

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



Parish Magazine

April/May 2016

£1



*Cover picture: First Wedding of the year - a wonderful day for Kiran and Faye
(picture by Michael Brooks)*

Top: The Lent group met in Carole Payne's house

Bottom: Mothers and children who took part in the Mothering Sunday Service

April 2016

Sunday 3rd Easter 1

8am BCP Holy Communion led by *Susan Marsh*

11am Morning Prayer, shorter form, led by *Ian Douglas*
followed by ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 10th Easter 2

8am BCP Holy Communion led by *tbc*

11am All age/Family service led by *Jo Brooks/Mary Douglas*

5.30 pm Howe Dell Community Hall Hatfield

Licensing of Rev Sue Stilwell *see pages 6/7*

Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea (*see page 4*)

Sunday 17th Easter 3

8am BCP Morning Prayer led by *John Marks*

11am Parish Communion led by *Martin King*

Sunday 24th Easter 4

8am BCP Holy Communion led by *Josh Young*

11am Morning Prayer led by *the Wardens*, talk by *Geoffrey Hollis*

5pm **Cafe Church**

Saturday 30th

3 pm St Michaels Birchwood **Licensing of Rev Paul Seymour as
Team Vicar for St John's and St Michael's**

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

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

3rd Psalm 150 Revelations 1 : 4-8; John 20 : 19-31

10th tba

17th Revelation 7 : 9 – 17; John 10 : 22-30

24th Psalm 148 : 1-6; Revelation 21: 1-6; John 13 : 31-35

Coffee after 11am Services.

Sunday 1st Easter 5

8am BCP Morning Prayer

11am Parish Communion

Sunday 8th Easter 6

8am BCP Holy Communion

11am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 10th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea**Sunday 15th Whit Sunday**

8am BCP Morning Prayer

11am Parish Communion

Sunday 22nd Trinity Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

11 am All age/Family Service

Sunday 29th Trinity 1

8am BCP Holy Communion

11am Morning Prayer

5pm **Cafe Church****** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday ********Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)

1st Revelation 22: 1-5; John 14: 23-29

8th Psalm 97: 1-9; Rev 22 :12-14,16 & 17,21&22; John 17: 20-26

15th Genesis 11: 1-9; John 14: 8-17 & 25-27

22nd tba

29th Psalm 96: 1-9; Galatians 1: 1-12; Luke 7: 1-10

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



As our period without a Vicar draws to an end I have been reflecting on what the interregnum has brought to our Church.

It has of course put a lot of extra pressure on our wardens, Jean Stokes and Jackie Spry, but they have coped tremendously well. We have seen numbers drop a bit at some services but not at the major ones. This may in any case be a trend in society at large, where there is so much going on each Sunday that parents find they have difficulty in fitting everything in. (See our Bishop's thoughts on Sunday Trading on page 14).

Members of the congregation have perforce been taking a greater part, with different groupings such as the Choir taking responsibility for whole services, and on the whole being pretty good at it. The one for Mothering Sunday organised by Carole Payne (picture inside front cover) was particularly moving. Sermons have sometimes been replaced by Talks and I have done some of those myself. I found the experience rewarding—and made me more aware of the pressures on Vicars and Lay Readers to perform with a capital P week in week out.

In this Issue you will read about the Dedication of a Memorial to the many babies born at Brocket Hall during the last War who did not survive and are buried in our Churchyard. The initiative for this was entirely down to a few lay people—notable Andy Chapman and Barbara Taylor—and the generosity of Justin Burgess of Burgess Memorials and Brocket Hall.

Andy and Barbara are active in the Lemsford Local History Group which has made great strides in recent years. I hope you have enjoyed the articles arising from their work that I have been pleased to publish in the Magazine. A good example is on pages 12 and 13; a local author researching particular servicemen in the Great War naturally came upon the LLHG website which he found tremendously helpful. No wonder, since it is really informative—a model of its kind. The results make fascinating reading. Do look at the pictures inside the back cover which relate to it. I was impressed and I hope you will be too. A classic example of good coming out of evil.

