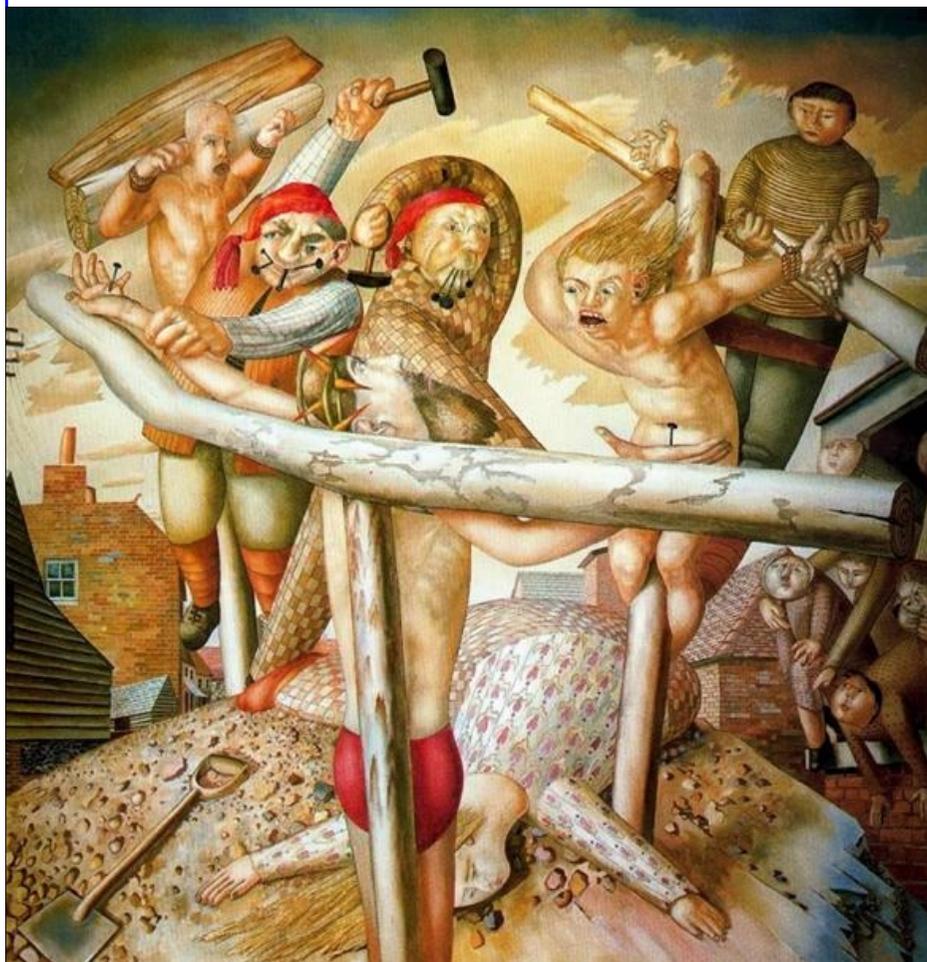


# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*



**Parish Magazine**

*April/May 2019*

**£1**



Read about these pictures in the News section, page 7.

Front cover  
The Crucifixion by Stanley Spencer, 1958



## From the Vicarage

**D**ear Friends, The equinox has passed, light nights are coming, winter is behind us and spring is all around us. Primroses and daffodils jostle for space in the gardens and the scent of hyacinths fills the air. With the coming of spring our thoughts turn to the May day fete - a great community event bringing together our church family, school and village community. The funds raised help support the mission of the church and the work of the school. Plans are well in hand, but it is not too late to donate goods or volunteer to help for a few hours or a whole day! Please do encourage friends and family to attend and enjoy this important date in our calendar.



**B**efore we get to May we have the solemn period of Lent, the passion of Holy week and the great Christian festival of Easter. As I walk round the supermarket and see stacks of foil covered eggs and piles of hot cross buns the words of the poet Steve Turner come to mind:

‘What came first – Easter or the egg?

Crucifixion or daffodils?

3 days in a tomb or 4 days in Paris?

