

# **St John's Church**

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*

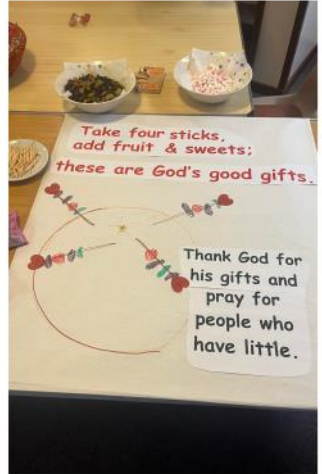


*February / March 2024*

**£1**

# Photos from Connect@4 - Christingle

Below: Making Christingles, Celebrating the Light of the World, followed by Eating Pizza and Washing Up afterwards



Cover Photo: Galanthus Three ships (photo Gärtnererei Staudenfan)  
- See Nature Notes for more...

### ***What actually is Lent?***

Lent is a period of preparation before Easter. Specifically, it's a time of 'repentance' - turning away from the things that harm us, others, and the earth (sin) and turning back to God and his way of love.

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday when traditionally Christians attend church and have their foreheads marked with a cross of ash as a sign of penitence (being sorry for the things we've got wrong). **St John's Ash Wednesday service is at 10am (14th Feb) – we'd love to see you.**

Traditionally, people also demonstrate their penitence by giving up some nice things for Lent (fasting). This is why we have 'Pancake Day' just before Lent, when certain foods were used up so they wouldn't be wasted (it's also why we don't have flowers in church). The 'proper' name for this day is 'Shrove Tuesday' from after an old word 'shriving' which means confessing sins and being absolved of them.

Lent is 40 days long, but if you look at a calendar it looks longer. Why is this? It's because we don't count Sundays. Every Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and we don't fast when we celebrate! The length of 40 days was chosen to represent a few things,



primarily the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness (which also recalled the 40 years the Hebrews spent in the wilderness).

Finally, what does the word 'Lent' actually mean? The name doesn't really have any special meaning - it comes from an old word meaning 'lengthen' and refers to the time of year (Spring) when the days get longer.

### *Rev Kathryn*

For some ideas of how to make this Lent a special time for you and others around you, see Rev Kathryn's article overleaf.

We're also starting a Lent Course on 27th February - see page 23 for more details.

*By Rev Kathryn*

Normally, time seems to fly past far too quickly for my liking. However, as I write this, it's mid-January and it feels like we've been stuck in this rather grey, wet and dark month for a very long time!

This sense of 'stuckness' is something we can experience more broadly in our lives. Sometimes, we find ourselves doing the same things on autopilot, with little thought as to whether they are helping us grow into the best versions of ourselves.

As a time of reflection and renewal, Lent can prompt us to take action to free ourselves from this sense of not moving forward. Here are a just few ideas that could help you embark on a journey of personal growth this Spring.

**Daily Reflections:** Consider incorporating daily reflections into your routine. You could set aside a few moments each day to read a passage from the Bible, contemplate its meaning, and journal your thoughts. Or you could find a book of inspirational quotes or literature that resonates with you, and read one each day.

**Acts of Kindness:** Try engaging in acts of kindness that extend beyond your usual routine. Perhaps you could commit to engaging each week with one person you

find difficult in some way, seeking to walk in their shoes and see life from their perspective.

Alternatively, you could participate in a community service like litter picks, or share a random act of kindness.

**Fasting with a Twist:** Lent fasting doesn't have to be limited to food. Consider a digital detox, limiting screen time, or abstain from another specific habit that is hindering your personal growth.

**Community Connection:** If you're part of a church, you could try strengthening your sense of community by attending a Lent group, or some of the special church services during this season (see page xx). Alternatively, maybe attend that local club or community event that you've been meaning to go along to. This Lent, I'm determined to actually go to the running club I joined in June!

**Mindful Moments:** Lent can be a time for more intentional connection with God and ourselves. You could try embracing reflective practices such as contemplative prayer, silence, or meditation. Alternatively, maybe spend time walking in nature, exploring mindfulness, or booking on a short retreat.

