

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



*Nunc Dimittis
see page 15*

Parish Magazine

February/March 2014 £1



June Copping with the Album she has prepared of the church activities in 2013;
John and Lily Cox—see page 4.



February 2014

Sunday 2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th 4th before Lent

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Parish Communion

6 pm Prayer for Healing

Sunday 16th 3rd before Lent

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Family Service

Sunday 23rd 2nd before Lent

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Parish Communion

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

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

2nd Malachi 3.1-5, Luke 2.22-40

9th I Corinthians 2.1-12, Matthew 5.13-20

16th Family Service

23rd Romans 8.18-25, Matthew 6.25-34

Reminder: the Vicar's day off duty is Friday.

Coffee after 11am Services.

Sunday 2nd Sunday before Lent

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Morning Prayer

Ash Wednesday 9 am School Collective Worship &

10 am Morning Prayer as usual

8 pm Holy Communion at St Michael's Birchwood

Sunday 9th Lent 1

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Parish Communion

Sunday 16th Lent 2

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Special Service for Lent

Sunday 23rd Lent 3

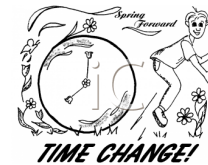
8 am Holy Communion

11 am Parish Communion

Sunday 30th Mothering Sunday *****

8 am Holy Communion

11 am Family Service - with St John's School

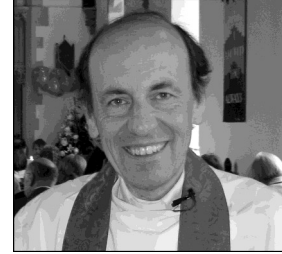


*** Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday *****

Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)2nd Exodus 24.12- end, Matthew 17.1-99th Romans 5.12-19, Matthew 4.1-1116th t.b.a.23rd Romans 5.1-11, John 4.5-2630th Colossians 3.12-17**Reminder: the Vicar's day off duty is Friday.****Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service**

The Long Journey from Christmas to Easter

Christmas may be well and truly over, but this year Easter Day is still a long way off—to be precise, 20th April. It can often seem a long wait until spring arrives – remember all that snow blowing around at the end of March last year? Who know, this year the daffodils may be all over and we'll be into a heatwave.



This waiting time for signs of spring, and for all the stirrings of new life, can be a bit like our own lives. Have we too been 'put on hold'? We'd like to grow spiritually, but when and how?

To look at this another way, it's a *long journey* from Christmas to Easter. It's a long journey from birth, through death, to new life. Christmas stands for the birth of the child-saviour, born for us all. Christmas is the easiest and most popular Christian festival to keep – we can all be charmed by a new baby born into the world. But to embrace Easter is harder. It requires that we walk a path through loss and death, and into new life. This is a less obvious way, but in the end a surer foundation for Christian faith.

For our church and our village, the joy of Christmas was overshadowed by the sudden death of Terry Payne on Christmas Eve. His funeral in January was a testament to the tremendous love and affection felt for him by family, friends and community. You can read more about his life later in this issue, part of the tributes given to Terry on that day.

It will take us time to 'come through' this loss. Terry had a faith which pointed to the fullness of life after death. But this does not always make it easier for those who are left behind. We shall need the real power and hope of Easter to help us renew that kind of faith, that kind of trust. We shall miss Terry very much, but one of the poems at his funeral told us: "Miss me, but let me go". Those are words we could value after any kind of loss. Words to take with us into the season of Lent.

None of us knows how long our own earthly journey will be. None of us knows when our own death will come. The only certainty is that it will come, some day. Then others will have to 'let us go'.

The long journey from Christmas to Easter can indeed be a time of uncertainty, wondering and waiting. But the God who entered our life by sharing it with us, in every way, is the same God who went on to show us that death has been defeated. Easter offers that hope, that promise, and that certainty. It's well worth waiting for.

Edward

Baptisms

15th December, **Aston and Ava Parsons**. Congratulations to them and their parents.

Wedding

On 23rd November, **Kevin Shepherd and Rachael Young**. Many congratulations!

