

# **St John's Church**

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*



*December 2022 January 2023*

**£1**



Front cover: Modern Flemish Stained glass picture of the Three Kings  
Remembrance Day: Tim Armstrong-Taylor sounds the Last Post  
(photograph Kevin Earl)  
Lillia Freeman's Baptism on 29th October was a happy day!



**It's all in the preparation!**

**B**y the time you read this, I imagine many of you will have started to think about Christmas preparations. If you're anything like me with Christmas shopping, you'll have bought one present in October (some socks!), put a bottle of champagne that you don't need in an online Christmas supermarket shop to 'hold the slot', felt a bit smug at 'getting ahead', and then done absolutely nothing else!



Happily, Christmas is about much more than shopping, and I'm really looking forward to spending my first Advent and Christmas with you all at St John's.

Our Christmas preparations begin with a **four-week Advent course** starting 29<sup>th</sup> November. Over four Tuesdays we'll be looking at the beautiful songs of the Christmas story. The sessions will run for about an hour and will be suitable for EVERYONE, wherever you are on your faith journey. Further details can be found on the next page.

From 11<sup>th</sup> December, the **Christmas celebrations** in church and the community get underway, with something for everyone. Take a look at the lists of services in the magazine to find out more. Collections for charity will be made at many of these services, by cash or card. Looking to the new year, we'll be holding our popular **Christingle service, with pizza** at 4pm on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Pop the date in your diary now to avoid missing out!

Even before I was a Christian, I found that there was just something about the singing of carols to candlelight; the sight of a nativity scene; the retelling of the Christmas story; a quiet 8am service at dawn; families packed into church for crib and Christingle services; and the magic of seeing in Christmas at Midnight Mass, that stirred something within me.

**T**hat 'something' will be different for each of us. For some, Christmas will predominantly be filled with joy, love and laughter. Others may find that Christmas prompts reflection on the past year and the year to come. And many find it offers hope that the world – and our lives - might become better in some way.





**NICK PAGE**  
**PAVING SPECIALIST**  
Driveways Patios Pathways  
brickwork landscaping



for free estimates and advice:

**07850-915368**

email **nickpage15@hotmail.co.uk**

**WELWYNGARDEN  
OSTEOPATHS**

**yourOsteopath**

helping you to live a pain free life

Stephen Perry Barbara Grace Rob Ballard

Osteopathy is for everyone, yourOsteopath is just for you.  
What would YOU do if it didn't hurt?

call **01707 334902** or visit **yourOsteopath.co.uk**

**PRE-SCHOOL &  
FULL DAYCARE**

appledaycare.co.uk



**apple**  
daycare Ltd

CHANGING FUTURES TODAY

**appledaycare@mail.com**

**Tel: 01707 872 949**

**W**hatever Christmas is to you this year, it's my belief that God is with us in it all. 2000 years ago, Jesus shared God's love with the world, and he keeps sharing it today - in times of celebration, and more difficult times. The Christmas story of God coming to be with us in Jesus is not just a story of the past, but also the present and the future. It's a story that we're looking forward to sharing with you at St John's throughout December.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and New Year  
With love  
Rev'd Kathryn

**Songs of the Christmas Story - A four week Advent course for  
EVERYONE**

**Tuesdays (starting 29th November)**

10:00am St Michael and All Angels, Birchwood  
7:00pm St John's, Lemsford

**P**reparing for Christmas takes many forms. This year, why not add going to a 4-week Advent course to the list! This year's Advent course will look at the songs of the Christmas story - the Magnificat (Mary's story); the Benedictus (Zechariah's song); Nunc Dimitis (Simeon's song) and the song of the Angels.

The sessions will run for about an hour and will be suitable for everyone, wherever you are on your faith journey. They will contain a mixture of prayer, questions, discussion, and invitation to action. Or you can just sit quietly and listen if you prefer.

If you've never been to an Advent group before (or if you've been to lots) then this is the group for you!