**Creative Expressions:** Tap into your creative side! Art, music, or

*(Continued on page 3)*

## A Few Ideas to help you 'keep Lent'... - Continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

poetry can be a wonderful way of reflecting on faith and life. Perhaps use this season as an opportunity for self-expression and discovery.

**Learn and Grow:** Try viewing Lent as a season of learning. Pick up that theology book you've been meaning to read, or participate in –

or even set up – a Bible study group. Alternatively, why not explore new subjects, attend a workshop, or pick up a publication that sparks intellectual curiosity.

Lent is a season of possibilities for everyone. May it be a transformative experience for you all!

## Special Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services & Events

**Ash Wednesday – 14<sup>th</sup> February - Lent Begins**

*10am - Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes.*

Lent commences on Ash Wednesday with a reflective service of Holy Communion. This will include an invitation to receive an ash cross on our foreheads, which can be a powerful way of acknowledging our sorrow for things we feel we've got wrong this year, and committing afresh to following the way of Jesus.

**Mothering Sunday - 10<sup>th</sup> March**

*11am - All-Together Holy Communion service (a service for all ages)*

**Palm Sunday – 24<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Week Begins**

*8am - Said BCP Holy Communion.*

*11am - Holy Communion*, beginning outside with blessing of Palms and procession into church. The service will include the reading of the Passion Gospel in dramatic form.

*4pm - Connect@4 Easter 'Eggs-travaganza'*

A space for all ages to have fun, explore, create, pray, worship and eat together.

**Holy Monday – 25<sup>th</sup> March**

*7pm - Compline* (Night prayer) at St Michael's, Birchwood.

**Holy Tuesday - 26<sup>th</sup> March**

*7pm – Lent Group and Compline* at St John's, Lemsford.

**Holy Wednesday - 27<sup>th</sup> March**

*7pm - Compline* (Night prayer) at St Michael's, Birchwood

**Maundy Thursday - 28<sup>th</sup> March**

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Special Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services & Events

*(Continued from page 3)*

**7pm** - (St Michael's, Birchwood) - *Holy Communion* with shared meal and foot washing (optional), followed by the Watch until 10pm

### **Good Friday – 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**2-3pm** - An hour at the cross with readings, reflections and prayer.

### **Holy Saturday – 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**8pm** - (St Michael's, Birchwood) - *Easter vigil* beginning with expectant waiting for the resurrection around a fire outdoors. A joyful, thoughtful first service of Easter!

### **Easter Day – 31<sup>st</sup> March - Easter Begins**

**8am** - *Said BCP Holy Communion*

**11am** - *All-Together Holy Communion*, plus Easter egg hunt.

### **Easter Monday – 1<sup>st</sup> April**

*Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral*

Timings to follow.

We've included St Michaels services for Holy Week here, as between the two churches there's something on every day!

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### **Lemsford Fete Call 2024 - by Paul Butler Fete Committee Chair**

A quick note to everyone in Lemsford and Stanborough that planning for the 2024 village fete is well underway. The event will be held on [Bank Holiday] Monday 6th May from 12 noon until 4pm. All the usual popular stalls will be there, with a few new ones, including new **a ride on vehicle arena for the little ones.**

So this initial call out is to say if you're having a clear out we'd always be happy to take good condition bric-a-brac, books, dvds, etc. Equally if you'd like to offer your time as a volunteer, pay for a business stall or sponsor an attraction please contact us on: [www.lemsfordfete.co.uk/contact-us/](http://www.lemsfordfete.co.uk/contact-us/)

### **Welwyn Ladies Probus**

[We wouldn't normally write about activities in WGC but this was sent to us by a Lemsford Village Resident and I don't think Lemsford Village has a ladies probus itself.] They say:

“We welcome new members to our friendly lunch club for retired ladies.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Homestead Court Hotel, Welwyn Garden City.

The cost is currently £23 which covers a two-course lunch and coffee, followed by a varied programme of interesting speakers.

For further information, please contact our Membership Secretary on 01707 327277 or email [ann@meers.org.uk](mailto:ann@meers.org.uk)”

### **One Year On**

So with this edition of the magazine I'm starting out on my second year of editing this magazine. So far so good, but Geoffrey Hollis did it for over 25 years before finally retiring from the post, or did he retire? Not quite, I have to thank Geoffrey hugely for not only all his continuing advice, but also his Nature Notes, Prayer and Jokes.



