

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



October / November 2026

£1



Photos from St John's School



Three Faiths Tour



Artist Visit to St John's



Top: Three Faiths Tour in Bedford - see p.15

Bottom: Artist Visit to St John's

When the nights draw in

At the time of writing, we've just passed the autumn equinox – the moment when day and night are roughly equal. After that, the balance tips. The evenings draw in, the mornings grow darker, and we begin the journey towards the shortest day.

I love having seasons, but I don't entirely welcome winter's gloom. I have more energy in the long, light evenings of summer. And having the day begin at 8am and end at 4pm is a real problem with a stubborn Labrador who refuses to walk in the dark!

This recently led me to open a book on the Danish idea of *hygge*, which offers a different way of approaching the dark. Winter nights aren't something to endure until spring. People light candles, gather round tables, share food, and make their homes warm. The darkness hasn't gone away. They've just found a way of living well within it.

This reminded me - darkness isn't always the enemy.

There are things that need darkness. Seeds begin their growth hidden beneath the soil. Our bodies need sleep. Some of the most important

changes happen quietly, long before anything is visible.

The Bible is full of light, but it also contains darkness – and not always the bad kind. The story of creation begins with the Spirit of God hovering over the deep, before anything can be seen. Jesus is born beneath a night sky. And it's 'while it was still dark' that Mary Magdalene arrives at Jesus' tomb, before she has any idea that resurrection has happened.

That's not to say darkness is always welcome. The darker months can

(Continued on page 2)



Cover Photo: Our intrepid team of cyclists (and Rosie the dog) ready to cycle off to St Albans Cathedral to meet our hikers for the Beds & Herts Bike 'n Hike. See Gina's report on p.5

Vicar's Message - *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

deepen loneliness and low mood,
and some darkness is painful and
frightening. But perhaps darkness
doesn't always have to be totally

beaten before something good can
happen.

With love

Revd Kathryn

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Bike 'n Hike

The annual Bike 'n' Hike raises money for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, supporting church repairs across the two counties, with half of each participant's sponsorship going to a church of their choice. Gina reports on this year's St John's outing - see p.5

The People's Emergency Briefing

The *People's Emergency Briefing* sets out why climate change and nature loss are being treated as an emergency - and why the choices we make now still matter. Lorraine explains more in her article, and invites us to watch, reflect and join the conversation - see p.9

Harvest Festival

Come and celebrate Harvest with us at St John's on Sunday 4th October at 11am, as our All-Together Harvest Communion brings the Season of Creation to a joyful close. We'll also be joined by children from St John's School, including members of the school choir singing the amazing 'Cabbages and Greens'. It's a service for all ages, giving thanks for the gifts of the earth and all that we share, followed by a relaxed Bring and Share Harvest meal in the school hall. Everyone is warmly welcome!

RIP Pat Faulkner

It is with great sadness we remember our dear friend Pat Faulkner, who died on Sunday 20 September. Pat was much loved by her family and by her church family at St John's, and we give thanks for her long life, holding her family in our prayers.

The Big Give

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to The Big Give at St John's. It was a lovely afternoon of tea, homemade cake, conversation and music, with plenty of time simply to enjoy being together. Special congratulations and thanks to our ukulele band, who treated us to some great music and added enormously to the atmosphere. Most of all, thank you for your wonderful generosity in supporting the work and ministry of St John's — it was very much appreciated. See the photos on p.11



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Bike 'n Hike—St Albans Style by Gina Butler

I've just returned from this year's Bike 'n' Hike in aid of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust - an event St John's has taken part in for more than twenty years. The Trust has supported us generously in the past, so it's become a familiar rhythm of early September: Kevin and Lucy

Earl cycling to Hertingfordbury, meeting walkers, and touring the churches of Hertford with plenty of laughter, cake, and camaraderie.

This year, however, Kevin decided it was time for a change. In his wisdom (or mischief), he announced that we would head to St Albans instead. We have had some very wet Easter Monday pilgrimages to St Albans [Abbey] but today the weather was absolutely perfect, not too hot but short sleeves and shorts.

At 9.15am, I walked Rosie the dog to St John's to wave off the cyclists - Kevin, Lucy, Paul and Geoff [see cover photo] - before running home to meet Frank and Lorraine, as we were driving to St Albans. We parked at Verulamium Park and



Outside St Albans Abbey - L-R Sarah, Lorraine, Gina, Geoff, Rev'd Kathryn, Frank, Lucy, Kevin, Richard, Paul with Rosie the dog.

walked up the hill to the Abbey to meet the cyclists, plus Rich and Sarah.

