

# **St John's Church**

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*

See  
page 17



## **Parish Magazine**

*October/November 2018*      **£1**



**For details  
see News, page 8**



Dear Friends,

**A**fter almost the hottest summer on record, we now move into autumn. It is a season that many find depressing, the nights are longer and the weather is colder. Personally I like the crispness of the air, the crunch of leaves underfoot; I even like the smell of autumn. I particularly like watching Spike (the family dog) chasing the swirling leaves and inevitably becoming confused by them.



I write this on September 11<sup>th</sup> and can't help but remember the events of 9/11. Like so many others I remember exactly what I was doing when I heard about the attack on Twin Towers, I don't think any of us will ever get out of our minds the images of people jumping from the Twin Towers. Nor should we forget the image of the brave uniformed men and women covered in dust with tearstained faces.

My mind is drawn to the fact that two months from today we will be remembering Armistice Day exactly 100 years since the end of the First World War, "the war to end all wars". Clearly this hope was unrealised, given the many wars since in which service men and women have fought and died.

**Remembrance Day this year is on a Sunday; how better to mark the centenary of Armistice Day than to meet at the war Memorial in the grounds of St John's for the act of remembrance, starting shortly before 11 a.m. We welcome everyone to take part. Afterwards there is a short service in the church followed by refreshments in the parish room. ALL ARE WELCOME**



**O**ver the years I have noticed that is not just modern people that need to remember the past but that people from all periods of history have needed to pray for the fallen. People the world over simply need to hold on to and remember. In the Old Testament part of the Bible God commands his people to “remember that you were slaves in Egypt”. He says to them. “Remember that the Lord freed you and celebrate this on the Passover”. In the New Testament part of the Bible we find Jesus speaking at the last supper and saying to his disciples “do this in remembrance of me”.

**In the church we remember on All Souls Day Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November all the loved ones and friends that we have lost over the years. The church will be open from 10am to 1pm for private prayer (there will be somebody there should you wish to speak to someone).**

**S**o let us remember in this season of remembrance the love shown for us by many others. Soon after we are provided with the chance to show love to others because not all remembrances are sad. At Christmas we remember the birth of Christ and have many celebrations, give presents and have parties, a time for joy and happiness.

Later in the years at Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and remember the new life that Christ gives us, by sharing of time and chocolatey gifts with each other.

God Bless you

**Paul**

**Sunday 7th**                      **Trinity 19**  
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11am Family Service led by Jo Brooks

**Tuesday 9th 2.30 pm**   **Friendship Tea**

**Sunday 14th**                      **Trinity 20**  
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11 am Holy Communion led by Sue Stilwell

**Sunday 21st**                      **Trinity 21**  
8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour  
11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 28th**                      **Trinity 22**  
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)

**7th**    **Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12**    **Mark 10: 2-16**

**14th**    **Hebrews 4: 12-16**        **Mark 10: 17-31**

**21st**    **Hebrews 5: 1-10**    **Mark 10: 35-45**    **Psalm 104: 1 - 10**

**28th**    **Hebrews 7: 23-28**        **Mark 10: 46-52**

**Friday 2nd** ALL SOULS DAY *see Vicar's Message*

**Sunday 4th** SHOEBOX SUNDAY *see page 20*

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service, led by Jo Brooks

**Sunday 11th** REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

\*\*10.50am Service of Remembrance led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 13th 2.30 pm** Friendship Tea

**Sunday 18th** Trinity 25

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 25th** Trinity 26

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*)

**4th** Hebrews 12: 18-24 Matthew 5: 1-12

**11th** Hebrews 9:24-end Mark 1: 14-20

**18th** Hebrews 10: 11-14, 19-25. Mark 13: 1-8 Psalm 16

**25th** Revelations 1: 4b-8 John 18: 33b-37

### Wedding

On 8th September, **Marcus Copland** and **Lucy Rex**. We wish them every happiness together.