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Christmas can feel a long time ago in these cold, dark days of winter, but the promise of spring is all around us – have you spotted the snowdrops and the green shoots of the daffodils emerging in our church gardens? Have a look next time you are passing. We managed to carry Christmas celebrations into January as usual with our very joyful Christingle celebration (pictured on inside front cover) full of oranges and candlelight, singing and praying, and of course pizza! And even though that's behind us now there is so much to look forward to beyond the signs of life in our reawakening countryside, and a great programme of activities for children and families to enjoy in February and March.



## What's on this term?

**Sunday Club** continues to meet during term time for children of all ages, from toddlers to Year 6 – there is fun and friendship, a Bible story each week with something to make, plus games and music. This term we're exploring some of the brilliant stories of Jesus that the gospel writer Mark tells us –miracles of feeding and healing, of power and love for everyone he met. Are you ready to meet the man who can turn water into wine, feed thousands from one tiny picnic, heal the sick, and even calm a storm with a word? Sunday Club is at 11am on **11th February** (with pancakes as we are getting close to Shrove Tuesday), **3rd March** and **14th April**.

We have all-together worship for **Mothering Sunday on 10th March**, with a family friendly service celebrating mums and grannies, and actually everyone who loves and cares for us, including our loving God. And that takes us almost to Easter. To get us ready for the biggest celebration on Easter Sunday we have a **Palm Sunday Connect@4 'Eggs-travaganza' on 24th March at 4pm**. We'll be journeying with the disciples through the story of Holy Week (the seven days from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday). There'll be lots to do for all ages, but also space and time for everyone to connect, with God and with each other in your own way. We'd love to welcome you there.

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

## Services

### February 2024

- 4th 2nd Before Lent**  
8 am MP (BCP)                      11 am 'All Together' HC\*
- 11th Next Before Lent**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am HC with Sunday Club
- 14th Ash Wednesday**  
10 am Ash Wednesday Service
- 18th Lent 1**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am Reflective Worship
- 25th Lent 2**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am HC

### March 2024

- 3rd Lent 3**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am HC with Sunday Club
- 10th Mothering Sunday**  
8 am MP (BCP)                      11 am 'All Together' HC\*
- 17th Lent 5**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am Reflective Worship
- 24th Palm Sunday**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am HC  
4pm Connect@4 Easter 'Eggs-travaganza' \*
- 26th Holy Tuesday**  
7 pm Lent Group and Compline (Night Prayer)
- 29th Good Friday**  
2 pm Reflecting on the Cross
- 31st Easter Sunday**  
8 am HC (BCP)                      11 am All Together' HC  
plus Easter egg hunt. \*

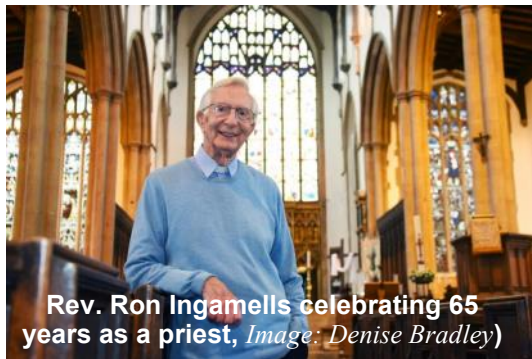
**\* Services especially suitable for children, and all other ages!**

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

## When TV came to St Johns - by Rev. Ron Ingamells

*Last Month Rev. Edward Cardale sent us a poem. This month Rev. Ron Ingamells reminisces about the time the ITV Christmas Day Service was broadcast live from St. John's. If this carries on we'll have to have a permanent 'previous' vicars spot. Rev. Ron writes (on 4th Jan 2023):*

'Just a few people will recall that 35 years ago the ITV Christmas Day Service was broadcast live from St. John's. It came about because I had conducted a Service for ITV from Ealing YMCA (I recall our Palestinian friends taking part!). The producer asked if I would be willing to have



**Rev. Ron Ingamells celebrating 65 years as a priest, Image: Denise Bradley)**

the Christmas Day Service later that year – how could I resist! I remember that we decided that I should stand outside the church and introduce the viewers to the village. The stills from that part of the service are in the Annexe. As I was about to go live one of the Sherriff family came past in a tractor and called out 'Hello Vic'!!

