



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSED

May 2019

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



**BISHOP'S
HATFIELD**

Letter to the parish from Alison Churchouse on leading our churches into growth

Why should we try and grow our churches?

First, we may need to consider a couple of questions.

What is church?

Why do we come to church?

The answers are likely to be different for different people and that is more than alright. One of the beauties of being human is that we are all individuals.

For many, the word church will conjure up that architecturally beautiful but slightly chilly building without a toilet which we attend on a Sunday morning. However, the word "church" is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, which is defined as "an assembly" or "called-out ones." The root meaning of 'church' is not that of a building, but of people.

There is a shift away from 'church' necessarily involving a Sunday morning. In our ever-changing world of culture and society, the demands on our time are no longer restricted to 9 – 5 Monday to Friday, and work and leisure activities continue into the weekend in much the same way as the rest of the week. Sundays do not suit everyone as a time to come together to help us feel closer to God and we look at ways to come together at other times.

So why come to church in any sense of the word? There will be a reason or reasons why we attend church initially and these often form part of our faith journey but evolve and develop with time. It could be that as a child you were taken to

church and so that idea of faith became part of your early make up. It might be that you came to church following a bereavement to seek comfort and hope. It might be that in our world where extended families living in close proximity to one another are rare, that you came seeking a community, friendship, acceptance and love. It might be that you just felt something was missing and wanted to explore what church, through the love of God and teachings of Jesus could bring to you. It might be that you are seeking time out of this busy and often materialistic world to be more peaceful and spiritual.

Church can sometimes seem like an established club to which is difficult to gain membership. This should not be the case. At St Etheldreda's and St Luke's we have been working hard on getting our welcome right, for all are welcome and there is no exclusivity.

But, the overriding reason why we should grow our churches and encourage others to attend - is to share; share what we have found – joy, love, hope, peace, inclusivity, worship, guidance, friendship, comfort, fulfilment to name but some.

If you would like to explore what coming to church could mean to you, we will be running some short courses designed to help explore what the Christian faith is in a non-judgmental way with no obligation to commit. If you would like details of the 'Start' Courses please contact Father Darren or the team office. Alternatively, please see inside for a list of weekly services - you are welcome to attend any service at St Etheldreda's or St Luke's and we welcome newcomers asking for support.

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 Prayer

Wednesday:

10am: Holy Communion

Thursday:

9am: Morning Prayer

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)

May Weddings:

4th May: Oliver Moore and Rosalind Wilson

27th May: Andrew Riches and Rebecca Duit

May Baptisms:

11th May: Bradley Theodore Campbell

Bailey Jade Maureen Penny-Zilelides

25th May: Harley James Fitt-Sterling

Please contact Fr Darren to book your Wedding or Baptism

t: 01707 256638 e: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

What's on in May at St Etheldreda's & St Luke's Churches

7th May 7.30 pm "Start" Enquirers Course at St. Etheldreda's

14th May 7.30 pm "Start" Enquirers Course at St. Etheldreda's

21st May 7.30 pm "Start" Enquirers Course at St. Etheldreda's

21st May 7.30-9.30pm WH Interfaith group. Faith and Politics at Hatfield Fire station.

28th May 7.30 pm "Start" Enquirers Course at St. Etheldreda's

30th May 8.00pm Team Ascension Day service

30th May-9th June Thy Kingdom Come

What's on in May in the Bishop's Hatfield Team

14th May 2.30 pm Friendship Teas in The Annexe, St Johns Lemsford

*Join us at our afternoon Tea Break
every Thursday at 2-3pm at Angie's Deli
The Broadway, Old Hatfield (cost from £1.80 per cup)*

Father Darren Collins, Team Rector

The Rectory, 1 Fore Street, Old Hatfield

Hertfordshire AL9 5AN

Tel: 01707 256 638

Email: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Team Office

Open Saturdays: 9am – 10am

12 Fore Street

Old Hatfield

Hertfordshire AL9 5AN

Tel: 01707 260 800

Refocused Editor: maryrathbone@icloud.com

Email: bhteamoffice@gmail.com

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What's On at Hatfield House

Living Crafts

9 MAY @ 10:00 AM - 12 MAY @ 5:00 PM

Established for over forty years, you can meet literally hundreds of designer-makers from across the UK at this annual extravaganza promoting the very best of British crafts. With lectures, demonstrations and a packed schedule of practical workshops from origami to oil painting and papermaking to pyrography, Living Crafts is an experience not to be missed.

Chamber Music Festival Launch Concert

13 MAY @ 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Join us for a special evening of music around Hatfield House, launching the 2019 Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival. This unique promenade-style event comprises a veritable feast of artists, repertoire and locations.