Funerals

On 9th January, **Angus Stewart**; on 17th January, **Terry Payne**. We express our condolences to their family and friends. *Read about Terry on pages 6,7.*

John and Lily Cox

Pictured inside front cover; do so much behind the scenes to keep the Church running. They celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary on February 15th; Lily is 80 on 3rd February, and John on May 27th. Congratulations to them both.

Jane Jerrard MBE

In the New Year Honours it was announced that Jane has been awarded an MBE "For services to education, particularly for girls, in Pakistan." That is an honour that no-one can complain about. Read Jane's latest letter on page 13 and another blog on page 12.

Church Giving

As a result of generous giving in Christmas Collections £400 has been sent to each of Save the Children, the Children's Society, and Embrace the Middle East. (£1,200 in all). We hope to end the year with a much smaller deficit than feared—for which many thanks to supporters.

Parking near the church.

Brocket Hall has informed the church and the school that parking is no longer available in the driveway from the corner opposite the church. This ends a longstanding but unwritten agreement. It sadly reduces the help which Brocket Hall has given to the community. The Village Hall car park may have some spaces on a Sunday morning, but care must always be taken there.

FUTURE DATES

Thursday April 3rd 2.30 pm

School end of term service

Sunday April 6th 12 noon

ANNUAL MEETING, straight after Morning Prayer

April 18th GOOD FRIDAY

April 20th EASTER DAY

Monday May 5th LEMS FORD

FETE 12 noon to 4 pm

Parish Magazine

Copy for the next double issue, April/May by **21st March**.

Healing Service 6 pm Sunday February 9th

A time for peaceful reflection with readings, prayer, and music.

Led by Revd Sue Stilwell and Ann Hollis

All are welcome—do invite anyone you feel would find this special service helpful.

The effects of WW1 on Lemsford Life

Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm in the Church Annexe

Lemsford Local History Group are preparing a display for our Fete in May. If you have any family memories or photographs of this period we'd be delighted to hear from you, eg *Memories of a family member who went to war; The home front and what life was like.*

You are very welcome to join us at our next meeting when we shall exchange information and ideas for our display.

Church Spring Cleaning - Saturday 29th March

all hands please that morning

Contact or queries: Eileen Martindale 01438 716162

CHURCH FLOWERS

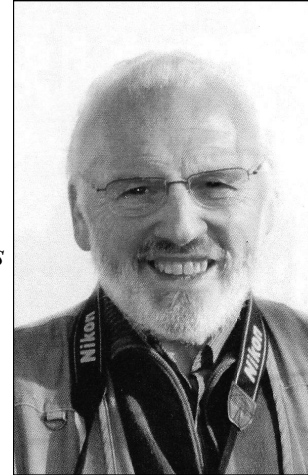
The flowers in church on Sunday, 15 February 2014, are dedicated by Martin & Janet English to the memory of **Hugo & Jean English.**

If you would like to place a dedication in the magazine - and at the same time support the work of the Flower ladies and the church - please contact Jackie Spry (Churchwarden & Assistant Treasurer).

Sponsorship of flowers in church is available about a dozen times a year. A contribution of £20 is suggested which will be divided equally between the Flower Fund and the church's general funds.

(See article in the December 2013 magazine, p. 7).

Terry collapsed and died of a heart attack on Christmas Eve, as he and Carole were planning to get ready for the Midnight Service. His funeral was on Friday 17th January. The Church was packed as were the choir stalls with our own Choir and that of the Hertfordshire Constabulary choir, since he was an important member of both. Edward gave a tribute based on his and family thoughts.



Terry was born on July 19th 1942 in Hatfield, in a family that had recently moved from Tottenham. At 5 years old he went to Green Lanes Primary School, as did Carole although they did not meet then.

At age 8 he joined the choir of St Michael's, and looked angelic in white robes. Tony Parkes, a school friend recalled amusing episodes in their school friendship that has lasted ever since.

At 16 he left school to start an apprenticeship in tool-making. At the same time he ventured into a Youth club session of the Methodist Church in full Teddy Boy regalia, where he was met by Carole asking for his subscription. "He often said I was the first female to take his money, and nothing changed during his lifetime!" They married in August 1964 and later moved to Lemsford to begin a lifetime association with the Village and Church. Terry was very proud of his two sons, who arrived in 1965 and 1968, his daughters-in-law and his four grandchildren, whom he loved deeply and who knew him as Gramps.