The poem goes on (Poems by Steve Turner published by Lion Books) but for many Easter is seen as a long weekend, a time to enjoy family and Spring and to overindulge in chocolate. Of course, there is nothing wrong with these things – even chocolate is good in moderation - but as Christians we know that Easter has a more profound meaning. 

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**W**e remember Jesus, riding in majesty into Jerusalem with crowds waving palm branches and cheering him. Yet less than a week later He is sharing the last supper with His disciples, praying in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, betrayed and denied by His friends, tried, whipped, jeered at through the streets, too broken to even carry his own cross. He was crucified and his dying cry was "My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?"

As Christians we believe that in that agony, he took upon himself our sin and our suffering. There is no depth of suffering in humanity that Christ cannot understand because He too knew the anguish of violence, betrayal, rejection and abandonment. He died and was buried in a borrowed tomb, but this is not the end of the story. On the third day He rose from the dead. Death and sin had been defeated. Jesus is alive. The world has changed.

Throughout the world on Easter day that great acclamation of Easter will be declared- just as it has been throughout history. **Jesus Christ is risen today He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!**

**M**y prayer for you all this Spring is that you will know the joy of His resurrection as we celebrate Easter together **Paul**

.....  
**Lemsford Fete – 6<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday Monday) Noon—4pm**

**C**ome and see traditional maypole dancing; exhaust your energy at our coconut shy and crockery smash; give your teddy bear a thrill on our church zip-wire; listen or dance along to our live music offerings: we have a rock band, brass band or a bit of choral music. This year we are proud to introduce 'JiveSwing', a local musical dance group, who have made a number of television appearances.

Then to help the afternoon go along how about a Pimms or local real ale in our beer tent or maybe something non-alcoholic instead? Having quenched your thirst why not fill up from our BBQ (meat or vegan), paella or maybe just a simple ice cream?

For all the details go to our website [www.lemsfordfete.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordfete.co.uk)

*NB to avoid disappointment please DO NOT bring your dog., unless it is a guide or assistance dog, as they won't be allowed in.*

**Sunday 7th      Lent 5**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

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

**Tuesday 9th 2.30 pm      Friendship Tea****Sunday 14h      Palm Sunday**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Friday 20th      Good Friday 11am Special one hour Service****Sunday 21st      Easter Day**

8 am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 28th      Easter 2**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Iain Laine

\*\*\* *Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of month when shortened Communion Service \*\*\*\*\**

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

7th	Isaiah 43:16-21	John 12:1-8
14th	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Luke 22:14-23:56
21st	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18
28th	Acts 5:27-32	John 20:19-31

**Sunday 5th                    Easter 3**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11am   Family Service    led by Paul Seymour & Jo Brooks

**Sunday 12th                Easter 4**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11 am   Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 14th 2.30 pm    Friendship Tea**

**Sunday 19th                Easter 5**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11am   Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 26th                Easter 6**

8am    BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11 am   Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday, except first of month when shortened Communion Service \*\**

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

5th	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	John 21:1-19	
12th	Acts 9:36-43	John 10:22-30	
19th	Acts 11:1-18	John 13:31-35	Psalm 148
26th	Acts 16:9-15	John 14:23-29	

**Annual Church Meeting**

Took place on March 24th. Tributes and presentations were made to **Jackie Spry**, outgoing Warden, and **Martin English** who has retired as PCC Secretary. Jackie has been Warden for eight years including the two years when we were without a Vicar which was very testing. She and **Brian** have put a tremendous amount of love and work into this Church and its members owe them a tremendous debt. Martin has kept us going for fifteen (!) years in a different but also very important way, by ensuring that the PCC carried out its duties and responsibilities fully. He organised their Meetings, managed to make sense of them afterwards in the Minutes, and did a lot of work behind the scenes particularly in preparing for Annual Meetings. A huge thank you to them both, *who are pictured top left inside the front cover*. A full report of the Meeting will be in the next issue

**Annual Spring Clean 16 March**

Went very well with a lot of participants, fuelled by bacon butties cooked by Paul. *See pictures inside the front cover, with apologies to those not shown.*

**Primroses**

Mary and Ian Douglas opened their garden on 17th March to showcase their impressive collection of snowdrops, all carefully catalogued. They raised £227 for the Church from donations—well done to them. *See Mary's ideas for maintaining the Church Gardens on page 9.*

**Legacy**

We record with thanks a legacy from **Phillippa Elliston** of £1,000. Legacies are put into a fund for projects that will be of lasting benefit to the Church.