The content of the morning and evening sessions will be the same, so feel free to mix and match depending on what else is in your diary

## December 2022

**4th ADVENT 2**

8 am HC BCP 11 am All Age Worship

**11th ADVENT 3**

8 am HC BCP 11 am HC

4 pm **Candlelit Carols + Refreshments****18th ADVENT 4**

8 am HC BCP

11 am **Nine Lessons & Carols + Wine and mince pies****19th Carol singing in the Village time tbc****24th CHRISTMAS EVE**3 pm **Crib Service****11pm MIDNIGHT MASS****25th CHRISTMAS DAY**

11 am All Together HC

## January 2023

**1st CHRISTMAS 2**

8 am HC/MP BCP 11 am All Age Worship

**8th EPIPHANY 1 BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

8 am HC BCP 11 am HC

4.30 pm **Christingle****15th EPIPHANY 2**

8 am HC BCP 11 am MP

**22nd EPIPHANY 3**

8 am HC BCP 11 am HC

**29th EPIPHANY 4**

8 am HC BCP 11 am HC

*HC Holy Communion; MP Morning Prayer; BCP Book of Common Prayer; NB Kathryn's day off is Friday each week*

# St John's Church

## Christmas Services December 2022

*We welcome you to celebrate this  
festive season with us!*

### Sunday 11th

4pm Candlelit Carols\* (with seasonal refreshments)

### Sunday 18th

11am Nine Lessons and Carols (with seasonal refreshments)

### Monday 19th

Evening Carols around the village and pubs!

### Christmas Eve

3pm Crib service\*

11pm Midnight Mass

\* Services especially  
suitable for children &  
families

### Christmas Day

8am BCP Holy Communion (said)

11am 'All-Together' Christmas Day service with Holy Communion\*



**JJ. BURGESS & Sons**  
**Established 1839**  
**INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS**  
*Established 1839*



*'Creating Memorials that stand as a lasting act of remembrance'*

**New Memorials, Letter Cutting, Levelling, Turfing, Cleaning, Repairs, Grave Maintenance, Free Design & Estimates Given**

For a memorial of distinction, a brochure or a home visit call us on

**0800 174 220**  
**24 hours**

Alfred House, 20 The Common, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0ND <b>01707 262 122</b>	Jacob House, 23 Station Road, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6AP <b>01438 815 656</b>
James House, 5 Cole Green, Welwyn Garden, Herts AL7 3PP <b>01707 391 808</b>	Ivy House, 119 High Street, Codicote, SG4 8QN, <b>01438 815 656</b>



**WELWYN GARDEN CITY  
 CAMPUS CLUB**

The very first Probus Club, founded in 1965, now one of many worldwide.

We are a friendly **Lunch Club** for retired gentlemen.

We meet on the first Thursday of every month at the Homestead Court Hotel for an excellent 3-course lunch followed by a good speaker

A chance to meet and socialise with friends, old and new in pleasant surroundings.

**Come and join us!**

[www.campusclubwgc.org.uk](http://www.campusclubwgc.org.uk)

Membership Secretary Tony Salsi  
[membership@campusclubwgc.org.uk](mailto:membership@campusclubwgc.org.uk)  
 01707 391517

# R Allison

## Landscapes & Garden Maintenance

Garden construction | Water Features | Turfing  
 Topiary | Decking | Tree Surgery Pergolas | Patios  
 | Driveways

Fencing | Brickwork

Also other garden services  
 as required

01438 211848/077877 62822

[w.rallisonlandscapes.co.uk](http://w.rallisonlandscapes.co.uk)





## Funerals

On 30th September, **June Copping**.  
See a tribute to her on page 11.

## Baptism

On 29th October, **Lillia Freeman**.  
Many congratulations to her parents.  
See photograph inside front cover.

## Ted Webb—an ode

Come to a friendship  
tea, they said,  
We'll be eating cake it  
won't be bread.  
And so we went to a  
friendship tea  
the two of us, my wife and me.  
Tea and cake, and a lot of chat;  
On a wet afternoon you can't beat that.  
But now that day is in the past.  
Just like the cake, it didn't last.



## Sue Stilwell writes

Eleven years ago I was  
ordained Deacon at St  
Albans Abbey. I was  
very fortunate to serve  
my curacy in the  
Bishops Hatfield Team  
working between the  
churches of St Michaels, Birchwood  
and St Johns, with the guidance of  
Susan Marsh and my training  
incumbent Edward Cardale.  
After curacy, as a self-supporting  
minister, I continued to be licensed in  
the team as an Associate Team  
Minister. I did my best to help the



church wardens with the task of  
providing cover for Sunday services,  
baptisms, weddings and funerals and  
pastoral care. It made for a varied and  
rewarding experience.