He and Carole were drawn to narrow-boating thanks to their friends Tm and Jenny, and in 1975 he managed to buy his first boat. In the '80s he joined a local singing group Singing for Pleasure, and with his strong bass voice became a stalwart, and technical director. About this time he also took up bowling and encouraged his sons to do the same. His proudest moment came when all three of them won a triples tournament together.

In 1992 he joined the Church choir and he and Carole (now Choir Director) have been key members ever since. Later he entered the Constabulary Choir, through the good offices of Dennis van der Meijden who was Police Chaplain and a Reader at St John's. In the Village he was a founder member of the Residents Association and appeared at most events and annually in a Santa outfit for the Christmas celebration - who was better fitted for the role? (*see him in festive garb, inside the back cover*).

His life as an Engineer was terminated at age 55 by redundancy but he became a day-care ambulance driver, a role he carried out with kindness and gentleness for some 10 years. In all facets of his life Terry was a giver with a special awareness of the needs of others.

Carole's contribution concluded: "Terry managed to achieve his aim of enjoying at least some time in retirement and in those 6 years we did so much together, the culmination of a long and happy relationship for which I am so grateful. I am also thankful that you too knew the same man that I did, he never put on an act for anybody, he was always just himself."

Ron Ingamells writes:

It was a most appropriate service for our good friend Terry – sadness, love and laughter! Janet and I want to add our very happy memories of this lovely, warm and generous person. Janet especially will always remember 'Terry's hugs' – they were very special.

No priest could have wished for a better and more loyal member of the congregation. In addition when I invited a few people to come with me to the Hungarian-speaking village of Vaida in Romania Terry volunteered. St. John's responded to their needs and helped many individuals and projects. Pastor Barnabas Balogh, now working in Hungary, remembers Terry very well and sends his condolences. Terry will be immensely missed in the community and the church.

Our love to Carole and the family. ***Ron and Janet***

In the last issue we reviewed the new book written by the Bishop which describes 366 of the Christian men and women who have shaped this Diocese. His entry for 22nd February is Dame Alice Owen who founded the School now in Potters Bar. This is her story.



Alice was born in 1547. The sole known event in her girlhood is the famous tale of an arrow shot by a Finsbury archer in the fields, which pierced her tail hat as she was indulging a whim to milk a cow. Her narrow escape inspired a vow of a deed of gratitude should she ever “become a lady”.

Alice married in 1570 at the age of 23, Henry Robinson, a successful brewer from Cumberland, and bore him 10 children. Most of her children died in infancy, and she was pregnant with the 11th, Henry, when her husband died aged only 42, and she was 38.

She quickly remarried, when Henry, her sole surviving son, was only three months old; and when he was only 18 months old she bore a daughter, Ursula, to her new husband the mercer William Elkin, a hitherto childless, sexagenarian widower from Staffordshire. William Elkin would very likely have become Lord Mayor and a knight as well, had he not died in 1593 in one of London’s recurrent plagues.

The ambitious Alice soon set about acquiring gentility for her late husband by the posthumous grant of a coat of arms, with right of descent to their daughter Ursula. Two years later in 1595 she went one better and acquired an estate, Cransley Hall near Kettering, important for her own jointing the gentry, and which she settled on her son Henry Robinson.

Very shortly, she married Thomas Owen, lawyer and Serjeant-at-Arms, and not surprisingly she successfully applied for her own coat-of-arms in the name of Alice Wilkes, wife to Judge Owen. This gained for her the title of Dame.

From these recorded facts it is safe to say that she was ambitious, determined, with strength of character, devoted to the Reformed religion – and with a strong constitution (all those children, and outliving three husbands). Owen died in 1598, leaving, like his predecessors, generous bequests to his widow, his children by his first marriage, and as was customary, to charity.

Alice's own great gift to posterity occupied her last years after Owens' death. In 1608 she founded a row of almshouses for 10 poor widows of the Brewers' Company, and from 1610 planned a school for 30 "sons and daughters of Islington" – 24 in Islington and six in Clerkenwell (though in fact no girls were admitted until 1886).

