



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# REFOCUSED

February 2019

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF  
ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH  
WITH ST LUKE'S CHURCH



BISHOP'S  
HATFIELD

## Letter to the parish from Rev. Penny wishing readers a very Happy New Year

The editorial team always take a well-earned break in January, and so we arrive in February, for our first edition of Refocused 2019, already in the midst of celebrating the Season of Epiphany.

The word epiphany means 'dawning' or 'revealing'. It has given rise to the saying: 'an epiphany moment' - this being when something wonderful or amazing suddenly dawns on us, and we see things more clearly. During this time we look at stories in the Bible where Jesus was revealed to the world both as a human and as God. The Season of Epiphany comes to a conclusion forty days after Christmas - when we celebrate the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Like many new parents, Mary and Joseph wanted to say thank you for the safe delivery and gift of their baby son Jesus. In their time and culture, there were certain ceremonies that needed to be carried out, and so they took the baby Jesus to the Temple, to present him to God. And they took a gift of two birds, to offer to God, to say thank you for this miraculous baby.

As they entered the Temple, Simeon, an ancient God-fearing man, gently took the baby Jesus in his arms. He thanked God for this special baby, and in a spontaneous out-pouring of joy, he announced that this child was destined to be a light to people of all nations of the world. Simeon blessed the young

parents, Mary and Joseph, before warning Mary that, as mother of this extraordinary child, her joy in the future would be mingled with heartache too. The bewildered parents had barely scooped the baby Jesus back into their arms, when the elderly prophetess Anna, slipped out of the Temple shadows to tell all those around about the baby and to thank and praise God for him.

At St Etheldreda's Church there is a beautiful stained-glass window which depicts this scene (see below) – you might like to come to the church sometime this year to have a look at it.

This little story in the Bible is celebrated in the church as Candlemas. In some Christian traditions, Christmas decorations are kept up until this date. In some churches, all the candles to be used by the church or in the house in the ensuing year are blessed by the priest on this day.

*Letter continues inside on page 3*



## Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke regular services

### St Etheldreda's Church

#### Sunday:

8am: Holy Communion

9.30am: Holy Communion with Sunday School

#### 3rd Sunday of month:

9.30am: All age Eucharist

#### Tuesday:

9am: Morning Prayers

#### Wednesday:

10am: Holy Communion

#### Thursday:

9am: Morning Prayers

7pm: Holy Communion or Compline

### St Luke's Church

#### Sunday:

11.30am:

Holy Communion with hymns

### Children's Sunday School

Meets at 9.20am

on Sundays in term time

at 12 Fore Street

(STEPS office)

### February Weddings & Baptisms

Please contact Fr Darren to book your Wedding or Baptism t: 01707 256638 e: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

### What's on in February/March at St Etheldreda's & St Luke's Churches

3rd February 4pm: Confirmation Service at St Etheldreda's Church

Sunday 3rd March 3-5pm: 'Sing-a-long Musicals' with tea and cake at St Etheldreda's Church

Wednesday 6th March 8pm: Team Choral Communion for Ash Wednesday at St Etheldreda's Church

### What's on in February/March in the Bishops Hatfield Team

2nd February 8am: Men's Breakfast, meeting at St Michael's & All Angels Church

2nd February 10am: Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church

9th February at 12.30: Ladies at Lunch at St Michael's & All Angels Church

12th February 2.30pm: Friendship Teas The Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford

15th February 2.30-4pm: Poetry Group at St Mary's Church, North Mymms

2nd March 8am: Men's Breakfast, meeting at St Michael's & All Angels Church

2nd March 10am: Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church

12th March 2.30pm: Friendship Teas The Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford

#### Father Darren Collins, Team Rector

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Hertfordshire AL9 5AN

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## What's On at Hatfield House

24 February @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

A simply wonderful wedding fair featuring 60 informative exhibitors held in the historic Old Palace and contemporary Riding School.

