



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSED

Mid July—August 2019

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



BISHOP'S
HATFIELD

Honi soit qui mal y pense — shame on him who evil thinks of it — is the motto of the Order of the Garter *written by Jo Roscoe*

Unless you are an avid watcher of society news, you may have missed that the Marquess of Salisbury—our own Lord Salisbury—had been made a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter in February this year. More likely you will have seen pictures and reports of his installation in St George's Chapel Windsor on Garter Day, 17th June.

Editor Mary Rathbone and I met with Lord Salisbury to talk about the day from his perspective. We were left in no doubt that he was deeply honoured to have received the award.

The Order of the Garter was established by Edward III in 1348, and supposedly was modelled on King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The Order now has several levels of Knights to accommodate members of our own and other Royal Families. But the Knights Companion are the inner circle of the Order who are solely within Her Majesty The Queen's gift.

Lord Salisbury described the day of installation, which took place in Windsor Castle and St George's Chapel. First the robing and pinning on of insignia. This took place in the Garter Throne Room, a long narrow room with chairs for guests, then two facing lines of blue silk covered chairs with each row ending with silk covered stools for the as yet 'uninstalled'.

The investiture was followed by lunch in the Waterloo Chamber. Then a long procession down to St George's Chapel for a service of dedication and formal installation of the new Knights Companion.

In years past new Knights Companion of the Garter were selected from the aristocracy and minor royalty. Since she became Queen, Elizabeth II has tended to select people who have been of particular service to the nation. Prime Ministers were often given the Garter as were other politicians. Now the list of Knights has broadened a little. Lord Lieutenants of the counties, businessmen and more senior officials have begun to be appointed.

Story continues on page three ...



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)

Mid July/August Weddings:

19th July Thomas Mattins and Lillie Adams

9th August Henry Fraser and Georgia Reilly

10th August Nicolas Loridan and Mirette El Rafie

Mid July/August Baptisms:

28th July Isabel Nieve Hudson at St Lukes

Brandon Kyle Hudson at St Lukes

4th August Hugo Thomas Webberley-Brant

10th August Amelia Rose Latimer-McKee

Please contact Fr Darren to book your Wedding or Baptism

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

What's on in July/August in the Bishop's Hatfield Team

13th July 10.30am Summer Fete at St Michael's & All Angels Church

21st July 3pm Eden Consort Concert at St Etheldreda's Church

3rd August 8am Men's Breakfast at St Michael's & All Angels Church

3rd August 10am Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church

4th August 3pm Informal concert Chris Goward and Mary Anstey at St Etheldreda's Church

13th August 2.30pm Friendship Teas at St John's Church Lemsford Annexe

17th August 3pm Songs from the stage and screen at St Etheldreda's Church

Jill Sergiou and Amybeth Smith – vocal soloists accompanied by Jill Knight.

Tea and cakes to follow.

Father Darren Collins, Team Rector

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What's On at Hatfield House mid Jul—Aug

13 JULY @ 4:30 PM - 10:30 PM

BATTLE PROMS

14 JULY @ 12:00 PM - 10:30 PM

FOLK BY THE OAK

20 JULY @ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

COMMUNITY DAY – CHILL OUT ON THE CRICKET PITCH

A summer day out with free entry to Hatfield Park. Bring along your friends, family, picnic chairs and blankets, and get involved in a number of free garden games at your own leisure on the Cricket Pitch. We will have a BBQ selling tasty burgers and summer food from 11:30am-3pm along with a quirky Tuk Tuk selling gin, soft drinks, coffee and ice cream.

26 JULY - 28 JUL

THE GAME FAIR 2019



3 AUGUST @ 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

KILLER AT THE CASINO- MURDER MYSTERY DINING EXPERIENCE

11 AUGUST @ 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM

14 AUGUST @ 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

THEATRE IN THE PARK – TREASURE ISLAND

16 AUGUST @ 10:00 AM - 18 AUGUST @ 5:30 PM

ART IN CLAY

21 AUGUST @ 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

22 AUGUST @ 6:45 PM - 24 AUGUST @ 10:00 PM

LUNA CINEMA

31 AUGUST @ 5:30 PM - 10:15 PM

CLASSIC IBIZA

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

The Order of the Garter

Continuing story from page 1

It is difficult to find words to give Lord Salisbury's sense of the specialness of the occasion: the music, the trumpets, the voices of the choir, the glitter of gold, and the brightness of the banners. Breath-taking in its magnificence, yet humbling. Afterwards, disrobing and then relaxing over tea among friends old and new, the room filled with the afterglow of what had gone before, happy and joyous in each other's company.