The land acquired by the Brewers' Company, who maintained control of the institution, was 11 acres of Erminage Fields near the Angel, then Crown lands but originally the site of the chapel of the Knights Hospitaliers of St John of Jerusalem, whose priory in Clerkenwell was nearby.

The syllabus was Latin grammar, very elementary arithmetic, religious instruction in the new Bible Authorised Version and the liturgy, and little else. Alice Owen saw not even the school's infancy. Though fully dealt with in her will, she died in her Basinghall house in 1613 with the school barely started.

The almshouses were abolished in 1878 and replaced by pensions for 14 widows, and the girls' school was built 276 years after it had been authorised by King James I. The school moved to Potters Bar in 1972. Dame Alice was buried at her beloved St Mary's Church, Islington, and a fine monument bore her statue, the kneeling figures of 11 child descendants, and a long inscription in her praise. But when the church was rebuilt in 1751 it was in too poor condition to remove to the new building, and only the figures of the children could be saved, and re-erected at the school. They are now at Potters Bar, where a small figure of Alice, probably from the almshouses, also survives.

Alice's true monument, besides the few physical relics, is in her school and its living pupils, past and present.

A very Happy New Year to all St John's Church and School family! We are now fully into the Spring Term after a very busy and exciting end of the Christmas term.

Class 2 demonstrated that, despite the allure of new electronic toys, children are still fascinated by the traditional toys from the past. Their class trip to Bethnal Green Toy Museum in was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Year 4 children enjoyed an exciting afternoon at St John's School in Digswell, a partner school. They experienced several outdoor learning activities, including lighting a fire with a flint – which they all managed to achieve with perseverance! The activity session was concluded with delicious hot chocolate and flapjack for all involved.



Class 4 were challenged to 'Grow a Pound' (well £2 actually) as part of their curriculum learning Enterprise Day. They were given the option of working with others to pool their resources and create a greater profit margin. The children had to work together as entrepreneurs to agree a product to make and sell at a 'market' to pupils and parents. The products varied from smoothies to bookmarks...and much more in between. This was an exciting and engaging project with the children requesting to give the 'company' profits to charity. An admirable total of over £175 was raised and sent to DEC in response to the devastating typhoon in the Philippines. Well done Class 4!

Our Christian Value of Month for December was 'Joy' and at St John's we certainly felt it! Our staff and LSA worked incredibly hard to ensure that the time of Advent was a joyful anticipation of Christmas Day and its true meaning. Our Nativity Play was delightful and a real celebration of the birth of Jesus. Beautifully acted, with confident singing and some superb solos, we were so proud of all the children and thank the staff for their time and commitment in producing such a polished performance.



Our LSA ensures that Christmas is a magical time for all at St John's by helping to decorate the school, organising children's shopping day and the children's Christmas party.. *and* inviting Father Christmas along as well! Before the party, we all gathered together for Christmas lunch having made party hats. Our Christmas week also saw children visiting Stanborough Lodge Residential Home for the Elderly to sing carols – a wonderful afternoon for all involved. We finished our Christmas celebrations with our school Carol Service at the church, with Class 1 enacting the Christmas story.

Mandy Evans Headteacher

*Below is the latest blog from **Caroline Noland**, the young American who is working with **Jane Jerrard**, our Church Missionary Society (CMS) Partner in Pakistan. Her blog, complete with videos, is at <http://carolinenoland.wordpress.com/>.*

It is hard to believe that I have less than five months in this beautiful place. Leaving time with loved ones at Christmas was bittersweet knowing that I wasn't saying goodbye to them for long, but also with the knowledge that in a few months I will be saying more goodbyes than I want to think about.



It is an incredible feeling to know that the whole of my 2013 was spent in the country I dreamed of coming to. Christmas was filled with many conversations of how much of a miracle it is that I'm here, how much peace and joy have been poured on my parents, how amazed I am at the protection I've felt, and how lucky I am to be exactly right where I want to be. So many times we spin our wheels thinking of the next job/house/school/city. I'm more than grateful that for now, for this time, I couldn't create a place I would rather be living in.

