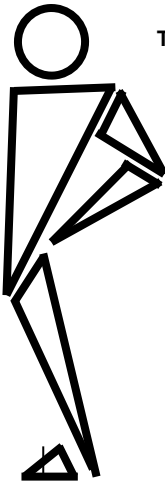
collective worship at St John's Church on Thursday 30th March and an Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of term, Friday 31st March. We have lots of lovely events to look forward to.

Best wishes,

Michelle Boylan - Head

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## Mothers Day - 'All Together'

Mothing Sunday aka Mothers Day at St John's (17th March) was wonderful celebration of Mums, 'Grandmums' and 'Greatgrandmums'. We had kids from St John's school joining with the choir and reading & acting in the service. You may have guessed from the photos that Rev. Kathryn's 'sermon' (done in typical 'All Together'



style) was on Moses being put in the river Nile in a basket made of reeds by his mother, Jochebed, to prevent him being killed due to Pharaoh's order to kill all the first-born baby boys - A great celebration of mothers and what they will do for their children . It must have been heart-breaking. [See p10 for more on All Together - Ed.]



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### Snippets

The **cover picture** is a slightly cropped version of a large (5x4m) mosaic installed in 2016 in St George's Orthodox Church, Houston, Texas. It is by an English artist & Iconographer, Aidan Hart, who before opening his studio spent time as an Orthodox monk on Mount Athos, and as a hermit in Shropshire. Examples of his work are found all over the world, including the Chapel at Highgrove. For more on his work see: [aidanharticons.com](http://aidanharticons.com)

The group enjoyed a lunch time meeting at The Sun. We were joined by Valerie and Peter from Ayot Green History Group and Jenny from Brocket Road. The Fete was discussed, and our new display banners were introduced to the group which will help to promote the group at all future events. Making the third Thursday every month our meeting date makes planning a lot easier and with the warm weather coming we will be taking advantage of offers from various history groups to visit them, this includes Ayot Green, Welwyn, Wheathamstead, and Old Hatfield. The idea is to have a short tour then lunch in a local hostelry. If you wish to be on our friends of the group email distribution list, contact me on [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk) and we will keep you updated on events.

Our websites are read around the world and this month the group were contacted by Mick Joiner from Canada. He sent an email asking about the Joyner family. We sent back an image we have in the archives showing an elderly couple and a young girl. We also sent information



from the school records from 1925 to 1935 showing five children called Joyner starting school all with a parent called Ernest. Stanley left school in 1934 and the reason for him leaving was listed as 'Dog Track'. We have no idea which dog track but a boy after my own heart, I

often visited a dog track after school. Ernest Charles Joyner lived in Cromer Hyde and, when WW1 broke out, he was 21. He joined 1st Hertfordshire Regiment and received the Victory Medal and British War Medal. We store this information on our WW1 website [www.llemsfordww1.co.uk](http://www.llemsfordww1.co.uk).

Mick replied: *'Thank you so much for your reply. Your websites have opened so many doors for myself and my family and i am truly thankful. The experience has taken me back to Cromer Hyde lane again after so many years. It was probably 1958 at the age of six when my dad Stanley Joyner took me there whilst visiting my grandparents in Hatfield i can still visualize Brocket Hall in the distance. In the*

*(Continued on page 20)*

*(Continued from page 19)*

*Census you kindly sent shows my Great grandfather Charles Joiner listed at the age of one and the photo shows Both Charles and Elizabeth Joiner (Manning) with a young girl outside the cottage on Cromer Hyde lane.'*

The census records for the Joyners (spelt Joiner) were on our main website. The 1850 census [www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Census1850.html](http://www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Census1850.html) shows a Charles Joiner born in 1860. The image we have of him is from 1941 making him 80 years old. We copied Mick's email to Jack Brown, friend of the group, who wrote an article about his Grandfather, gamekeeper to Lord Mount Stephens called 'The Victorian Gamekeeper'. He also lived in Cromer Hyde around the same time as Charles and they must have known each other. The article can be read on Jack's website and describes what it was to live in Cromer Hyde around the late 1800s [www.hjbrownhistorian.co.uk/Life%20asvicGK.html](http://www.hjbrownhistorian.co.uk/Life%20asvicGK.html).

*Mick replied: 'Gooday Andy and people: Thank you again for sharing your emails and attachments with me. Its inspiring to see how this website has given people a place to share their stories. I'm truly amazed hearing about the experience's of people*

*pertaining to the early settlements in Western Canada. I myself have travelled across this huge country once living in on a farm in southern Alberta that was built by a pioneer. Thank you again and all the best to you all of at the Lemsford Historical Group'*

The sad news of **Dickie Davies** death reminded me of my childhood and what now seems a strange ritual. As a child of the 1960s we only had two TV channels and every Saturday at 12.30 I would sit with my Dad and watch Grandstand, Football Focus, four races from Lingfield, boxing, golf and of course rugby league with Eddie Waring rounded off with football results on the teleprinter (magic typewriter which had keys which moved with no one there). During this five hour marathon we would switch over to ITV and watch a bit of World of Sport mainly for the horse racing but sometimes wrestling and strange sports like wood chopping world championships, skydiving or cheese rolling from Cheddar Gorge. The man that held it all together was the great Dickie Davies. What has this to do with Lemsford local history? In the archive is a photo of Dickie and headmaster Mr Desmond L.B. Dunn (1979 - 1987) and the children of St John's school. I think it was a Science Fair but I'm

not sure about that. If you are in the photo or remember the event, contact us at [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk).