This was our first church of the day, though not our most triumphant. Our usual first church is the lovely St Mary's Hertingfordbury where they've laid out cakes that would make Mary Berry weep with joy. The Abbey, however, directed us to the café, where cake was available — but only if we paid for it. A shock to the system.

We waited in the shop for Rev Kathryn to arrive, only to be asked by the assistant to “move to the side” because we were apparently making the place look untidy. A first for us — and not quite the welcome

(Continued on page 7)

Photos from the Bike 'n Hike



Above Left to Right: Lucy, Sarah, Richard, Lorraine, Geoff, Paul, Kevin, Rev'd Kathryn. **Front:** Rosie (the Dog) [Not sure where Frank & Gina are - one of us is taking the pic, though]

we had expected.

Once Kathryn arrived, we went outside to take a group photo. She approached a couple (while wearing her dog collar) and said, "May I ask you a question?" Their faces froze, expecting her to say something like: "Where is God in your life". Only for her to pass them her phone and ask them to take a picture, they visibly relaxed. Ten of us and Rosie the dog were soon captured for posterity [see p.5].

From there, we began our tour of St Albans' churches. Marlborough Road Methodist Church was closed, though a lone volunteer had left a signing sheet and an opened bag of jelly babies. There were only four jelly babies and ten of us, so we decided not to start a fight.

St Peter's Church was open and pleasant, recently refurbished with pews removed. They had a signing sheet but only served water - perhaps a sign of things to come.

Our spirits lifted at the next church, St Saviours, where a lovely man greeted us with tea, coffee, iced coffee, and a generous array of biscuits. Inside the church was a revelation, with a café area, kitchenette and a cosy cluster of sofas formed what they called "The Prayground". It was imaginative, warm, and genuinely inviting — one of our joint favourites.

At the United Reformed Church

(URC) on Sandpit Lane they had no official signing form for us, but there was a choir rehearsal underway and a kind lady signed our sheet. There were no refreshments on offer and I don't think they expected us, but at least we were made welcome. [Bear in mind that all these churches signed up for Bike 'n Hike, or we would not have put them on our visit list -- Ed.]

Next, we went to the enormous St Paul's Church — a huge hall, an upstairs, and a church room large enough for a badminton court. We couldn't help wondering what St John's could do with that much space. Once again, there was a signing sheet but no refreshments.

There was a short walk there to Hatfield Road Methodist Church, which unfortunately was completely locked, with no signing sheet. A little disappointing. At this point, Sarah and Rich left us as they had a prior engagement in the afternoon.

From there we had a long walk (1.4 miles) to St Luke's, our other joint favourite. Kathryn had phoned ahead to her vicar friend who was the incumbent there, who ensured we were warmly welcomed even though he was away. Inside, six ladies were sewing either by hand or with sewing machines - evidently

(Continued on page 8)

Bike 'n Hike - Concluded

it was Craft Saturday - and we were offered cake, brownies, gluten-free biscuits, and drinks. When we asked to see the church, they opened the bifold doors to reveal a colourful, sunlit sanctuary. It was a moment of pure delight.

On the way to the next church, Kathryn left us. She had two excellent reasons: she had run fourteen miles (!) that morning as part of her marathon training, and she needed to write her sermon for Sunday. We hope our adventures gave her inspiration.

The next church was St Julian's — a more spartan church than the opulent St Paul's but interesting in a completely different way. Also, it was open, with a signing sheet so they were at least prepared for us and did offer to make us a drink if we had wanted. We were the first names on the signing sheet, even though it was past 2pm. That has never happened in Hertford. A friendly man talked to Frank and Geoff all about St Julian, and we had to drag them away.

Our penultimate church was St Stephen's, a beautiful church with an amazing spire. However, we were a little disappointed to find it all locked up, although we did walk around the back to admire their impressive annexe before moving on.

Our final church was St Michael's, reached by walking across Verulamium Park - much to Rosie's delight, as she finally got to run off lead and chase her ball. She also spotted the lake and ran headlong into it and came back dripping wet, at least she didn't try and catch a duck at the same time.

St Michael's is ancient, built on the site where St Alban was executed. No signing sheet again, but it was open, with a young man playing the organ. Mary and Ian Douglas were married there, which made it a lovely connection for St John's.

We ended the day at the Waffle House, enjoying a well-earned drink and bite to eat. The cyclists then walked back up to the Abbey to retrieve their bikes, while the rest of us headed home.

All in all, it was refreshing to try somewhere new, but we missed the camaraderie of Hertford. Perhaps St Albans churches don't see many Bike 'n' Hikers and so aren't geared up for visitors. Will we return to Hertford next year, or try somewhere completely different?

Who knows? Watch this space!