I then went into the Brocket Chapel door and got into my place during the first hymn. The choir and all the readers were excellent. To gain interest Maxwell started to read the long list of the ancestors of Jesus from St. Matthew's Gospel and I interrupted him saying it was very boring and then produced a long list of my ancestors and saying it was [also] very boring until you suddenly came across your own name! The same with suddenly coming across the name of Jesus. 35 years is a long time so I do not remember all the details but I do know that we had many messages thanking us all for the service!

I thought about all this as I took the Midnight Service at our local village church a few weeks ago.

Blessings for the New Year.

*Rev Ron'*

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*By Kiran Davé, St John's Parent and PCC Member*

## **St John's Church of England School, Lemsford calls out for votes to get a share of Tesco's Stronger Starts fund!**

We are bidding for a cash boost from the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme.

Stronger Starts provides grant awards of up to £1,500 to local community projects, with a particular focus on children and young people.

Three groups in every community have been shortlisted to receive grant awards and Tesco customers can vote for the group they think should take away the top award in their local Tesco store.

St. John's is one of the groups on the shortlist in this area. Briefly this is our bid:

**St John's Church of England Primary School Garden Project**  
**We are a small village school with 100 children. We would like to create a school garden to enhance our Science, Design and Technology learning as well as playtimes.**

**Voting is open from mid January until the end of March** in the following Tesco stores:

- Hatfield Extra Large unit, AL9 5JY
- Hatfield Rise Express, AL10 8FH
- Shire Park Express, AL7 1TW
- Welwyn Express, AL6 9EQ
- Welwyn Garden City Express, AL7 2BQ

Customers will cast their vote using a blue token given to them at the check-out each time they shop.

Tesco's Stronger Starts – previously known as Tesco Community Grants - has already provided over £110 million to more than 60,000 projects across Britain.

For more on Tesco Stronger Starts see: [tescoplc.com/strongerstarts](http://tescoplc.com/strongerstarts)

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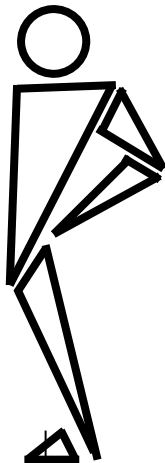
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## An Update on the Church Financial Position

**By Kevin Earl, Chair of the Finance Committee, 17/1/24**

I began my financial review article a year ago by saying that “Without wishing to sound rather like a record that is stuck, last year turned out to be another very difficult year for the church finances. As has been the trend of recent years we suffered from diminishing income and rising costs which served to ensure that we would finish the year with a substantial deficit”. In thinking about 2023 I could say much the same, but there were some positives to celebrate!

For the full year 2023 we ultimately did have another underlying deficit, this time in the amount of £11,284. However, that deficit figure is before we allow for the surplus generated from our newly-launched 100 Club. The club began in June 2023 and has already generated a surplus for our buildings fund of £2262. This surplus can be used to reduce that deficit figure to £9022. But the good news doesn't end there because we did complete some expensive electrical repair works in 2023 which we had needed to do for some time. These repairs cost approximately £7000 and were a big contributor to the 2023 deficit. But at least they are now done and should not need repeating for many years. We also had a very successful fete in 2023 and this contributed £7500 to our finances, a huge help to us. We hope for another fantastic event in May this year. I also want to mention an incredibly generous gift that we received in 2023 from Gordon and Elfie Wilson, long-time members of St John's. Their wonderfully-timed donation has allowed us to re-build our much-depleted Capital Projects Fund, and provides a financial cushion to the finances of the church as we start our process of growth and development with Kathryn as our vicar. Thank you again Gordon and Elfie!

