

# **St John's Church**

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*



**Parish Magazine**

*December 2019/January 2020*

**£1**



**School Remembrance Service, and the Church one (with Tim Armstrong-Taylor playing the Last Post) . Darcey & Emily Palmer; Bhavina, Isabella & Stefan Kotas—see News Page 7**

## From the Vicarage

The first Christmas brought the world a little child, a child that had been foretold for centuries. A child born into the chaos of an occupied land, where the mighty ruled absolutely, and everybody had to register for a census regardless of the distance or difficulty of their journey to the appointed city.



This little child was the first born son of Mary and Joseph, the child the Joseph called Jesus. Sadly not long after his birth, due to the insecurity of a political leader who feared a rival, we are told in scriptures that Joseph, Mary and the young Jesus have to flee to save his life.

So to Egypt they flee approximately 400 miles as the crow flies (according to google maps). Nowadays that would be a drive of a few hours, but then it would have been a very significant journey in a land full of desert and hostile soldiers.

We hear nothing more until we read of Jesus and his family back in the Holy Land where he is in the temple discussing scriptures with the leaders of the day.

In some ways this is a remarkably modern story. We live in a time of political unrest in many parts of the world and without making any political point I think we can all agree that politics here are a touch controversial and difficult.

Whilst none of us may be refugees this country has recently been shocked by the plight and death of 39 people, trapped in a freezer trailer towed by a lorry on roads any one of us could have driven. They were running away from poverty and hoping for a better life. We know that across Europe there are many refugees who have escaped from terrible persecution. It makes me wonder when I think of the influence Jesus has had on the last two millennia what might have been achieved by any one of those 39 refugees.



**J**esus and his family were running to Egypt in fear of his life, but in his birth we begin to see the true miracle of caring parents visited by an angel, a child born in a stable, visited by shepherds who saw and heard angels singing and wise men following stars shining in the night sky, travelling many miles to do so.

So many events that were far from the ordinary, so many things to make us full of wonder and yet it seems that Jesus grew up a comparatively normal child, the child of a carpenter and a woman that was yet to marry Joseph. He learned his trade with his Dad and will have learned to read in the synagogue. So ordinary in so many ways and yet from this precarious and uncertain start Jesus emerges, he works and then is baptised and starts his ministry.

The sick are healed, the dead are raised, storms are calmed and thousands fed. The message of God's love and acceptance is preached. Jesus is born in a world like ours and a miracle that can happen only once occurs: the Son of God is among us.

**W**ill we welcome him into our lives this coming Christmastide?

### **Christingle    Sunday 12th January**

**An orange, a ribbon, a candle & sweets – together tell a story.**

**Come to our Christingle celebration at St John's Church!**

**Christmas may over for another year,  
but we can carry on celebrating  
the light & life of Jesus.**

**4.30 p.m. Christingle making**

**5 p.m. Celebration service**

**And pizzas afterwards**

**Everyone welcome!**



**Sunday 1st          Advent Sunday**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Family Service led by Paul Seymour &amp; Jo Brooks

**Sunday 8th          Advent 2**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 10th 2.30 pm      Friendship Tea****Sunday 15th          Advent 3**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am **Nine Lessons & Carols****5 pm          Carols by Candlelight****Sunday 22nd          Advent 4**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 24th          Christmas Eve**4 pm **Crib Service**10.30 pm **Midnight Mass****Wednesday 25th      Christmas Day**11 am **Family Carols** led by Paul Seymour**Sunday 29th          Christmas 1**

8 am 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** Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44**8th** Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12**22th** Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1:18-25**24th** Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14**25th** Hebrew 1: 1-4 John 1: 1-14**29th** Hebrew 2: 10-18 Matthew 2: 13-23**Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service**

**Sunday 5th                      Epiphany**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service led by Paul Seymour & Jo Brooks

**5 pm Christingle** led by Jo Brooks

**Sunday 12th                  Baptism of Christ**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am   Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 14th 2.30 pm    Friendship Tea****Sunday 19th                  Epiphany 2**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am   Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 26th                  Epiphany 3**

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)

**5th**    Isaiah 60:1-6    Matthew 2:1-12

**12th**   Acts 10: 34-43    Matthew 3:13-17

**19th**   Isaiah 49: 1-7    John 1:29-42    Psalm 40: 1-12

**26th**   1 Corinthians    Matthew 4:12-23



**Baptisms**

On 27th October **Isla-May Louise Ellis** and **Frederick Charles Britten** - congratulations to their parents.

