

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



Parish Magazine

August/September 2019

£1



**Twenty Floral tributes, one for each of the Lemsford men killed in action in the First World War, were laid beside the War Memorial on the 20th July to mark the Centenary of its Dedication in 1919 (pages 15,16).
Front cover: Fire Within - glass mosaic for summer**

From the Vicarage

Recently I was talking to my housebound father about a little blue butterfly that was flying around the head of Spike (my Springer Collie cross). The poor dog was clearly not enjoying it, but I and my father were. Toward the end of the conversation Dad said ‘‘thank you Paul I could see it all in my minds eye, ‘’ It took me a moment or two to catch on. He hadn’t seen a butterfly in a couple of years and the description of Spike’s attempts to stop the butterfly flying around his head were things that without my possibly slightly exaggerated description would not have enriched his day.



Some of us when on holiday enjoy sending family and friends a postcard, sometime with a photograph of the area or, if at the seaside, possibly one of the slightly naughty cards, that may make the recipient smile. Most of us scribble a very brief note ‘‘having a lovely time, weather good, waters cold but lovely and clear, a seagull stole my fish when sat on the harbour side. See you soon etc.’’

The similarity is the joy of communication, we seem to be hard wired to share our joys and sometimes our sorrows, to receive the words and communications from others. Not all communications are of course easy - some are difficult and even sad - but those are the conversations we will plan carefully and worry about more because we care for the person we are communicating with.



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With the best will in the world communications can go wrong. I think many of us have this experience when using email. Why should email be worse than say a letter? I think it's because with a letter you plan out what you are going to say before you start to write, the process takes time and a great deal of consideration and concentration, allowing the writer to be careful, thoughtful and to say what they want to say in the best possible way. An email is relatively instant, you get the message and reply as soon as possible, and to be fair at its best it's an excellent and efficient means of communication. At its worst it tends to be short, to the point and written quickly leaving the reader somehow feeling short changed or that the email has been in some way impolite.

We all love to communicate and be communicated with, and we want communications to be of interest and considerate. We also want to be heard and for our thoughts to be valued. Which brings me to the subject of prayer.

Many people desire to pray, but don't know how. Consider these tips:

What Do I Say? Praying is like talking to your best friend! It's easy to talk to someone when you know they love you unconditionally!

Tell Him your needs! "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you".

Last but far from least—*Thank Him*, for He died on the cross at Calvary for us! "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Paul



ALLOTMENT TEAS

Sunday 4th August from 2.30pm

Free admission.

Tickets available from Marion Cleveland or Churchwardens

Directions to allotments on back of tickets.

Donations to St John's Church

Sunday 4th Trinity 7

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Edward Cardale

11 am Holy Communion led by Edward Cardale

Sunday 11th Trinity 8

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

Tuesday 13th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea**Sunday 18th Trinity 9**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 25th Trinity 10

8am BCP Holy Communion

11 am Holy Communion led by Ron Ingamells

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)**4th** Hosea 11 1-11 Luke 12: 13-21**11th** Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Luke 12: 32-40**18th** Isaiah 5: 1-7 Luke 12:49-56 Psalm 80: 9 to end**25th** Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Luke 13: 10-17

Sunday 1st Trinity 11

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11am Family Service led by Paul Seymour & Jo Brooks

Sunday 8th Trinity 12

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 Trinity 13

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour
11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

Sunday 22nd St Michael & All Angels

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 Jeremiah 2: 4-13 Luke 14: 1, 7-14

8th Jeremiah 18: 1-11 Luke 14: 25-33 Psalm 14

15th Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 Luke 15: 1-10

22nd Jeremiah 8: 18 -9:1 Luke 16: 1-13

29th Revelations 12: 7-12 John 1: 47-end

Baptisms

On 15th June, **Roman Barker-Paul** and on 7th July **Clementine Williams**. Congratulations!

Wedding

On 13th July, **Jonathan Kadifeli** and **Rachel Millinger**. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

Funeral

On 20th June, **William Harrison**. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

Sponsored Bike Ride

The annual sponsored "Bike 'n Hike" for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust is on **Saturday 14th September**. Half of the money raised goes to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, and half comes back to St John's . If you are interested in taking part as either a cyclist or walker please contact **Lucy or Kevin Earl** on 01707 390497 , or kevinearl670@btinternet.com for more details and to collect a sponsor form. It is a fun day, you really don't need to be super-fit to take part.