Our journey will take in sounds from the fascinating and unique musical archives of Hatfield House, together with themes from this year's festival (revealed on the night) with music by Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Byrd, Tallis, Dowland and Ravel. Artists joining us for this special evening include the Navarra Quartet, Guy Johnston (cello), John Mark Ainsley (tenor), William Whitehead (organ), William Vann (piano) and members of the Hertfordshire Chorus directed by David Temple.

Community Day and Wellness

18 MAY @ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Join us for another community event at Hatfield House on Saturday 18th May.

Pump Gym Hatfield and Yoga Herts Hertfordshire will be joining us in the Stable Yard and on the Cricket Pitch .

More Info: www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events/
01707 287010 e: visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk

Music events coming up

Choir and Brass—St Etheldreda's Church

May 5th—4pm

A varied programme from the Da Capo Brass ensemble led by Richard Harris, with joint contributions from St Etheldreda's Choir, including Gabrieli and Rutter.

Free Admission

Tea and cakes to follow

Y.E.S! - St Etheldreda's Church

(Young Eth's Singers)

June 9th—4pm

A wonderful selection of music from our highly regarded junior choir.

Free Admission.

Tea and cakes to follow

Hatfield Chamber Orchestra

St Etheldreda's Church

June 30th—7.30pm

A much anticipated return from this highly professional ensemble with a stunning programme.

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Mozart | Sinfonia Concertante |
| Haydn | Symphony No. 100 |
| Barber | Adagio |
| Beethoven | Symphony No.2 |

Tickets: £10/£8 (OAP)/£3 (children)

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The King's Men – Reflections,

Richard Morton

I was lucky enough to be able to enjoy the superlative music making of the King's Men when they sang in St Eth's a few weeks ago and the event sparked off a few thoughts and reminiscences.

Firstly, of course is the fact that the men are extraordinarily young with an average age of about 20. They are all undergraduates working for degrees as well as devoting two or three hours every day to making music. This also means that the composition of the choir changes every year and that nobody sings for more than three years. With all this in mind the level of musicianship and professionalism becomes even more astonishing and a huge tribute to the English choral tradition. Many members of Kings College go on to make international careers in music and I'm sure that one or two of the men who sang for us will continue this record.

Secondly, you may have noticed that the 'King's Men' are all...men – even the astonishing altos we heard. Most English cathedrals now have a girls' choir and some like St Paul's have one or two contraltos, but King's remains an all-male bastion. There are rumours that a girls' choir will start very soon but it will I think be a few years before we have a visit from 'The King's People'. I suppose the fact



that the composition of the choir is set out in detail in Henry VI's will is not to be lightly ignored.

Thirdly I can let you into a secret having been a 'king's-man' myself a few years ago; they are not as angelic as they look. The demanding schedule of academic work and music does not totally exclude opportunities for drinking and socialising particularly during the summer vacation when most of the concerts and recordings are done. I have some hair-raising memories of climbing over the college roofs - good training getting up on the roof of St Eth's to clear the gutters - and even of the group throwing the chaplain (a willing participant, I swear) into the river – good training for dealing with the clergy. I'm sure today's men are much better behaved.

Flower Arrangers Needed

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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.

Contact: CarrieShannonUK@gmail.com

Calling all writers, or would be writers

We are looking for new ideas and approaches for your Parish magazine.

Would you like to write something for it about our local community, churches or Jesus?

maryrathbone@icloud.com

All content is subject to editors approval.

Who Moved The Stone? Jo Roscoe

Toward evening on that shameful Friday, Jesus died. His weeping mother Mary with her sister and Mary Magdalen had kept silent vigil throughout. The disciples and other followers had long since fled, confused and terrified.

But Joseph of Arimathea, a man of authority and a devout Jew, had stayed. Anxious about the Jewish Law that decreed a dead body should not be left unburied during Shabat*, he came forward and asked the Roman soldiers to take the body from the cross so that it could be prepared according to custom. First ensuring that Jesus was dead, they did so.

With light already fading, Joseph and the women hurriedly bound the body and buried it in a tomb belonging to by Joseph. Then they hurried home before darkness and Shabat overtook them.

Early on Sunday morning, heavy with grief Mary Magdalen came to the garden with oils and spices to tend the body with the devotion and care which the pending Friday Shabat had not allowed the women to do. Shocked and bewildered, she found the tomb was empty and the bandages that had bound the body were left in a heap.

Matthew 28 tells the whole amazing story: that Jesus had defeated death, and was among his disciples once more to encourage and instruct them in their mission.

The crucifixion of Jesus is an historical fact, but the resurrection—can that really be true? Frank Morison was an author and sceptic whose book 'Who Moved the Stone?' is an account of his efforts to disprove the resurrection. His conclusion is that the only logical explanation was that it happened! The book has been a Christian best seller since its publication in 1975. I recommend it.

