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OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSSED

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

October 2019



BISHOP'S
HATFIELD

Father Carl Garner—A Sower of Seeds

By Jo Roscoe

No, this is not a story about Harvest time – at least not in the usual autumnal sense. It is a story about Father Carl Garner and his Ministry in the Anglican Church. Editor Mary and I went to chat with him with a view to writing an article for Refocused. I think it would be fair to say that we were both amazed at the story he had to tell us, especially not knowing anything of his work and life in South Africa.

Carl was born in Slough in the war years. As a very young child he has memories of the Blitz and having a sense that there is a God, despite human madness – that feeling has never left him. His conviction did not leave him as he grew older and he found the words to express it in the Prayer Book and Bible. He loved the church and its worship.

While his mother was always a believer, his father for a time was a declared agnostic, but also a seeker and he eventually became a priest, just before Carl.

When Carl was 10, he emigrated to South Africa with his family under the postwar emigration scheme. The mild climate was good for his mother's poor health, and Carl and his brother revelled in the outdoor life and the abundance of nature.

He became a keen bird watcher and one day, out with his "Granny's old opera glasses", he was watching as a flock of flamingos come into land on a lake, when he heard his name being called. He looked around but he was alone. 'Odd' he thought but in his heart, he sensed he was being called by God, a feeling confirmed by hearing the story of the call of Samuel read at Evensong the next Sunday. Further confirmation came after a visit to Father Trevor Huddleston.

Interview continues on page 4

“ ... in his heart, he sensed he was being called by God ”



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Regular Services

St Etheldreda's Church

SUNDAY: 8^{am} Holy Communion BCP

9.30^{am} Holy Communion with Sunday School

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH:

9.30^{am} All age Eucharist

TUESDAY: 9^{am} Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY: 10^{am} Holy Communion

THURSDAY: 9^{am} Morning Prayer

7^{pm} Holy Communion or Compline

FRIDAY: 9^{am} Morning Prayer

St Luke's Church

SUNDAY: 11.30^{am} Holy Communion with Hymns

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26th October:

Thomas Rees-Davies & Amy Hipgrave

October Baptisms:

12th October:

Peony Rose Wilson-Guest

27th October:

Jackson Peter Afford

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

What's on in October in the Hatfield Team

5th October 8am—Men's Breakfast, St Michael's & All Angels Church

5th October 10am—Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church

8th October 2.30pm—Friendship Teas in the Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford

13th October 6pm—Burghley Sermon, St Etheldreda's Church

19th October 4pm—Meet at St Eth's for a Walk with Bible Readings

20th October—School Songs of Praise—St Etheldreda's Church

26th October 7pm—Gamay Ensemble Concert—St Etheldreda's Church

Father Darren Collins, Team Rector

The Rectory, 1 Fore Street

Old Hatfield

Hertfordshire AL9 5AN

Tel: 01707 256 638

Email: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

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Praying in the morning: A great way to start the day

By John Barnard, Lay Reader

As has been well publicised recently, we now offer Morning Prayer on Tuesdays; Thursdays and Fridays at 9am with a mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday morning at 10am.

I go along on most Tuesdays where I share the leadership of the service with others who attend regularly and on Thursdays where I lead. Mary Rathbone leads on Fridays.

The more I go, the more I get out of this short, semi-formal little service. It is a great way to start the day. I find it is an opportunity to open myself up to God. To pray in the quiet atmosphere of our lovely church and to listen to God through the liturgy, the readings and the silence. The more I listen or say the liturgy the more I

appreciate its beauty and begin to understand more fully the deep meaning of my relationship with God.

Reading the scriptures every day is a good pattern to get into. Over the past months we have been looking at the writings of some of the Minor Prophets – Amos; Ezra; Micah and Jonah as well as parts of Jeremiah. It is good to build up an understanding of where these prophets fit into the Old Testament history, how their messages from God are just as relevant to us as they were then. All done in half an hour.

Morning Prayer is like all habits. The more you get into it the more you find you need it. It is a habit I thoroughly recommend.

A walk with Bible readings

Whilst on our Parish Weekend last year and during our 'Thy Kingdom Come' sessions in the spring, I led a walk during which we stopped occasionally and had a piece of the Bible read to us to ponder. By popular demand, we are going to have three more during this school year the first being on Saturday 19th October starting at 4pm at the door of St Etheldreda's Church. It will take about an hour and a hot drink will be offered on our return.