Stefan & Bhavina Kotas

It was great to see them with **Isobella** at the Church picnic (pictured inside back cover).

Gardens

Mary Douglas writes: We have decided the best way to keep the gardens looking good is to have regular **quarterly Saturday morning work parties** from 9-12 midday and "Green Coffee mornings" from 10-11.30 on the **Third Thursday each month**. Our next Saturday will be on **19th October**, and then 18th January and 18th April 2020. Our first Thursday will be **19th September** as it's tricky starting ventures in August! We welcome all gardeners and also non gardeners to join us on these dates.

Church Clock

After several years of inactivity owing to a faulty part the clock is now sounding the hours again. This is thanks to a very generous donation from **Carol Hicks**, resident of Mill Close (pictured inside back cover), who missed hearing it. Carol met the full cost of repair, which we just could not afford at present, and we are extremely grateful to her.

Strawberry Teas

Thanks to the generosity of **Ramblers Holidays** the tea at the Mill in July raised £353. Well done **Gina Butler** + helpers.

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

So, another school year is over and we are embarking on our six weeks of holiday, with all the exciting new activities and places to visit that brings. Then come September many are travelling to new schools, new friends and new experiences. Others will move classes or start school for the first time. We never stand still in our lives, and the same goes for our Christian lives. Sometimes all the changes can be daunting, and moving on often means letting go of something, which can make us sad. But in all the changing scenes of our lives our God is there with us; his faithfulness, loving kindness and mercy never change, and are there for us, new every morning.



Over the summer holidays **Sunday Club** takes a break too, but we'll be back on **Sunday 8th September**. We'll be continuing in Luke's gospel with more great stories Jesus told and things he did to tell people that God was doing something new – the old way of doing things was past and now, through Jesus, everyone could know, love and be loved by God

In August we won't be having our normal **Family service** but church will still meet each Sunday as usual. We'll be back with our regular family service **on Sunday 1st September**.

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. We meet for a shortened service of songs, readings, prayers and activities. Everyone is warmly welcome.

Children are also very welcome at **Friendship Teas, on the 2nd Tuesday** of the month, from 2.30 in the annexe.

Contact me at joholifield@gmail.com for more information about these events or our children's activities at St John's.

School Report *Mandy Evans*

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We are fast approaching the last day of term as I write this report and we are still busy ensuring our leavers have a great send off into the world of secondary school. As always, we have had such a busy and enjoyable summer term at St John's with the action continuing right through to the very end!



The term started with all guns blazing and Lemsford Fete quickly upon us. Months of hard work from St John's Church and St John's School came together, as always, to create another highly successful day which not only raises valuable funds for both church and school but gives us another opportunity to work together as wonderful community. Long may this last!

Since I last wrote, Classes 3 and 4 experienced an excellent 'Parliament Week' culminating in a visit from our local MP, Grant Shapps, who was put through his paces by questions from our young future voters and, hopefully, future parliamentarians! Throughout the week leading up to Grant Shapps' visit, the two classes had used resources sent from the Houses of Parliament to learn how this important institution functions to support the precious democracy of this country. Drapes depicting the green leather seating of the House of Commons were fixed up around the classrooms to give a realistic context to the learning.

Just before half term our 5 yearly Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools took place and we were delighted with the very positive response from the inspectors. They recognised the caring, nurturing Christian ethos of the school which permeates everything we do and stand for and for the excellent partnership we have with St John's Church.

This term we had another Whole School Picnic during our Well-Being Day, which was again a great success. The children spent the day in their house groups engaged in a carousel of different well-being activities. Much fun was had by everyone and the day was a great success.



Our youngest children spent a fabulous day at Shepreth Wildlife Park following up some of their learning in class. They thoroughly enjoyed this and were a credit to the school. Class 2 visited our local nature reserve at Lemsford Springs to get inspiration for a writing topic and Class 3 spent a fascinating day at the British Museum to follow up their learning on the Egyptians and Romans. Class 4 spent their annual residential trip this year in the Isle of Wight. They too had a great time – thanks to Miss Ng, Mrs Found and Mrs Khiernejad who gave up their time to take the children away. Again, as we so often find, wherever they went, people commented on their superb behaviour.