There are two superb fashion shows at 12.30pm and 2.30pm featuring the latest bridal gowns and bridesmaid dresses together with menswear and live entertainment.

## Hatfield Park Farm Update *from Lauryn Yeo*

The farm had a challenging time last year with the extreme weather conditions the animals have to contend with. From the snow which hit us right in the middle of lambing, to the long dry summer stunting the grass growth. Despite this, visitors continued to visit the farm and enjoy the delights of Alex the storyteller, the Dog and Duck Show and C-J Birds of Prey.

This time of year the public farm gets a well-earned rest and recovery from the animals as they all move inside for some extra care. It is a busy time of year and preparations for lambing has begun. Our first lambs should arrive at the end of this month so they will soon be spotted skipping around in the fields. As an addition this year, we are also expecting pygmy goat kids in April from Kai, our new Billy goat.



Another exciting addition to the farm is Carys, our White Park calf who was born in November.

Carys has become such a character, she is dreaming of warmer weather so she can explore the fields.

We look forward to welcoming our visitors to the farm again when we open for the new season on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

More Info: [www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events/](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events/)  
01707 287010 e: [visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk](mailto:visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk)

## Letter to the Parish from Rev Penny continued ....

Candles hold a special significance for Christians – they remind us that Jesus came to live amongst us to bring light to situations of darkness and despair. Jesus the Messiah was often referred to as the light for the people walking in darkness; Jesus called himself “*the light of the world.*”

Our world is a beautiful place filled with wonders and capable of giving great pleasure. But for many people, life feels difficult or dull and dreary. We might have concerns regarding the natural environment, over our country's future, or about our own ability to maintain our life and family.

Jesus came to live among us, as a simple carpenter in a poor village, born to a humble but God-loving young girl. For a time, he lived as a refugee with no home. He understands our anxieties and fears about everyday ordinary life - he has lived through similar situations and times himself.

But Jesus offers us a hope that our lives can be better – that darkness and confusion can be turned to light and clarity. When we ask Jesus to walk alongside us in our lives, he will guide us and comfort us, and he promises to always stay with us. In 2019 we pray that we might draw closer to Jesus, the light of the world, and our friend.

### Flower Arrangers Needed

No previous experience required  
Training given in church

Would you like to try something new in 2019, develop a new skill, and/or make some new friends?

Then you might like to join our Flower Arranging Team and learn how to make our beautiful church even more beautiful for special occasions with highly creative floral displays.

Check out the photo of our stained glass window on the front page—our amazing Flower Arranging Team created these flower displays for the Christmas season.

Contact: [CarrieShannonUK@gmail.com](mailto:CarrieShannonUK@gmail.com)

## Countess Anne School Kindness Poem from the Head Boy and Head Girl

Foreword by James Emanuel, Assistant Headteacher Countess Anne Primary School



At Countess Anne School, the children elect a School Council committee each year which is called The Make Believers. The name is inspired by the Games Makers who helped organise the London 2012 Olympics.

The Make Believers is child-led and has the aim of improving the school for the children. They respond to suggestions from the children and the wider community and help to have an impact on all through positive acts. Some of their duties include leading assemblies, visiting residential homes for the elderly, leading play at lunch times, running lunchtime clubs and serving as positive role models for the school.

There are 10 Make Believers which is formed from children from Years 2-6. In addition to the Make Believers, the school elects a Head Boy and Head Girl (selected from Year 6 pupils) who join the Make Believers meetings. The

Head Boy and Head Girl put themselves forward and prepare a presentation to do in assembly and are chosen through a democratic process where all the staff have a vote as well as the children.

The Head Boy and Head Girl take a lead role in representing the school's values amongst the children. The values are honesty, kindness, perseverance, responsibility, respect and forgiveness. A different value is focused on each half term, although all values are celebrated and referred to throughout the year.

Last half term the school focused on Kindness. The Head Boy and Head Girl wrote a poem together on what kindness means to them.

