

# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer*

Easter services  
page 6



## Parish Magazine

April/May 2015

£1



Cover picture: Stained glass window in Brocket Chapel.

Left: see School Report page 7.

All others from last year's Fete—lets hope we have another great day this year on May 4th (see advert inside back cover).








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## April 2015

### **Friday 3rd - Good Friday**

11am to 1pm Service of Devotion and Reflection  
Rev'd Sue Stilwell

### **Sunday 5th - Easter Day**

8am BCP Holy Communion - Rev'd Sue Stilwell  
11am All Age Parish Communion + Baptisms - Rev'd Sue Stilwell

### **Sunday 12th - Easter 1**

8am BCP Holy Communion - Rev'd Susan Marsh  
11am BCP Morning Prayer - shortened for Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Rev'd Sue Stilwell

### **Sunday 19th - Easter 2**

8am BCP Holy Communion - Rev'd Sue Stilwell  
11am All-age/Family Service - tbc

### **Sunday 26th - Easter 3**

8am BCP Morning Prayer - John Marks  
11am Parish Communion - Rev'd Sue Stilwell

\*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday \*\*\*\*\*

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

**3rd** Readings for Good Friday

**5th** John 20: 1-18

**12th** Psalm 133 Acts 4: 32 -35 John 20: 19 -28

**19th** Luke 24: 36-43

**26th** Acts 4: 5-12 John 10: 11 -18

*Please note that Sue Stilwell's Day Off is Friday. Thank you*

**Coffee after 11am Services.**

**Sunday 3rd      Easter 4**

8am    BCP Holy Communion - Rev'd Sue Stilwell

11am   BCP Morning Prayer - tbc

**Monday 4th** 12 noon to 4 pm **LEMSFORD FETE***See advert inside back cover***Sunday 10th      Easter 5**

8am    BCP Holy Communion - Rev'd Susan Marsh

11am   Parish Communion - tbc

**Sunday 17th      Sunday after Ascension**

8am    BCP Holy Communion - tbc

11am   All age Service - Tim Armstrong- Taylor

**Sunday 24th      Whit Sunday**

8am    BCP Morning Prayer - John Marks

11am   Parish Communion - tbc

**Sunday 31st      Trinity Sunday**

8am    BCP Holy Communion - Rev'd Susan Stilwell

11am   Parish Communion - Rev'd Susan Stilwell

*\*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday \*\*\*\*\****Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)**3rd** Psalm 22: 25-31    Acts 8: 26- 40    John 15: 1-8**10th** Acts 10: 44-48    John 15: 9-17**17th** Acts 1: 15-17 and 21 - 26**24th** Acts 2: 1-21      John 15: 26 - 27 and 16: 4b - 15**31st** Romans 8: 12-17    John 3: 1-17*Please note that Sue Stilwell's Day Off is Friday. Thank you***Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service**

Dear Friends,

**A**lleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen  
**A**indeed! Alleluia! These are the words of  
greeting we shall hear as we gather together in  
church on Easter Day. Easter - the celebration at  
the heart of our Christian faith - a stone rolled  
away - an empty tomb - Jesus appearing to his  
friends - He is risen!



On Easter Day the melody is 'Jesus lives' - and  
indeed all around us we see the signs of new life  
- from the warmth of the sun - spring flowers bursting with colour - new  
buds on the trees - new growth all around us - we look forward to the  
longer summer days - and to something new in our lives. Its the same  
rhythm we first hear in Christian baptism as we turn to Christ and  
follow him anew! Which is why Easter Day this year at St Johns will be  
even more special, as we offer baptism for those who wish to 'take the  
plunge'. It promises to be a wonderful occasion for those being baptised  
and their families and the congregation. Baptism offers a new start...

**W**e are also looking forward to our Hatfield Team Confirmation  
service on the 10th May at St Mary's, North Mymms.  
Confirmation offers an opportunity for people to move forward in their  
faith and share in holy communion. God calls each of us into a closer  
relationship with Him in many different ways! How may God be calling  
you?