However, I feel that it's time to move  
on. I hope that my appointment to the  
Digswell Team working with Fr Rob  
Marshall and Selina Evans and  
colleagues, will be as rewarding, and  
varied! I shall be introduced to the  
churches in the Digswell Team from  
mid-November, and the plan is that I  
will be licensed to their Team around  
the start of Lent 2023; I shall let you  
know the date of the service in the  
hope you may be able to be there.  
My thanks to everyone at St Johns and  
for the many things you do to build  
the Kingdom of God in different  
ways. You are a great blessing to the  
community; I pray that you shall all  
grow in faith and love for one another.

## The Editor writes

Firstly, thank you **Sue** for your  
tremendous input especially when we  
were without a Minister.  
Secondly, this is my final Magazine as  
Editor. Happily it will continue thanks  
to **Frank Puranik** and **Richard  
Cuthbert**. They will have my full  
support, and I will contribute a couple  
of pages. Also I will continue to  
manage adverts— thank you to our  
advertisers for their support.

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

## School Report

**W**e have had a busy few weeks since I last wrote for the Parish magazine. At one point during the half term break, we had about ten contractors working on site. They were busy putting up the new play equipment at the back of the school as well as erecting new fencing and a new tarmac surface at the front of school – it was all happening! Thankfully it is all complete now and the children are enjoying both areas.



We have been showing lots of parents around school. I have been proud to tell the parents about our lovely school and it was been fantastic seeing the confidence that the year 6 children who were the tour guides showed – the parents were very complimentary.

Class 4 have been extremely busy! Basketball, table tennis and netball games and tournaments – amazing! We are particularly proud of the fact that they made it to the basketball final, especially given our relative smallness of numbers compared with other schools who took part.

Last week class 4 brought their bikes into school to participate in Bikeability. It involved lots of cycling on our local roads, learning about road safety and the rules of the highway. They showed such stamina and resilience given the horribly wet conditions they were cycling in at times.

With Advent approaching, we are planning lots of Christmas events. The school choir will be singing at Stanborough Lodge and at Brocket Hall.

The LSA have many activities planned including organising hampers for the annual Christmas raffles and Christmas shopping afternoon.

**W**e look forward once again to joining you at church for the next All-age worship on December 4th.

Best wishes, **Michelle Boylan**

**M**any congratulations to Ron who recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He was Vicar of St. John's from 1979 – 2002 when he was also working for the YMCA National Council as the Christian Education and Training Officer.

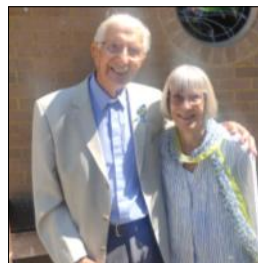
Ron was also Chair of the School Governors 'I really enjoyed my link with the school both formally and getting to know many of the pupils'.

The Lemsford Fete organised by the church had a long history and was well supported; after Ron proposed that it should be a joint event with the school it became one of the largest events in the area, especially considering the size of the village.

In his term there were significant developments including a new organ, the Annexe, floodlighting, and a redesigned Garden of Remembrance.

YMCA work took him all over the UK and many European countries. His final project was on behalf of the European YMCA when he had 24 visits to Romania in order to restart the YMCAs after the revolution and many years of Communism. The other special international link was with Israel/Palestine, visiting in a number of capacities including

leading two groups from the parish. Ron has a special link and sympathy for the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories and Gaza.



Ron played hockey for Gorleston H.C. and organised the Bishop's Hockey team (a team mainly of clergy!) and played tennis at Dellcott Tennis Club. He is still an honorary member of Brocket Hall Golf Club.

Ron's wife Janet sang with the BBC Chorus and was a piano teacher. In 2002 they moved to Buckden in Cambridgeshire. Janet died in 2014.

Ron returned to his beloved Norfolk and then married Ann Polley. They are both season-ticket holders at Norwich City 'Some friends say we must be loyal good supporters to stay with them for so long'! Ron is still active in the ministry taking services both in the local villages and at the city centre church St. Peter Mancroft.