As always there is so much to write at this time of year but I will finish with our wonderful production of *The Jungle Book*, a performance which really enchanted us all – I saw it four times and could have happily sat through another four. Such fun and such superb performances from all the children.

We say a final farewell to our Year 6 pupils today. They have been a super year group all through the school and especially as a united, committed Year 6. They will undoubtedly take these qualities forward and make a great success for the next part of their journey through school. Good luck to them all and a happy summer to all in St John's Parish.

“Immediately I read those words I knew what was wrong with me...”

Yvonne Edwards grew up in a fine, stable family. She said that she had been convent educated and rebelled utterly against any conception of God. She herself admitted that she developed a free and wanton spirit to do what she wanted, when she wanted and with whom she wanted. She took her first drink at 15 and considered life one great party after another. She was married and had three children yet admitting that she was an ardent, angry atheist and alcoholic. Shortly after her 35th birthday, she was admitted to a specialist hospital two stone underweight, with an enlarged liver and skin having a strange yellow hue.



Soon to leave, she thought she needed some new clothes. She opened the bedside drawer hoping to see a copy of Vogue, Cosmopolitan, OK or Hello magazine. Instead there was a Bible placed there by the Gideons. Yvonne described what happened next, “I picked it up and began to flick through the pages and I stopped randomly in Luke’s gospel at Luke 7:37 which begins, ‘And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner.....’.

Immediately I read those words I knew what was wrong with me. I fell on my knees beside my bed and whilst reading through the rest of this chapter I wept bitter tears in the knowledge that Jesus was real, God existed and I had been blessed with the gift of life which I’d spent 35 years living in sinful rebellion and in denial of the very existence of my Creator and Father. How could I have been so blind?”

Simon Calvert, growing up in a non-Christian family, had received a little red New Testament and Psalms when he was at school in Teeside. He remembers one boy tearing up his bible which he thought he shouldn’t do. He kept his safely on a shelf at home. He kept it for years until he gave it away to someone else who he thought needed God’s word. He familiarised himself with the Bible Helps, the reading plan, information about the bible and, of course, reading the scriptures until he himself became a Christian. Simon is now the lead lawyer for the Christian Institute helping those facing a threat to free speech and religious liberty, most notably in the case of Ashers Bakery.



In the past year, the local branch of the GideonsUK has distributed over 2,500 Testaments to schools; 1,300 to the University at Freshers Fair; hotels; care homes; the police, fire and rescue services; the Scouts. At Christmas and Easter time, we have given out bibles at various markets nearby. Where possible, we try to stamp a badge on the front cover, as with military regiments, football and rugby clubs, since it provides a greater sense of ownership



Nationally the Gideons UK distributed 33,000 Bibles and 715,000 New Testaments in 2018. By far the largest group is the schools. Internationally, the Association works in about 200 countries around the world.

As in the case of Simon or Yvonne, no one knows who gave them the bible or left it in the hospital. This is an anonymous ministry but a very active one. James said, "Faith without works is dead..." *James. 2:17*. If you think this is a ministry for you and you can subscribe to the biblical beliefs, then do talk to me about becoming a Gideon. It is open to men and women alike. If you think you cannot manage the activities, but you would like to be associated with the work, then become a Friend of the Gideons supporting us financially and prayerfully. We are encouraged and guided by the fact that God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. *Psalms 119: 105*.

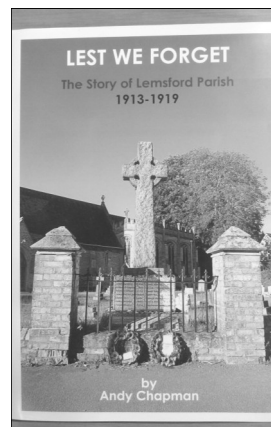
Ramblers Walking Holidays Part IV Tour Leaders

The company's tour leaders have always been vital to the success of the holidays and the organisation as a whole. Even where a local guide is used, it has long been company policy to provide its groups with one of its own leaders, recruited and briefed from its UK head office. As the most crucial point of contact with its clients, the leader has to deal with the quirks, expectations, interests and demands of a series of diverse groups of individuals whilst leading, informing, motivating (and at times commanding) them throughout the tour as the arrangements and programme unfolded.