Geoffrey Hollis

Baptism

Isla Chittock on 20th March
Welcome to the church family.

Wedding

Faye Blacker and Kiran Davé
on 12 March. The sun shone, the
bride and groom looked amazing
- see inside front cover.

Funeral

Gwendoline Hancock on 21st
March. We send our condolences
to her friends and family.

**Lena Antonis-Blanch and
John Blanch** wish to thank St
John's Church congregation for
their good wishes and prayers
over Lena's illness and hospital
treatment during recent
months. **"We are so grateful
and joyful that there has been a
complete recovery."**

Spring Cleaning

A HUGE THANK YOU from the
Wardens to those who worked
hard to spring clean our Church,
including 20 month old **Bonnie
Ormston** and **Amy
Greenfield** who with their
dusters did a splendid job of
polishing the pew ends. There
were 21 in all, who went home
with the feeling of a job well
done. Than you to **Eileen
|Martindale** for organising and
providing cakes.

Lent Group

Carole Payne organised a
Group in her house which was
most successful. *See inside front
cover.*

Friendship teas

The teas on the second Tuesday
in each month are informal
occasions when we enjoy home
made cakes and cups of tea and
hear about members' activities
and so on. Really they could be
called the friendly teas!

All are welcome. If you want to
know more or need transport ring
Mary Douglas 01707-322135.

Annual Church Meeting

Is directly after the shortened 11
am Service on 3rd April. **DO
COME.**

Bluebell/History Walk

Andy Chapman is leading a
special walk on **Saturday 3rd
April**. Not only will you be able
to admire bluebells (nature
permitting) but also learn about
the history of Cromer Hyde.
Meet at the Crooked Chimney at
10.30 for 11 am; return to the
start around 1 pm for optional
lunch. If you are interested
please let him know
chapman.lc@btinternet.com

Parish Magazine copy date for
the next issue: **22nd May**

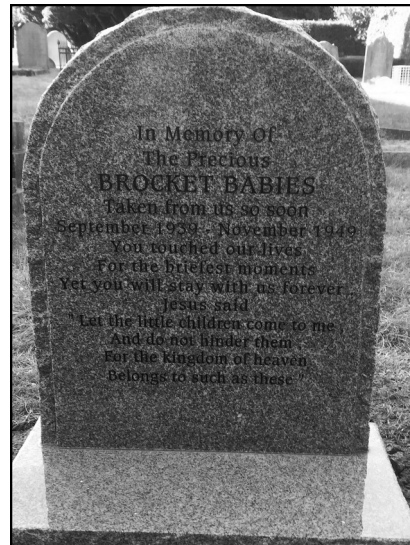
Saturday 9th April at 2pm.

This short sensitive service, conducted by the **Revd. Ron Ingamells**, will start in church and conclude in the churchyard by the new memorial. **Everyone is most welcome to the service and the refreshments that follow in the Annexe.**

As many readers will know, Brocket Hall was used as a Maternity Hospital between 1939-49. Over 8,000 babies were born: 62 babies who died are buried in Lemsford churchyard along with an unknown number of stillbirths.

This is to be a very special day for the families involved and help to bring closure for the families of still born babies

The memorial has been very generously donated by Justin Burgess proprietor of **Burgess Memorials** and the Diocesan and church fee was donated by **Brocket Hall**. The memorial is now in place near the annexe and reads:



*In memory of
the precious
BROCKET BABIES
taken from us so soon
September 1939 - November 1949
You touched our lives for the briefest
of moments
Yet you will stay with us forever
Jesus said,
"Let the little children come to me
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these."*

What is Sue Stilwell up to now?

The de Havilland Community Project was born from discussions between the Hatfield Churches as to the best way to serve the people living in the new housing developments on the old airfield site. Instead of building a church there it was decided to start a community project that would focus its energy on building cohesive communities. Funding was secured by the Methodist Church and the Church of England—and the project was set up in 2008. It is led by Methodist Minister Nina Johnson, who lives on the Salisbury Village with her family.