Whatever the truth of what happened on that fateful day, Jesus' disciples were transformed and went on to boldly teach as he had taught them. Some of them died horribly, as he had done. But the flame of truth did not die and the Church, 2000 years later, attests to this.

*Jewish Shabat runs from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. All tasks, including the lighting of the Shabat candles, must be completed before darkness on Friday; and work as defined in the Talmud cannot take place until darkness on Saturday.

Hatfield Park Farm, Extract from Gascoyne Cecil Newsletter *written by Lauren Yeo*

The Farm is reaching the end of lambing now with just a handful of sheep left to lamb. We have had nearly 70 lambs so far, with around a third from our pedigree breeding plan. The two pedigree breeds we have focused on this year are British Berrichon and Manx Loaghtan. The Manx Loaghtan is a small, primitive sheep which is one of the rare breeds of sheep on the watch list of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. We took advantage of the glorious weather we had towards the end of March to put out the ewes and lambs on display to the public.

The next arrivals are Pygmy Goat Kids which were due in early April. We are all very excited as we have not had kids born on the Farm for over two years.

We opened on 26 March for the new season and we have already had some loyal visitors come back to buy season tickets after visiting last year. Our lambing marquees will be until Easter weekend, to allow visitors to see the newest members of the Farm up close.

We are looking forward to the upcoming season with the opening of our Takeaway Café after the positive response we had from the ice cream van last season. We also have some events over the next few months such as Storytelling Workshops, C-J's Birds of Prey and Shearing Demonstrations. www.hatfieldparkfarm.co.uk



When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

The Reverend Susan Stilwell

During the school holidays while my friends were meeting at the local Lido or gathering on Hampstead Heath, I was helping at a local residential care home. I assisted the hairdresser who went into the Home each week to 'beautify' the residents and I became quite adept at washing hair and handing the hairdresser rollers for perms and sets! When I look back, it was more than becoming adept at hairdressing – it was to do with getting to know and understand the lives and needs of elderly people.

Being in the company of my elders was nothing new for me. During my childhood and teenage years our large extended family mostly lived within a few hundred yards of each other. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins – a mix of generations had weekly if not daily contact. My parents, sister and I even shared our home with my 90-year-old great grandmother who was an integral part of our everyday lives, for whom we would run errands, sit with and listen to her numerous clocks ticking on her mantelpiece and watch TV.

One evening when my sister and I returned from an evening out, our great grandmother had died (although I should say she was poorly before we'd left that evening!). She had died in her own bed, in her own room at the centre of our family home – in the street she'd lived in for many years, in the where village she'd raised her own children, been married, grown up and born. Her body remained in the house all night and the following day (no rushing to call the undertaker in those days!) so that the family and neighbours could pop in and pay their final respects.

For me, these positive experiences of being around older people and knowing that dying and death need not be feared nor hidden away meant that I have embraced readily 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. Listening to residents as they tell me their life stories – their sadness's, their hopes and frustrations and the importance of their faith is 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.

It is estimated that around 16% of people over 85 live in Care Homes (this is a national statistic) but of course most people would prefer to stay in their own homes if it's possible. In the Parishes served by the Bishop's Hatfield Team there are 10 Nursing/Care Homes, from small private homes of 30 residents to much larger homes of 120 or more residents.

Over the last few months, members of our congregations have been exploring ways we can get more involved in our local care homes and to build on the work we already do. I know from the experience of my own Home just how important volunteer visitors are. Where I work, a team of over 20 dedicated volunteers bring life and energy into the Home and the lives of residents – running knit and natter groups, playing board games, assisting or leading singing (including hymn singing), encouraging people to chat together, listening to people's stories, or simply sitting and chatting over a cup of tea. The truth is that 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 residents living in Care Homes. The importance of volunteers cannot therefore be understated!

There are two myths I'd like to dispel about visiting residents in care Homes. The first is 'they're alright now – let the professionals care for them – we don't need to visit' and the second, referring to people living with dementia, 'there's no point visiting – they won't know you or remember you've been!'

Continues on page 7

Station Lodge Gates/Cottages

Excerpts from *Gascoyne Cecil Estates Newsletter*

Everyone who goes by the gates at Station Lodge, will be aware that they have been repainted recently. The gate pillars have been brightened up by the addition of colourful heraldry which has been blazoned on the shields held between the paws of the lions that stand on top of the four pillars.