**Wedding**

On 14th September Harry Hawkins / Camilla Harris. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

**Funerals**

**William Jack Beswarick** - died on 2 October 2019; **Mary Tutt** - died on 21 September 2019; **Geoffrey Ayrey** - died on 23 October 2019. *See tributes on pages 11 and 13.*

**Bhavinha and Stefan Kotas**, who were married in St Johns and worshipped here for several years prior to moving to Henley on Thames celebrated the baptism of their first child, **Isobella** on Sunday 17th November in Henley. Several members of St Johns (including your Editor) were thrilled to be invited to attend the Service, and the splendid lunch afterwards in in Leander Club overlooking the Thames. Ian Douglas took the picture of them inside the front cover.

**News from the Belfry**

Monday night practices are well attended by our own members and visitors from Sandridge, Hatfield and Kimpton. Our newest recruits, twins **Fearne and Blake Palmer**, age 11 are making excellent progress.

Lemsford bells are light (3 cwt) and are easy to handle enabling ringers of all ages to progress. **Darcey Palmer** rang his second Quarter Peal - 1320 Plain Bob Doubles in 38 mins—on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November. This was an achievement as he has been ringing less than 2 years. It was sadly in memory of **Danielle Marie Black** aged 45, a cousin of **Emily Palmer**, who was tragically shot and died in America on Wednesday, 30th October 2019. Ringers : 1.Ron E Titmus 2.Darcey W Palmer 3.Judith E Titmus 4.Adam R Crocker 5.Robert J Crocker (C) 6. Emily K Palmer.

On Sunday, 10th November 2019 5040 Doubles were rung in 2hrs 20 mins (Grandsire, Eynesbury, St Osmond, St Martins, St Simons, Plain Bob) as a celebration of the life of **Dora Elizabeth Scott, Judith's** mother (14th March 1925 – 28th August 2019). Ringers:1..Judith E Titmus 2.Daniel R B Gregory 3. Vivian Nutton 4.Keith D Waples; 5. Robert J Crocker(C) 6.Ron E Titmus.

*See a picture of Darcey and Emily inside front cover*

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **19th January**

Watching and waiting, singing and celebrating – we're getting ready for the most wonderful time in the church year, where the children are at the heart of our worship. In our celebration services and at Sunday Club we'll hear again the story of Jesus's birth, as told in Matthew's gospel. We will watch and wait and travel together with the many people who looked for and found the infant King, and worshipped him. You are very welcome and we hope you can join us for one of our special services from **Advent Sunday on 1<sup>st</sup> December**, through to **Christingle on 12<sup>th</sup> January**, or for our regular Sunday Club.



**Sunday Club** meets each week during the 11a.m. service for Bible stories, crafts, quizzes, games and prayer, dates below. Everyone is welcome, from toddlers to Year 6. We will be following the four Advent Sunday themes during December, then in January, we meet Jesus through the eyes of the Magi, of John the Baptist and the first disciples.

Our next **family service** is on **Advent Sunday 3rd December** at **11a.m.** with songs and readings and drama that help will us to start getting ready for Christmas.

On **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** we have a wonderful service for all ages, bringing the wonder of Christmas a little closer – **Carols by Candlelight is at 5p.m.**

Then there is our **Crib Service** for the children on **Christmas Eve at 4p.m.** – come and enjoy a moment's peace and calm in church with your little ones, as we get ready for the big day. All ages welcome.

Finally, we celebrate **Christingle** together on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January** from **4.30p.m.** (see the ad on page 3).

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



## School Report *Mandy Evans*

Since I last wrote the School Report just before Harvest Festival, it doesn't seem to have stopped raining! Nonetheless, we have had some wonderful activities and fun at St John's School.



Class 3 and Class 4 enjoyed a truly fantastic Roman Day delivered by 'History Off the Page' in October, which enhanced their learning and understanding about the Ancient Roman world and gave them the opportunities to experience many 'hands on' activities. Children and staff all dressed as Romans for the day to immerse themselves in this fascinating, important era of history. A thoroughly enjoyable day, funded by our wonderful LSA

Amongst other fun sports activities, Class 3 was invited to take part in Bisi Badminton competition at Stanborough; a team from Class 4 represented us in the local Table tennis Schools Competition. We also took part in the Saracens Tag Rugby Tournament at Welwyn Rugby club and we have badminton, girls' football, boys' football and netball clubs happening each week after school as well! This is all on top of two hours PE a week and the Daily Mile!