Gina

Time for a re-think

On 27th November 2025, Central Hall Westminster hosted a National Emergency Briefing, bringing together more than 1,200 invited politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. Introduced by Chris Packham CBE, ten of the UK's leading experts addressed the audience on the threats posed by climate change and nature loss – along with the opportunities that could come from taking decisive action.

The word 'emergency' was deliberately chosen. The organisers argue that climate change and the loss of nature are no longer simply environmental issues, but increasingly affect many aspects of everyday life, including our health, food supplies, the economy and national security. The Westminster event was intended to demonstrate what a clear, evidence-led national emergency briefing could look like, bringing together the science and its implications for the UK in one place.

This National Emergency Briefing has since been adapted into a 50-minute film for public release: *The People's Emergency Briefing*. It



combines material from the original expert presentations with reactions from members of the public and some familiar faces, and is now being shown in communities around the country. The aim is to help more people understand and discuss the evidence, and ultimately to encourage a government-led televised emergency briefing delivered by independent experts.

We are screening the film on 22nd November at 3pm at St John's Church. The viewing is free to attend, but if you would like to come, please book a place by emailing churchwarden@puranik.org

After the film we will have refreshments and an opportunity to share our reactions and ideas.

See you there!

Lorraine

Services

October 2026

4th	Trinity 18	8 am	Quiet Communion (BCP)
		11am	All Together Harvest Festival Communion* Followed by bring and share harvest lunch*
11th	Trinity 19	11 am	Holy Communion with Sunday Club*
18th	Trinity 20	8 am	Quiet Communion (BCP)
		11 am	Reflective Worship
25th	Bible Sunday	11 am	Holy Communion

November 2026

1st	All Saints' Day	8 am	Quiet Communion (BCP)
		11 am	All Together Worship for All Saints*
8th	Remembrance Sunday	11 am	Holy Communion
		3pm	St John's@3 – 'Light out of Darkness!'
15th	2nd before Advent	8 am	Quiet Communion (BCP)
		11 am	Reflective Worship with Sunday Club*
22nd	Christ the King	11 am	Holy Communion
29th	Advent Sunday	11am	Holy Communion

** Children are welcome at all our services, but these services and events are especially suitable for families and children (as well as people of all other ages!). BCP Book of Common Prayer; CW Common Worship.
NB Kathryn's day off is Friday each week*



The Big Give at St John's

What an amazing afternoon we had at **The Big Give!** The September weather was wonderfully kind, with plenty of cakes and cookies, flower arranging with Jean, children's crafts and live music with singing from the U3A ukulele band, including Bing Crosby's **"Swinging on a Star"** from the film *Going My Way*.

As St John's School finished for the day, families joined us for cake, crafts, music and conversation. Most importantly, the afternoon raised funds for the work of **St John's Church**, and people gave very generously.

Thank you to everyone who baked, played, arranged flowers, put up gazebos, helped behind the scenes, and to everyone who came and made it such a lovely afternoon.



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SUNDAY CLUB

at

St John's Church Lemsford

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Bible stories, crafts, friendship, fun
and snacks!

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during the 11am service

Children and Young People at St John's by Jo Brooks

Celebrating God's goodness together

Autumn gives us so much to discover – the changing colours, darker nights, berries and fruit on the trees. Each discovery can help us to notice God's goodness and as we notice, to thank him for the wonderful world he created for us to enjoy and care for.

This autumn, why not choose a family challenge to celebrate God's wonderful world – take a wonder walk in the countryside, bring a Harvest donation, come to our Light Party, or choose a simple act of kindness to brighten someone else's life.

Come and celebrate with us this autumn - at our Harvest Festival, at our Light Party, or at our regular services with Sunday Club:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 4th October | Harvest Festival – a service for every age and stage. We celebrate God's goodness to us and respond by sharing what we have with those in need. The service is followed by a bring-and-share lunch – all are welcome! |
| 11th October | Sunday Club meets during morning service at 11am, for crafts, games, stories and play. This week's theme – God provides for our needs. |
| 1st November | All-Together Worship on All Saints Sunday |
| 8th November | St John's @ 3 – Light out of Darkness! An afternoon of fun, friendship and a joyful reminder that God's light continues to shine even as the evenings grow darker. |
| 15th November | Sunday Club meets during morning service at 11am, for crafts, games, stories and play. This week's theme – God cares for us all. |



Contact revkathrynalford@gmail.com or joholifield@gmail.com

A detailed line drawing in a woodcut style, rendered in a dark brown color on a textured, light brown background. The illustration depicts a variety of autumnal harvest items: a lit candle in a holder, a cornucopia overflowing with fruit, a large ear of corn, a basket of bread, acorns, clusters of grapes, wheat stalks, and a large pumpkin. The items are arranged in a circular, wreath-like fashion around the central text.