Lord Salisbury, Marquess and Knight Companion of the Garter, could not think why he should receive this additional honour; the paragraph below gives a clue...

The Marquess has a substantial list of achievements to qualify him for this gift from the Queen: Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, former MP in the House of Commons, Leader in the House of Lords until his retirement, an interest in Anglo-Irish affairs and in particular support following the Omagh bombing. He admitted to taking some pride in his masterminding of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations during which she looked radiantly happy. Although the regatta was marred by torrential rain, she refused to leave the upper deck. The day was an obvious delight for her and was watched by half the world's population on TV. It was a gift to the nation and a very personal one to her.

We should also explain that the Garter's motto is traditionally based on a story that whilst dancing with the King his lady partner's garter fell down to her ankle. Teased with humorous, but ribald, remarks the king defended the lady by declaring 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' or 'shame to hear you who thinks ill of it'.



Double rainbow appears in sky over St Eth's

Mary Rathbone, Reader

Considered a symbol of transformation and sign of good fortune in eastern cultures, a glorious double rainbow made a magnificent appearance over St Etheldreda's church at the end of May this year.

How authentic this eastern understanding of the double rainbow is we cannot say. But we can say that transformation is definitely occurring in our churches: with St Eth's plans for refurbishment advancing well, St Eth's choir growing from strength to strength, a steady increase in visitors, and St Luke's radically transformed into a Night Shelter for the homeless during the last two winters. Even this magazine has been transformed with improved quality coloured paper throughout.

But, the most amazing transformation, for me personally, has been in myself! Having joined St Eth's seven years ago, in a very poor state of health, my life has been transformed beyond belief. Through the love of Jesus, alive in the kindness and care of people there and at St Luke's, I gradually started to regain my health. Then, most surprisingly, felt that God was calling me to ministry.

After a period of discernment (a time during which your faith and calling is tested) I was called to train as a lay minister, which means that I was taught how to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work. On 7th July 2019, after three years of studying with theological college, I received the Bishop's license to serve our parish in these areas.



Many thanks to Brian for taking this photo, as viewed from Park Close, and forwarding it on to us

I had never in my wildest dreams considered this was something that I would, or could, aspire to. And, although the training was not without challenges, the end result is a significant transformation in my mind, body, spirit and well being. The life that had become a struggle, now sparkles—well apart from the occasional blip! The body that felt like it was finished, is now fit. The mind that was troubled and anxious, is calm and content. The spirit that was jaded and tired, has reached astonishing new heights of awareness. Although I still have a long way to go, I realise that God's grace has been quietly alive and working in my life.

The journey I am on is clearly not everyone's cup of tea, but through faith in Jesus we can all be transformed, in different ways to suit individual lives. He said *'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest'*. I went to Christ weary with heavy burdens and he gave me rest. How about you, do you carry heavy burdens? Would you like to be given rest?

An easy way to help build a relationship with Jesus is by spending just 10 minutes each day at this website: www.pray-as-you-go.org. You can find there inspiring prayer sequences for every day of the year. There are lots of other ways to transform lives through Christ. So, why not come along to any of our many events and services listed on page two—there will always be someone available to chat more about these things.

St Eth's is open throughout the day (Tuesday—Sunday) in the summer and St Luke's is open Saturdays and Sundays all year round. Whether you visit to find Jesus, admire the architecture, have quiet time alone or companionship, you will find a warm welcome awaits you and possibly the good fortune of transformation in your life too.

Mindful of Mental Health Awareness

Reverend Fiona Souter

Acting Chaplain, University of Hertfordshire

I am irrepressibly happy. That might not be the most sensitive thing to say on the subject of mental health. In my first year of curacy (training for a C of E priest) my boss wrote that I had a 'naturally sunny personality'. What, grumpy old irritable and irrational me? With a temper that can singe eyebrows at a hundred yards? Hmpf. I didn't think so.