Looking ahead, we do see a good chance of growth in our numbers, and we hope this translates to improved income. Our costs are always rising, however, and our Budget for 2024 is already looking stretched following a substantial increase in costs such as electricity. We also have to budget this year for our quinquennial inspection [you've got to love those church terms - it means every 5 years] of our buildings by our architect and the prospect of further maintenance requirements for what is, after all, an old building.

I would like to finish by saying a very sincere thank you to all those

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Men United In Song

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Room V221, Enterprise Hub, University of Hertfordshire, De Havilland Campus, Hatfield AL10 9EU
- Friday 23 February - 4 - 6pm  
McMullens Brewery, 26 Old Cross, Hertford SG14 1RD
- Wednesday 28 February - 6.30-8.30pm  
United Reformed Church, Church Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6PR

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Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir  
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## Church Financial Position Update - Continued

*(Continued from page 13)*

who gave money to support the church in 2023. It is these regular weekly and monthly gift, as well as one-off donations and legacy gifts that collectively allow us to survive, and we are most grateful for this ongoing support.

## Men United in Song Project

***John Gibbs - A Lemsford Village Resident and Member of Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir writes:***

Those of you that came along to the Christmas concert held at St. John's Church on 7th December performed by Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir (WGCMVC) and the children of St. John's C of E primary school will have heard that WGMVC would be supporting the launch of a pop-up choir in the New Year, raising money for Cancer Research UK.

This is part of a wider Men United in Song charity initiative involving 5 choirs in total, each supporting the formation of local pop-up choirs in aid of Cancer Research UK and will culminate in two concerts, one joint concert with each sponsoring choir and the pop-up choir they will have helped form and train, followed by a project finale, involving all 10 choirs.

This project has now been launched and the picture gives more details of it and how you can get involved.

It has been proven that singing is very good for both your physical and mental health and in joining this project, you would also be helping to raise money for a very worthwhile charity.

Why not give it a go and come along to one of the introductory sessions mentioned? If you are interested, please send an email to the address on the picture, call the mobile no., or scan the QR code.

I should also be grateful if you would share details of this project with any of your friends or relatives that may also be interested.

What have you and your friends got to lose?

[See also 'ad' on opposite page]

## Photos from St Johns School



Above: Class 4 at St John's enjoying learning about the Stone Age.

Below: School Choir Singing at Stanborough Lodge before Christmas



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas – a long distant memory I know! We have had a busy start to the term.

We are very fortunate at St John's to have a very committed and enthusiastic board of governors. Five of our school governors recently came to school for a monitoring visit. They visited some Maths lessons, had discussions with the children and spent breaktime with staff. They enjoyed the visit and we appreciated having them spend time with us.

Last week class 4 took part in a brilliant Stone Age Workshop led by Cas from North Herts Museum. The children learnt how to hunt and build shelters, they held a woolly mammoth's tooth, and enjoyed holding and looking at a variety of genuine artefacts including arrow heads and tools. [Photo collage opposite]

Next week is our Feeling Good Week, this year the School Council has suggested having an animal theme. We are going to have a variety of animals visiting school as well as visitors talking about their experiences of working with animals. Each of the classes will also be taking part in Forest School sessions, led by Mrs Maher, one of our teaching assistants.

On Wednesday 31st January



members of class 4 and some of the school choir from class 3 will be singing at the O2 arena in London, alongside thousands of other primary school children – so exciting! They have been busy learning lots of songs and some special dance moves for the event!

Later in February our local MP, Grant Shapps, will be visiting our school. He will have a tour, he will speak with children from classes 3 and 4 and will also have a Question Time type session with parents.

Finally, if anyone shops in Tesco please look out for the blue tokens that are been given out at the tills and please put them in to the St John's collection. [See also Kiran's article - page 11 - Ed.] We would like to develop a school garden and are hoping that any funds raises through this Tesco collection will help to fund the project. Every blue counter will help! Thank you!