HARVEST

at St John's Church

Join us at 11am for an All
Together service followed
by a Harvest themed meal!

Sunday 4th October



Donations welcome!

September 2026

We have had a great start to the new school year. Our fifteen new **Reception children** have settled in well and are already coming along to our Collective Worship including being at church on a Thursday and attending our Celebration assembly on a Friday as well as playing with the older children at break and lunch times. Our buddy system of pairing an older child with a much younger one works so well. It is lovely seeing them playing together and looking out for one another.

With Revd Kathryn's help we have put together the plans for our Collective Worship for the term. This term we are exploring the work of the early Christians and the birth and growth of the Christian church. This follows on from two of our collective worship schemes from last year which explored the Old Testament and the Gospel writers.

Earlier this week our oldest two classes took part in the **Three Faiths Tour in Bedford**. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to visit three places of worship – a Christian church, a mosque and a Gurdwara. They learnt about the key beliefs of each faith, Sikhism, Islam and Christianity, and were able to explore each place of worship. It was a unique opportunity to learn about other key world faiths and to make comparisons



all in one day!

We will soon be thinking about **Open Days** for prospective new children and their families. These are opportunities to look around our school with a view to begin with us in September 2027.

Our **Open Days** this year are:

- **Wednesday 14th October 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.**
- **Thursday 15th October 1.30 – 2.30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday 20th October 1.30 – 2.30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday 21st October 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.**

If you know families with **Reception aged children** who are looking for a school place for September 2027 do please tell them about our lovely school and direct them to our website and encourage them to ring us to book

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The 8am: Peace Before the Day Begins

I help Jenny by setting up our 8am Holy Communion service when she's not available. However, my responsibilities for setting up and singing in the choir mean that I normally worship at 11am. Even so, I think **the 8am offers something very special** – and perhaps something that more of us might enjoy if we gave it a try.

The service is spoken, with no hymns or music. I love music and sing in the choir, but also recognise that **worship without music has a beauty of its own**. There is a wonderful stillness about being in church early in the morning. The service is **peaceful, unhurried and intimate**. The words, the readings and the silence carry it.

Then there is the language of the Book of Common Prayer. The first Prayer Book appeared in 1549 and was largely the work of Thomas Cranmer. It was revised several times before reaching the form we know today in 1662. Some of its language is obviously old-fashioned, but **much of it is absolutely glorious**.

Think of the traditional beginning of the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, which art in heaven." In Cranmer's time, "which" could be used when speaking about a person. But because the wording now sounds unusual, it makes me stop and think.

God is far greater than anything we can properly describe. The Bible recognises that too. Isaiah tells us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts,

while St Paul writes about the depth of God's wisdom and knowledge and says that God's ways are beyond tracing out. We naturally speak about God as "he" and "him" – and there I go doing it again – but all our human words and pictures can only take us so far.

Rev'd Kathryn made a point in her Lent course notes which particularly struck me. **"Common" prayer doesn't mean ordinary**, bland or uninteresting prayer. **It means shared prayer**.

We say the same words together, whatever our background, circumstances, confidence or doubts. We also share them with generations of Christians who prayed them before us. The BCP is steeped in Scripture: the Bible is not only read, but turned into prayer. Through its familiar pattern we recognise our failings, hear again of God's forgiveness, receive Communion and respond with thanksgiving. Its words about human failings can be strong, but **its confidence in God's grace and mercy is stronger still**.

If that's not enough to tempt you, **there's also a practical advantage**. The service lasts only about 40 minutes, so you can begin Sunday with Holy Communion and still have almost the whole day ahead of you. It can fit before a family visit, a day out or a busy Sunday, whether you usually worship at St John's or belong

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News from St John's C of E Primary School - *continued*

(Continued from page 15)

an open day tour (01707 322589)

See also our home page: <https://www.stjohns561.herts.sch.uk/>

Last week we had our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection, which takes place every 5 years. We knew that we were on the inspection list for this academic year but were certainly one of the first schools to be inspected so early into the school year! The chief aim of the inspection is to evaluate the impact of the school's Christian vision on pupils, staff and the wider school community with key focuses including the quality of teaching in RE and Collective Worship, our provision for spiritual development and evaluation of our school culture

including our school values. The outcomes of our inspection were very positive, we await the final report! We appreciated very much the support from Revd Kathryn and Carrie Shannon (our Chair of Governors) leading up to and on the day of the inspection.