Looking at the gates from outside the Park, from left to right, the arms are as follows :

1. CECIL impaling HOWARD (For William, Second Earl of Salisbury, and his wife Catherine Howard, daughter of the First Earl of Suffolk).
2. HECKINGTON For Lord Burghley's mother, Jane, daughter of William Heckington of Bourne, Lincolnshire.
3. WINSTON (For Lord Burghley's great-great-great-great-grandmother, Margaret Winston, who married Thomas Cecil of Allt-yr-ynys, Herefordshire).
4. GASCOYNE-CECIL (arms of Gascoyne quartered with those of Cecil, as allowed by royal licence following the marriage of the Second Marquess of Salisbury and Frances Mary Gascoyne in 1821).

The observant visitor will be able to find some or all these elements of the family's coat of arms displayed in most of the rooms in Hatfield House which are shown to the



public. They may be discovered in the Marble Hall (screen and roof), on the Grand Stairs (lions on the stairs), in the Winter Dining Room (chimney-piece), in the Main Library (ceiling), in the Armoury (organ) and in the Chapel (screen). They are also to be seen on the shields held by the gilded lions surrounding the clock tower, which were painted a few years ago.

Next to Station Lodge, 62 and 64 Great North Road or as it is now known, 1 and 2 Park Villas, has now been snagged with just a few external items that need completing. This has been a seven month project which has been completed on time and under budget and feedback from agents has been very positive.

Station Lodge and the two cottages next to it were built in 1878/79. The ornamental iron gates bear the maker's name "E. W. Turner. St. Albans. 1879".

I can understand how hard it is to witness the decline in health of a loved one or friend, but we mustn't underestimate the value of our continued contact. We could be one of very few people offering friendship and companionship to someone in need.

If you know someone now living in a Care Home, why not call their family or the Care Home and ask if a visit would be welcome? If you'd like to support care homes locally, why not find out more about the ways you can

help by calling the Home and asking what you could do to help. Alternatively, you may prefer to support what we're already doing in Care Homes, so do contact me if you'd like to know more:
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 to simply 'be' in the presence of another, that's all is needed.

We are called to serve others. 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.'

Matthew 25:35-36

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

Men's Breakfast Club

Maurice Dawson

John Barnard, who runs the very successful men's Saturday Breakfast Club. Arranged for Alan Kain to address the club Alan spoke very movingly of his visit to Gambia with his wife in 2013.

On visiting the outback areas, Alan and his wife were devastated by the extreme levels of poverty that prevail outside the main townships. The locals were initially genuinely frightened to see a white man in their midst but were soon able to warm to him. Alan established that a couple of the local inhabitants wished to go into farming and were very keen to purchase scrubland the size of a football pitch. As a private venture Alan provided £7,000 to enable their purchase to be made.

Along with mainly local women they worked ceaselessly to fence the area and set about clearing trees and vegetation. They then cultivated the land having made a borehole for irrigating the land so that within a couple of years, good produce was being grown from their labours and was being sold, with the profits therefrom all being ploughed back. Additional finance was gradually forthcoming from the registered charity set up by Alan, who was and is still making, regular visits to see his many friends on the farm. Alan's visits are always really welcomed with the local children embracing him enthusiastically.

It is worthy of note, that all the money raised both locally and from the charity is used to pay the workers a living wage and improve the efficiency of the farm through mechanisation. Security within the farm area and in relation to the finances is regarded as of prime importance and as part of this all the finances are handled by two men who ensure that no money is either wasted or misappropriated in anyway. This enterprise is so successful that a further area of land has now been acquired by the group and is being developed in an identical manner to the first farm in 2013.

It is also interesting to note the locals involved are mainly Christians or Muslims all of whom work together very amicably. Although Alan makes no claim to have strong religious convictions he does undoubtedly exemplify the practice of true Christianity towards his fellow men. This



together with his remarkable modesty and humility provides a wonderful pattern for imitation for all who call themselves Christians!! Although at no time on his visit to our Club did Alan make any appeal for donations, it was quite evident that if any charity is worthy of support this is undoubtedly one of the top ones—with minimal overheads and devoid of payments to expensive executives. In the light of the above commentary. As a Christian community, we could do well to reconsider our priorities on distributing some funds raised by our members.

For the record, this Registered Charity is called AFRICAN AGRI-AID (No:- 1159716) Details can be found on www.africanagriaid.org
e-mail:- africanagriaid@gmail.com

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Please contact bhteamoffice@gmail.com if you would like to receive Refocused by email.

Y.E.S! pose for photo in the Bloody Hollow Play Area after music training session

Y.E.S! relaxed at Hatfield Park Farm and Bloody Hollow Play Area after a Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) training morning in church.

A lot was achieved - in terms of voice training, learning music, discovering more about our church before fun at Hatfield House.

A special thank you to Amybeth who gave a fantastic voice training session, Hilary who produced the church quiz for the children, and Penny for her support and assistance all day.



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