**Clock repair**

The clock has not been chiming for a couple of years but a generous donation has been offered by a resident of the village to get it back in operation. Full details in the next issue.

**CWG**

A new sign has appeared in the Churchyard—can you find it?



**Hatfield House**

We welcome the House as a new advertiser.

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **26th May**

**I**t's been a long time between Christmas and Easter this year, but the new life of spring is evident all around us, and that points us clearly to the Easter story and Jesus amazing victory over death and the wonderful gift of new life in him. We, and Sunday Club, break for Easter very soon, but are looking forward to a **special Sunday Club on Palm Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April**,



when we will be telling the story of what happened to Jesus that first Easter week, and why it matters. After Easter, and through May we'll be learning more about the life changing love of Jesus and what that means for our own lives, all through the wonderful stories Luke wrote down in his gospel account of Jesus' life.

Family services are on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**, and on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**, when the whole church family meets together at 11.00 for a service of songs, Bible readings, activities and prayers. Our **Easter Sunday service** on **April 21<sup>st</sup>** will have plenty for the children, including the traditional **Easter egg hunt** after the service.

**T**hen on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** everyone is invited to join the **Easter Monday Pilgrimage**, a longstanding tradition in the St Albans Diocese. Pilgrims walk to the Abbey in St Albans for a service of praise and celebration at 3pm. We'll be taking a group from **St John's, leaving church at 10.00**. It's a fair way to walk (about 7 miles cross country), but you can always just join us at the Abbey for the celebration. Find out more on social media - **StAlbansEMP**

**Sunday Club** meets each Sunday in term time during the morning service for Bible stories, games, crafts, music and prayer. Everyone welcome to join us and share in God's love, from toddlers to Year 6. You can visit the **Kids at St John's tent** at the **Lemsford Fete on May 6<sup>th</sup>** and hear more about what we do at St John's. We'll have games, books and some crafts for the kids to enjoy, all free, and also a chance to meet Revd Paul and ask him any question you like! Contact me at [joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com) for more information about these events or our children's activities at St John's.

## Friends of the Church Gardens

**O**ur church sits within a large plot of land. It is not just a place of memories for some families; it is a space for contemplation, prayer and thought. If you glance casually at it, all seems fine but look closer and there are lots of problems. For instance, some pathways need repairing and some shrubs are overgrown and too prickly to be allowed close to the pathways! The boundary wall is challenged by a large holly tree and some of the grave areas need tidying up. Several people have, over many years, assisted in caring for the grounds. There is a sterling job being done on the grass but now **we need a new generation of gardeners and hard workers.**

The churchyard can be divided into six areas:

- The Garden at the approach to the main door;
- The Garden of Remembrance;
- The North Border; The Brocket Babies patch;
- The Lawns and meadows; The Hedges, trees.

Added to this is the care needed for:

- Monuments; Pathways; Benches; the rubbish and compost.

**M**any people have an interest in the church gardens but most do not currently know how to be involved. In creating a group (perhaps called *The Friends of the Church Gardens*), we can hopefully gather in these folk – those who bring flowers to the family memorials but are unsure when they will visit again to clear the area; maybe those who have memorials in other parts of the country which they cannot visit often but might appreciate helping in our gardens; those who can only do a small amount of work but are unsure which bit; and also there are the school children, the villagers and the congregation.

**I**n forming a group, we can decide on layout, priorities and funding. We cannot do everything in five minutes so we need a 5-year plan and a knowledge of the skills within our community. To begin this initiative we plan to meet on **Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> between 9-12midday** to tackle some of the outstanding challenges! **If you would like to be a part of this, then please get in touch with one of us.** We will use the Parish Magazine to keep everyone informed of our progress.

*Mary Douglas* 07850 – 527050 [maryd1003@outlook.com](mailto:maryd1003@outlook.com)

*Paul Butler* 01707 372062 [rfcbutler@goolemail.com](mailto:rfcbutler@goolemail.com)

**D**uring my school holidays I helped at a residential care home, assisting the hairdresser. Also my 90-year-old great grandmother was an integral part of my early life, as she lived with us till the day she died. When that happened her body remained in the house all night and the nextday so that family and neighbours could pay their final respects.