### *What does Kindness mean?*

*Kindness means to us that you are trust-worthy to your friends so that your friendship never ends.*

*Kindness means doing good for others as if they were your brothers and sisters.*

*Kindness means respecting difference, giving your time and asking 'Are you fine?'*

*Kindness means being understanding even when you're tired, so we don't hear anyone shout 'You're fired!'*

*Kindness means being supportive to your peers, when helping someone face their fears.*

## A talk on what happens to our household waste and recycling

Are you interested in finding out more about local waste management (including what happens to your household/garden waste and recycling)?

If so, Duncan Jones, Partnership Development Manager at HCC's Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) has kindly agreed to talk to us. He will also cover the Waste Strategy that Defra recently published

which will include, among other things consultation on:

- Charges on packaging (eg. plastic bags)
- Deposit refund systems for non-returnable drinks containers
- Free collection of garden waste and promoting food waste collection

Come and join us for what should be an interesting evening on:

Tuesday 12 Feb, 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
Hatfield Social Club  
76 Great North Road  
Hatfield, AL9 5ER

All welcome.

Johnathan Fisher  
e: jonathanfisher@ntlworld.com

## St Etheldreda's Church needs YOU ...

With the commemorations of the Armistice fresh in our minds, it seems appropriate to emulate Kitchener's call for help in appealing to the readers of Refocused, for involvement with our exciting new community project.

Plans for the conversion of the west end of the church into a modern community space with new toilet and kitchen facilities are proceeding apace with a planned start date in 2020.

We have already undertaken a number of events, of which the most recent was the Grand Prize Draw, which raised nearly

£6,000 towards our target, and was generously supported by some local businesses. We are planning a number of regular events, including concerts, mini-markets and sponsorship opportunities, in which we hope you will want to participate. You may have a good fundraising idea yourself, and if you have, we would be pleased to hear about it and help make it happen

We have also started to receive some very generous support from individual donors. So, we are asking you to consider making a financial contribution, perhaps in memory of a loved one. You can make a one-off gift, or a pledge to make weekly or monthly contributions over a period of a year or more. You can also specify a particular use to which you would wish

the money to be put. Such gifts can benefit from Gift Aid for UK taxpayers, so we gain an extra 25% of what you give, and you get further tax relief if you are a higher rate taxpayer.

We are planning a Giving Day at Easter time, to provide a focus for all our efforts and an opportunity to see our plans and the potential for this project, as well as enjoying our services and our welcome.

**So, what are you going to do?** Please contact the Rector (Fr. Darren Collins-1 Fore Street) or email Chris Stratton at [chris.stratton@mhlip.co.uk](mailto:chris.stratton@mhlip.co.uk) with details of any help you can give us, or questions you may have. It will be very much appreciated by us and the community of which we are all a part.

### We need funding ...

The total cost of the works we are undertaking, which will also include a modern replacement for our organ and essential upgrading work to the existing church building, is likely to be of the order of £2.5 million.

We are looking to various grant-making bodies to help us but most of these will wish to see "matched funding" which is the money we raise for ourselves to put into the project. We are also looking for commercial sponsorship.

### We need ideas ...

To plan to use the space effectively and to its full potential. We would welcome suggestions for:

- \* Groups or organisations who would like a place to meet
- \* Events or activities to use the space
- \* Innovative ideas for use of space, eg. workshops, exhibitions, the arts

### We need volunteers ...

In order to run this operation smoothly, a lot of assistance will be needed, for example to :

- \* Book arrangements
- \* Clean and prepare for occupants
- \* Help with running events and work-shops
- \* Man exhibitions and/or shows

## The Salisbury Chapel *Church Warden Richard Morton*

One of the most fascinating and beautiful parts of St Eth's, the Salisbury Chapel is the private property of Lord Salisbury and his family, and they have recently had it restored to its former glory. You should certainly go and have a look.