Today the Project offers **JourneyLight**, a fresh expression of church run on the second Sunday evening of each month at the Howe Dell Community Centre Hall. The all age meetings offer an informal time of worship - to sing songs, pray, hear words from the Bible, plus activities for everyone. The service is led by Nina Johnson, Chris Hancock (a Local Methodist preacher - and also an excellent guitar player and singer!) and Sue Stillwell. They hope soon to be able to offer a second opportunity in the month to explore the Christian faith.

JourneyLight has been the place of a number of baptisms as families get involved with the Project. Many seeds have been sown over the years and there are visible signs of growth. One is a Club, which runs every Saturday morning in the Howe Dell Community Hall. Local families and residents work in conjunction with Nina and Sue to provide activities for children and families - within a safe environment.

Another initiative has been Youth Clubs, providing a safe space for young people to be with their friends after school at Howe Dell Community Hall and Green Lanes School, during term time. The de Havilland Community project is the only provider of youth provision actually on the Salisbury Village and Hatfield Garden Village housing developments.

The project aims to encourage local people to take responsibility for the provision - volunteering is positively welcomed. The project is inclusive and involves people of all faiths and none.

See the box opposite about Sue's Licensing to her new role.

Invitation to the Licensing of Revd Susan Stilwell

*as Associate Team Minister to the Bishops Hatfield Team
and with the deHavilland Community project (Pioneer) ministry.*

Sunday 10th April 2016 at 5.30pm

Howe Dell Community Hall, The Runway, Hatfield AL10 9AH.

*The Licensing will be held as part of 'JourneyLight'
- the project's monthly gathering to explore the Christian faith.*

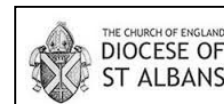
*Licensing will be conducted by the Venerable Dr. Trevor Jones,
Archdeacon of the Hertford.*

Refreshments will be served

*You are most welcome - if you plan to attend please email:
Ann Huntingford at admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk*

Many thanks

The **Methodist** Church 



This splendid event will provide a true English country fete experience with maypole dancing, coconut shy, tea-cup ride, live music and a Pimms and Hertfordshire Real Ale tent.

This year we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth and there will be a competition to find the golden ticket in our lucky bags. There will also be Roald Dahl themed cakes and songs from the children of St John's School, Lemsford and a special Marvellous Medicine mixture for children.

New to the fete will be our "Bling Your Bike" competition. Children are encouraged to decorate their bicycles in any way they choose and there will be a fantastic prize for the most 'bling'. The train rides will be back again as will the tug of war competition, which returns for its 3rd year with and welcomes teams of six to take on last year's narrow winners – Lemsford Football Club.

The fete will run from 12 pm to 4pm, in order to give fete visitors the opportunity to enjoy top quality burgers and sausages at our fantastically popular barbeque, plus Paella. Homemade cakes and treats will be available as will candy-floss, ice creams, books, plants, White elephant, and many more.

The Church itself will be the setting for a varied selection of local musicians performing a wide range of pieces to cater for every taste.

"Don't miss this wonderful traditional village Fete, a real community event organised by St John's Primary School and St John's Church Lemsford," says St John's School Headteacher, Mandy Evans. "Our traditional school Maypole and Country Dancing is a 'must see' along with our whole school choir. There are many other exciting stalls, a miniature train to ride and much, much more besides!

The fete is one of the most important events in the Lemsford village calendar with parishioners, schoolchildren and their parents alike working hard to provide top quality, homemade food and fun to help raise money for the school, church and other charities.

Entry is £1.50. Senior Citizens are £1 and children under 16 go free.

I am delighted to be able to share the wonderful news that our Class 2 teacher Mrs Kennedy had a baby boy called Freddie on 10th March. We were thrilled to see Gemma, Mark and Freddie in school – only 1 week old! I know you will join us in congratulating and praying for this new family.