All are welcome. Why not come along yourself and bring a friend or neighbour?

What's On at Hatfield House in October

5 OCTOBER @ 9:30 AM—4:00 PM MUCKY PUP FUN RUN

Join the Royal Veterinary College in the Mucky Pup family fun run (or walk!) in the beautiful grounds of Hatfield House and raise money for the Animal Care Trust to support our animal hospitals that care and treat over 25,000 pets every year.

5 OCTOBER @ 7:00 PM—11:00 PM BLACK DAY AT BLACKAWTON MANOR

An evening of excellent entertainment at the latest Murder Mystery Dining Experience

6 OCTOBER—WILLOW 10K

The course is ideal for all levels of runner, whether taking on first 10k or chasing the PB.



13 OCTOBER—TOWN COUNCIL RUN

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For more information on all events at Hatfield House

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

Father Carl Garner—A Sower of Seeds

by Jo Roscoe, continued from front page

After completing his degree at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, where Fr Carl met his wife-to-be Jane, he found himself an ordinand in the north of South Africa under the guidance of Father Trevor Verryn, a brilliant linguist. Carl was to learn New Testament Greek prior to going to Oxford, and to experience ministry in a rural area with many African congregations. When Fr Verryn fell seriously ill and couldn't return to the parish, Carl was licensed as a Reader by the Bishop over the phone so that he could go out to provide ministry and help distribute famine relief.

Carl then went to Keble College Oxford to deepen his theological and New Testament studies and then back to theological college in South Africa before entering into parish ministry. After some years he became chaplain and lecturer at the same college. The number of students was at an all time low. After discussion and prayer they felt that God wanted the college to go residentially multiracial (this was high-time apartheid) and that God would send the students. And he did. In record numbers within a few short years. It didn't go unnoticed. Government officials would make menacing visits, and there was always the fear of being closed down. At the same time great blessings were experienced both in the college and on parish missions.

Whether as an Ordinand, Reader, or Priest, Carl has been motivated by a belief in God and the Gospel of Jesus, the role of prayer, and a vision of the Church's transformative role in society. And this is where my Seed Sower comes in – sowing seeds of love and compassion to melt the hostility and fear on which apartheid had been built.

Opposite, on the top of page five are three of his amazing experiences, written by Mary, which I can only describe as going forward on the wings of prayer. But now I must turn to his time in the St Albans diocese

Returning to England to honour a promise he had made to his wife Jane, that they would come back to help care for her elderly parents, he took up a post offered by the then Bishop of St Albans as

Diocesan Missioner. Then, after several years he became parish priest at St John's Digswell. It being required that parish priests retire at the age of 70, he then became Chaplain to the Salisbury family at Hatfield House.

He became a familiar local figure. Unmistakably a priest in his clerical canonical garb, he offered a warm and friendly greeting to all he met. Now fully retired and having recently moved to live on the other side of the railway at Glebeland, he continues as a regular worshipper and clergy support at St Etheldreda's Church.



If I have painted a picture of a possible saint being amongst us, let me assure you of his earthlier substance. When we remarked, on leaving after more than two hours, that we must have run his throat dry and he needed a cup of tea, he responded 'or a glass of beer'.

A sower of seeds indeed—one of many working in Gods fields, their harvest offered up to Him for the reaping.

Called in a prayer and revealed in a dream, a parishioner is healed, and Bishop Tutu

by Mary Rathbone

Jo Roscoe and I sat for over two hours enthralled as Father Carl described his lifelong ministry. I would like to share with our readers three particular instances of God's hand at work in his ministry in Africa.

"You are late – we expected you sooner"

While Carl was an Ordinand in the parish of Fr Verryn, they felt called in prayer to find an African man who they heard had returned from Johannesburg, having become a Christian. Who he was and exactly where he lived was not known other than being in a remote area towards the Botswana border. With Carl at the wheel of a Land Rover, they eventually turned into a place to ask some questions, only to be greeted with the words **'You are late – we expected you sooner'**. The man explained it had been revealed in a dream that ministers of the Church would visit. This left a lasting impression on Carl.

