

# **St John's Church**

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*



**Parish Magazine**

*April/May 2018*

**£1**



Josh, Ben and Sam Hahn helped Mary Douglas buff the Church's brass during the Annual Spring Clean. Lily and John Cox were delighted to receive a letter from the Queen congratulating them on their Diamond Jubilee. For background to the cover picture see page 8.



Life it seems is made up of seasons. There are the seasons of the year and at last we are approaching spring although as I write there is snow on the ground. Yet the squirrels are climbing the oak trees at the front of my house, the snowdrops are dying back, the daffodils have pushed their heads up ready to burst into bloom, and the crocuses are not far behind. All great signs of hope! Hope, for better weather, for cherry blossom, and sitting in the garden on a summer's evening relaxing with friends and family.



Then there are the seasons of life. On Sunday just gone I had the great privilege of baptising (christening) two wonderful children, an event that always makes me feel full of hope. Yet over the three days before I had led the funeral of a much loved member of the church congregation, Eileen Martindale, and also attended the funeral of Lynne Sparks the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield. Lynne had been a key player in the formation of the night shelter which was running at St Luke's Church until very recently. We have much hope of it running next year in the same location.

In the church seasons we are rapidly heading to Easter. For most of us Easter is a time of joy, of over indulging on chocolate and having family round, for going on holiday. All of which is fantastic and great fun. That having been said it is also a time for remembrance, the remembrance of Christ who died that we might have a relationship with God. So this year when people ask me why we have Easter eggs, instead of telling them the history I shall say "Because in the death and resurrection of Christ new life is birthed"

We as Christians at this time of year want to recognise this new birth in the shape of an egg. Why? Because an egg offers the hope of new life and as I said above new life is always a hopeful thing. So I encourage you to look for new life, new reasons for hope and thank God for them.

Yours, **Rev Paul**

**Sunday 1st                      EASTER SUNDAY**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service & Holy Communion    Jo Brooks & Paul Seymour

**Sunday 8th                      Easter 2**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am    Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 10th 2.30 pm    Friendship Tea**

**Sunday 15th                      Easter 3**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am    Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 22nd                      Easter 4**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am    Holy Communion led by led by Sue Stilwell

**Sunday 29th                      Easter 5**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am    Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

*\*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of month when shortened Communion Service \*\*\*\*\**

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

**1st**    Acts 10: 34-43                      John 20: 1-18

**8th**    Acts 4: 32-35                      John 20: 19-31

**15th**    Acts 3: 12-19                      Luke 24: 36-48                      Psalm 4

**22nd**    Acts 4: 5-12                      John 10: 11-18

**29th**    Acts 8: 26-40                      John 15: 1-8

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

The 2018 Lemsford Fete will be held at St John's School and Church on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May. As is traditional, 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.

New to the fete will be an animal corner with guest appearances from exotic animals such as snakes, lizards and creepy crawlies. There will also be a circus skills workshop with plate spinning, diablo, stilt walking and much more besides.

Back due to popular demand is the **teddy bear zip wire**, where children are encouraged to bring their own teddy for an exciting ride from the top of St John's Church tower with a certificate to take away. The ever-popular train rides round the fete site will also be returning for another year.

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. Our fabulous paella and onion bhajis will also be available. For those with a sweeter tooth, homemade cakes and treats will also be available as will the candy-floss stall and ice cream van.

"We are really excited about this year's programme of events," says Lemsford Church vicar, Reverend Paul Seymour. "Our village fete has a very traditional feel – perhaps that is why it has continued to be so popular over the years. A wonderful day out for people of all ages, we hope you will come and enjoy an afternoon of great food and drink, music and games to help kick off your summer calendar!" 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 £2.00. Senior Citizens are £1 and children under 16 go free. Sorry no dogs, except registered guide dogs, allowed.

**Sunday 6th                      Easter 6**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am   Family Service, Jo Brooks

**Monday 7th   Bank Holiday Lemsford Fete   12—4 pm**

**Tuesday 8th 2.30 pm    Friendship Tea**

**Sunday 13th                      Easter 7**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am   Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13TH—19TH**

**Sunday 20th                      Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am   Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 27th                      Trinity Sunday**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am   Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

10.30 pm Midnight Communion \*\*\*\*\*

*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of month when shortened Communion Service \*\**

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

**6th**     Acts 10: 44-48     John 15: 9-17

**13th**    Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26.     John 17: 6-19

**20th**    Acts 2: 1-21             John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15  
Psalm 104: 26 to end

**27th**    Romans 8: 12-17     John 3: 1-17

**Coffee after 11am Services.**

## Baptisms

On 18th March, **Autumn-Leigh Daniel** and **George Kingston**. Well done to their families.

## Funerals

On 2nd March **Rachel Maisey**, and on 15th March **Eileen Martindale**. A tribute to Eileen is on page 12. We send sincere condolences to their families.