These positive experiences of older people, and knowing that death need not be feared nor hidden away, have led me to embrace the care of older people. My work as a Chaplain for the last nine years in a nursing home, offering spiritual care to residents with nursing and dementia care needs, has been extremely rewarding and a great privilege. My employer MHA (Methodist Homes) is at the forefront of elderly care, recognising a need for spiritual care to be offered alongside physical care. Sadly, not all care providers have such foresight.

**I**n the Parishes served by the Bishops Hatfield Team there are 10 Nursing/Care Homes, from small private ones of 30 residents to much larger ones of 120 or more residents. Members of our congregations have been exploring ways we can get more involved in these Homes and to build on the work we already do. Even with the best intention, Homes are not able to meet all the needs of their residents, and feelings of loneliness and depression are not uncommon for those living there. In my experience the importance of volunteers cannot be understated!

If you know someone living in a Care Home, why not call their family or the Home and ask if a visit would be welcome? If you'd like to support a local Care Home, think of calling them and asking what you could do to help. Alternatively, you may prefer to support what we're already doing in Care Homes; if so do contact me if you'd like to know more - [susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk](mailto:susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk).

The joy of this pastoral care is that it's not only ordained clergy who can do this work – its everyone! If you have compassion and are happy simply to 'be' in the presence of another, that's all is needed.. Jesus said '**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you visited me.**'

*Rev Sue Stilwell is an Associate Team Minister in the Bishops Hatfield Team*

*Murray's funeral was on 7th February in Barnet; here are extracts from the eulogy by his son, Ian.*

**D**ad was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1925, in, Loughton, Essex, the youngest of four. His father, a police constable, died when Dad was just 6, which led to him following his brother Arthur to the Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage in Twickenham. Arthur told him as he entered the school, "I'll try and look out for you, but.... DON'T LET THEM SEE YOU CRY." Dad left school at 14, and went to work at a wine merchant in the East End. This was 1939 and his daily commute would often involve emerging from the tube station and clambering over rubble left after the previous night's bombing raid. I



In 1943, he joined the RAF, and trained as a wireless operator. Mum and Dad married in 1948 and bought their first home in Upminster Bridge in Essex. Dad was working for the Midland Bank and commuted to the City daily. I came along in 1957; as an only child I did get my own room to display my model planes!

Dad played Water Polo for the Bank; this is a very tough game with a lot going on under the water which might explain why they wore two pairs of trunks! Dad was the Bank's goalkeeper which is a particularly dangerous position as you are expected to stop a shot with anything including your face!

In 1972 he gained promotion to Manager in Colindale, and we moved to Barnet. Tragically in the summer of 1981, with no warning, my mother died after two heart attacks. She was just 58; this pretty much destroyed Dad.

**H**owever, some years later a very old friend of Dad, Pete, died suddenly and Dad consoled his widow Dawn who he had first met when Pete and she were courting. Dad and Dawn married in 1991. To have loved and lost and to find love again is a truly blessed thing and they enjoyed some very happy times. They were both active in their Church, St Johns Lemsford where they sang in the choir. For Jackie, Tom and Lucy, Dawn was the mother-in-law and a Grandmother they never had. Sadly their time together was destined to be cut short by the cruellest of diseases, Alzheimers. Dawn passed away in 2013, by which time Dad too was also starting to show evidence of dementia. Later that year he moved into a specialist care home closer to us, Greenhill.

Greenhill is a wonderful place which, thanks to the dedication and loving care of the staff gave him not just six more years of life, but a real quality of life. If you ever wonder, WHERE IS GOD? look in places like Greenhill and the people who care there.... you will find the Holy Spirit every single day.

May I simply finish by thanking Almighty God, for Dad's long and fruitful life, and for giving me such a wonderful father.

It seems no time at all since I was writing the last report for the Parish Magazine and it never ceases to amaze me how quickly each term goes by, and how much we seem to pack in! It has been wonderful to see the daffodils blooming around the church and school grounds, which at last herald the arrival of Spring!