### Baptisms

On 22nd July, **Cleo Morris**; on 2nd September **Freya Hill**. Freya is the Great Granddaughter of **Jackie and Brian Spry**. Jackie is one of our Wardens and now a Godmother to Freya. Her daughter **Kym** is the mother of **Kerry**, who is Freya's mother. Inside the front cover is a picture of the parents and Godparents, from the left: **Hannah Sumpter, Kerry Hill, Matthew Hill** (grandson), **Constance Bougusiak** (grandson's fiancée) **Freya, Jackie**. Terrific!

### Charity Bike Ride

See **Kevin Earl's** report on page 18, and pictures inside the front cover. Well done to the intrepid cyclists!

### Ron Ingamells

To celebrate 60 years as a priest Ron with wife Ann returned to St John's on 29th July. He took the Service, and at a reception afterwards in the Annex presented an exquisite commemorative plaque. *See pictures inside front cover and extracts from his inspiring sermon on page 14.* Several people travelled long distances to be reunited with him, including our **Patron Lord Brocket** with his wife and two

daughters, and **Bill and Alison Cuthbert**. Afterwards Ron wrote: 'We thank you all for the fantastic welcome and reception on the occasion of my 60 years as a priest! I was sorry I did not feel so well but we enjoyed the event enormously. Thanks to those who provided the food; made the annexe look so good and to Geoff and Ann Hollis for providing the drinks. Thanks also to Jennie Roden for eventually finding an organist! It was wonderful to see so many friends, and good to meet up again with Lord Brocket and family.'



### Christmas Cards

**Kirsty Humphries** and **Lucy Earl** will be producing and selling our very own St John's Christmas card in the Autumn. For those that like to buy cards early, please hold off purchasing your usual cards until you've seen ours!

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **18th September**

The autumn is such an exciting time for families, but often with joy and sadness mingled together! Children are starting school, moving up a year or going up to university or college. There are new friends to make, new lessons to wrestle with, new teachers, new skills to learn, even new shoes! I'm reminded of one of the great promises of God – that one day he will make everything new and there will be no more sadness or pain, only the joy of life with Him forever. The most amazing part of that promise though is that while heaven is in the future, new life starts now, with Jesus. Follow him, trust him and he will live in us and make everything new, then there can be joy and hope every day, whatever we are going through.



In Sunday Club this term we have some thrilling encounters with Jesus as he heals people, welcomes, serves and loves everyone; these stories in Mark's gospel show us what new life with Jesus can be like, our best friend, our saviour and our king!

Join us for **Sunday Club at 11.00** each Sunday, other than the first Sunday of the month when we all meet together for our family and all-age worship. Services coming up are on **7 October and 4 November**.

Don't forget too our **Harvest Festival on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September**. We will be celebrating all God's good gifts to us, and sharing what we have with those in need. Please do bring gifts of food for the local foodbank and women's refuge, and any gifts of money which will go to support WaterAid's life saving work in the developing world. WaterAid works with communities in Africa and Asia to help them improve water supplies, sanitation and hygiene so that people can live new lives free from poverty. This year we are continuing the celebrations with a simple **harvest lunch** after the service. Tickets on sale at church and school, or see the posters outside church for more information.

*Please do get in touch with me if you want to know more about these events and our children's work at St John's. [joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com)*



October will be **Mission Action Planning Month** at St John's. As you know we have been thinking and praying about what we should be and do as a church, and in October and November there will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved.

At our **7 October 11 am service** there will be activities for all ages to get thinking about our mission. There'll be a chance to pray, to talk to each other, to share experiences and ideas. We'll follow up with some surveys, a suggestion box, and further prayer meetings throughout October and November. Here are some questions to start you thinking....What's the best thing about St John's? What's missing from our church (if anything)? If our church were an *animal*, what would it be?! So start thinking, look out for news and updates on the noticeboard and the e-newsletters, and come along on the 7<sup>th</sup> October to have your say - we want to hear from as many people as possible.



After Christmas we will be reviewing all the information and ideas we have gathered and thinking about what our priorities should be – what do we want to do and be? Where do we feel that God is leading us as a church? There will be opportunities to get involved here too as together we start to shape our future.

Jo

**W**e have had a great start to the new academic year and have seen our newest children arrive looking a little nervous and then skipping out at the end of their day looking much more relaxed!