Whilst a parish priest in his own right, Carl was challenged one day by the husband of a woman with severe dementia on whether he had enough faith to heal her. Carl was at first reluctant but after praying for guidance and the spirit, agreed to

lay hands on her and anoint her. She was violent and abusive, but Carl anointed her in the name of Jesus anyway. The woman was not cured of her dementia, but the two things her husband had asked for did happen. She became calm and peaceful and for the first time in years recognised her husband and spoke his name.

Do miracles happen? Well, something happened that day, and one of the unexpected results of it was a personal apology from some white parishioners to people of mixed heritage for being unwelcoming towards them in church.

While teaching in Theological College, Carl and a prayer group felt they were being urged to speak with Bishop Desmond Tutu, and tell him not to fear and that God had great things for him to do. Almost apologising for the disturbance, Carl called the Bishop. The response was immediate: **'Thank you for ringing. You have no idea how much this means to me; the police have just been here and arrested my son for anti-apartheid activities!'**

Amazing. Perhaps it is at the raw edges of life where people experience God's hand so clearly?

And perhaps our cushioned Western existence sometimes blinds us to the daily miracles also going on around us?

Depaul UK relaunches Nightstop service in Hertfordshire

The service, previously run by Herts Young Homeless (HYH), forms part of the national Nightstop UK network run by Depaul UK, and will soon be ready to host young people across the entire county.

By offering short-term accommodation, volunteers can give people experiencing homelessness the breathing space they need to get back on their feet. Staff at the service also help people find other useful services and permanent accommodation.

We are currently recruiting more volunteer hosts who are willing to take in a young person at risk of homelessness for one night at a time. They receive comprehensive training and also expenses when hosting. We also need voluntary drivers occasionally to take young people to a host's home.

If you have questions contact me Noreen Gilhespy on 07966 742924 or email: Nightstop.Hertfordshire@depaulcharity.org.uk



Space voyage at St Alban's Cathedral

Take a journey to the moon and stars this autumn with a spectacular space themed son et lumiere at St Albans Cathedral in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing.

This October, visitors to St Alban's Cathedral will have the chance to travel out of this world, walk amongst the stars and take 'one small step' on the moon. St Alban's Cathedral *Space Voyage* takes place from 28 October to 1 November and will illuminate both the exterior and interior of the Cathedral, immersing visitors of all ages in a dramatic experience of cosmic light and sound.

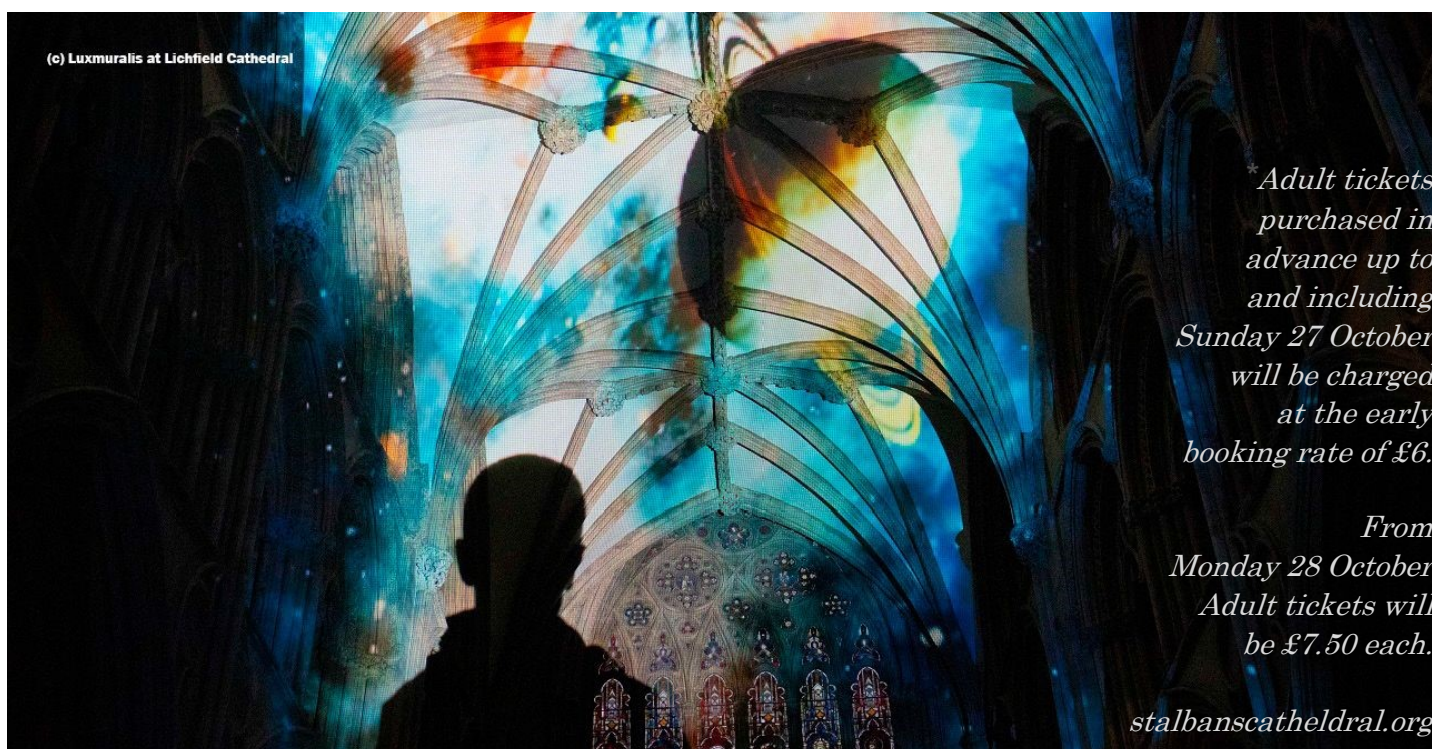
Produced by Artistic Collaboration *Luxmuralis*, the stunning installation sees the facade of the Cathedral transformed into a visual journey to the edge of the Milky Way and back. The longest nave in England will become an ethereal galaxy as light and music fill the huge, ancient spaces. And a special installation to commemorate the Moon Landing uses NASA imagery of the lunar surface allowing people to walk on the moon and take their very own 'One Small Step'.