With summer turning once and for all to autumn we are looking forward to joining you for the **Harvest All-age service on Sunday 4th October** as well coming to St John's Church for our own school Harvest festival on Thursday 8th October.

Best wishes

Michelle Boylan

Headteacher of St John's Church of England School

The 8am: Peace Before the Day Begins - *continued*

(Continued from page 16)

to another church which doesn't offer an early Communion service. You can even come to the 8am and still attend your usual service later if you wish.

And, although the service itself comes from the Book of Common Prayer, we now use the Common Worship lectionary (there's that word "common" again). That means the readings follow the same pattern as our later services and those in many other churches. If you normally worship elsewhere, you won't lose the thread by coming to the 8am. You'll

also hear the sermon prepared for the later service, although in a slightly shorter form.

Our 8am Holy Communion takes place at St John's on the first and third Sundays of each month. It may not suit everyone, every week – but if you've never tried it, or haven't been for a long time, **why not come along and breathe some calm into your life** before your next busy Sunday begins?

With every blessing, Frank [Ed.], and with thanks to Rev'd Kathryn

Part 4 : From horsepower to house building: The Great North Road through Lemsford in the 20th Century

Over the last 3 episodes of the story of the Great North Road, we reach the 20th century. The old GNR has been bypassed and today's road starts at Stanborough roundabout and ends at the roundabout at the entrance to the village and slip road to the A1M. This article will concentrate on this stretch of road.

At the start of the 20th century, the Great North Road through Lemsford was still a road of horses, carts and wagons. Motor cars were beginning to appear, but

they were uncommon enough to make people look up when one came rattling through. That soon changed. Year by year there were more cars, more vans, more buses and more lorries.

The old road, which had carried coaches and farm traffic for generations, was being pulled into the modern age. In 1900 roughly 1,000 motor cars were on our roads; by 1920, there were about

650,000 motor vehicles.

The year 1920 marks a significant turning point, when we begin to see the future direction of Lemsford Parish taking shape. WW1 had changed the life of the working class. The country had shrunk due to the motor vehicle and Lemsford was part of a small section of the journey from London to Scotland. WW1 had finished with a surplus of army vehicles and many men used their severance pay from the forces to buy cheap vehicles to transport goods around the country. Some used the chassis to build coaches called charabancs. The image below shows the Bocket Hall staff on a day out in one.



Brocket Outing 1920s - Shirley Knapps mother, Betty Beech, worked for a time at Bocket Hall in the early 1920,s.

The road had stopped being simply something that passed through the parish. It was beginning to shape the parish itself. Builders noticed this

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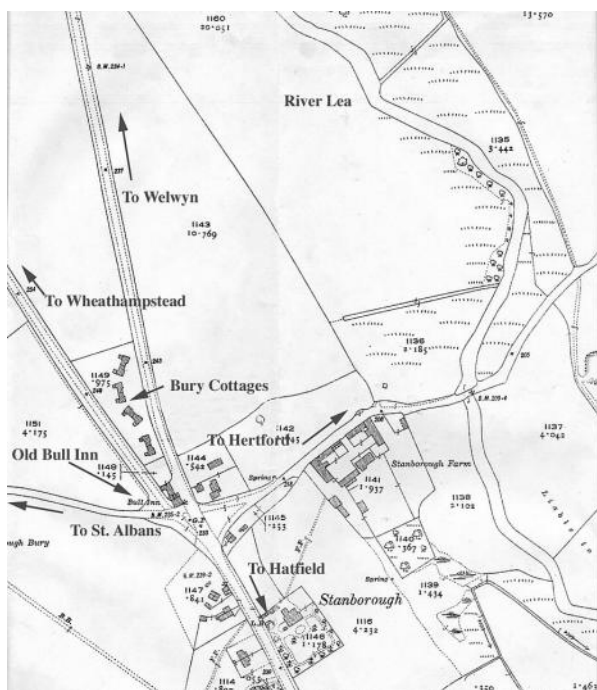
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too. Land beside and around the old GNR became more valuable for housing. Fields that had been part of the countryside for generations started to disappear for gardens and new homes. A hedge came out here, a few houses went up there, and before long the parish looked rather different from the one people had known before WW1.

Hatfield rural council built Bury Cottages (see 1927 image below) on land bought on 30 May 1919. The Cowper Estate was sold, comprising approximately 2,817 acres of outlying Panshanger farmland, for around £106,735.