**Dixie Clare** who lived for many years on the Great North Road, Stanborough, has died at the age of 106 years. She was a familiar local figure walking her little dog and took part in community activities. Her funeral was on 19th March in Sussex.

## Easter

**Good Friday 11 am** March 30th Images of Christ: meditations with pictures of Christ from many cultures.

**Easter Sunday April 1st** at 11am will be a joyful service and very interactive. The service will start with the Easter candle being brought into the church, there will be a family service style sermon and then we will receive Holy Communion.

The **Easter pictures** in this issue were drawn by pupils at the School. The one on the front cover was by **Autumn** of Class 2. The ones inside the back cover

(reading from top left clockwise) were by **Jack, Erin** both Class 2; **Thomas, Honor**, Class 3; **Annalisa, Emily**, and **Isabelle** Class 4; **Genevive** Class 3. Thank you to them all for splendid work.

## Spring Cleaning

Thank you also to those who helped with the church Spring Clean on a snowy 17th March morning. (picture inside front cover). Vital work.

## Fete—We Need You

Please help by:

1. Keeping stuff to one side for white elephant, books, plants etc.
2. Giving any donations that could be used on the various tombolas or ultimately for the grand draw.
3. Being available on the Sunday before to help set up.
4. On the day itself to help out or run a stall either full time or for an hour or two.

Queries to **Paul Butler**.

## St Albans Abbey

Two Services are to be **broadcast** from the Abbey on Easter Day. The first is a sung Eucharist at 8.10 am on Radio 4; the second a Choral Evensong, 3pm, Radio 3. If you wish to attend you will need to be seated 15 minutes early

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **20th May**



**E**aster is just around the corner and the signs of new life are beginning to emerge everywhere, despite the snow! At Easter we celebrate the new life that Jesus has bought for us through his death on the cross and his resurrection. As we look forward to the summer term, Sunday Club will be thinking about this amazing offer of new life in Jesus. We'll be learning more about who Jesus is with some great stories from John's gospel to share – Jesus the good shepherd, Jesus the true vine; they paint for us a clear picture of the Jesus who loves us and lives in us. We'll be thinking too about how we can keep following Jesus, and how he loves us, cares for us and helps us, which takes us nicely to Pentecost at the end of May and God's gift of his empowering Holy Spirit!



### ***What's on?***

We have family services on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Easter Sunday**, and on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May**, when the whole church family meets together at 11.00 for a service of songs, Bible readings, activities and prayers. Our **Easter Sunday service** will have plenty for the children, including the traditional **Easter egg hunt** after the service.

Then on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** everyone is invited to join the **Easter Monday Pilgrimage**, a longstanding tradition in the St Albans Diocese. Pilgrims walk to the Abbey in St Albans for a service of praise and celebration at 3.00. We'll be taking a group from **St John's, leaving church at 10.00**. It's a fair way to walk (about 7 miles cross country), so if you have little ones, why not just join us at the Abbey for the celebration. Find out more on the St Albans diocese website at [www.stalbans.anglican.org/EMP](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/EMP) or on social media at **#StAlbansEMP**



*.. and the rest of the year?*

**Sunday Club** meets each Sunday in term time during the morning service for Bible stories, games, crafts, music and prayer. Everyone welcome to join us and share in God's love, from toddlers to Year 6.

**Family services** are always on the first Sunday of the month, term time and holidays alike.

And **Friendship Teas** are held in the church annexe on the second Tuesday of the month (**10<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May**) from **2.30**. All ages welcome – why not drop in when you've picked up the kids from school?

You can visit us at the **Lemsford Fete on May 7<sup>th</sup>** the **Kids at St John's tent**. We're based by the gate between school and church and we'll have games, books and some crafts for the kids to enjoy.

**Mission Action Planning**

This year too as part of our **Mission Action Planning** there'll be a 'vox pop' stand with the kids tent and more information in the church itself. It's an opportunity to find out more about our church and to give your views on what we offer and what you think we should be doing more of. Our Mission Action Plan is the church route map for responding to and living out the two great commands of Jesus – to love God and our neighbours, and to bring people into his family – with generosity, joy, imagination and courage.

We'll be contacting as many in our parish and community as we can in the next few weeks to gather views. If you'd like to be involved but don't think we have your contact details, please do get in touch with me, or with Revd Paul and we'll make sure we add you to the mailing list (from which you can of course unsubscribe at any time).

Contact Jo Brooks at [joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com) for more information about these events or our children's activities at St John's.

**Jo Brooks**

[Joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:Joholifield@gmail.com)

**T**he Church was full for Eileen's Funeral, conducted by our Vicar, on 15th March. She was a dedicated servant of the Church being an Assistant Warden and in organising the cleaning rota.