This year we have started a new initiative of a half day in school for the new reception children. This has enabled Mrs Quicke-Jennings and Mrs Found to visit parents at home with their child and to see them in their own home. We feel this has been a really positive way of getting to know our new children and families.

We are delighted to have Mr Anthony Riley teaching in Class 2, replacing Mrs Moss who moved on at the end of last term. We welcome him to our strong school and church community and hope he will feel the its warmth and support as he settles in to St John's School.

Only a week of the term has passed as I write this, and my last report was written on the last day of summer term, so there is not much to update about the children's activities and achievements yet but we do have quite a packed calendar over the next few weeks.

**Harvest Festival** is fast approaching and we have sent out invitations from school to all parents to join the church celebration on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and to stay on for the lunch if they can. Our children will be participating in the service and we look forward to being together with our friends in the church congregation to celebrate.

**O**ur choir is singing in the **St Albans Abbey Harvest Festival** for schools on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and reading prayers during the service. Mrs Nolan, our music teacher will be preparing them for this and we hope that some of the choir will be singing in St John's Harvest Festival too.

With all best wishes

**Mandy Evans Head Teacher**

**A**lmost 40 years ago the YMCA National Council invited me to be their Christian and Training Office - which brought me here to St John's. I am amazed at the privileges I have been given and the love and hospitality shown throughout my career.

Two main concepts we should cling to ...GRATITUDE and LOVE. That is why we shall sing *'Lord for the Years, your Love has kept and guided; Urged and inspired us cheered us on our way..'*

And it is all to do with GRACE.. that lovely word and beautiful concept, undeserved love. John Newton got it right in his hymn 'Amazing Grace':

*Through many dangers, toils and snares*

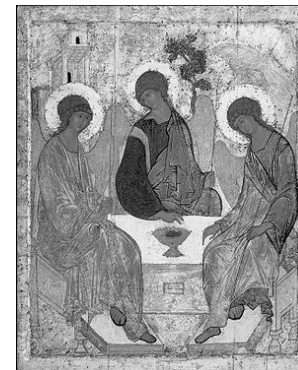
*I have already come (and I have had some sadnesses - bereavements and loss)*

*'tis grace that brought me safe thus far And grace will lead me home.*

**T**he Royal Wedding reminded me of the words of Mother Julian of Norwich about love.....*"For we are so precious loved by God that we cannot even comprehend it. No created being can ever know how much and how sweetly and tenderly God loves them."* And those great words by Archbishop Curry at the Wedding about 'The Power of Love'— I was saying 'Yes' Yes' (but a bit puzzled as to why the Dean sat so impassively—or was it a statue!) We see this love in action in times of need and disaster...the many waters of terrorism and evil and discrimination cannot quench love.. out of tragedy love survives.

We have two models to follow: JESUS— showing the power of love, caring for all people, never discriminating, rich and poor, powerful or weak, men or women.

And THE TRINITY a model of loving relationships. Look at Rublev's ikon image of the Trinity (which I saw in the original in the Tretyakov Museum in Moscow) three persons perfect in harmony... not one greater than the other...caring for each other in love. That is the Trinity.. that is God. This is the world we strive for 'Thy Kingdom come'.



**P**ray that God will be with you all, the same God whose creation we inherit but here in our midst; the mighty and eternal God who called the world into being yet loves each of us; this is God the compassionate and merciful, who bears on his heart for all time the sorrow and pain of the world.

**Grace and Love be with you!**

## LEMSFORD'S ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD

*The following report appeared in the Hertfordshire Advertiser, 26th July 1919 (research by Mary de Soyres).*

In spite of the very inclement weather Lemsford Parish Church was very full (on Sunday July 20th) for the unveiling of the memorial that had been erected to those who had fallen in the war, which consists of a handsome Celtic Cross of rough grey granite placed near the churchyard wall, a portion of which was removed so that the whole is visible from the high road. The most impressive ceremony, which owing to the rain had to be held wholly in the church commenced with the hymn "Jesus Lives". The prayers and lessons were read by the vicar (the Rev. A. E. Ward).