Ebenezer Howard and his associates acquired about 1,458 acres for £51,000; this land became the foundation of Welwyn Garden City. The sale was a post-war reduction of an oversized inherited estate. The Panshanger Estate belonged to the 7th and last Earl Cowper who died childless in 1905. Panshanger passed first to his widow and, after her death in 1913, to his niece Ethel Grenfell, Lady Desborough. Lady Desborough already had another principal home, Taplow Court in Buckinghamshire, so Panshanger

was only used occasionally. With wartime taxation, rising death duties, lower agricultural rents and the expense of maintaining several large estates made the outlying farms sensible assets to sell. The deaths of Lady Desborough's two eldest sons in WW1 also weakened the family's reason for preserving such an enormous landed inheritance intact.



The OS map of 1923 (above) shows a few houses in a crescent shape the were called Crescent Cottages also known as Bury cottages (No 1 to 8 GNR) built in 1921 for WW1

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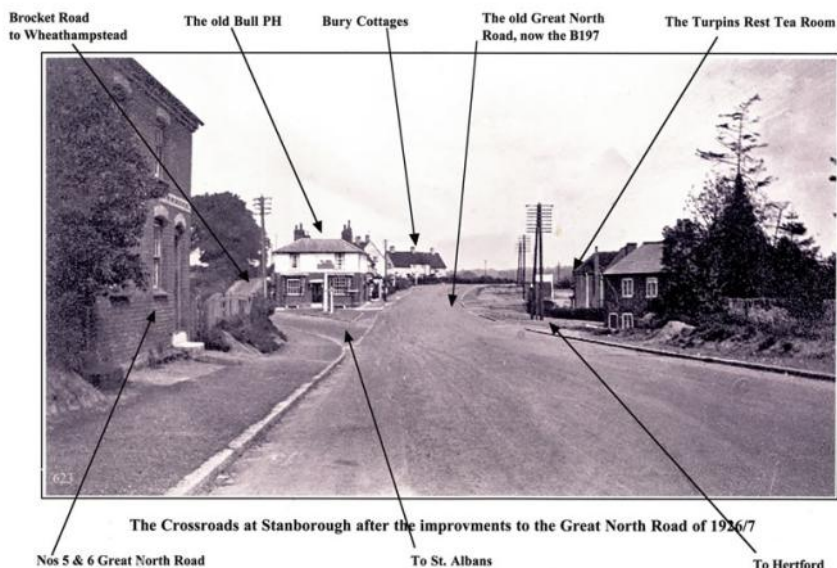
Lemsford Local History Group - *Continued*

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heroes. The map also shows the old Bull built in 1724 and known as the 'Seven Stars'. Later in 1756 it was called 'The Horse & Groom' or 'Horse & Jockey'. A new public house was erected in 1822. In the early 1800s the Great North Road at Stanborough was realigned and a new public house was erected in 1822 on the tongue of land between the present day Brocket Road and the Great North Road. It was called 'The Bull'. Christie's Brewery of Hoddesdon were the owners. A 1927 image from the archives (below) shows what the area looks like and

includes 'Turpins Tea Room'.

In the February Parish Magazine we celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the modernisation of the road in 1926. The image shows a wider road and granite kerbstones. The road looks like this today. We conclude from this the GNR was fit for purpose to shrink the UK and provide a modern road to the north. I like to use memories from the archive to paint a picture of life around this time. In a previous edition I produced a cartoon of the Lemsford Café built in 1926, due to the increased traffic on this stretch of road. Turpins Tea Room



(Continued on page 23)



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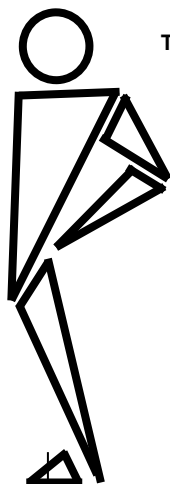

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(Continued from page 21)

was also built for the same reason. The ancient Bull had a garage built by the side of it to service the travelling public, see image below. Wooden fence on the right of image belongs to No 1 GNR.



The GNR's increase in traffic also had a darker side. In 1922 outside number 7 GNR a young girl called Brenda Edith Lines, only six years old and only child of Mr Frank Lines of 8 GNR (Bury Crescent), Stanborough, was killed by a motor car. The driver of the car, Mr Davis of Ealing, stated that he was driving the car on the day in question. Sitting in front with him was his wife, and his two children were behind. On nearing the Bull public house Stanborough, he saw three children run into the road from the right hand side. At the time he was travelling at about fifteen miles per hour. He sounded his

horn and felt for his footbrake. Two of the children ran back, but the other hesitated, looked back and then ran straight into the car. The funeral took place at St John's Church Lemsford on Saturday afternoon. The Rev'd

W.W. Clarke (Vicar) officiated.

The sad story is made worse by Brenda's father Frank Lines, who at the age of eight was mentioned in the 'Strand Magazine' May 1893.