This term has been busy, with some super events run by the children. Our School Councillors organised a Bring and Buy at the end of January to raise money for Cancer Research UK – a cause close to our hearts here at St John's and an impressive £ 121 was raised by the children.

Another excellent event, this time led by our House and Vice Captains, was 'The Great St John's Bake Off'. Over 60 children brought in their cakes and biscuits to be judged. The judges (Class 4 pupils and two staff members) were impressed by their quality.

Class 4 children had the opportunity to travel into London to the Drury Lane Theatre to see their classmate, Sonny, perform in the *Goodnight Mr Tom*. It was a spellbinding experience, a gripping and moving story and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done to Sonny on a great performance as Zach.



World Book Day on 3rd March saw us all dressed up in costumes representing characters from Roald Dahl stories, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth. What a fabulous array of costumes we had – you may already have seen the photos in the Welwyn Hatfield Times (one is opposite).

Class 4 thrilled the audience at Campus West theatre on Wednesday 16th March with their performance of ‘I Need a Hero’ from Shrek at the Welwyn Hatfield Schools Dance Festival. We were so proud of all our Class 4 pupils who had learnt and practised their routine to produce a really excellent show on the night.

As you all know, Sport Relief has been a great way of raising awareness of those who need our help both here and abroad, and St John’s pupils ‘did their bit’ with every child (and adult) in the school coming to school in sporty gear and running the 1 mile circuit set out in the school grounds – even Class 1 managed it with beaming smiles! Our children’s efforts raised £130 from donations on the day.



We are all looking forward to our Easter Service (thanks again to John Barnard for leading this) and to welcoming Reverend Paul Seymour to St John’s at the beginning of May. It was lovely to meet with him again this week when he came into school.

Best wishes to all, **Mandy Evans Headteacher**

Anyone who has visited St Paul's Cathedral recently will have been impressed and moved by its beautifully embroidered altar frontal, made in 1918-19 by wounded and disabled servicemen as part of their rehabilitation. Painstakingly restored for the First World War centenary, the frontal is the subject of a forthcoming book entitled 'From the Hands of Heroes', written by me. It tells the story of the embroidery and reproduces the delicately hand painted pages of a Memorial Book created by the hospitals involved that contains 138 of the names of the soldiers and sailors who worked on the frontal.

Volunteers at St Paul's have embarked on a great deal of research into the soldiers and sailors who contributed to the frontal and many of their families have been traced. Some of the men have remained elusive, however, and it was while writing 'From the Hands of Heroes' that I came upon the name of Private Augustus Cecil Wren of the 6th Battalion, the Bedfordshire Regiment. Finding that 'Gus', as his family knew him, was one of the local servicemen featured on the First World War section of the Lemsford Local History Group website, I contacted chairman Andy Chapman and attended the next meeting, where I was able to meet and talk to several members of the Wren family.

As a result, the new book will include pictures of Gus and some details of his war experience - that he lost a brother, Christopher, at the Somme, that he was himself badly wounded (his niece Olive recalls that he walked with a limp), and that he survived the war to marry, raise a family and tend the gardens at Brocket Hall and other big houses in the area. *(Picture shows Gus with his nurse—taken from the Lemsford History website).*



For everyone connected with the St Paul's altar frontal project, the discovery of information about Gus was very significant because it opened up a whole new line of research. Because the Memorial Book page including Gus's name follows a page headed 'Durriss Auxiliary Hospital' in Scotland, the assumption had been that he and the other men listed had been treated there. In fact, as Gus's granddaughter Helen confirmed, he was treated at Chailey Hospital in Sussex, which became world famous for pioneering an innovative handicrafts-based therapy called 'educative convalescence'. The Chailey link has since been confirmed by the East Sussex County Council archive, which has a photographic album from the time showing an embroidery class with a caption referring directly to the St Paul's altar frontal.

If you visit St Paul's, do look for Gus's name inside the Memorial Book and take a moment to reflect on the war story of this young Lemsford man - how he left his job as a garden boy at Brocket Hall to serve his country, was severely wounded in battle yet ended his war embroidering a unique and wonderful cloth for one of the world's finest cathedrals.