So, the Easter message offers us all hope - even at the most difficult  
times and in the darkest places, for the stone has been rolled away  
giving light to the darkened cave...The resurrection of Jesus Christ, is as  
relevant for us today and every day as we connect with the message of  
Easter. Resurrection is not simply something of the past - its something  
for us in the present - for the miracle of the resurrection is to be found in  
our daily lives and routines even amidst the toils and sadness.

*Continued overleaf*

**T**he miracle of Resurrection takes place deep within us as we are stirred into new life and we enter into a deeper and richer relationship with God and others, we let go of personal baggage and those things holding us back and we find a new dimension to living. And the strangest thing is that it's not until after these things happen in us, that we realise we too have been raised up to a new life! There is hope for us all! Alleluia!

*Risen Lord, touch our lives with healing, forgiveness and newness that we may know again the fullness of the Father's promise.  
Alleluia!*

**Happy Easter!      Sue Stilwell      Assistant Curate**

### **Progress on our Vacancy**

It is now over a year since we learnt of the impending vacancies in the Bishop's Hatfield Team. Revd. Fiona Wheatley moved on from St John's Hilltop to her new post after Easter 2014 and our own Vicar, Revd. Edward Cardale retired in the summer.

For St. John's Hilltop, an interview has been held and a new appointment made of the **Revd. Amanda Duncan**. She is currently a Curate at St. John's Church, Harpenden having completed her training on the Eastern Region Ministry Course where she would have been tutored by Edward.

For ourselves, we have completed our Parish Profile and sent that to the Rector and Archdeacon. The latest news (towards the end of March) is that our post will be advertised in April with a proposed interview in early June. So, progress is being made but we are still a few months away from an appointment. Please keep praying for the right person to be found for us.

*Ian Douglas PCC Chairman*

**Wedding**

On 28th February, **Emma Gill** and **Richard Gentry**—many congratulations!

**Funeral**

On 20th March baby **Brody Bellinger**; our very sincere condolences to his parents.

***“Will you take the Prayers”***

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 9:30am – 1pm, St. Mary's Church, North Mymms.

Whether you have been leading prayers in church for some time or yet to have a go at this important task, the Ministry team invite you to a Workshop in which you can share your experience or freshness with others as well as learn from others about theirs. More information from **Ann Hollis** 01707 265617

**Revd Susan March**

Is retiring as a Minister in the Hatfield Team on 10th May. She

has put in a tremendous contribution particularly at St Michaels and St Lukes, all as a non-stipendiary, and will be very much missed.

**Revd Sue Stilwell**

Will be coming to the end of her Curacy in the Hatfield Team towards the end of May. At time of going to press we had not heard of her next deployment but she has helped us so much during our vacancy. *More in the next issue.*

**New Bishop of Hertford**

Is the Revd Canon Dr **Michael Beasley**. *Read all about him on page 14.* He will be Consecrated at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 14th May at 11 am. All are invited but please notify the Diocesan Office on 01727 818131 if you wish to attend.

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **24th May.**

Would you like to dedicate the flowers in the church to a loved one? On a dozen occasions per year the flowers placed in church could be recorded, by way of a simple message published in the parish magazine, as being in memory of ... A £20 contribution is suggested to commemorate the occasion, to be shared equally between the Flower Fund and the church's general funds. Do speak to a Churchwarden.  
*Martin and Janet English donated the flowers on February 15th in memory of their parents.*



## Services during Holy Week



### Holy Week

**Palm Sunday - Sunday 29th March at 11am**

Procession, Passion reading and Holy Communion

**Maundy Thursday - 2nd April at 7.00pm**

Joint service held at St Michael's Church, Birchwood Ave, Hatfield -  
Last Supper meal and Holy Communion  
Vigil throughout the night after the service

**Good Friday - 3rd April from 11am to 1pm**

Join us at any time for a service of reflection, readings, music and  
prayer

**Easter Day - 5th April at 11am**

Parish Communion for all the family with Baptism  
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey**

Please meet at St Michaels Church, Birchwood Avenue  
at 10.30 am  
or Lemsford Church at 10.30 am to walk to the Abbey  
for a celebration service at 3.00pm.