'Frank Lines a little boy aged eight, saved James Cochrane on 28th December, 1891, in Broadwater, Bocket Park, Hatfield. Cochrane ran after a ball on the ice and when forty five yards from the bank the ice broke. He managed to cling to the edge for some time. The other boys who were present ran away, but Frank Lines crawled to the hole and with the aid of a stick got Cochrane out. The ice again gave way and Cochrane fell in once more, but still his little rescuer made another attempt, and finally saved him'

(Continued on page 25)

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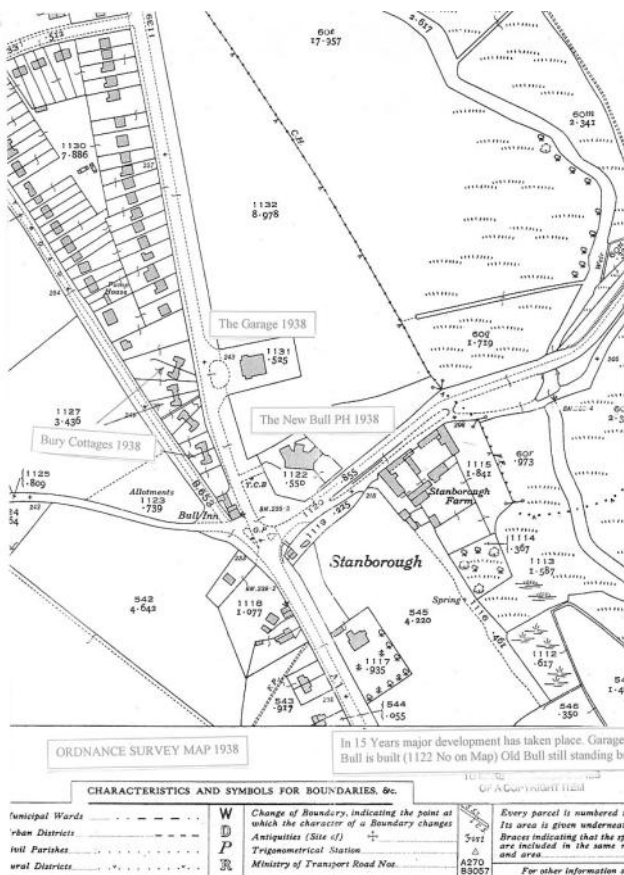
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Lemsford Local History Group - Continued



Many readers will remember the old Shell garage (see image below) and would have filled up there. To jog your memory here are a few names it was called 1927 to 1937: Sharp PW & SH Motor Engineers, 1938 to 1940: Sharp Percival Wm Motor Garage, 1941 to 1945: Plant Bertram Motor Engineers, 1946 to 1951: Stanborough Garage Cycle, Radio & Electrical Engineers, 1952 to 1955: Welwyn Service Depot Ltd Garage. 1956: Creasy HG & Sons Motor Engineers. Not sure when it became a car lot for Ken Brown

(Continued from page 23)

The 1938 OS map above shows all the houses built since 1925 up to New Road. It also shows the New Bull, the Garage and Stanborough farm (removed in the 1960s to build Stanborough Lakes). We can conclude all this took place because of the GNR.

The garage on the map is still there.

and Aston Martin showroom. A trivia fact about this part of the GNR is landline phone numbers from No 1 GNR to No 29 GNR (New Road) start with 2 and after New Road to village roundabout start with 3. The reason for this is due to the telephone exchange supplying the land line. If it started with 2 it was Hatfield exchange in

(Continued on page 26)

Lemsford Local History Group - Concluded

(Continued from page 25)

French Horn Lane in Hatfield near Asda. A 3 would be WGC Telephone exchange built in 1931. Bury Cottages built in 1921 had no alternates but in 1931 the new houses would be supplied by WGC, which was nearer.



Traffic increased, and by the 1960s was busy, as the image left shows

I investigated how this image was taken and was informed it was on a foot bridge that was installed due to the volume of traffic. If you look by No 1 GNR you

will find the concrete footings and another set on the opposite side of the road.

In the 1960s with this heavy traffic, the A1M was built junction 4 (WGC) to Junction 6 (Welwyn) opened in 1973 which involved a bridge over Stanborough Lane. Below is an image from 1966 showing that bridge being built (by kind permission of Ken Wright). Also note a rare sight in Lemsford Parish 'a bus stop'.



If you have any questions about Local History or have any memories you wish to share please contact Us at info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk

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It is a pleasure to write these Nature Notes because I learn so much. You may recall that my previous one concluded with the hope that a bee hotel given by my son and daughter-in-law might soon be populated. This was read with some amusement by them because, as they pointed out, it had already been settled, I just hadn't noticed.