Built in 1617 to commemorate Robert Cecil, chief minister to Elizabeth I and James I, the chapel contains his magnificent tomb by Maximilian Colt, the finest sculptor of the time, which is one of the greatest treasures of our church. In 1875 the third Marquess, later to be Prime Minister, commissioned Italian artist Giulio Taldini to transform the chapel with marble arcades and floors, dazzling frescoes on the walls and a beautifully painted ceiling – a fitting home for the tomb of his illustrious ancestor.

During the century that followed, Victorian gothic of this sort became deeply unfashionable and problems with the copper roof led to damage inside the chapel. Now though, thanks to painstaking work by specialist conservationists, Britain and Co, we can appreciate once again the full splendour of the design.

You can see, on the back page, some pictures of the work in progress and of details before and after restoration.

While you are visiting the chapel, have a look too at the large stone columns which divide it from the chancel. Two of the three columns date from 1617 making them, as far as I can ascertain the first full size classical columns used in England since the departure of the Romans. Such columns can only be made in one piece using the right type of stone and these are said to come from Shap in Cumbria. You can imagine how difficult it would have been to transport them 300 miles and to carve the delicate, precise curves involved.

Who then might have been responsible for such a groundbreaking piece of design? This type of column is known as Tuscan Doric and is shown in Palladio's text book of 1570. Inigo Jones, who owned and annotated a copy of the book, is known to have worked in Hatfield from about 1610 onwards and used identical columns for the famous portico of St Paul's Covent Garden a few years later. Could it be that he was responsible for these important but often overlooked columns?



Extracts from the:

# HATFIELD & CRANBORNE ESTATE NEWSLETTER

November 2018

*A new addition to our magazine is Estate News. It is often hard to imagine that we live side to side with a large working estate run for the Salisbury family by Gascoyne Cecil Estates. The Estate have kindly agreed to allow us to use extracts from the **HATFIELD & CRANBORNE ESTATE NEWSLETTER**, for the readers of Refocused to have a better understanding of what is entailed in the day-to-day workings of running such a large estate.*

## Estate News—Gardens

I think it is safe to say that the summer of 2018 has left the gardens and its wonderful team of staff, volunteers and robots rather parched. During the dry spells we delayed planting and turned our attention to supporting the already establishing plants in the garden to ensure they were not left wanting for moisture. I must thank my team for all their hard work during the sweltering conditions to keep plants as well as themselves hydrated.

Earlier this year saw the first of two Robotic AutoMowers manufactured by Husqvarna installed on the North Front. We have seen marked improvement in the quality of the sward, and its ability to recover following the dry, hot weather has been better than elsewhere in the gardens. Their ability to mow day or night or when it is raining has meant that we have consistently had neatly mown lawns. Following the success of these two machines, we will be introducing further AutoMowers to the garden where appropriate.

At the top of the Woodland Garden we have repurposed a pair of oak doors which were once in the restaurant and used them for the entrance of the Yew Tree House.

The dryness did help to reduce mowing frequency, however this has meant increased work this autumn to try and revive the lawns, which will continue into the spring.

We have undertaken target crown reduction on many of the large trees in the Woodland Garden to help reduce the chance of limb failure. This work is normally carried out by tree surgeons climbing the trees which is a slow

and difficult process. On this occasion, we utilised a 48 metre lorry mounted work platform to reach the canopies.

Behind the scenes in the Gardeners' Yard, we have concreted the base of our three compost bays and improved the access to our yard from the North Avenue by changing the angle of the gates to allow for deliveries.

In the East Parterre our major project this year has been to remove the low ailing box hedging planting which surrounds the perimeter of each bed. This has involved the removal of the box plants, resetting of the brick bed edge and recent planting of 2,630 *ilex crenata Dark Green* which we are using in this area as a box substitute. This forms part of a wider review of our use of box across the garden with the current pressure facing it with both pest and disease problems.



## The Kings Men return to St Etheldreda's Church at 8pm on 9th March

The Kings Men, the gentlemen singers from the world famous choir of King's College Cambridge, are returning to St Eth's after two enormously popular concerts they have given for us previously.