**H**e wrote recently: 'Thank you to Geoffrey Hollis for all his work as Editor of one of the best parish magazines that I read. and I see many. I am pleased to know that he has a successor!'

# MALMECH & MANNION

*MOTOR ENGINEERS*

4 SOUTHFIELDS, CHEQUERS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



*MOTs ON CARS, MOTOR CYCLES & THREE  
WHEELERS ALSO SUN TUNING, SERVICING, WELDING*

**01707 336111**



## SIMON ADCOCK PAINTING & DECORATING

- \* Interior or exterior
- \* Paper hanging
- \* Rag rolling, sponging  
colour washing, dragging
- \* Coving & cornice
- \* Tiling

Clean, reliable service

**Tel 01707 327327**  
**mobile 07958 548505**

For Hand Made:  
Curtains · Pelmets · Soft Furnishings

Call: Frances Hartley

(01707) 260137

*Rev Sue Stilwell conducted June's funeral at St John's on 30th September. Below are extracts from family recollections of her very full life.*

June had 2 brothers, Nigel and Geoffrey, and 2 sisters, Muriel and Daphne. She was baptised at St Cuthbert's Church Rye Park, where her mother was an organist. She attended primary schools in Hoddesdon and Rye Park, then St Joseph's Convent School near Hertford and Ware Secondary School until she was 16. June studied music at school, and joined St Margaret's Church Choir at age 10. She later taught in the Sunday school there and celebrated Christmas Day there until recently. June also joined choral societies in Ware and Hoddesdon. June once said that her foundation was her family; she never married, and enjoyed her independence and freedom to follow her own path.

At school, June liked maths; her first job was in Barclays Bank in Fenchurch St London. She transferred to the Cheshunt branch and then to Ware. Eventually she left to join Symonds Engineering in Cheshunt. Her career took a new direction when she started working for the Polytechnic of North London in Holloway Rd (now the Metropolitan University) in its Library where she stayed for 21 years.

June took up sketching and art, going on several Art holidays. She taught art at Oakland's college before she went freelance and taught at the WI. Until recently June was teaching calligraphy, craft and art at local care



homes and in her own home. June joined the Friendship Force and the National Trust enjoying trips all over England and abroad including Japan, India, Brazil, New Zealand, Holland, Israel and South Africa. She did a scuba diving course, for a visit to Australia! June loved gardening, like her brother Nigel, who owned a flower Nursery which their father started in St Margaret's called Sanville Gardens. S She also loved cats; her own lovely cat was called Sam. June attended church throughout her life. In 2003 she joined St John's where she enjoyed lovely friendships, which were an important part of her life.

**Editor:** June was an active member at St John's, particularly in photographing our activities. She must have taken hundreds of pictures here, many of which I was pleased to include in this magazine. She constructed Year Books for us too, and these are now being cared for in our archives. **She will be very much missed.**





## Aches and pains or feeling out of sorts?

I work with my clients to identify and then correct the nutritional, physical, emotional and energy imbalances underlying their symptoms using specialised massage and other complementary techniques.

Call now to book a free consultation

[patricia@reflextherapy.net](mailto:patricia@reflextherapy.net) 07852 319233

**Alice  
Coralie  
Glyn** Homes  
Trust

We are a local Almshouse Charity with  
14 properties in

Turmore Dale and Hyde Valley  
Welwyn Garden City

If you are over 60 and looking for accommodation,  
please contact our Managing Agents:

Welwyn Garden City Housing Association on:

**01707 390044**

We may be able to help

## AYERS FURNITURE SERVICES

*Furniture Repairs Undertaken*

- GLUE CHAIRS & TABLES
- SETTEE & CHAIR SEAT SPRINGS REPLACED
- RESTORE VINTAGE & ANTIQUE FURNITURE
- HEAT MARKS REMOVED
- POLISHING & LEATHER RESTORATION

*Please contact Barry Ayers on*

t: 01707 261317

m: 07768 848604

*ayersforchairs@btinternet.com*

## St John's Church Annexe

Available for hire at reasonable cost

*Excellent for small meetings, Anniversaries and children's Parties*

Booking Gus Edwards

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

01707 323785

Having been taken by an aunt with some cousins to the Coronation in 1953 I really wanted to go full circle to see her lying in state. Trying to work out the best time to go was tricky as queue times were getting longer. So on the Thursday after a Pilates class and quick lunch I set off for Bermondsey via Kings Cross.