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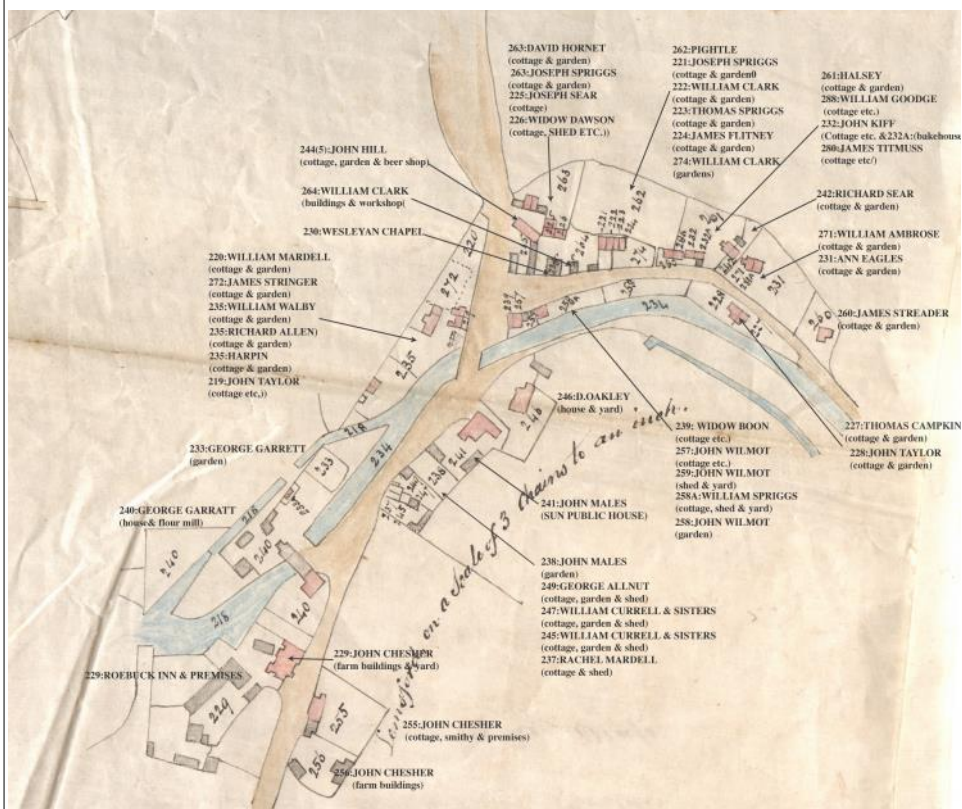


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The ‘Then and Now’ images on the inside back cover are of ‘Smithy and Cottage’ from 1790 looking from the Roebuck Arms (then) and a photo of 49 the Village (now). The painting from 1790 shows a local worker with a small dog being watched by a large dog (possibly the Hound of the Baskervilles). To the left, a pub sign showing a Roebuck. The Smithy’s cottage opposite shows a blazing forge through the middle window. The ‘Now’ image shows number 49 as it stands today. The Ecclesiastical Map of Lemsford 1855 showing the location of ‘The Roebuck Inn’ below helps you to reference where the ‘lost Pub’, the Roebuck Arms, was situated with the mill and The Sun also included on the map [below].



(Continued on page 20)

*(Continued from page 19)*

### **The Roebuck**

‘The Roebuck’ stood on the opposite side of the road to the present Roebuck Farmhouse (Number 57). It was situated just down the hill from where the pair of cottages, numbers 40 and 42, now stand and in the grounds of what is now Mill House (Number 38). It is first mentioned in 1756. It was a working farm with many outbuildings that took advantage of the increasing coaching trade and expanded into an Inn. The 1855 map shows John Cheshier also owned the blacksmiths opposite the Roebuck thus providing a complete service to the coaching trade, almost a mini South Mymms Service station. The 1838 Land Registry lists James Cheshire (or Chester) as the tenant of several fields, a cottage and of the ‘Roebuck Inn’ which was owned by Lord Melbourne. Circa 1860 it was being run by John Cheshier until it was closed down in about 1880.

When the Great North Road went through Lemsford, it is said as many as 150 coaches a day passed through. Carriages and wagons would



## **NICK PAGE**

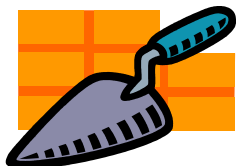
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*(Continued from page 20)*

pass through the village daily. All the inns would have offered food and drink for the travellers. Accommodation would be provided if required. Wheelwrights and blacksmiths were available to service the wagons and horses. Stabling for the horses would also have been provided. This was the time before the railways formed the principle transport to the North. The principal transport was the stagecoach. In 1836 over 340 routes were licensed to travel to and from London. Most coaches held 4 passengers inside and 11 on the roof, nearly all had distinctive names and operated from Inns in and around the City of London.