From the moment I touched down in Karachi, I have been saturated with hospitality and love. Some friends came with the driver to pick me up at the airport to welcome me back, despite the fact that my flight came in at 4am. A lady I work with stocked me up on the basic fruits and vegetables because I flew back on a day the markets were closed. A neighbour had me over for dinner and we told stories over much-missed curry. I only hope that I can share and live out this much warmth with those around me. I feel so blessed.

At the moment I am knee deep in grants, trainings, mentoring, and programs. The air is thick with possibility for PEP's children's financial literacy program, for the computer training I'm leading in two weeks with our Field Staff, for the wonderful young woman I'm training to be the PR Officer, for all the wheels in motion in our schools. (Including some new bicycle wheels so our graduates can continue their education!). I'm anxiously anticipating all this year will teach me. I pray that your new years begins in expectation of the miracles that you will witness, with a full heart ready to be poured out, and knowing the joy that each of you bring me.

Jane herself writes:

**New Year
Announcements!**

I am delighted to be able to tell you all that my name appeared in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. I have been awarded an MBE! It was a huge shock but a very wonderful surprise which I accept on



behalf of the whole team. I give thanks to God since He called me to do this work and He has guided and empowered us all throughout these 18 years. Thank you for your part in this since without prayer nothing of lasting value can be achieved.

Lilian, with whom I have worked for many years is branching out into wider ministry. Last year she was appointed as the Diocesan Secretary, working closely with Bishop Kaleem in this influential and much respected position. She is mentoring the new principal of Piggott Memorial Girls Higher Secondary School, our largest diocesan school. She is also starting her M.Phil. She will continue to provide training consultancy services for us but look for wider opportunities too.

My Studies I had a good break in Karachi and had productive mornings working on my thesis. I had an encouraging skype call with my tutor and so we are still on schedule to complete for summer 2014. I need to maintain my pace for these next 2 months as I will be away for 2 weeks in March and need to submit further work by the end of March.

Thank you for your support, **Jane**

The picture is of Jane with Ian & Mary Douglas, and June Copping on her visit to us last summer.



**A message from the Archbishop of Canterbury,
The Most Reverend Justin Welby:**

Dear friends,

A large and growing number of people rely on short-term loans at very high interest rates to make ends meet, and can easily end up in a crippling spiral of debt. One million families are taking out payday loans every month as they struggle with rising living costs.

I have seen this myself in the communities where I have lived and worked, and it is devastating. But people often have little choice, especially in deprived areas of the country.

Our faith in Christ calls us to love the poor and vulnerable with our actions. That is why the Church must be actively involved in supporting the development of real lending alternatives, such as credit unions. This is not an optional activity, but a fundamental part of our witness and service to all God's people.

We must help credit unions to become bigger, better known and easier to access if we want them to compete effectively with high interest lenders.

We have a unique opportunity to make a difference. We can begin simply by saving some money with our local credit union, using their services and encouraging others to do the same. Some churches are already doing this, so we know the difference it can make to the local community.

Please take this opportunity to consider how you and your church could serve your community in this way. I pray that together we can make a difference to some of those who are most in need.

With every blessing,

+ Justin Cantuar

+Justin Cantuar



At Terry Payne's Funeral the choir sang a setting of the *Nunc Dimittis* just before his coffin was carried from the church.

The English words as found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1662):

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.*

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of
thy people Israel.*

The 2nd February (40 days after Christmas) is the Feast of Jesus' presentation at the Temple. The story told in the book of Luke was that Simeon, who was a Jew, had been promised by the Holy Ghost that he would not die until he had seen Jesus. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem for the ceremony of consecration of the firstborn son, 40 days after his birth, Simeon was there. He took Jesus into his arms and said the words which are now known as the *Nunc dimittis*. He was saying to God that he could now die happily because he had seen the Saviour.

The picture on the front cover is a detail from an illuminated manuscript intended as a Church Calendar, prepared for the Byzantine Emperor Basil, ca 1000 AD, showing this scene.

And finally



“My other car's a Basilica”

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A picture of Terry Payne whilst Carol Singing round the village a couple of Christmases ago. *See pages 6 & 7.*