The brisk walk from tube to riverbank was the only one I was to have, thereafter it was to be long stops and a dawdle very hard on the back and hips. Any stone steps were temporary seats or even perching on a wall. We worked out we should be at Westminster Hall about midnight after nine hours of queuing and this was correct.

We were all expecting our wristbands straight away, but had to wait until Tower Bridge; my number was 093557 for that day; periodically we had to lift arms up to show our bands to police or marshals.

I buddied up initially in a group of ten which became twelve; in front were two ladies from Bridgend in Wales, two identical twins from Oxford, a couple from Brighton; behind me were three Italians also from Brighton, then later as some dropped back a lady from Sudbury and a gentleman from Horsham.

Approaching Tower Bridge three ladies, one with a pushchair, tried to push in. This caused absolute furore especially as



one of the ladies said she would let me get my wrist band before her! The Italians got a marshal and the ladies went to the back of the queue. I have not heard of any other incidents like this - it had the effect of glueing us together even more. We were lucky it was a warm evening and wonderful to see all the sights of London from across the river—The Tower of London, the Cutty Sark, the Globe theatre, HMS Belfast, the Wheel, St Paul's and the tall city buildings. We started feeling tired and hungry around the London Aquarium but a group photograph raised morale (*see next page*). It was sheer bliss to climb some steps to cross Westminster bridge using different leg muscles as we came to a stop opposite the Houses of Parliament. Behind us all along the wall were painted red hearts one for each COVID victim - it was very moving especially for the twins who had lost their father to COVID.



At last we reached the “snake” in front of Westminster Hall. The surface was very hard to walk on as to protect the grass a heavy duty bobbed protection had been laid suitable for heavy vehicles. We were suddenly joined by lots of men in dark suits some with medals who had special passes to join us at that point - they were noticeable as the queue was mainly women. The snake took over an hour and a half during which time hand sanitiser and any bottles were disposed of, phones were switched off and we were warned we were being filmed. Then airport security, which broke up our group. Before climbing stone stairs in to the Hall where you looked down on the dais, with the massive Hammer roof above, you were struck by the history of the

occasion - it seemed medieval and was so silent. Then very carefully down steep carpeted steps to reach the dais that was so high with the coffin on top under the Royal Standard together with the orb, sceptre and Imperial crown - with the guardsmen silently standing it became very emotional. The coffin seemed so small on top of the huge dais and you were reminded of how small the Queen was; most of us were in tears and we were not hurried. I was so grateful to be able to say thank you for all her service to us and how fortunate we have been to have had her reigning over us. So one last look back through the tears and out into the night for the journey home, so pleased I had made the effort to go. I had gone full circle.





## Medals Wanted

Local collector & researcher pays highest prices for all medals: military or civil, groups or single items. Also buying other militaria and civil aviation items.

**Tel: 01438 - 811657**

[smedalsj@aol.com](mailto:smedalsj@aol.com)

Office **01707 883770**  
On site **07980 887231**



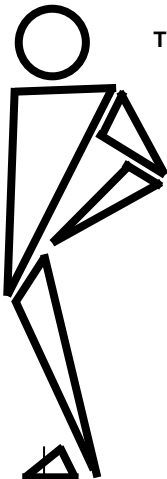
## TOP TO BOTTOM

One Off cleans  
Regular or weekly  
Fortnightly or monthly  
Moving house clean up  
Spring cleans  
Ironing services

**WE CLEAN SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO**

## Right where and when you need us

**Helping you get back to being fit and active whatever your age, life style or choice of sporting activity**



The Physiotherapy Clinic at Gosling Sports Park specialising in:

- Ligament Sprains • Golfer's Elbow
- Muscle Strains • Arthritic Pain • Back Problems
- Sciatica • Achilles Tendonitis • Neck Problems • Shin Splints
- Bursitis • Knee Injuries • Frozen Shoulder • Tennis Elbow
- Post Surgery Rehabilitation • Musculo-Skeletal Problems
- Acupuncture for Pain Relief

### THE PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC

Chartered Physiotherapists  
Manipulative and Sports Physiotherapists

### GOSLING SPORTS PARK

Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6XE

**Tel: 01707 329910**

[www.physiotherapyclinic.net](http://www.physiotherapyclinic.net)