Once again, if we take the year 1836, Hertfordshire had nearly 100 coaches passing through it every 24 hours, including 11 mail coaches which left London's general post office at 8pm. If you add the private wagons, you can imagine the hustle bustle of life in Lemsford. In our records we have time tables for the post office coaches to Leeds (took 20 hours 52 minutes), the Glasgow coach (44 hours) as well as private companies, Express (Barton upon Humber), The Times (Bedford), The Perseverance (Boston), all of these coaches would leave the great inns of London such as the 'Bull & Moth', 'St Martins le Grand', 'George & Blue Boar', 'Holborn', (image above from London Past website), 'Kings Arms', 'Snow Hill', 'Boar and Castle', 'Oxford Street' and many more great inns of London.

With the introduction of the railway in 1853, the volume of coaching traffic going through Lemsford was reduced and with two Inns and one pub there was not enough trade to keep them open. The Sun Inn and Long Arm and Short Arm stayed open, but The Roebuck closed. To learn more about the 'pubs of Lemsford' go to [www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Publications.html](http://www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Publications.html)

Lemsford Local History Group has recorded memories for over twenty years and always appreciates memories from the local community to pass on to future generations. Contact us on [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk) if you have a memory to share or require information about the local area history.

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Are you a Galanthophile? Ian and Mary Douglas certainly are, as anyone who has visited their garden in spring will know. They are of course lovers of snowdrops, those beautiful demure flowers that are popping up as I write.

*Galanthus* derives its latin name from the Greek *gála* "milk" + *ánthos*, "flower". Snowdrops are small, delicate and easy to overlook, but still beautiful and slightly fragrant. They light up the woodland landscape with their profuse clusters of shiny white flowers.

A German legend says that God sent snow to visit every flower to decide what colour they would be. The flowers were rude, except for the snowdrop. As a reward, snowdrops were allowed to bloom first but had to agree to give up their colour.

Because of its whiteness it is associated with innocence and purity. Snowdrops are naturally a symbol of the Virgin Mary and have been associated with Candlemas, the traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual purification of Mary forty days after the birth of Jesus Christ. Apart from that, these blooms were traditionally used as church flowers and were usually planted around the old monasteries.

They have of course inspired romantic poets like Walter de la Mare and Christina Rossetti. Musicians too: Tchaikovsky wrote a piece about them and, as unlikely as it may seem, Strauss penned a waltz in their honour (*Schnee-glöckchen* opus 143 so google tells me). Hans Christian Andersen wrote a fairy tale about them, and the British illustrator Cicely Mary Barker named one of her flower fairies after them in 1923.

Snowdrops are not native to the UK, although exactly when they were introduced is unclear. They may have been grown as an ornamental garden plant as early as the 16th century, but were not recorded in the wild until the late 18th century. The snowdrop's native range is mainland Europe.

The cover picture is of *Galanthus Three ships*. It is an early flowering variety, at its best in the period called Epiphany in the church calendar, when the three Kings/Magi tracked down the baby Jesus. It was discovered in Suffolk's Henham Parkway in 1984 by a nursery man and Galanthophile, John Morley. Well done to him and Galanthophiles everywhere, who clearly have impeccable taste.



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***“For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.” Isaiah 61:11***

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

Jokes about snowdrops are, unlike that plant, not thick on the ground. But there are plenty about snow.....

What's white and goes up? *A confused snowflake*

What's an Ig? *A poor man's snow house (it hasn't got a loo).*

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack? *An abdominal snowman*

What do you call twelve Leverets hopping backward through the snow together? *A receding hare line*



What did the tree say after a long winter? *"What a re-leaf!"*

How was the snow globe feeling? *A bit shaken*



Above (Then – 1790): ‘Smithy and Cottage’ looking from the Roebuck Arms

Below (Now): A photo of 49 the Village





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