Continued on page 19

100 years to the day since the War Memorial was dedicated in 1919 the Local History Group + Church laid on a very moving tribute to the men from Lemsford who lost their lives in the Great War. The Church was open to visitors from 11 am, and at 1 pm there were a series of readings, songs and (mainly) brief reflections. Finally the whole gathering moved to the Church yard to lay floral tributes before twenty boards with the detail of each lost man, with a blessing from the Vicar.



As one of the readers, I can attest to the hard work that went into this, involving many people, from the direct participants to musicians and flower arrangers—and of course the providers of tea afterwards.

The readings, mainly from the writings of the Vicar at the time, Rev Ward, in Lemsford News, showed the progression from early optimism to progressive sorrow at the huge waste of life. Juxtaposed were extracts from letters to families from their boy in action. Private Sear spoke of spending a night in a crowded lifeboat (with two dead men aboard) after his ship had been sunk; the survivors kept up morale by singing hymns. He concluded “Don’t worry—I shall soon be alright again”.

At home Flag Days were held, gifts were sent to the front, and potatoes were sown. Lemsford too even experienced fear when a Zeppelin flew over in 1915.

All this and much more is recorded in a special book - *Lest we forget*—printed to accompany the event. Written by **Andy Chapman**, it is a splendid publication with excellent sharp pictures, and highly recommended at only £15. **Ramblers Holidays** generously bought nine copies for distribution to the church and others.

Most thanks though to Andy himself who conceived the event and expended a tremendous amount of time and nervous energy in executing it. For all concerned it was time very well spent.

As I write this article, Lemsford Local History group is preparing for our ceremony marking the 100 year anniversary of the unveiling of the Lemsford War Memorial on 20th June 1919. The build up to the event has been a long and full experience with all the group pulling together. It would also be appropriate to thank all the members of St John's Church - Mandy Evans, St John's School, Ramblers Holidays, Ian, Landlord of the Long & Short, Adam, Bar Manager of the Sun Inn and anyone I have missed for supporting this special event.

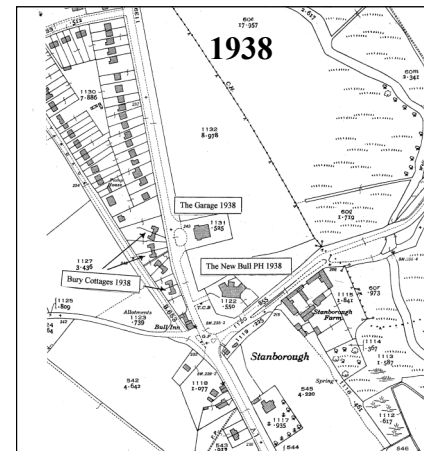
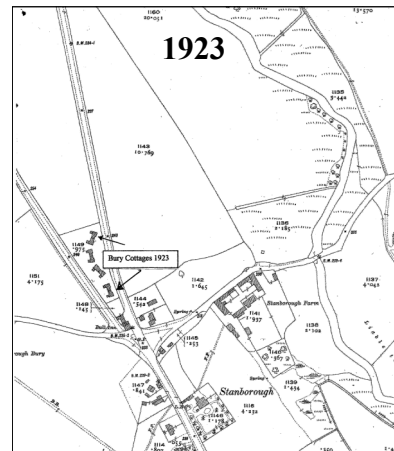
When researching for the event, we decided to build twenty display boards to represent the local men who died in the Great War and to conclude the ceremony by laying a floral tribute by each board. Jean Mitchinson volunteered to help the group make the floral tributes. We decided to keep it simple with flowers from the garden that would have been around in 1919 with a simple ribbon tying them into bunches, based on a Mothering Sunday model. To help inspire our flower arrangers, we found a special image in the archives of the Lemsford ladies competing in the best Flowery Bonnet Competition at the Flower and Produce show in 1907. One of our members knew that the marquee was supplied by the Brocket estate and benefactors of the Parish, Lord and Lady Mount Stephen.



The War Memorial Event ends the season for Lemsford local History Group. It has been a full and interesting year; we have enjoyed several lunch time meetings, general meetings in the church annex, a quiz we ran for several of the local history groups, hosted by our friends in Welwyn at the civic centre. Our fete display this year was well received and repeated on Open Sunday 20th July 2019.