With a repertoire covering everything from Byrd to the Beatles, the group combines top class musicianship with infectious enjoyment, appealing to adults and children alike.

Tickets will be on sale soon via our website:  
[www.stetheldreda.org](http://www.stetheldreda.org).



**Music News** from Jill Knight, Director of Music e: [jill.jkmusic@gmail.com](mailto:jill.jkmusic@gmail.com) t: 01707 894949

Christmas 2018 now seems quite a long time ago, but we are still in the season of Christmas and Epiphany right through until Candlemas on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. It is a wonderful time for music, and our community has been overflowing with it, exploring the wonder, mystery and majesty surrounding the birth of Christ; from the Hatfield Farm nativity to the carol service led by Y.E.S! at St. Luke's, and the carol singing in the Eight Bells to the beautiful Nine Lessons and Carols Service at St Eth's. Thank you to everyone, choir, organists, families and all the 'back-stage' crew and supporters for the hard work and enthusiasm that went into making all of our Christmas Services and events so memorable.

There are lots of things to look forward to in 2019, including a series of concerts and musical events throughout the year in support of our west end project and day-to-day running costs for this beautiful and historic place of worship and community.

This will start with a Community Sing-along at St Eth's on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 3-5pm to include songs from two of our favourite musicals, 'Mary Poppins' and 'Oliver' and will also include tea and cakes! Come and join us for a fun singing session - all are welcome, young and old alike; everyone can sing! There will be a retiring collection at the end of the afternoon in aid of our funds.

Our concert series will also include music from Y.E.S!, our own St Eth's Choir, the Da Capo Brass Ensemble and the marvellous Hatfield Chamber Orchestra. There will also be a variety of informal music and concerts throughout the summer on an ad-hoc basis from myself, our organ scholars, various ensembles and soloists. Please look out for the concert series leaflet which will be available soon and contains details of all our music for the 2019 season.

Last, but not least, Y.E.S! is about to celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We had our very first gathering and rehearsal on a cold evening just after the February half-term in 2014 in the old church hall. There were about 6 children and we sang a few rounds and played some singing games. We have achieved an amazing amount in just 5 years, from nothing to a highly reputable Junior Choir that produces a beautiful sound and works and plays well together as a team. Thank you to everyone who over the past 5 years has helped to create and maintain this wonderful opportunity for our young people at St Eth's.

There are currently 15 young singers in Y.E.S! Through the support and generosity of our congregation and local commu-

nity we have established a choral scholarship programme to support and encourage our older members to stay on as they move to secondary schools. We have also appointed a Head and two Deputy Head Choristers to mentor our younger singers.

All our singers continue to work through the RSCM ribbon-training scheme to improve their singing, choral awareness, Christian commitment and understanding and we have two Dean's Choristers and a Bishop's Chorister.

We will be marking our anniversary at the All-Age service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February – please come along and join the celebration.



## Lady Salisbury's Coffee Morning and Sale



Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: 10.00 – 12.00  
In the Old Palace, Hatfield House  
Adults £3.50 in advance or £4 on the door \*  
Children under 12 go free.

\* Ticket includes free admission to  
the West Gardens

\*\* Advance tickets available from Station Lodge,  
Hatfield House—opposite the station

The farm will be open: Adults showing their ticket will  
receive 50% off the entry price and children go free.  
Bloody Hollow play area included!

Coffee and biscuits will be served, music will be  
performed and there will be stalls featuring:

- Cakes and jams
- Second-hand treasures and gifts
- Plants
- Raffle

All proceeds are shared equally between  
St Etheldreda's West End Project and Breaks Manor  
Community Centre.