Now, my image of bees has always been those buzzing insects that live in hives. How wrong I was! In fact, the most numerous types of bees are those that do not live in hives or have a queen: they are solitary bees. About 70% of these nest in underground burrows, but others, such as leafcutter bees, prefer cavities, and it is for these that this hotel was specifically designed. My bee hotel caters to these females by providing long, narrow tubes that can be easily sealed with wax or a leaf.

Each female solitary bee builds and provisions her own nest, laying 20–30 eggs in her lifetime. She collects pollen and nectar to create a food ball for each larva, lays an egg on top, and seals the cell before moving on to the next. Unlike social bees, solitary bees do not tend to their young after laying eggs. I had noticed that several of the bamboo pipes in the hotel had leaves in their ends, but had assumed these had blown in. In fact, each marked a nest for an egg.

Adult males have a rather easy life: they primarily focus on mating and



often sleep in flowers at night. Most solitary bees live for about a year, with adult life lasting only three to eight weeks.

In the UK alone, over 90% of the 270 bee species are solitary. They are crucial for pollination, often outperforming social bees in efficiency; for example, a single red mason bee can pollinate as effectively as 120 worker honeybees.

I now inspect my bee hotel regularly and note with pleasure every time a tube is sealed, knowing that one day it will be the launchpad for a brand-new bee.

You can read all Geoffrey's Nature Notes (this is number 38) at <https://geoffreyhollis.com/nature-notes>



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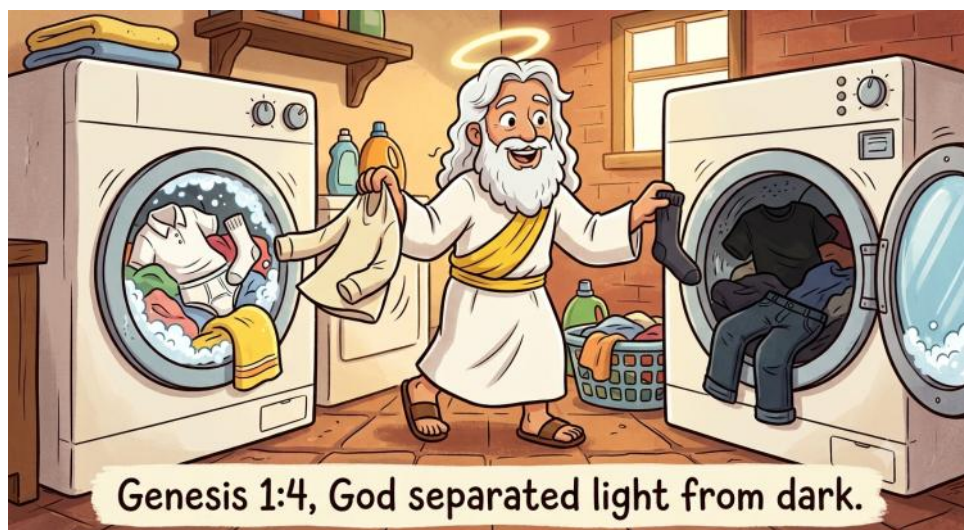
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Prayer for Autumn

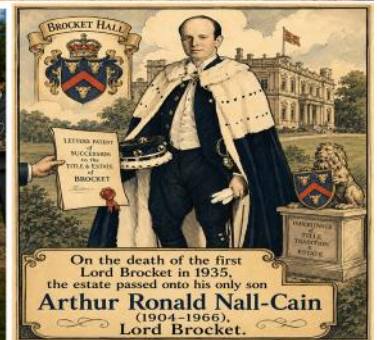
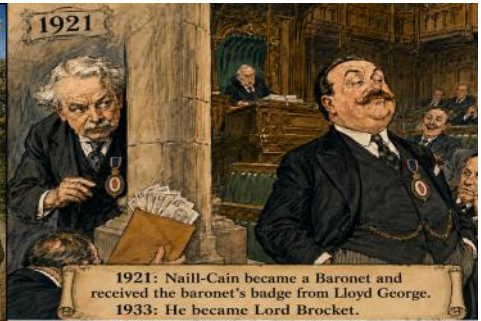
Lord of the turning seasons,
As autumn's colours unfold and the air grows cool,
teach my heart to slow down and notice Your goodness.
Thank You for the harvest of blessings, seen and unseen,
and for the quiet reminders that every season has a purpose.

***"There is a time for everything, and a season
for every activity under the heavens."
-- Ecclesiastes 3:1***

And finally



The History of Brocket Hall Part 2 - from 1923



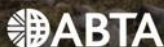
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