***We look forward to seeing you at the services -  
Happy Easter!***

**S**pring is here! Last term all pupils were invited to bring in a wellie and plant it with spring bulbs to brighten up the area near our entrance gates. It was a lovely whole school activity, supported by willing parents who came in to assist with filling wellies with compost and helping the younger ones to plant their bulbs. You can see the wonderful display in the photo (*inside front cover*) .....and the real thing by the school gates!



We have had a very active term since our last report, with the staff and House Captains judging the amazing entries for St John's 'Bake Off'. We had a huge number of entries and all the children who entered made a brilliant effort in their cooking – St John's children love to bake!

### **Wonder Days and Workshops**

Class 2 have had a super history workshop where they looked at the life and times of Florence Nightingale and we have had two truly fantastic 'Wonder Days' for the whole school. The first was a poetry day linked to World Book Day. This was led by the poet Ian Bland who motivated all the different class groups with his own poetry in a whole school assembly, then worked with each class individually to inspire them in writing their own poem. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and staff were impressed with Ian's enthusiasm and skill in working with the children. The children wrote some great poems.

**A**lso linked to our theme of 'Read to Succeed' and 'Reading for Pleasure', we invited the dance company 'WestEnd in Schools' to run workshops for all the classes and to choreograph a well-known book through dance. We chose 'Where the Wild Things Are' for the younger children and 'The Iron Man' (Ted Hughes) for Class 3 and 'Kensuke's Kingdom' (Michael Morpurgo) for Class 4. This was with an excellent dancer who really inspired the best efforts from all the children. Each class then performed their dance to the rest of the school at the end of the day. What a treat that was!

We are now approaching the end of term, with the St John's Talent Show looming, with our Easter Communion in St John's church on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and of course the traditional Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of term. We wish everyone a Happy Easter!

**Mandy Evans**     Headteacher

**2nd Saturday** in the month at 10.30am, a one hour walk and coffee break, for people who live or work in Lemsford, Stanborough and Cromer Hyde, or attend Lemsford church. Suitable for the family or dog walkers, all ages!



**Easter Monday Pilgrimage April 6th walk to St Albans**

a) meet at St Michaels, Birchwood, Hatfield, 10am for breakfast, leaving at 11am - lunch stop at the Scout Hut

Or b) meet at Lemsford 10.30am to walk to St Albans

Or c) catch a bus and meet at St Albans Abbey 12 noon - by the gate to the Park, walk across the Park, past The Fighting Cocks, and leisurely walk round the Lakes.

The **Service for Pilgrims at the Abbey 2pm**. Please queue at the gate to the Abbey before going into the service. Dogs and push chairs are welcome. Cars or bus for the return trip - arriving home about 4pm.

**Saturday May 9th Country Bumpkin cafe, Tewin Farm** (previous site of Craft Inspirations). For those who need a lift - cars leaving Lemsford church at 10.30am, for others meeting at the Country Bumpkin, Tewin Hill at 10.45am. Drive through Tewin, and sharp right turn into Tewin Hill, and up the hill, park at the stables car park, opposite the café. These are country roads so be careful.

For non walkers there is tea, coffee, light snacks and cream teas

For walkers we now go on an enjoyable one hour walk through the farming countryside, then back and join the others for a cup of tea.

**Future Saturday Morning Walks**

June 13th Tour of **Ayot St. Peters** with Peter Shirley;

July 11th Tour of **Lemsford** with Andy Chapman,

August 8th, **Panshanger Park, Hertford**

September 12th **Lemsford Springs**

October 10th, tba November 14th tba

More details **June Copping** Hatfield1357@Outlook.com

***Kiran*** – Born in Surrey, spent a year in Canada at the age of 16 and studied Pharmacy, now a Quality specialist at Roche. “I really must enjoy the pain of studying since I’m undertaking another Masters (this time in Health Economics).”