Yet what he was saying, when I thought about it, was true: my default setting is happy – bright and bubbly; fun and feisty. I am truly blessed. It's a gift. I may break down sometimes, but it's not long before I am back at the steering wheel of an imaginary sunny yellow, open top car, sailing through life with a grin on my face and the wind in my hair.

But what if your default setting is depression? What if your default setting is crushing anxiety? We are generally waking up to the fact that, like any other part of the human body, the brain can be defective. Not all of us are the lucky recipients of a sporty, fun set of wheels.

A few years ago I broke my thumb in an ice-skating accident. I didn't immediately rush to the doctor as it didn't seem very broken on the day. In fact, I finished the

synchronised skating practice session before even getting to the ice pack. But the next day, in place of my thumb, was a purple, plum-like appendage. It was most definitely broken. The doc sent me off to hospital and after a few weeks in a splint and some physio, I had my thumb back.



It would never have occurred to me not to go to the doctor and get help. I got flowers, sympathy and a whopping apology from the skating team leader who insisted it wasn't broken and I could finish the skating practice...

My point is this: we need to treat our minds with the same care as we would a broken limb. We need to find out what the trouble is and engage with the treatment. The physio I had for my thumb was eye-wateringly painful but without it I wouldn't have got full use of my thumb back.

Modern life isn't great for our mental health. We live in a world where the pressures are constant. Technology is a blessing and a curse. We can be constantly bombarded with images of the seemingly perfect, excruciatingly happy lives of others and have little way of discerning the fake from the factual.

But we can all be the engineers of our own wellbeing. We can start to examine how we are treating our bodies and our minds. We can stop and MOT our lives. If the brake pads are wearing thin, we can get them replaced before they seize and damage is done. We can let our engines cool down occasionally and make sure we have the right fuel.

I don't actually have a sunny yellow sports car. But I do have a sunny yellow life and do lots of sensible, even boring things to try to keep it that way. It might not be possible for everyone to share the same journey as me, but sticking your keys in the ignition and working out how to get to your ideal destination is a great place to start.

This post was adapted from Rev. Fiona's blog, you can view more posts here: [https:// unichaplain .wordpress. com/about/](https://unichaplain.wordpress.com/about/)

The Reverend Sue Stillwell offers suggestions on organisations which might be able to help with mental health issues

MIND in Herts have an office in St Albans;
tel: 01727 865070.

Local NHS Mental health services '**As one**' are based in Hatfield. If you have an urgent mental health problem call them on 0300 777 0707 or hpft.spa@nhs.net

If you just need someone to talk to, contact a **Samaritan**, anytime, day or night.
Call for free on 116123 or email jo@samaritans.org.

For more general information contact the **Mental Health Foundation** www.mentalhealth.org.uk or **SANE** www.sane.org.uk or **MIND** www.mind.org.uk.

Your local GP may be able to offer you support and refer you to the right services for you.

Prayer Retreats at St Etheldreda's Church

Reverend Penny Thomson

Throughout the ages the Christian tradition has offered Prayer Retreats as an important part of spiritual formation. People will travel many miles, at much cost, for such retreats and the opportunity to draw closer to God.

For me, a Prayer Retreat allows me to fully immerse myself in listening to God – it is not so much about telling God things and asking for prayers for others – instead this is a time to be receiving from God through the Holy Spirit. I feel refreshed, batteries re-charged and calmly able to continue my journey after a time spent in focused prayer. Some people pray during a retreat, others bring paints, some sew or knit and others bring a book to read. A retreat can be many things, but the essence is to do whatever helps you to come into God's presence, to receive from him and to be encouraged in our Christian journey by the experience.



People have been praying at St Etheldreda's Church for almost 1000 years and no-one who comes through the door can fail to be moved by the sense of people coming into God's presence on a regular basis in this sacred place. For this reason we held our first Prayer Retreat at St Eth's as part of the recent 'Thy Kingdom Come' week of prayer.

The retreat began with Morning Prayer followed by a short reflection on the practice of a prayer technique known as Centring Prayer which helps us stay focused on God and to listen and receive from him. We prayed in the many varied church spaces: Salisbury Chapel, Brocket Chapel, St Etheldreda's Chapel and the main body of the church for 30 minutes. Coffee, cakes and reflection about what we had discovered in prayer that morning was followed by another time in prayer. The retreat closed by celebrating the Eucharist together.