Another fantastic Fireworks display was organised by the LSA on 9<sup>th</sup> November – it turned out to be a dreary, rainy evening, which was transformed by our LSA team into a wonderful, fun-filled event with a super firework display as well as activities for the children. Thank you to those from the church who supported this event as well!

Our school Remembrance Service took place on Monday morning 11<sup>th</sup> November when we gathered around the village War Memorial and laid our wreaths, observed a minute silence, read the poem 'In Flanders Fields' and read prayers. Rev Paul joined us and gave a final blessing before we returned to school. It is so important that we continue to help our children to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. *(See picture inside front cover).*

We are now looking forward to the build up to Christmas and all the joy and anticipation that brings for the children. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our School Carol Service in St John's Church on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm.

With all best wishes, Mandy

**J**ack's Funeral was at St John's on 16th October, with a tribute from his daughter Ann and Ron Ingamells. He and Evelyn were married here and apart from periods of ill health he had been a weekly worshipper for the best part of 70 years.



He grew up in Megavissey and retained his love of Cornwall and the sea. He saved the life of a boy in the harbour while still young himself. His father was an asthmatic labourer so his family had little money but he always said he had an idyllic childhood. He was bright and after Grammar School trained as an Engineer at De Havillands which brought him to Hatfield. He met Evelyn in Lemsford Hall in 1949 and after marrying in 1951 they moved to Stanborough. Evelyn was always the Best Wife in the World, as well as the Best Cook in Hertfordshire. Jack started teaching at Hatfield Poly and gained a PHD there, eventually becoming a full time Lecturer.

**R**on recalled that Jack was extremely important to this Church. He was PCC Secretary and with Evelyn started what is now the May Day Fete. He also persuaded Ron to stay on for ten years after his normal tenure. Jack's outlook was always sunny: when asked how he was, his invariable answer was "Grand".

**Gordon Wilson** writes: Elfy and I we were so sorry to learn of the death of Jack Beswarick and send our heartfelt sympathy to Evelyn. He was a good friend for many years and did so much work for the Church.

May I thank the Church and it's congregation for their prayers and thoughts for Elfy and myself during our long absence from St John's, even though we have been with you in spirit. Elfy has now returned from hospital after her complete knee replacement operation and is now well on the road to recovery, although there have been a number of additional problems since then! We have very much appreciated being kept in touch with events in the Church though the magazine and visits from Paul to give us communion, as well as from Jenny Roden, Lyndsey Robson, and other friends."

**Mary Tutt.** *9 September 1925—21st September 2019.*  
 Mary's funeral was conducted by Edward Cardale on 17th October.

Mary (nee Goddard) grew up in Croydon. During the war she trained as a nurse at Addenbrooks Hospital in Cambridge. After the war she joined her mother, aunt and brother living in Handside Lane. Mary met Michael Tutt at a tennis club and they were married in St John's in 1949. Her children Peter, Anthony and Nicola then came along. Their garden had a full size tennis court, so Mary was able to play regularly with her friends and neighbours. This continued into her mid-eighties when problems with her hip got too severe. Gardening was her other great passion and she created a beautiful natural garden. She was a keen member of Welwyn Garden City Horticultural Society.

Edward spoke of Mary's worshipping at St John's over many years. "If God can make a universe and a world in which we delight, then God can also remake each one of us, even beyond death. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith by which Mary lived and died."



**Frank Pugh** 1923— October 2019

Your Editor had the great pleasure of visiting Frank and Pat in their retirement flat in Plymouth in early October. They were both as usual cheerful and it was a shock when Pat rang only a few days later to say Frank had died after a short illness.



He lived in Stanborough since he was very young, and served in the navy during the war. He worked at De Havillands afterwards where he met Pat, and they married in 1954. Frank had many roles at St John's including Sidesman, PCC member, School Governor, Deputy Church Warden, Annex Booking Secretary, and Bell Ringer. His main interest was his garden which was magnificent. Their daughter Catherine moved to Plymouth when she married Andrew, a Baptist Minister, and Frank and Pat moved to be near her 12 years or so ago. He was a great man.

I started singing aged seven in All Saints' Choir in Hertford. At the suggestion of the choirmaster I took the chorister trial at King's College, Cambridge two years later. This was in two stages. Firstly 120 boys undertook an English and Arithmetic test, and voice trial with the choirmaster of King's, Boris Ord. I was lucky to be one of the 20 boys who got through to the second part in King's Chapel, with its fantastic roof, wonderful stained glass and a huge central organ screen with figures of angels blowing trumpets on the top. Each boy had to sing a prepared piece and to read a passage from the Bible. I sang 'Come Holy Ghost' by Thomas Attwood. Happily I was one of 5 boys who were offered a Choristership starting the following September.