**Jackie Spry**, Church Warden writes about her. "Eileen has been a member of St Johns Church for many years, attendance began when Eileen moved to live in Lemsford Road with husband John and her family. I have only known her since I became a warden and she became an Assistant

Warden, joining the group of us who open up and prepare our Church for Sunday Worship and at other special services, over the years she became not only a colleague but a dear friend. In her quiet way she met any task asked of her and stepped in often where and when needed without being asked.

Eileen took on the task of organising the rota for Church Cleaning and often cleaning herself when anyone was unable through illness or holidays. Eileen became a regular at Annexe Teas on Fete Days with me and others. she was integral part of both the Mill House Group and 10am Wednesday Morning Prayer.

Eileen's family meant a great deal to her and she loved them all dearly and was very proud of their achievements. In the last few years when husband John became ill Eileen looked after him, whilst also keeping an eye on elderly neighbours.

Eileen was, as many have said "A Lovely Lady" she was a quiet person who just "got on with the job", she was the helping hand I turned to many times. Thank you Eileen for your friendship I will miss you. **Jackie**".

**W**e send our heartfelt condolences to John, her husband, to her children Jason and Sharon, and to her six grandchildren. As her coffin was born into the Church a song was played: Roy Orbison—*Oh, Pretty Woman*. How well chosen.

**Mary and Ian Douglas** recently opened their home and garden so that we could admire their wide range of snowdrops. Mary subsequently brought bags of bulbs that she had dug up for us to buy. This was a great success and so far the total raised for Church Funds has nearly reached **£200**.



The PCC has set up a Fundraising Committee so if you have any ideas like this do contact a Warden or other PCC Member.

Just a reminder that our insurers, **Ecclesiastical**, are offering to donate £130 to our church each time a members of our congregation take out a new **home insurance policy** with them during the course of 2018. Visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130) or call 0800 783 0130 and quote TRUST130, and cite St Johns as the beneficiary.

**A**nother reminder is to register with **Easyfundraising** and nominate St Johns as your designated Charity. Then, when you shop online, go to the retailer via the Easy Fundraising site **before** you check out your shopping basket. Retailer's donations are based on a percentage of the cost price and can go up to 3%. **PLEASE SIGN UP AND USE IT. Thank you!**

We are now almost at the end of the 'Spring Term' as I write this latest report and reflect on how little spring weather we have witnessed yet! Although it is not officially Spring yet, we are all looking forward to temperatures rising and seeing the sunshine again. The children have been busy as usual with exciting and engaging learning and this was exemplified so well in Class 3's Class Assembly in January which showed us a wonderful kaleidoscope of different learning activities across the curriculum. The confidence and enthusiasm shown in the presentation by the children confirmed how much they had obviously been enjoyed by all!

As always we have also been participating in as many events and opportunities offered from outside the normal curriculum, with some of our children taking part in football and netball matches, co-ordination challenge, county badminton tournaments, dance workshops, cross-country, maths workshops, singing gala and much more.

We also are strongly committed to offering our own 'in house' exciting events and we asked the Science Museum to visit the school and work with each class at the beginning of February – a very interesting and productive day was had by all.



Again this year we invited in The Young Shakespeare Company, who gave a wonderful, interactive and accessible performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (pictured). As always we had fantastic feedback from the children and some excellent follow up writing too. We are grateful to the LSA who continue to support this relationship with The Young Shakespeare Company each year. As children leave St John's in Year 6, they now have a sound knowledge and often a great love for the 'Bard'!

Neil Arksey, a children's author, came to St John's on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to work with all our children in class groups and to talk about storytelling to round off our celebration of World Book Day 2108. Ofsted arrived on March 1<sup>st</sup>, a very cold and snowy day as well as being World Book Day so staff and pupils were all dressed up as book characters! The children, staff, governors and parent support were all fantastic on the day and we are now awaiting the official letter to send out to parents, hopefully before the Easter holidays.

On Mothering Sunday, Miss Ng, myself and many of Class 4 were unable to attend the service at St John's Church as we were singing at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Hertfordshire Schools Music Gala. This was an amazing experience for all involved, with Michael Rosen narrating the performance and a huge choir of primary and secondary schools involved. Many parents were in the audience supporting their children and St John's (thank you so much) and Mrs Nolan, our music teacher and Miss Ng had prepared the children brilliantly, so they knew every word of every song perfectly. It was indeed a very proud moment and one I will certainly never forget and I am sure all of the children will cherish too.

I hope you all like front cover of this edition of the Parish Magazine – what a lovely idea to invite our children to design it. As always we had many excellent entries but a final 'one' was eventually agreed upon jointly by Mrs Evans and Reverend Paul. Not easy! Thank you to all the children who put so much effort into this.