The group met at the Long Arm and Short Arm in early November. We briefly discussed plans; the consensus was that we should carry on with our present format. Our meetings will be mostly social lunches and we will carry on with our websites. We will concentrate on providing local history information to St John's School and Church, make our archives available to the general public, and answer any enquires about the Parish's past. If you have questions or memories, email [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk) or go to [www.llemsfordhistory.co.uk](http://www.llemsfordhistory.co.uk)



The final part of the celebrations of 150 years of St John's School took place on November 11th. Michelle Boylan, head teacher, invited the Group to talk to two classes about **Remembrance Day**. I was joined by group member Marion: we started by talking about why we have a remembrance service, who it is for and why it is held on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The children knew all the answers and had a good understanding of the day. I found out later that the Head and staff had dedicated the previous day's assembly to this special day. We played a YouTube video of local boy Donovan singing 'Universal Soldier' to help visualise the men and women who we remember on this day. We felt it was definitely worth playing as it is not only a great song but describes the men and woman who

have died in conflicts and the waste of those lives due to the powers that be. As the lyrics state 'He really is to blame, his orders come from far away no more they come from here and there and you and me and brothers, can't you see? This is not the way we put the end to war'.

We then made the topic personal by explaining that many of the twenty men who died in WW1 and whose names appear on the Lemsford Memorial went to St John's School. They played in the same playground as the present students and were taught, ate and played in the old school where today pupils have lunch. Out of the twenty men who died, we looked at **Herbert Edward Freeman** of A Company the 7th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment who died, aged 19 on the 1st July 1916; the first day of the Battle of the Somme. His name is recorded on Pier and Face 2C, Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Herbert Attended St John's School from November 25th, 1902 – December 21st, 1910. To show the school when he was there, and to give a glimpse of the students' lives at that time, we had an image of the boys of St John's with Mr Ladbury in 1910 in his garden on the path from the school to the church, passing the 2022 school fish pond. There is a very good chance that Herbert is in this picture, *seen inside the back cover*. It includes his friend Frederick William Spriggs who attended St John's School from June 4th, 1901, to March 31st, 1911.



The Bishops Hatfield Parish Magazine, Lemsford News for September 1916 contains a copy of the letter Mr & Mrs Freeman received from Herbert's captain. It reads: - *'Dear Mrs Freeman. I have received your letter of the 20th inst., and regret I can only confirm the news of your son's death, as reported by the War Office.*

*He was killed by a bullet in the attack on the German Trenches on the 1st July, death being instantaneous. He was buried with a number of his comrades on the battlefield, about half a mile north-west of Carnoy., which is a little village about four miles east of Albert, his name being written on the cross over his grave. All his private possessions have been forwarded to the base, and should reach you in due course. Your son, Private Freeman, was one of the most useful members of my Company, and has, on several occasions, done most excellent patrol work during the winter. It may be some consolation to you that he died most gloriously in the foremost of the attack, which commenced on the 1st, and which our Battalion had the honour to lead. Please accept the sincerest sympathy of the Officers of his Company and myself in your sad loss. Yours truly, A.E. Percival, Capt.'* Marion read out this poignant letter to the children.

To mark the sacrifice of the men of Lemsford and understand the true meaning of Remembrance Day, Marion read out an extract from the group's WW1 book 'Lest We Forget'.

*'If we take a moment to reflect how devastating this was to the parish. All losses were wretched but the four lads, Christopher Wren, Herbert Freeman, Gordon Panter, Fredrick Spriggs, were all killed in a period of eleven day during the Battle of the Somme. Two on the first day; how must the other two felt going into battle day after day until they suffered the same fate. One twenty year old and three nineteen year old lads who would have spent evenings in The Sun Inn and The Long and Short together after a hard days work, four lads walking out with their sweethearts, Four lads playing for Lemsford F.C. wide eyed, and occasionally legless doing the things all young lads growing up would have done, with their lives in front of them, their future dreams were cruelly taken away from them. The broken-hearted mothers on the home front who would never hold their sons again''.*



Our talk was followed by the students holding the two minutes silence around Lemsford War Memorial in the Church Grounds.