As I write, the children are trying to fulfil their Lenten promises



which some wrote down and displayed on our Lenten Tree in our main entrance area. We are all preparing for Easter Celebrations and Reverend Paul led our Ash Wednesday Service (pictured) to commence the preparations for Easter. He will be leading an assembly in school focusing on the Last Supper and the Eucharist. We are always so grateful for our strong school and church links

and delighted, as always, to be involved again in creating the Easter Garden for St John's Church.

Our proactive School Councillors have set up 'Food Bank Friday' donation points in school and have asked children and parents to donate dry goods whenever they can on a Friday. (*Pictured opposite*) We have contacted the local Food Bank which is run from New Zion Church in WGC. They are collecting the donations regularly and have explained to the children how this works for people in temporary or longer term crisis. I am taking some of the School Council over to the Zion Church at the end of term to show the children where their donations are going. We are so proud of the children for initiating this and it reflects the thoughtfulness and care they show for others.

Again it has been a very busy term with several workshops and a range of visitors in to work with the children on a variety of activities. Our “Online Safety” drama workshop was well received by the children and a strong message of keeping safe online was imparted. We regularly have outside speakers in to support the ongoing work we do with the children in order to help them grow up in this digital world and to stay safe.

World Book Day was celebrated this year by our House Captains and Vice Captains organising a Book Day Bake Off challenge where children made and decorated a cake in the theme of a favourite book which was then judged by the House leaders. We had some wonderful



entries, as we always do with our annual Bake Off competition, and those involved really enjoyed the judging.....and the tasting! The cakes were sold off after school with the proceeds given to a charity called School Readers.

Our Class 4 pupils and our Dance Club both gave truly excellent

performances at the Welwyn Garden City Schools Dance Festival at the Hawthorne Theatre WGC on 14<sup>th</sup> March and will be performing both routines at the Fete, so do try to watch them if you can come on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May– it will be a real treat!

We are very excited to be learning more about the Hindu Holi festival just before the end of term, as we enjoy a one-day workshop for our junior children, where they will explore different aspects of this festival. We hope to make a colourful display to celebrate our activities that day and learn more about the Hindu religion.

May we wish you all a Happy Easter.

**Mandy Evans Head Teacher**

The group met in January at the Crooked Chimney for a lunch time meeting. We had invited members from Wheathampstead History Society and Ayot History Group and both groups gave a short talk about their work and aims,

In March we enjoyed a great day out with a walk and talk in Ayot with our friends from Ayot, Peter and Valerie. This was open to the public and it attracted over 25 people including members of Wheathampstead and Welwyn History groups. Peter provided an excellent talk about the houses and history of Ayot St Peter. The walk was followed by an enjoyable lunch at the Red Lion. If you wish to join us for future events, please email Andy [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk) to subscribe to our friends of LLHG distribution list or check our news website [www.llemsfordhistorynews.co.uk](http://www.llemsfordhistorynews.co.uk). The group is developing a more social aspect as well as our continuing research into all aspects of the history of Lemsford Parish.

The group was invited to the opening of an exhibition at Mill Green Museum called 'Cresta Couture' the history of Cresta Silks, developed in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire's Fashion Department.. It runs until the 7 July 2019. The reception room was full of invited guests and the students from Hatfield Uni who had worked hard to create various garments. After a few words from Councillor Terry Mitchinson (local boy) we viewed the interesting and informative display. It is well worth a visit.

A recent article published in the parish magazine on 'The Bull' was included in the local CAMRA (Real Ale) Bi-monthly publication, *Pints of View* #293 February/March 2019 edition [www.southherts.camra.org.uk/2019/02/pints-of-view-293/](http://www.southherts.camra.org.uk/2019/02/pints-of-view-293/)

This produced some interesting responses including a lady from Cornwall: *I have just been given a copy of the magazine 'Pints of View'; on the cover is a photo of The Bull at Stanborough. There are two women sitting on the low wall; I think they are my mother (Eva Wager nee Crawley) and her sister, (my aunt Irene Tufts) I wonder if you have a date when the photo was taken? it would clarify who the little boy is and who was in the pram.*

The image was from 1938 and shows 'The New Bull' (to view image go to [http://www.llemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Pints\\_of\\_View.html](http://www.llemsfordhistorynews.co.uk/Pints_of_View.html)).