The Dean of St Alban's Cathedral, the Very Rev'd Dr Jeffrey John, said, "Cathedrals specialise in awe and transcendence. They were built to remind us that we are small and finite in the

universe, yet surrounded by the incomprehensible grandeur of creation. A Cathedral is just the place to contemplate the mysteries of space and the place of human beings within it. This is a spectacular, unmissable experience which will dazzle your eyes and expand your horizons to infinity. Highly recommended for earthlings of every age."

Luxmuralis Artistic Director Peter Walker commented, "Art has for millennia been at the centre of humanity's journey, to live and learn and express. That is still the case today, where art allows us to explore and discuss and imagine in new ways. *Space Voyage* will do just that in a combination of sound and light and artwork that will transform the remarkable infrastructure of St Alban's Cathedral in a way that has never been done before, as we take visitors on a journey to the edge of the universe and back."

The installation forms the centre piece of a wider Space themed events programme at the Cathedral throughout October and November, including talks, music and children's space themed trails.



(c) Luxmuralis at Lichfield Cathedral

**Adult tickets purchased in advance up to and including Sunday 27 October will be charged at the early booking rate of £6.*

From Monday 28 October Adult tickets will be £7.50 each.

stalbanscathedral.org

A good home on offer to apples and pears By Adrian Smith

Thank you very much to everyone who offered their excess of fruit last year.

I shall be making two barrels of mulled cider again this year for serving after the Nine Lessons and Carols service at Christmas.

If you have any unwanted apples and pears, please let me know. They will be put to excellent use!

Windfalls are great too.

Adrian t: 01707 260615



Tail End.....News from the Bell ringers

On the third Saturday of each month, the St Albans District (part of the Hertfordshire County Association of Change Ringers) hold a Ringing Practice hosted by one of the towers in the district.

On August 17th, many of the Hatfield Ringers attended the meeting at St Paul's Walden, a lovely isolated church to the north of Whitwell. St. Paul's Walden Bury is the substantial English country house not far from the church. A home of the Bowes-Lyon family, it is best known for its connection to the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Perhaps what is not so well known is that the six bells at St Paul's Walden church are hung anti-clockwise whereas in most towers the bells are hung clockwise. This can be confusing and for many of the attendees at that meeting, this was the first time they'd rung on an anti-clockwise ring. So there were certainly a few errors made during the first part of the 2-hour practice session. However, boosted by some excellent tea and cake at half-time, the ringing for the second hour was of a good standard.

These District Meetings are an excellent opportunity for progressing the learning cycle and for meeting ringers from all over the St Albans District.