# Frances Gregory

## Holistic Health & Wellbeing Midlife Coach

Do you want to lead a fuller and more rewarding life? As a trained professional coach I can help.

First consultation free!

*“Awareness is the greatest agent for change”*

07580 068 807

fran.d.gregory@gmail.com

Linked in/frances-gregory-b168a41bb

Association of Holistic and  
Complementary Practitioners



Your Local Law Firm

Winners of the  
SME National Gold  
Award for Service  
Excellence



Family  
Wills, Trusts and Probate  
Business and Commerce  
Commercial Property  
Residential Property  
Employment  
Dispute Resolution

*“We have been very happy with the service from Crane and Staples. They have been supportive, efficient and provide a personal touch that makes them a bit different from the competition.”*

Google review



Longcroft House, Fretherne Road  
Welwyn Garden City  
Hertfordshire AL8 6TU  
01707 329333  
law@crane-staples.co.uk  
www.crane-staples.co.uk

# Acacia Mews Care Home

ENRICHING LIVES, EXCELLING IN CARE



## Residential, Dementia and Respite Care

Acacia Mews Care Home in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, is rated as 'Good in All Categories' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC grades the services delivered in care homes in five categories (Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well-led) and adjudged that Acacia Mews and its staff scored consistently highly throughout.

- Beautifully decorated rooms all have en-suite showers, with some rooms opening on to the gardens
- Restaurant quality dining, café, salon and therapy room
- Sunny landscaped patio gardens with well stocked raised beds
- Sector leading Well-being & Activities Programme packed with daily events and outings



Call 01707 925004 or Search 'Acacia Mews Care'

In All  
Categories

Acacia Mews Care Home | St Albans Road East | Hertfordshire | AL10 0FF | [www.facebook.com/AcaciaMewsCareHome](https://www.facebook.com/AcaciaMewsCareHome)

**I**t was a wonderful ceremony carefully planned by head teacher, Michelle, and a credit to the whole school. At 10.50 Kathryn, Vicar at St John's opened the service.

A perfect rendition of the last post was played on the trumpet by Bethany, a student at St John's, and it was followed by a two minute's silence perfectly observed by the whole school.

Then Max and Austin laid a wreath followed by Raef and Elodie laying a second wreath. (Pictured on previous page)/ Once the wreaths had been laid, the whole of class 4 read the poem 'Flanders Field'

A few students from class 4 read prayers followed by a final prayer by Kathryn.

**Having been to many Remembrance services, I cannot recall a better, more moving and perfect service. Thank you, Michelle, her staff and most of all the children of St John's for making it an exceptional tribute.**



**T**he special 150th anniversary school year comes to a close and we end with a memory from the archive from the St John's students in 1917. This is taken from the Parish Magazine January 1917. I don't think Geoffrey Hollis was Editor then, but he has done the job for many years now and this is his last edition. On behalf of Lemsford Local History Group I would like to thank him for his time, effort and hard work in producing the magazine. Go to [www.lemsfordvillage.co.uk/parish\\_mag.html](http://www.lemsfordvillage.co.uk/parish_mag.html) to enjoy and remember the last eight years of his parish magazine and Lemsford history.

**Christmas Parcels for the Boys at the Front** *As announced last month, the subscriptions for the school prizes would this year be devoted to parcels for our old boys, the present scholars took up the cause with great zest. On Thursday, 9th December, 27 boxes and the necessary contents were taken into school, and the children were very busy packing the individual contents into the several boxes. These consisted of sweets, chocolates, tobacco, cigarettes, cocoa, soap, candles, apples, oranges, cakes, magazines or papers, and a sprig of holly. Then the boxes were tied and afterwards sewn up in canvas.*

*On Tuesday, December 21st, our first reply came. To show how the boys appreciated the contents I have quoted an extract from one of the letters received. "... Just a few lines to thank you and the children for the splendid parcel received on December 15th, in excellent condition. Some of the contents are luxuries and some are just what we want for we cannot get anything here just behind the trenches, where we are now resting before going up again. It seems nice to think we are not forgotten and anything from home is always appreciated."*

*Our thanks are due to the following ladies and gentlemen for kindly subscribing to our prize fund this year – Mrs Holdsworth, Colonel Fellows, Mrs Sear, Mr Horn. Ten letters have already been received full of grateful thanks.*



**May we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, using the beautiful card shown inside the back cover.**



Quality Care in Your Home

- ✓ Hugely Rewarding
- ✓ Work Life Balance
- ✓ Friendly Supportive Team
- ✓ Quality Time with Clients
- ✓ Full Training Provided
- ✓ Career Development
- ✓ Time to Travel
- ✓ Great Pay & Benefits

Car Drivers ONLY

Call us on 01707 682 100

Can you make a positive difference every day?