In my first year I served as a probationer which meant attending daily chorister practices but not to sing in services. In my second year I was made a junior chorister singing Evensong at 5.30 every weekday except Wednesdays plus Sunday services, either Sung Eucharist or Sung Matins. All Services were preceded by an hour of rehearsal. The choir was made up of 16 Choristers, 13 men plus an organ scholar.

For 10 days, during the Easter holidays of 1952, the choir sang in various cities in Switzerland, my first experience of foreign travel. After a year as a junior chorister, every boy had a second trial including sight reading and a solo, before promotion to one of the 8 senior Choristers who provided the semi-chorus in the choir and undertook solo work.

Christmas 1954 was a landmark for the choir in that a special Carol Service was televised live by the BBC. A recording is still on YouTube. For two terms I served as first Senior Chorister with more responsibility, including turning pages for the organist playing a Voluntary after a service and being a spokesman for the Choristers. I was privileged to meet composers Ralph Vaughan Williams, Herbert Howells, Patrick Hadley and musicologist Thurston Dart.

In my last term, Boris celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary as Organist and Master of the Choristers. There was a big service in his honour with all former choral and organ scholars attending. The choristers of King's' sister college, Eton College, came to boost the treble line. It was a tremendous occasion, which I will never forget.

Lemsford Mill, as you know from a recent series in this magazine, is the home of Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. You see Ramblers on the back cover, and it also happens that my son William works for them.

I was recently encouraged by William to take a short break with Ramblers, staying in their impressive Cumbrian property, Hassness, overlooking Lake Buttermere (pictured below). It's in a remote and spectacular position, all the more attractive as a centre for many kinds of walking.

We joined a holiday group of 11 people, for four nights and three days of exploring the local fells, enjoying the wildlife, and gazing at wonderful views.



The autumn colours were a bonus.

Our experienced and genial leaders took us up paths and trails which we would never have attempted or found on our own. Not having done much in the way of serious hill walking, I found myself stretched and invigorated by the challenge!

When vicar of the parish, my contact with Ramblers was also a little patchy. It is easy to walk past the Mill, (or to pop into The Sun), without giving them a further thought. Now that I have stayed in Hassness and seen Buttermere, I can warmly recommend the hospitality and the whole Ramblers experience.

Some may think that parts of the Lake District have become overrun with tourists and visitors. But for William and myself, going 'out of season' was really worthwhile. We took a risk with the weather, and luckily it paid off. It gave us quality time, for ourselves, and with the rest of the group. For me, it's not too far-fetched to say that I found a deeper perspective on the ultimate questions of life.

Three aspects of the experience, among many, stand out: first, there was the silence. Not imposed, but simply part of being there. Whenever we stopped on a walk, you could really listen to the silence, and hear only the peaceful sounds of nature. And then, we *were* close to nature - in the shape of friendly grazing sheep everywhere, a few quiet Highland cattle, and a red squirrel hopping around the house and garden. Last, there was a sense of achievement (which for a non-athlete is surely allowed), as I looked up to the top of a peak and thought 'I was there'!

Thank you Ramblers, for being excellent holiday providers, and for being our neighbours in Lemsford

October and November have been busy. We enjoyed a **lunchtime meeting** in late October at The Long Arm and Short Arm who provided an excellent setting, a warm welcome, great service and lunch. We welcomed our special guests, Janet and David Keen (Harpenden), Valerie (Ayot), Kris (Wheathampstead), Jackie and Tony Tutton (U3A) and Dennis Lewis.

David from Harpenden History Group, was Curator of the **Air Museum** and he outlined details of a museum they are setting up on the Rothampstead site in Harpenden.

Local man Tony informed the group about the **Welwyn Hatfield U3A**. It is a very successful group and has a very healthy number of members. The meetings are held weekly and alternate between venues in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield and talks have covered over 600 topics. U3A is 31 years old and the subscription is £30 a year. There is a speaker at each meeting and talks on a varied cross-section of topics. There are also groups with many interests that you can join – e.g. walking, history, architecture, music and a great variety of other activities. It is good to keep in contact and support each other.