After the Grace Lieut. General the Earl of Cavan, standing on the chancel steps, addressed the congregation. "I feel it a great honour," he said, "to be invited to unveil the memorial that you have erected to the glorious dead of this parish. During the last few days I have been participating in the Victory marches, both in Paris and London, and of the whole proceedings two things impressed me most. One was the silence of the crowd and the salutes of the troops as the procession passed the memorials erected along the route of those who had fallen. The other was a perfectly simple card that I saw in a window in Lambeth. It bore the simple word, "Peace - thanks to our boys:"



I feel sure that where we so often fail at home is that we do not realise what we have been saved from. Part of my duty during the four and a half years I have been away was to visit villages as smiling and as peaceful as this of Lemsford and then to see them again, or rather where they had been, now so absolutely desolated so completely ruined that it was necessary to erect posts in order to indicate what village lay buried beneath the ruins. If those who died had not offered their lives so unselfishly, it is certain that the fate of this place would have been as those in Flanders, situated as it is on the high road to London.

I would impress upon you what is due to these men. I tell you that their deaths were very beautiful, and though their names are carved in granite, yet the memory of them in our hearts will long outlive the granite, and our children and children's children will live and call them blessed."After the address the choir preceded the congregation to the churchyard.

"To the glory of God and in memory of the illustrious dead" said Lord Cavan as he drew aside the Union Jack which enveloped the memorial. The Benediction concluded the service.

In the evening Service the Vicar said how glad he was that the people of Lemsford had chosen the emblem they had. To him, a hall or a pleasure ground, although perfectly right in itself, would seem to be spending money that the living might enjoy. Here, with the cross it was "giving not receiving." Others might decide upon a monument noble in itself and surmounted by a statue most exquisitely carved, but what message would such a figure convey to anyone? It might appeal by its beauty, but only to the mind, not the heart, whereas the cross must always convey a silent message not only to the few who were churchgoers, but to the many who were casual passers-by.

General Cavan lived in Hertfordshire and is buried in his family's plot in Ayot St Lawrence Churchyard. He fought many battles including Passchendaele (pictured). After the War he rose to become Chief of the Imperial General Staff.



*See inside back cover for more on the War Memorial.*

On February 24th 1944 my father set off in a Lancaster bomber on a mission to attack Schweinfurt in Bavaria. He was a Flight Sergeant responsible for spotting and marking the target as a Pathfinder. The plane never made it to Germany — it was shot down by a German fighter near the town of Briey in North-east France; he managed to bail out but his parachute did not open. He is now buried in Choloy Military Cemetery about 60 miles from Briey, along with several hundred servicemen who lost their lives in that region. In 2015 I drove to Switzerland to visit my son who lives there, going via Briey and returning via Choloy, the first time I had been to either.

In Briey there is a block of flats designed by the high priest of modern architecture, Le Corbusier. It has a show flat run by a Heritage Trust, and we made an appointment to visit. In the preparatory emails I explained the main reason for our journey—to see the memorial erected by the French people where the plane had crashed (see pictures). The flats were some way from the crash site but our contact revealed that she lived only 50 metres from the memorial. Unexpectedly she opened her handbag and brought out the crumpled piece of khaki-painted aluminium pictured on the front cover. Her husband had been digging in their garden and uncovered this piece of wreckage from the plane—which she generously gave me. It is only 6”/15cm long but I will always treasure it and hope that my sons will too.



There is a Postscript to this story. Earlier this year my mother died peacefully on the evening before her 96th Birthday, the 26th February. Thus she passed away around the time her husband made his final flight exactly 74 years earlier. We only discovered a few weeks ago from a relative that she dyed her hair black on hearing he had died. Now they are both resting in peace together again.

The sponsored Bike n'Hike organised by the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust turned out to be a bit of a hybrid event this year for St John's participants.. While Lucy and I set off by bike the Cuthbert family set off on foot, and we managed to meet up for lunch at a cafe in Hertford. During the day the cyclists visited twenty churches and travelled thirty-five miles, while the Cuthberts managed to tour the churches of Hertford on foot and then walk all the way along the river Lea towpath to Ware and back, a total walk of over 10 miles - well done to Evangeline and Eliana in particular for covering that distance. Lucy and I also bumped into John Blanch near to Ware - he was a late entrant to the event this year, but it was good to see another St John's cyclist out on the road. So, what were the memorable moments this year? I must mention three, and the theme that links them is money! First of all there was the spectacular new buildings constructed at Leaside Methodist church in Ware. We expressed interest in what they had built since our last visit, and we were given a full tour of new conference rooms, offices, toilets, kitchen etc! Amazing for a church with a normal Sunday congregation similar to St John's. How did they manage to raise the money, I asked. A rather helpful legacy was the key to their £750,000 project!