### PLEASE HELP!

Donations of home baking, second-hand treasures/  
unwanted gifts, plants, raffle prizes, are much appreciat-  
ed. Please refrain from donating books. Contributions  
please to Breaks Manor Youth and Community Centre,  
Link Drive, Hatfield AL10 8TP between 9am and 2pm any  
weekday. Or Station Lodge, Hatfield House, opposite  
Hatfield Station, from 10am to 4pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

For further information, please contact Hilary Morton:  
01707 266132. Full details of St Etheldreda's West End  
Project can be seen on the church website:  
[www.stetheldreda.org](http://www.stetheldreda.org)

## Canine Corner *with Bennie*



I am delighted to have the chance of  
a few words with you again. Not got  
much to say though, just that, like  
everyone else, am fed up with the  
cold and looking forward to spring.

However ... I did receive a story from a reader about an  
attempted local robbery and thought it worth retelling ...

... a burglar broke into a Hatfield home late on a January  
night. He shone his torch around looking for valuables  
when a voice in the dark said, *'Jesus knows you are here'*.

The burglar nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his  
torch off, and froze.

When he heard nothing more after a while, he shook his  
head and continued to search the property.

Just as he was disconnecting the wires to the TV, clear as  
a bell he heard, *'Jesus is watching you'*.

Completely panicked, he shone his torch around  
frantically looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his torch beam  
rested on a parrot.

*'Did you say that?'* he hissed at the parrot.

*'Yes'*, the parrot confessed, then squawked, *'I'm just  
trying to warn you that he is watching you'*.

The burglar relaxed. *'Warn me?'* And who in the world  
are you?'

*'Moses'*, replied the bird.

*'Moses?'* the burglar laughed; *'What kind of people  
would name a bird Moses?'*

*'The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus'*,  
said the parrot!

Boom ... boom ... well the Mistress and I laughed ...

**PS:** OK I confess, this did not happen in Hatfield, and it  
might not even be a true story. But, it was written about  
in: Stoney Armadillo: Heaven Bound, by Annie Wampler



## Compassionate Neighbours, across eastern Hertfordshire

Would you like a **Compassionate Neighbour**? Compassionate Neighbours is a free, community-led social movement offering friendship and support for anyone who is lonely, at risk of isolation, or nearing the end of life through age or illness.

Could a **Compassionate Neighbour help you**? Compassionate Neighbours are matched by their hobbies or interests to someone in the community. They are fully trained, and can offer time, companionship and support.

All support is provided **free of charge**. Find out more from the Compassionate Neighbours team at Isabel Hospice:

Contact: t: 07826 247258 e: Christine.novelli@isabelhospice.org.uk

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t: 01707 261317

m: 07768 848604

**Morna Rees**

MSSch MBChA

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Visiting practice

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Home: 01707 321036

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For further information, please  
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[www.welhat.gov.uk/housing/lifeline](http://www.welhat.gov.uk/housing/lifeline)

Lifeline is a service provided by  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Financial advice from  
**Prudential**

Call **Martin Tiplady** on 07990 773 398  
or email [Martin.Tiplady@Prudential.co.uk](mailto:Martin.Tiplady@Prudential.co.uk)

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Contact:  
[mikeberwick@mtworld.com](mailto:mikeberwick@mtworld.com)

## Stable Yard Shops at Hatfield House: A unique retail experience.

Open all year Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm.

Antiques Market every third Saturday of the month

Farmers Market every third Sunday of the month Fantastic coffee house

Events throughout the year Support your local independent businesses

Children's Farm

Free entry  
Free parking



**Stable Yard**  
at Hatfield House

Info: [www.hatfield-house.co.uk](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk)



Find us on 

[www.stetheldreda.org](http://www.stetheldreda.org)

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CARL RUSSELL & CO  
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An extensive range of new and used shotguns, good quality country clothing, best leather goods and shooting accessories as well as gun workshop.