***Faye*** – Born in WGC, and a qualified beauty and massage therapist. Currently working as a Stock Management Partner for John Lewis. “I used to be a spa therapist in a five-star London hotel & was mentioned in the Evening Standard.”



**W**e both grew up in Welwyn Garden City and went to Stanborough School, albeit in separate years and so it’s completely possible we passed each other in the hallways many times. We met in 2012, moved into our flat in 2013 in Panshanger and got engaged in August just gone.

Upon thinking about marriage, and indeed life, we both talked and agreed that the special meaning of being wed in a church means more to us than we can explain. As a child Faye lived with her parents in Stanborough and always felt St. John’s was her local church and even went up the bell tower once.

We love the warm welcoming feeling that the church and the people give us and we’ve found coming to church gives us comfort and confidence in other aspects of our lives – something we were not consciously expecting. Furthermore we have discovered that it truly gives us time to think and be thankful and we’re grateful for becoming regular members.”

***Favourite hymns:*** Glorious things of Thee are spoken  
Jerusalem  
Be Thou my vision  
For the healing of the nations  
I vow thee to my country

## Lemsford Fete in years past

Lemsford Local History Group has a large archive of images and articles, acquired over the last 14 years. I inherited it from the great and sadly missed Stan Borrie, and have not read all the material or viewed all of the images. This makes looking for requests for information or images a pleasure as I stumble on memories of the parish or images I have never seen before. This happened recently images from the 1961 Fete, donated by Dennis Barr.

In 1990 Jack Beswarick wrote a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary article and in 2003 LLHG member Joan Baraclough contributed an article to the Parish magazine. Based on these I have produced a brief history in the Fetes 65<sup>th</sup> year.



In 1949 the vicar Rev R.R.F. Rigby resigned and it was a year before the new vicar was inducted. This caused the small congregation to get even smaller and when the Rev K.M. Mitchell was inducted in 1950 he felt the need to increase the congregation. Combined with the need to raise money for the organ fund it was suggested to try a jumble sale. In 1950 a new member to the church, Mrs Trench, had been engaged by Lord Brocket to open up Brocket Hall after its wartime use as a maternity home. She oversaw the cleaning and redecoration of the Hall in preparation for the family's return. Fortunately she suggested instead of a jumble sale they should organise a fete.

The first was held in 1950 and raised £50. The ground was the field which is now used for archery. Jack Beswarick informs us that the field had to be cleared of cow pats and nettles and the equipment was stored in a shed behind the vicarage, and it had to be moved to the field, a task made easier by the kind offer of a 'Welwyn Department Stores' delivery vehicle.

We have had a fete every year since and they have got bigger and bigger with the help and support of the church, school and local residents including a very special lady, the late Liz Potter who with her husband Alan ran the fete for many years.

The money raised is divided between the Church & School and the event is one the biggest of its type in Hertfordshire. Paul Butler has taken over from Liz and has proved over the last few years that the fete is in safe hands.



The images I found from 1961 shows a smaller, maybe more basic and not as profitable, but it also shows a lot of happy people enjoying the day—a message that has continued. As the fete has got bigger the money raised is useful but the real value of the Lemsford fete is bringing the church, school and local community together for a day of fun.



**J**ennifer Worth was chosen by Bishop Alan, in his book *Saints and Pilgrims in the Diocese of St Albans*, to be remembered on 17<sup>th</sup> May. She was born Jennifer Lee in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, and was raised in Amersham, Buckinghamshire. After leaving school at the age of 15 she learned shorthand and typing and became a School Secretary. After retraining as a nurse at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, Jennifer moved to London to train as a midwife.