Dennis Lewis talked about **Heritage Hub** and reformatting it. He also gave an update on **WGC 100 year celebrations**. A new sign for Welwyn Garden City is proposed with a garden and a new sculpture. There will also be a festival of music and performing arts. Restoration of The Dell in Sherrards Wood is planned so that people can see where the early Welwyn Garden City actors performed Shakespeare and choral music. There will be a Centenary Carnival and fun day out for all ages on Saturday, 11 July 2020.

In November we presented copies of our **WW1 book 'Lest we forget'** to schools in the area to coincide with Remembrance Day. These books were donated by our friends at **Ramblers Walking Holidays** based at Lemsford Mill who were very supportive during the writing and publication of the book.

I attended a very moving service on November 11<sup>th</sup> at **Applecroft School** and presented the book during the service. I was honoured to be invited to the remembrance service and observe the one minutes silence with 400 young people at 11.00 on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, a very special moment. Every student stayed silent and it showed they understood what the silence meant and that they will not forget.

I also attended **Stanborough school**; deputy head Mr Braybrook photographed my presentation of the book to a student and head librarian Ms Wilson. Mr Braybrook is currently working on a ceremony to mark Stanborough school 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Stanborough was opened for 60 students in the first week of WW2 and shortly afterwards had 1000 student descend from London due to the evacuation.

**Lakeside School** wanted a low key presentation and a small number of staff received it on behalf of the students also on the 11<sup>th</sup>. All three schools showed interest in LLHG and will contact us for any future events or use of our archive for student projects. On a historical note all three school were located in the original Parish of Lemsford in 1859 but became part of WGC in the late 1920's.

The group provided its second talk of the season '**Brocket Hall**' on the 21<sup>st</sup> November in the Annex. The talk is from Doomsday to the present time and includes over 100 images from the archives. It includes answers to 'who were the Brockets' and includes two prime Ministers, Royalty, Scandal, Caroline Lamb and Byron, Brocket Babies and what happened to those cars. We end November with our annual quiz between local history groups in Herts, hosted this year by Welwyn Village History Society.

Looking forward to 2020 the group are preparing for the **Mayday Village Fete** with a new display. The Fete this year is exceptionally on **Sunday 3rd May (NB)**. The early May bank holiday in 2020 will move from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day which was on that day in 1945, enabling people to pay tribute to those who served in one of the most significant events in our country's history. The Fete Committee did not wish to compete with all the events on that day.

The group will start to research WW2 to mark this special day. If you wish to join us in finding out about WW2 and the parish of Lemsford or have information you would like to share do contact [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk).

Below is a list of topics we would like to cover:

The building of Stanborough 1921 – 1939; The names on the war memorial; Prisoner of war camp (Marford Road); Pubs in the Parish 1939 – 1945; Trades in the Parish 1939 -1945; St John's School 1939 – 1945; St John's Church 1939 – 1945. We have some interesting pictures from this period, *some of which are shown inside the back cover.*

The group is happy to share its archive and research with the community and provides walks and talks to groups for more information go to [www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Walks Talks.html](http://www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Walks_Talks.html)



**T**he annual river clean-up took place on the 9th November and was well supported by volunteers including some members of RWH Travel. Thank you to everyone who turned up for this important task and also to those people who lent their tools and equipment. The committee also sought help to plant Spring bulbs along the river bank, the school and the village green. This will also become an annual event. Our thanks to Jane and Nigel for rewarding the volunteers with bacon butties and coffee and also for allowing the rubbish from the clean-up to be put in their garden.



A new contractor has been found to maintain our **three planters** and will be replenished twice yearly as before.

We have two Christmas events planned for the festive season. The first of these will be a family fun afternoon and will be held on Saturday 30th November from 14.30, meeting at the Christmas tree on the green opposite the Sun pub. As with last year the children from the village will be invited to help decorate the Christmas tree and afterwards meet Father Christmas in the Sun pub. The second event will be the annual **Christmas dinner** on Saturday 7th December at the Long and Short Arm pub.

**D**on't forget our **meet and greet sessions** which are held on the 4th Thursday of each month. These are ideal for meeting up with neighbours and friends and making new friends. There won't be a meeting in December because of Christmas so the next one will be on Thursday 23rd January at the Sun from 6-8 pm

**G**od of love, Father of all,  
the darkness that covered the earth has  
given way to the bright dawn of your Word  
made flesh. Make us a people of this light.  
Make us faithful to your Word, that we may  
bring your life to the waiting world.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*Catholic Online*

**And finally ...** *Christmas is stressful for travellers*



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Pictures from WW2—see History Group pages 16,17