Stable Yard, Hatfield Park  
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[www.rallisonlandscapes.co.uk](http://www.rallisonlandscapes.co.uk)

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Stable Yard - Hatfield House  
01707 709094 • [www.pots-of-art.co.uk](http://www.pots-of-art.co.uk)

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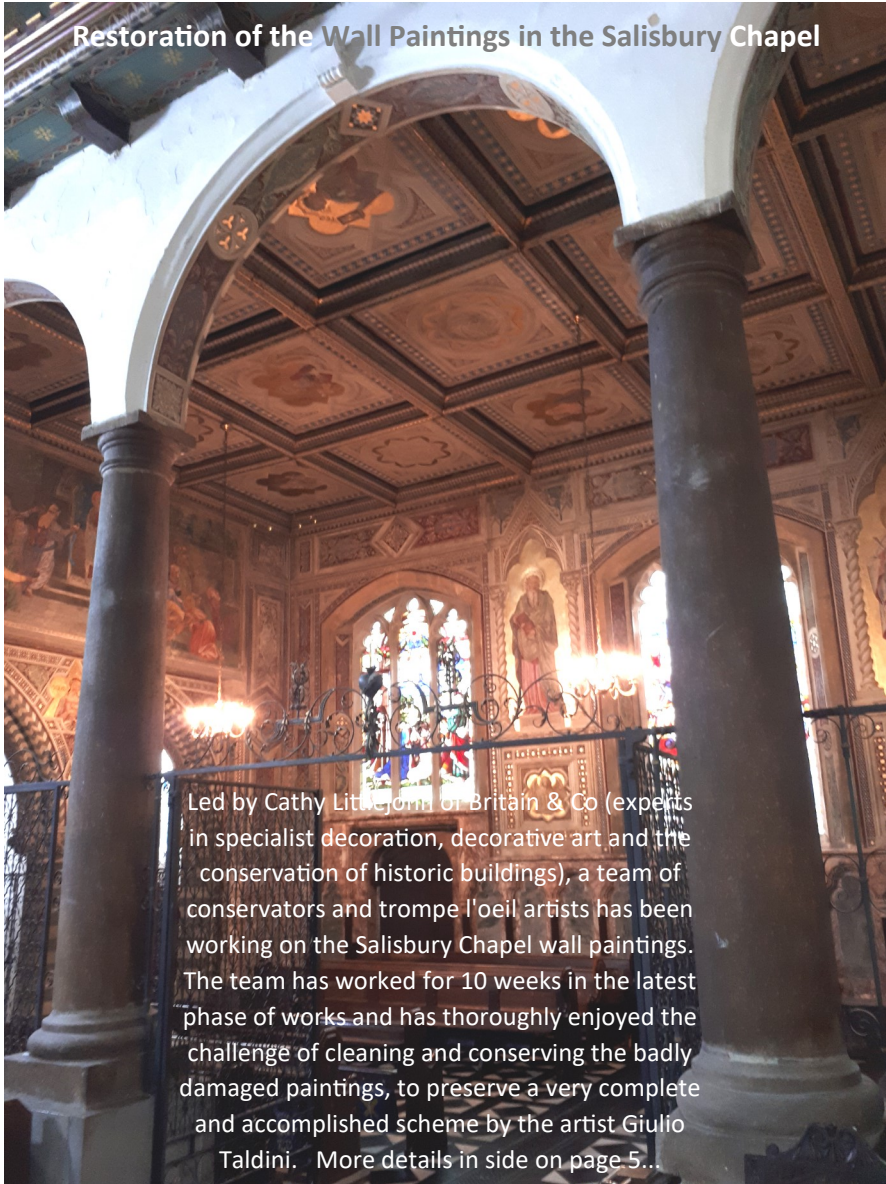


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Restoration of the Wall Paintings in the Salisbury Chapel



Led by Cathy Littlejohn of Britain & Co (experts in specialist decoration, decorative art and the conservation of historic buildings), a team of conservators and trompe l'oeil artists has been working on the Salisbury Chapel wall paintings. The team has worked for 10 weeks in the latest phase of works and has thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of cleaning and conserving the badly damaged paintings, to preserve a very complete and accomplished scheme by the artist Giulio Taldini. More details in side on page 5...



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