In her early twenties she went to work in the bomb damaged East End Lee as a district mid-wife with the Sisters of St John the Divine, an Anglican community of nuns. She had not meant to work in a nunnery (“I thought I was going to a small private hospital”) and nearly ran away without unpacking her bags. “Nuns were not my style. I wanted a new slant on life, but I sought adventure not religion. I did not know it at the time but my soul was yearning for both.”

**S**he married the artist Philip Worth in 1963, and moved to Hemel Hempstead, where they had two daughters. She retired from nursing in 1973 to pursue her musical interests and in 1974, she was appointed a licentiate of the London College of Music, where she taught piano and singing. She obtained a fellowship in 1984 and performed as a soloist and with choirs throughout Britain and Europe.

She later began writing, and her first volume of memoirs, *Call the Midwife*, was published in 2002. The book became a bestseller when it was reissued in 2007. *Shadows of the Workhouse* (2005) and *Farewell to the East End* (2009) also became bestsellers. The trilogy sold almost a million copies in the UK alone. In a fourth volume of memoirs *In the Midst of Life*, published in 2010, she reflects on her later experiences caring for the terminally ill.

**J**ennifer died on 31 May 2011, from cancer of the oesophagus. *Call the Midwife*, based on her books, began broadcasting on BBC One on 15 January 2012.

I love listening to the life stories of others, so thoroughly enjoyed this year's Lent programme when six people (including me!) shared something of our life, faith and work. Each offered valuable insights into the ways in which they lived their faith, and the challenges that faced them in so doing.

So what stood out? Most significantly it was the open manner in which our speakers allowed their listeners a privileged insight into their journeys of faith. They were honest about what had brought them to faith and indeed when this had not been easy – for example, the manner in which they had been introduced to the faith as children, whilst well meaning, did little to unlock the truths of the gospel for them and it was only in later life that they could look back and realise the meaning of the seeds sown in their childhood. Something I am sure many of us recognise for ourselves.

It was humbling to hear how some struggled in the workplace to be open about their faith, in particular in organisations and situations where the norms and the accepted business practices did not welcome voices that challenged worldly values. In spite of the struggle they all by the grace of God and their calling, kept true to their faith. For Sarah, an actress, this meant saying 'no' to parts that would have involved nudity or inappropriate language or messages. For others, saying 'no' to bribes and shady business deals; or resisting being sucked into unfair and unjust work practices involving unethical decisions.

We were reminded in the first week of the saying attributed to St Francis of Assisi, '*Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words*'. Our speakers revealed that it was their actions, not their words, that made the difference in their work place. It was not a matter of being ashamed if they did not wear a badge stating 'I am a Christian' for what really mattered most was how they behaved and how others responded. One speaker shared how he had often been sought out by colleagues in need of a listening and compassionate ear – not because of the label on his forehead, but for the label on his heart. Some shared how responsive others in authority had been to their quiet questioning of policy or work practice.

If you came to the Lent Programme, do share what you heard with others. Sharing our stories is part of what it means to be a Christian – we need to do it more. We can learn so much from each other...

Our thanks to **Michael Hahn, Andy Garratt, Stefan Kotas, Sarah Finch** (from the Focolare) and **Nicola Matthews** and to those who chaired the evenings, **Ian Douglas, Jo Brooks** and **Barbara Taylor**. Also to those who made and brought cakes, set up the annexe and made teas and coffees – thank you so much.

**Sue Stilwell**

**T**he Rev'd Canon Dr **Michael Beasley** has been named as the next Bishop of Hertford, in succession to the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, who is now Bishop of Liverpool. Canon Beasley is at present Director of Mission in the Diocese of Oxford. He will live near Stevenage, in Knebworth, when he takes up his post later in the year. Canon Beasley is married with two young children; his wife Elizabeth is a deputy head teacher.



Canon Beasley has been Director of Mission in the Diocese of Oxford for the last five years. This followed a career in the scientific world. From 2003-2010, he combined a half time post at Westcott House, Cambridge (a theological college) with another half time post in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College, studying the patterns, causes, and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations.