We look after amazing people in the comfort of their own homes

NOW  
RECRUITING!



*making a difference every day*

[www.rightathome.co.uk/welwyn](http://www.rightathome.co.uk/welwyn)



**ELECTRICAL  
PLUMBING  
KITCHENS  
BATHROOMS**

**I ALSO COVER MANY  
ASPECTS OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

**CHRIS TINWORTH**

01707-251302

07973-561298

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



Opening the lid of a compost bin one day in August I was startled to see masses of earth worms trying to make an escape up the inside walls. I had no idea there were so many in the bin. And what had sparked this exodus?? The day followed heavy rains and apparently worms can drown in wet soil. Perhaps they were trying to find dry land? Later I read that worms die in acidic conditions; possibly my food waste had unknowingly been noxious to them.



A few days later I played golf after another night of very heavy rains. The fairways were littered with thousands of worms—a veritable Wormageddon. Had they too been washed out, or had some nitrogen fertiliser been applied recently (unlikely, as the green keepers are experts)?

Earthworms are amazing creatures. They breathe through their skin. Their bodies are permeable: fluids and air can be absorbed directly. Earthworms need to stay moist for this process to work, so they avoid sunlight and arid climates. They also lack eyes, instead using receptors in their skin to sense light and touch. Earthworms have five “hearts” that pump blood through their bodies. They get their nutrition from bacteria and fungi that grow on dead and decomposing organic matter. Earthworms are hermaphrodites, meaning an individual worm has both male and female reproductive organs.

Worms in general do not get a good press in the Bible. The many references to them all refer to suffering, death and destruction. Job (7;5) moans “My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt”. Psalm 22;6 :”But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people.” Acts 12:23 “And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.”

Even today worms are not highly regarded. We talk about a person “worming their way into someone's affection”; and calling anyone a worm is definitely not a compliment.

However earthworms are harmless, beneficial residents of the soil. They break down dead and decaying organic matter into rich humus soil, thereby supporting plant growth. They make holes that aerate soil and improve drainage, and of course feed birds. Time to give them their due!



Personal,  
caring and  
independent.

*The complete  
funeral service*

---

24 hour service

•  
Private Chapels of Rest

•  
Memorial Stonemasons

•  
Funeral Plans

•  
Own Crematorium

---



WELWYN GARDEN CITY

01707 390018

WELWYN

01438 714686

**AUSTIN'S**

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

*Serving the local community for ten generations*

***Jesus, as we celebrate Your birth, we pray that our hearts will be filled with joy and that this holiday season will be a time of happiness and love. Thank You for families and friends. We remember all the celebrations that we've had together and look forward to those to come. We pray that we will be drawn closer to each other and to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.***

***And finally ....***

What did the fisherman do at the doctor's office after accidentally wallowing a bucket full of worms?

*He waited for his diagnosis with baited breath.*

Two silk worms started fighting;  
*They ended in a tie*

What do you call it when worms take over the world?  
Global Worming.

What do worms use to leave messages?  
*Compost-it notes*

Is there anything worse than finding a worm in your apple?  
*Finding half a worm.*

And, at last, one with a nod to Christmas:  
Which worms make the best gift wrappers?  
*Scotch tape worms.*





## BROCKET HALL



## SEASONS GREETINGS

*See page 16, Local History Group*





# TOGETHER

Ramblers' Charity England & Wales No: 1093577 Scotland No: 50039799

A moment to pause. Breathing in clear air. Sharing interests and conversations as you ponder the hills ahead. We have your passion for exploring worldwide and in the UK.

Choose any of our holidays and we'll contribute funds through **The Walking Partnership** to your group. Just tell us their name when you book.

Book a great value holiday:  
**ramblersholidays.co.uk**  
or call **01707 537287**



Walking holiday partner



**Ramblers**  
**Walking**  
**Holidays** **R**