This initial approach to retreats in St Eth's has given us hope that it could be a regular thing and we plan to offer further retreats during the year and at different times of the day to allow for people's work patterns. If you've always liked the idea of a Prayer Retreat, but not the travel or cost, then watch this space for details of more local retreats.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WELCOME VISITORS TO ST ETH'S DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Are you interested in joining our welcoming team? It is a rewarding way to spend an afternoon greeting visitors from all over the world. You don't have to be a member of the congregation. Maybe you have an interest in the architecture or history of the building and would like to share your enthusiasm? Volunteers can work singly or in pairs and can choose days that suit them. Our rota runs from Wednesday to Sunday, 2pm to 5pm each week. You can opt to help on individual days or more frequently. Training is given, so don't worry if you have not done this before.

If you would like to help, please contact:

Hilary Morton on 07879 617467

Tail End.....News from the Bellringers

Last year we rang the bells for 17 weddings – the highest for a number of years. This year we've already rung for two weddings and have several more booked in. We often have to rely on ringers from other towers to help us out – especially on Bank Holiday weekends when many of our own ringers are away. On Monday 27 May we rang a 'Devon 60' on six bells for the wedding. This originated in the West Country and essentially consists of ringing 60 different sequences on six bells with no two sequence of the order of the bells the same. Both Oscar and Sue (who are relatively new to bellringing) did very well and managed to keep their bell in the correct place throughout.

Attendance on Thursdays is still good with typically 10-15 ringers turning up and our regular visitors from Lemsford and Sandridge enable us to help our learners get through Plain Bob Doubles, the first stage in change ringing.

On Sundays we usually manage to get six bells rung – although occasionally in the past few weeks we've been down to four or five.

If you would like to learn to how ring – please contact us: Mary and Rob Goss
t: 01438-718038 e: mary.rob.goss@gmail.com

Music at St Eth's

So far this year in our St Eth's concert series, we have sung along to songs from 'Mary Poppins' and 'Mama Mia', delighted in the wonderful close harmonies of The Kings' Men and been entertained by Da Capo Brass and our own adult and junior choirs. There is much more to come, so please pick up a concert leaflet for more details and join us over the summer for an array of musical delights from various ensembles and soloists.

The choir are approaching the end of the academic year and will be taking a break in August. On Trinity Sunday we appointed **Cheryl Jeyakumar** as our next **Head Chorister** for Y.E.S! and **Emmanuel Nehme** and **Evangeline Harding** as **Deputy Head Choristers**. These positions of responsibility within our Junior Choir will be held for one year and give our young people an opportunity to demonstrate their organisational, caring and leadership skills within Y.E.S! and our Christian family. We are also delighted to announce that **Catriona Stewart** has accepted our offer of 2-year internship on our new '**Choral Director Training Programme**' which will start in September. This will be funded from our choral scholarship fund. Auditions are currently taking place for our Choral Scholarships and these will be announced in September.

Musical Events at St Eth's in Jul/August/Sept

The Eden Consort

From 3pm on Sunday 21st July

An afternoon of vocal music spanning five centuries. Come and explore our beautiful church in between three 20-minute recitals including music by Tallis, popular Spirituals and other Folk songs. Tea and cakes to follow

Chris Goward Clarinet—Mary Anstey Piano

3pm pm Sunday 4th August

Music for clarinet and piano to include works by Saint Saëns, Mendelssohn, Finzi and Joplin

Songs from stage and screen

3pm Saturday 17th August

Jill Sergiou and Amybeth Smith voice

Jill Knight accompaniment

Tea and cakes to follow

Thelma and Friends in Concert

7pm Saturday 21st September

A welcome return of Thelma for her 18th concert accompanied by a host of family and friends



We would like to thank everyone who has donated to our Choral Scholarship Fund to inspire, encourage and support our young choristers and organists and secure the future of music in our services at St Eth's for many generations to come. If you are interested in supporting our work with young people, please get in touch.