The second email was from Jon, a member of the St Albans South Signal Box Society (well worth a visit), who had noted an image from 1925 which showed the Old Bull and a light railway (same link as above). *'I was interested to see the photo of Stanborough Crossroads in the article about the Bull in the latest issue of Pints of View, and the reference to the Light Railway Track. Could you please advise its period in use, purpose, where it went from and to?'*

The response was to send an image of Valley Road Corner c.1925 showing the light railway which went all round the new town of Welwyn Garden City with construction materials for houses and roads etc. It also shows the gravel pit at what is now the roundabout on the Lemsford side of the A1(M) flyover. The pair of cottages on the right were demolished in the late 1960s during the construction of the A1 (M). We understand the small building by the entrance to Valley Road (at that time the main entrance to WGC) contained information on the housing and business sites etc. for the newly developing town.

The railway can also be seen in an image from 1926 showing the Bridge carrying the Great North Road over the River Lea in 1926. The old bridge over the River Lea on the Great North Road between Stanborough and Valley Road Corner was demolished so that the road could be widened. The light railway bringing construction materials to the site can be seen on the right. In the distance are the cottages at Valley Road Corner. As a bonus we found a fascinating image showing the boards in the river which controlled the flow of the water whilst the new bridge was being constructed.

Our next meetings will be in St John's Church Annex on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March and April 23<sup>rd</sup>, both at 2.00pm when we will discuss our Lemsford annual Fete display, held this year on Monday 6th May. We will be commemorating the St John's War memorial unveiled 100 years ago and providing a tour of the graveyard. **Do you have a relative buried in Lemsford Churchyard? Would you be interested in taking part in this project by writing a short memory?** If so please email Chairman, Andy Chapman [info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk)

To find out what is coming up in the next few months check out our news website [www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordhistorynews.co.uk)

*Pictures referred to above are reprinted on inside cover*

**O**ur next event is a **Family Fun Afternoon on Saturday 13th July**. It is hoped that this will be as well supported as the two Christmas events. We start at 2.30pm with games and other attractions in the recreation field close to the village hall. Around 4pm we will move to the field at the top of Mill Close for a picnic. Everyone should provide their own food and drink and something to sit on. Let's hope for good weather! *More information closer to the date*

The Committee are hoping to install a **Notice Board** central to the village. The idea is to keep everyone up to date with village news and events and all are invited to contribute. We already have two volunteers who will ensure that the notice board always has the latest information.

The next two **Meet and Greet Evenings** will be on **Thursday 25th April** and **Thursday 23rd May** at **The Sun** from **6-8pm**.

.....  
**Ramblers Walking Holidays Part Two—*The Early Years***

**M**ost of the early holidays involved a week's hard walking. In 1947 'A walking tour of Arctic Lapland', at a cost of £46 for 24 days required 'a readiness to walk strenuously when occasion demands, as it often will' and that 'nailed boots must be worn'. Some holidays had an upper age limit of 25, others 30. Rambling then was the sharp end of travel and adventure, when a guidebook, travelogue or website wasn't around to tell you what was around every corner before you turned it.

In 1949, the brochure for a 22 day holiday to Portugal began 'Be warned! The travelling on this trip may be tough. Third class London to Lisbon overland takes four days ... (average progress 15 miles an hour) and requires at least eleven changes. Incredibly slow and unconscionably late, the Spanish trains offer something new in overcrowding and discomfort even to London straphangers. You should be capable of entering trains by the window and of fending for yourself if the party splits up for the journey across Spain. Portugal is the most foreign country in Europe except for the remoter parts of the Balkans.' The same brochure observed that 'we do not seek British standards except in sanitary matters; much of the fun of going abroad is lost if you try to take Britain with you.' So, some perspectives haven't changed so much in the intervening years. *Next time: Pioneer of Package Holidays*

**Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting  
life:**

**Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's  
resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your  
life-giving Spirit;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.                      *Amen.***

*Anglican Book of Common Prayer 1979 version*

**And finally ...**



See Pages 16, 17,  
Lemsford Local  
History Group