Stephen Barnard is an author based in Letchworth.

'From the Hands of Heroes' will be published later this year. For information about the St Paul's altar frontal project, see www.stpauls.co.uk/history-collections/history/ww1



Augustus Cecil Wren

"To my Darling Evelyn with fond love from Cecil" He dated it 7.2.19.

See inside the back cover for a picture of the Frontal and details within it.

Bishop welcomes decision on Sunday trading

Following the vote in the House of Commons on 9th March the Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, who speaks in the House of Lords on economic affairs as a Lord Spiritual, issued the following statement:

“MPs have listened to the concerns of the many people, community groups and businesses opposed to the further deregulation of Sunday trading, and have voted to reject the Government’s proposals.

Our current Sunday trading arrangements balance the needs of businesses and consumers with those of families and communities, and as such are backed by the majority of the public. Given the lack of clear evidence about economic benefit and concerns about impact on workers and their families, it is right that the Commons has dropped these proposals.

The Government now needs to give a firm commitment to follow through on its promises to strengthen existing protections for Sunday workers. It would be unfortunate if that were to end up sidelined as a result of today’s vote.”

The following letter was published in ‘The Observer’, 21 February 2016

SIR – I welcome the Prime Minister’s initiative on mental health care, but I am puzzled why the Government at the same time wants to cut out-of-work benefits to those with mental health problems.

Before Christmas, the House of Lords voted to remove two clauses from the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, cutting the benefits of new claimants to the Employment and Support Allowance Work Related Activity Group (ESA WRAG) from £102.15 to £72.40 per week, also cutting their Universal Credit. ESA WRAG is paid to sick or disabled people currently declared ‘not fit for work’, but who might be able to return to work in due course, assuming they receive appropriate treatment, training and support. Significantly nearly 50% of ESA WRAG claimants – almost 250,000 individuals – experience mental health problems.

The House of Lords called into serious question the notion that those found to be unable to work can be incentivised back to work by a cut to their living standards. The Government wants to bring the level of benefit paid to those in the WRAG into line with benefits paid under Job Seekers Allowance, with the stated rationale that a cut would “incentivise work” and is pushing for the Lords’ decision to be overturned.

This should not be allowed to happen. A cut in benefits may incentivise the fully able to find employment, but the Government has yet to provide any evidence that the same would hold true for those in the ESA WRAG, the majority of whom really do want to work.

Dr Alan Smith, The Bishop of St Albans

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever.

-St. Hippolytus of Rome

And finally

Health officials have shut down the village fete. Apparently there was an outbreak of tombola.

Years ago I used to supply Filofaxes for the Mafia. Yes, I was involved in very organised crime

My wife - it's difficult to say what she does - she sells sea shells on the sea shore.

Militant feminists; I take my hat off to them. They don't like that.

I worked as a doctor for the World Health Organisation. I didn't mean to, I thought I was auditioning for Doctor Who.

Just seen someone had gone to the trouble of putting up a sign outside a restaurant saying 'Happy Easter' and left the 's' out.

When I was young I baked an apple tart. I took it to Leeds, Liverpool and Reading. All because my teacher said make sure you take pie to 3 dismal places.

	Web site	www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk
VICAR	Vacancy	
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 Andy Garratt	322731
Deputy Churchwardens	Mr John & Mrs Olive Benson Mrs Eileen Martindale Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry	325663 01438 716162 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
PCC Chairman & Magazine Editor	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis g.hollis2@ntlworld.com	265617
Organist /Musical Director	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor	0779 6268565
Notice sheet/ secretarial assistants	Liz and Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com	323785
St John's School	Head Teacher Mrs Mandy Evans	322589
Tower Captain	Mr Roger Brown	01727 859059
Transport Co-ordinator	Barbara Taylor	329553
Youth Co-ordinator	Mrs Jo Brooks	256702



St Paul's Altar Frontal post WW1 - see article pp 12 and 13