When booking the Long Arm and Short Arm for our regular third Thursday of the month lunch meeting, I was informed the pub was closing on Friday 10th March as McMullens had sold it. The Long Arm and Short Arm is part of Lemsford History as in 1859 the beer house was apparently owned by George Timms. The 1861 census gives Amos Young as beer retailer. In 1871 James Lawrence was beer retailer. It is thought that 'The unobtrusive little beer house' was first licenced as a public house in 1875 by Elizaeth Lattimore of



*(Continued on page 23)*



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## LLHG - concluded

*(Continued from page 21)*  
Wheathampstead.

McMullens Brewery, the present owners, acquired the property before 1900. In 1901 Charles Dawes was the beer retailer and lived there with his wife, daughter, and an adopted boy of 5. In 1906 'The Long Arm and the Short Arm' was still a cottage, beer house, and bakery. James W. Smith, known as 'Will', was the publican from 1906 for 32 years. In 1920 it was still referred to as a beer house and in 1926 James Smith was described as a beer retailer. In 1928 the 'Long Arm and the Short Arm' was one of several pubs in the Hatfield area which had its licence renewal temporarily refused. Although two in Hatfield were closed for good at this time 'The Long Arm and the Short Arm' licence was afterwards regained. About this time the old building was pulled down and a new public house was built and opened in 1929.

The future of the Long and Short when writing this article is still in rumour mode. I phoned McMullens but they only confirmed it was sold but not what was happening to it. Our 16th March Meeting will be at the Hopfields in Hatfield opposite St Michael's Church which our Rev. Kathryn also presides over. She

has kindly organised a visit to St Michael's before we eat in the Hopfields. I visited the Hopfields to check out the menu and if they had availability for lunch and met the old management team from the Long and Short. They have arranged for a lot of the Long and Short staff to transfer to the Hopfields. Unfortunately they did not know the future of the Long and Short but thought it would stay as a hostelry possibly a pub/restaurant - watch this space.

Due to publishing dates for the Parish Magazine you will be reading this after we have had our tour/lunch in March. To avoid disappointment, email the group at [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk) to be added to our 'Friends of LLHG' email distribution list to keep up to date on all future events involving the Group. The same email address is used if you have any questions about local history or have any memories you wish to share.

[Take a look at our new 'Lemsford Now and Then' feature on the inside back cover. The 'Now' is: The Long Arm and Short Arm taken in 2019 and The 'Then' is the old Beer house. Ed.]



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There is one sure sign that Spring has arrived in our garden—frogs mating in a small pond. As I write it has wonderfully happened again; for wintry months on end the pond is lifeless then suddenly is transformed with splashes, croaks, and frantic activity (at least when the frogs don't notice we are watching them).



Frogs, like all living beings, are pretty remarkable. Apparently they differ from toads in having teeth, at least in their upper jaws. They love water while toads prefer dry land.

They differ from us of course in many ways, notably by being amphibians, and cold blooded. Like us though they have a heart that pumps oxygenated blood around the body but their hearts only have three chambers while we have four. Their essential organs are similar in layout to ours; frogs are therefore valuable teaching tools when dissected in biology classes, although this is opposed by animal welfare groups.

Famously frogs were one of the plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7 on) that persuaded Pharaoh to release the Israelites. They were the second plague, the first being the Nile turning red and its fish dying. Professor Colin Humphreys, in *The Miracles of Exodus* says the plagues were causally linked, and historically plausible. He thinks that the first was an algal bloom of toxic red algae which killed the fish. (Just such a red tide is currently afflicting the west coast of Florida). The decaying fish polluted the water still further, forcing the frogs to evacuate onto dry land. The third and fourth plagues, of gnats and flies, were due to the absence of frogs, their natural predators. The fifth and sixth plagues, the death of livestock and festering boils on men and animals, were both caused by fly-borne diseases.

On a more cheerful note, frogs are generally seen in a positive way across the world, often as symbols of abundance because of the large number of eggs they lay. For many cultures that depend on rain for rich and bountiful crops the frog is a good luck symbol, a sign of prosperous weather to come. In Native American tradition the frog is often seen as a rain maker. In Australia too, the Aborigines believed frogs brought the thunder and rain to help plants to grow.

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## Prayer for Easter

***Thank you, Lord,  
for the gift of Your love.  
May I be a shining  
example of that love to others.  
Amen.***

### ***And finally .... all about frogs***

What do Winnie the Pooh and Kermit the Frog have in common?  
*The same middle name.*

What happens when you cross a frog and a dog?  
*You get a croaker spaniel.*

The devout cowboy lost his favourite Bible while he was mending fences out on the range.  
Three weeks later, a frog walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes.  
He took the precious book out of the frog's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"  
"Not really," said the frog. "*Your name is written inside the cover.*"

A frog has his DNA tested...  
Turns out, he was part Irish, part British—and a tad Pole.

Explaining a Joke is like dissecting a Frog—Everyone understands it better, but you killed it in the Process.

And of course—What is a frog's favourite time?  
*Leap Year!*





Above: Lemsford Then - The old Beer house  
Below: Lemsford Now - The Long Arm and Short Arm - 2019





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