The second highlight was the fund raiser happening at St Andrew's in Hertford for Water Aid - a beer festival, with live music acts performing in church. It was incredibly busy, with hundreds of people happily drinking away, buying cakes and cream teas, and listening to the live music, a really great atmosphere and raising money for a good cause. Finally, there was the 'bling' - a wedding at another Hertford church that had all the trappings of a grand wedding, including an opera singer performing (we listened briefly from the back, out of view!), and no fewer than four new Rolls Royces and Bentleys lined up outside in the car park! As ever it was an interesting day enjoyed in reasonable weather.

Many thanks to those who supported us this year – we should raise £320, half going to the Trust and half to our Church.

*This year Shoeboxes will be given and blessed at the Family Service on 4th November. This is the story of a girl who once got a box.*

**M**y name is Otilia, although some people call me 'Tilly'. I am from Romania and I still remember receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in our Church in Targoviste, twenty years ago.

It was amazing seeing all that joy, all the smiles, and all the enthusiastic children that could hardly wait for their turn to get a shoebox. I remember all the items in my shoebox. At that time in Romania we only had a very limited choice of products manufactured in the Soviet Union, so it seemed like all the items in the shoeboxes were the best I had ever seen, the colouring pencils produced the best colours, the toys were the most exciting and the hat and gloves were the warmest I'd ever had.

The special item inside my shoebox was the hat. I loved it so much. So much so that I still have it today, 20 years later. Receiving a gift at Christmas was amazing. We did not usually receive gifts at Christmas. Sometime my dad would have received fruit and sweets from his employer and this would have been given to me and my sisters as our Christmas gift. The memory of receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox made that Christmas extra special and has remained with me throughout my life.



I really appreciated that someone I'd never met would send me such a lovely gift, all because of the love of Jesus.

**F**or that reason, every year since I married and moved to England, I've packed and sent shoeboxes myself, because I know myself the joy that the child who receives it will have, and I hope that each and every shoebox will help millions of children around the world realise how great is God's love for them.

This ministry is amazing, I pray that God will touch many more hearts all beginning with a simple shoebox."



**Ever-living God  
we remember those whom you have  
gathered  
from the storm of war into the peace of  
your presence;  
may that same peace  
calm our fears,  
bring justice to all peoples  
and establish harmony among the nations,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

*Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*

**And finally ...**

**I** couldn't quite remember how to throw a boomerang,  
but eventually it came back to me.

**W**hen I told the doctor about my loss of memory, he  
made me pay in advance.

**A** bear walks into a bar and  
says, "Give me a whiskey  
and .....cola."  
"Why the big pause?" asks the  
barman.  
The bear shrugged. "I'm not  
sure; I was born with them."



**Bishop's Hatfield Parish Magazine, April 1919 Lemsford News.**

Three meetings have been held during the last two months to discuss what form the Memorial to be erected in memory of those parishioners who fell in the war should take. At a meeting on March 13th it was finally decided that a Celtic cross in Cornish granite should be erected inside the churchyard, close to the road, so that it could be seen from the cross roads, the names of the fallen to be inscribed on the side facing the road. The position, it is hoped, will meet the views both of those who wished the Memorial to be at the roadside and those who wished it to be in the churchyard. The exact position and final arrangements were left in the hands of the Sub-Committee of five who were elected for that purpose. *(See pages 15/16 for main story)*



**Spring 1947, possibly Easter.**

**Unveiling of names of those killed in WWII**

The clergyman conducting the service was the Revd. R. P. P. Rigby, vicar of Lemsford from February 1945 to July 1949.

On the right of the Cross is Ronald, 2nd Lord Brocket.

*photograph provided by Ray Crawley of WGC British Legion*