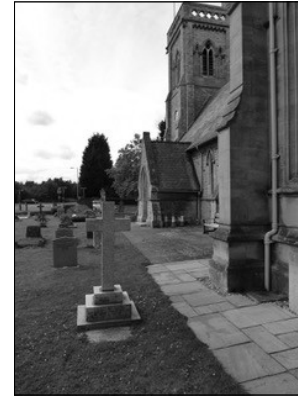
Best wishes to all, **Mandy Evans** Head Teacher



The Church's brass candlesticks were donated by Thomas Hovell who lived in Lemsford House and is buried with his wife Margaret in the south graveyard. The picture shows the imposing memorial Cross set over his grave near the Bocket Chapel. The candlesticks and other metalwork were thoroughly cleaned during the Church Spring Clean—see picture inside front cover. Hovell was a distinguished surgeon, whose obituary appeared in *The Times*, 1 July 1925 (researched by **Barbara Taylor**).

**“THOMAS MARK HOVELL FRCS**

Edinburgh, of 105 Harley St., and Lemsford House, Hatfield, has died at the age of 72. 37 years ago a battle raged over the illness and death of the German Crown Prince, later the Emperor Frederick. Hovell was surgeon to the hospital for diseases of the Throat and Ear in Golden Square, and when Dr Norris Wolfenden was obliged to resign his care of the Crown Prince after the first operation in June 1887 Hovell was invited to succeed him.



Hovell accepted the position of resident Physician, and accompanied his patient to Braemar in August, a few weeks after the first Jubilee procession [of Queen Victoria] in which the Crown Prince was such a notable figure. From this time onward with the exception of his father's death, Hovell was in constant attention until his illustrious patient died on June 13, 1888. During the whole of this time he assiduously kept records and supplied reports of the daily state, and by his skill, gentleness and tact so endeared himself that one of the Emperor's first acts was to confer upon him with his own hand the second class of the order of the Crown - a high distinction for one not of German birth. As Hovell was unable to speak a word of German, all communications with his subordinates must have been in English, or must have passed through a third person. There can be no doubt that Hovell came out of the controversy in a very successful manner. he was goaded occasionally to take part in it, but he usually went about his duties silently, confined himself to facts, and noted the steady downward course of the disease.

After the death of the Emperor, Hovell returned to London, was appointed Lecturer on Diseases of the Throat at the London Hospital, wrote a book on diseases of the ear. He enjoyed the confidence of all his professional brethren. Mr Hovell came of an ancient Suffolk family who held lands of the monastery at Bury St Edmunds in the reign of Edward the Confessor. He was the son of Dennis de Berdt Hovell FRCS, a general practitioner in Clapton E., who was at one time President of the Hunterian Society. He married in 1905 the Hon. Margaret Cecilia Bateman-Hanbury, daughter of the second Lord Bateman and leaves one son."

**Sandra Maisey** reports:

The Lemsford Local History Group held their first meeting of 2018 at the end of January. Following a recruitment campaign in December/January around 30 people attended to hear an interesting talk by Nik Pringle of Herts Constabulary on "Murders in Hertfordshire". Nik is a founder member & first secretary of the Herts Police Historical Society.

Currently there are an average of 6-10 murders a year in Hertfordshire a figure that had hardly changed in Nik's 38 years of Police service. He outlined some of Hertfordshires's headline murders. These included the murder in 1602 of Anthony James by Annis & George Dell, who cut out the victim's sisters tongue to prevent her giving evidence. However she confronted them 8 years later & "talked" (or so the popular folklore of the day states) thereby condemning both of them to be hanged. Nik went on to describe the more recent 2009 Jeffrey Howe aka the Jigsaw murders where body parts turned up all over Hertfordshire and equally locally the Janie Shepherd murder of 1977 and of course the notorious 1957 Deep Freeze Murder of Ann Noblett of Wheathamstead. This attracted a lot of interest in the audience some of whom remember their own houses being searched (particularly) if they had deep freezers at home.

The next meeting of the group will take place on **Thursday 7th June** at 7.30pm in Lemsford Village Hall."



Sir Stanley Spencer, 1924-27 Tate Britain



Spencer believed that the divine rested in all creation. He saw his home village of Cookham as a paradise in which everything was invested with mystical significance. The local churchyard here becomes the setting for the resurrection of the dead. Christ is enthroned in the church porch, cradling three babies, with God the Father standing behind. Spencer himself appears near the centre, naked, leaning against a grave stone; his fiancée Hilda lies sleeping in a bed of ivy. At the top left, risen souls are transported to Heaven in the pleasure steamers that then ploughed the Thames.

**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 (AD 190-236)**

**And finally ..... *Spring, when fledglings leave the nest***



**"Not yet. Don't fly off until the moment  
they raise their binoculars."**