Both science and his calling as a priest have formed him as a person and have given him an insight into working in two jobs at the same time. He says: "In Christ, all things hold together." He sees his work, in both fields, as joining in with God's work of transformation, whether in Christian ministry or international development. "Both fields of work came out of a calling to put at God's service the gifts that he has given me."

**H**e continued: "I am delighted to be coming to St Albans to join in all that's already taking place here to grow the Church in spiritual depth, outreach to the community and numbers. Sad though I am to leave Oxford Diocese I'm very much looking forward to getting to know the people of Hertfordshire. As I come to Hertfordshire I hope that the experience I bring from Oxford will serve well the people of St Albans Diocese".

The Bishop of Hertford supports the Bishop of St Albans Ministry across all 1100 square miles of the diocese, but will have particular focus on the 230 parishes of Hertfordshire.

**Gracious God,  
We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection.  
We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.  
We pray that the Easter light of life hope and joy will live in us each day;  
and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.  
Amen.**

*Methodist Church of Britain*

*And finally .....*

Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly.

It took her mother a while before she realised that the hymn Maria had been singing was really:  
*"Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."*



*If you didn't laugh at that—how about this one?*

Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away.

*'Ernie, wait until we say grace,'* demanded his father.

*'I don't have to,'* the five year old replied.

*'Of course you do, Ernest,'* his mother insisted rather forcefully. *'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'*

*'That's at our house,'* Ernie explained, *'but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'*

	Web site	www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk	
<b>VICAR</b>	Vacancy		
<b>Curate</b>	The Revd Sue Stilwell	susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk	
	Field View, Kimpton Road, Welwyn	AL6 9NN	01438 716338
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Jackie Spry		
	57 The Crescent, Welwyn	AL6 9JE	01438 715868
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Jean Stokes		
	44 Jordans, Hilly Fields WGC	AL7 2HD	327873
<b>Treasurer &amp; Parish Clerk</b>	Mrs. Gina Butler		
	33 Gt. North Road Stanborough	AL8 7TJ	372062
<b>Assistant Treasurer (Gift Aid)</b>	Mrs Jackie Spry		
	57 The Crescent, Welwyn,	AL6 9JE	01438 715868
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mr. Martin English		
	13, The Valley Green, Welwyn Garden City	AL8 7DQ	334074
<b>Electoral Roll Secretary</b>	Mr Andy Garratt		322731
<b>Deputy Churchwardens</b>	Mr John & Mrs Olive Benson		325663
	Mr John Cox		265367
	Mrs Jean Mitchinson		329023
	Mr Brian Spry		01438 715868
<b>Choir Leader</b>	Mrs Carole Payne		329697
<b>Church Cleaning Organiser</b>	Mrs. Eileen Martindale		01438 716162
<b>Flower Arranging Organiser</b>	Mrs. Sara Poole		320358
<b>Garden of Remembrance &amp; Records</b>	Miss Barbara Taylor		329553
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis	g.hollis2@ntlworld.com	265617
<b>Organist /Musical Director</b>	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor		0779 6268565
<b>Notice sheet/ secretarial assistants</b>	Liz and Gus Edwards		323785
	lizandgusedwards@gmail.com		
<b>St John's School</b>	Head Teacher Mrs Mandy Evans		322589
<b>Tower Captain</b>	Mr Roger Brown		01727 859059
<b>Transport Co-ordinator</b>	Barbara Taylor		329553
<b>Youth Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Jo Brooks		256702

# **Lemsford Fete**

*Organised by St John's Church and School*  
**Bank Holiday Monday May 4th**  
**Noon to 4 pm**

First held in 1959, this splendid event provides a true English country fete experience which includes maypole dancing, coconut shy, merry-go-round, jazz band and Pimms tent.

We hope you will come and enjoy an afternoon of great food and drink, music and games.



Entry: £1.50

Senior Citizens: £1.00      Children under 16s: **free**

Parking: **free**

Only guide dogs and registered assistance dogs permitted on the site

More information on [www.lemsfordfete.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordfete.co.uk)





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