If you would like to learn to ring – please contact us... Mary and Rob Goss at:
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Eighteenth Century Traffic Jams and the Market Hall

By Steve Roberts

There is nothing new about traffic gridlock, and in Hatfield it became so acute a whole building had to be moved to a new site to ease congestion.

An eighteenth century travel/er, approaching Hatfield from London on the Great North Road, would first of all find himself passing through Hatfield Park. While this was for the first part of his journey as rural as it is today, as he neared the town there would have been a growing number of shops and small businesses – such as blacksmiths and wheelwrights – before he arrived at the first of the town’s coaching inns – the George.

At this point he had a choice of routes. If he was driving a particularly heavy wagon he may have decided to turn left down Back Street (Church Street) which, having a bend half way down, was less steep than the main road (Fore Street) and quieter.

Otherwise he would carry straight on, passing East of the parish church and then, with the imposing facade of the Salisbury Arms straight ahead, turn sharp left down Fore Street.

It was at the bottom of the hill that the real difficulties arose for it was here, outside the Eight Bells, the Chequers, the One Bell and the King’s Head, that the Market Hall stood.

The building, on stilts like hundreds of market halls throughout the country, acted as a sort of roundabout, as traffic did not go straight on

but had to navigate a sharp right turn round the building into Duck Lane (Park Street). To add to travellers’ troubles, they then had to take a sharp left into Lizard Lane, just by the Old Coach House, before carrying on through what is now Salisbury Square.

Like many market halls, the one at Hatfield was not only a market but also a place where, during the Parliamentary period of the 1600s, people could be married before Justices of the Peace, and where public punishments were administered.

One of these involved John Manlove who was in 1640 found guilty of stealing fruit and was ordered “To be whipped behind a cart up and down the street between twelve and one on the same day.”

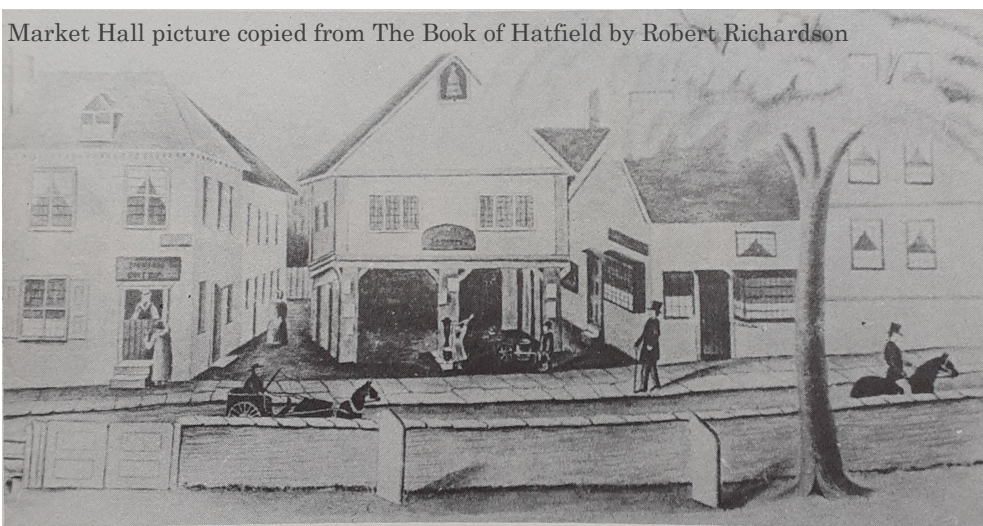
But, as traffic increased, so did the chaos and the accidents. For example it was recorded that “Sarah Raiment, being very aged and somewhat dull of hearing,” was run over by a malt wagon and died.

It was incidents of this kind that prompted the Turnpike Commissioners, to re-route the road straight on, so cutting out the dog-leg manoeuvre that had for so long caused so much trouble.

The Market House was in the way of these plans, so it was dismantled and rebuilt at the top of the street, next to the Salisbury Arms and opposite the Church gates. There it remained until the mid-

19th century. The hall was used as the classroom for the first National School from 1839 but then it was demolished and no trace remains.

It was replaced by a corn market sited near the Red Lion but this had a life of just a few years and Hatfield was without a market for the next 100 years, until one was established in the New Town in the 1950s.



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The Hair of the Dog

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BBQ Sunday in the back garden of the Rectory—September 2019



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