The group changed from evening meeting in the evening six times a year to a more social arrangement of lunch time meetings, inviting other local history groups. We also held afternoon meetings in the annex to develop ideas and have a chat over a cup of tea, as well as get -togethers if we had subjects we wanted to research. If you are interested in meeting the group to find out more, we have our AGM on **Thursday September 19th** in the church annex at 19.30. All welcome!

With WGC celebrating 100 years in 2020, a possible subject for our display at the Fete in 2020 is '*The Development of Stanborough*'. This year I published images in this Magazine of the Great North Road Bridge under construction which showed a light railway for moving materials. This railway was an important tool in the construction of WGC. The OS map of 1923 shows the old Bull and eight cottages in the great North Road. The 1938 OS map shows the road full of houses. This was repeated for New Road and Brocket Road. If you live in this area and know about the history of your house or want to know how, when, who and why your house was built, do come to the AGM



During the first week of June the social committee were busy gathering information and taking photographs around the village for our entry into the **Anglia in Bloom** competition. Our thanks to the Lemsford Local History Group for allowing us to use information from their website. Thanks also to everyone who turned up to clear the verges, pick up litter and help make the village look its best. Judging took place on the 9th July. Members of the committee accompanied the judges and members of the council around the village including the church, the school and Lemsford Springs Reserve. Our thanks to our vicar Paul Seymour and Mary Douglas for showing the judges around the churchyard and to head teacher Mandy Evans for the input from some pupils, showing their garden and their rabbits - a particular high spot. Thanks also to Barry Trevis for showing the judging panel around the Reserve. The judges were very impressed with the Reserve and suggested that the council should put in a bid for a bio-diversity award. We don't know yet how the judging went but we were up against some strong competition.

Planning permission for the **village notice board** has been applied for and a company supplying suitable notice boards has been found. The committee hope to have the notice board installed by the Autumn.

The next **meet and greet** sessions will take place on Thursday 22nd August and Thursday 26th September at the Sun from 6-8pm.

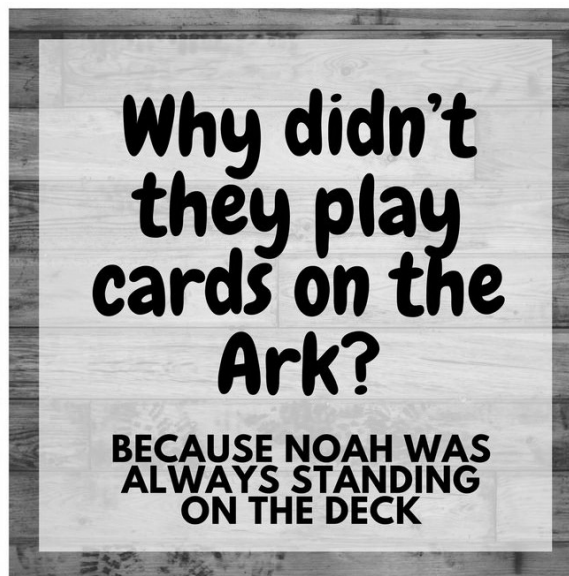
.....
Ramblers, continued from page 14 The type of leaders needed was evolving. Insurance demands, increasing requirements from governing bodies at home and abroad, and views coming from the courts following travel related litigation, all meant that from the mid 1990s the company began introducing internal then external training courses for leaders. They had to hold recognised qualifications before being let loose with groups around the world. A feel for group dynamics, communication and other social skills, together with a basic awareness of formal procedures and regulations became as important as leading a group safely out in the hills. There was a little less freedom and flexibility to adapt the programme from that advertised. And the paperwork and documentation involved in managing tours began to increase too.

Continued in the next issue.

Father, Creator of all, thank you for summer!
Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.
Thank you for the beauty I see all around me
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy your
creation.
Thank you for the increased time I have to be with my
friends and family,
and for the more casual pace of the summer season.
Draw me closer to you this summer.
As I enjoy Your creation, create in me
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Ignatian Spirituality

And finally ...



Carol Hicks; Stefan, Bhavina, & Isobella Kotas; Church Picnic;
and concluding Prayer at War Memorial Centenary.