Sadly we will be saying good-bye to three of our choristers in July. Lewis and Jonah will be moving with their family to Bangkok, where their father James has a new job. Sam is also moving on, but not so far away; he has been awarded a choral scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge from September. Many congratulations, Sam! We would like to thank them and their families for all the time and talents they have shared with us at St Eth's, wish them the very best as they start their new adventures and hope that they continue to enjoy their singing and music-making for many years to come.

Jill Knight, Director of Music

e: jill.jkmusic@gmail.com t: 01707 894949

School Gardeners of the Year 2019 Finalists

Jessica Harding a YES! Chorister in Year 6 at Countess Anne is one of 4 finalists in the RHS Young Gardener of the Year.

Jessica has been a member of the school gardening club since



she was two years old. She became Head Gardener at age six because of her knowledge and enthusiasm. Jessica loves to share her skills with her friends, and encourages them to try eating raw, school-grown vegetables! <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Competitions/school-gardeners-of-the-year/2019-Finalists>

The Winter Creke

Peter Oakenfull

There is a long history of fruit growing within the Hatfield Estate. The old apple store, circa 17th century, at Orchard House and its great size is an indication of the apple's importance to the estate over the centuries. Part of the original orchard still remains, a few trees and just a fraction of what would have been seen in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The sad demise of the locally grown British apple has many causes. Many hundreds of heritage varieties have been lost over time, particularly through the mid part of the 20th century. This was compounded after joining the Common Market in 1973. Many thousands of commercial and small orchards were grubbed out as British growers could not compete with the continental suppliers and new regulations standardising varieties, French Golden Delicious comes to mind.

The 1885 maps of Hatfield clearly show the extent of old orchard sites with concentrations around Park Meadow and The Ryde areas of Hatfield, now gone to housing. The memorial garden adjacent to the main gates of Hatfield Estate was originally an orchard site at that time.

With the support of Lord and Lady Salisbury, a group of us, including Michael Clark, Derek Tolman, myself and the present Head Gardener, Andrew Turvey, are recording what remains of these old orchards and individual trees. Identifying varieties, grafting cuttings to new root stocks and replanting is a priority.

Identification of lost heritage varieties is difficult; many have not been seen for a generation. Even our experts, Michael and Derek, find it difficult to agree as fruit can vary due to soil type and growing conditions.

We often associate the phrase, 'DNA' with our own human form but you may be interested to know that apple DNA testing is the latest method in the armoury of re-discovering lost varieties. Co-ordinated by a group known as 'FRUIT ID', who also have a website of that name, we collect eight leaves from individual trees in June. They are then sent to the scientists at Brogdale, home of the National Apple Collection, where samples are tested and compared to known varieties.



After an introduction about apples, the help we are seeking from the parishioners of Bishop's Hatfield is actually in finding a very old variety of lost plum that we are seeking help from the parishioners of Bishop's Hatfield. Called the 'Winter Crack' it has been known for centuries and there are many references in the mid- 19th century from Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire of a small green, yellow plum that ripens very late, often in November.

There are also references to 'A fair-sized round, yellowish plum' often called 'cracks' due to the fruit cracking on one side after the first frosts and at which time they are said to be fully ripe, even hanging on the tree in December.

In 1629, John Parkinson's Herbal describes 'Winter Creke as the latest ripening plum of all sorts' and he made particular reference to it growing in Bishops Hatfield at that time. A more modern description is that it is a heavy cropper that flowers quite late with large pure white flowers. In August and September the fruits are green, yellow and quite sour. In October they become golden with red blushes developing over the gold with sourness fading and are pleasant to eat. As November and December arrives the fruit will crack and is described as being more suited to cooking.

We would love to find it again in the parish of Bishops Hatfield, so if you think you may have this lost variety growing in your garden or know of a tree, please get in touch.

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E-mail poakenfull@aol.com

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Coat of Arms of Robert Gascoyne Cecil, 7th Marquess of Salisbury KG, KCVO, PC, DL



Members of the Order of the Garter may encircle their Coat of Arms with Garter heraldry, which can be seen clearly surrounding the Marquess of Salisbury's shield as the centre piece of his Coat of Arms.

As well as this, during their lifetime, all members of the Order of the Garter are entitled to display their heraldic crests and banners in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Watch this space for further details on this subject as we learn more about how Lord Salisbury plans to exercise these privileges following his recent appointment by Her Majesty The Queen to Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

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