



**BISHOP'S
HATFIELD**

REFOCUSED

News from St Etheldreda's and St Luke's
Churches in Hatfield—May 2021

ASCENSION DAY 13TH MAY

ASCENSION SUNDAY 16TH MAY

PENTECOST SUNDAY 23RD MAY



And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased"

Luke 3: verse 21 - 22

Inside:

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**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke

St Etheldreda's Church Service

SUNDAY: 9.30^{am} Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY: 10^{am} Holy Communion

THURSDAY: 7^{pm} Holy Communion/Compline
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St Luke's Church Service

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Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke : Registered Charity No.1152011

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You can view all St Eth's services, in real time, or later at your leisure, online at:

www.facebook.com/StEthHat/

Join us for Morning Prayers online each day at 7.30am and Compline at 9pm



Editor of Refocused

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Welcome to the May issue of Refocused. This time of year is really important in the church calendar. We have now travelled through the season, of Lent culminating in Holy Week when we remembered the events leading up to the death of Jesus on the cross. We then rejoiced as we celebrated the miracle of his resurrection on the first Easter Sunday.

But the Season of Easter continues on after these events for a further seven weeks when we continue to celebrate the core of our Christian faith—the resurrection of Jesus. Because we are promised that this gives to all of us—a hope of life after death.

A very important date during the seven week season of Easter is the 13th May, Ascension Day. This is when we celebrate the

ascension of Jesus to his, and our, father in heaven. But he left his disciples with the promise that he would send the Holy Spirit to help them. A dove is often used to symbolise the Holy Spirit as depicted on the front cover.

Nine days after Ascension Day we celebrate Pentecost which is when the grieving and despairing disciples received, as Jesus promised and to everyone's amazement, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to learn more about what happened at the Feast of Pentecost you can find a very detailed account written by Father Carl on pages 4 & 5.

Why not join us in church on the; 16th May Ascension Sunday; and 23rd May Pentecost to celebrate these important dates in the Christian diary?

Find us on 

www.stetheldreda.org

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What's on at Hatfield House

EXCLUSIVE HOUSE & GARDEN EXPERIENCE

9 JUNE @ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

PARK, WOODLAND WALKS & GARDEN OPEN

3 APRIL @ 10:30 AM - 26 SEPTEMBER @ 5PM

TUDOR LEGACIES- MEET HENRY VIII, HIS WIVES & CHILDREN

3 May @ 11AM - 4PM

BEEKEEPING EXPERIENCE

9 & 23 May @ 9:30 AM - 3PM

HATFIELD HOUSE OPENING WEEKEND

3 JUNE @ 11AM - 30 AUGUST @ 5PM

HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES

1 March— 31 October



For more information on all events at Hatfield House

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

Gin, gin and more gin at Carl Russells in Stable Yard

We are now stocking gin from Wood Bros Distilling Co who are based in Oxford a small company run by two brothers on their farm so they have absolute control on the whole process from fields to the bottle. We are stocking their gin dry and sloe and their vodka. We will be offering refits pouches which are greener and save you money.

Also gracing our shelves are Foxdenton who are based in Tring, Bedfordshire. They are a family run business specialising in the production of fruit gin liquors and London dry gin. We are stocking Damson, Sloe, Raspberry gin liquor, English Garden and London Dry 48.

To compliment the gin we are stocking LSA glasses, lovely big gin balloons and wine glasses.

We are just doing take out bottles at the moment with the Covid situation ,but we will do tasters in the future.

Why not pop in to Carl Russell and learn more when you are in Stable Yard?



Find us on 

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Pentecost... written by Father Carl Garner

'Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem' (Acts 2:1-5)

Jesus and his Apostles were Jewish. Jesus worshipped regularly in the synagogue, and went to the feasts in the Jerusalem Temple. So it is not surprising that after his resurrection in Jerusalem at Passover 30 AD, and after his appearing shortly after in Galilee, that we should find him appearing again in Jerusalem, whither the Apostles had returned – back in plenty of time for the feast of Shavuot or Pentecost. This was a feast regarded as the culmination of Passover, and was known as the Feast of Weeks – for it happened 49 days after Passover – plus one – so that the feast happened on the 50th day – hence the Greek name Pentecost, '50th'.

It was a feast that was greatly looked forward to, with a sense of anticipation—and following the prescriptions in the Old Testament each day was formally counted –this was done at nightfall each evening with a short prayer 'Blessing are you, O Lord our God, king of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us to count the Omer'. An omer is a bushel or basket, and the original reference is to the daily collection of Manna in the wilderness. After the prayer a statement is made saying how many days it was in or of the Omer.

These days various calendars and counting devices may be used—somewhat similar in intent to an advent calendar. Jesus heightened the sense of anticipation by telling his apostles, shortly before his ascension, to stay in the city of Jerusalem until they were filled with power from on high, till they received the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit. And so it was that they were daily in the temple worshipping God.

And on the day of Pentecost they were all together in one place, with others of Jesus' disciples, in number 120. The size of the group, and the fact that it was possible for a large number of people to gather around them a little later, suggests that the place was in the Temple—possibly in Solomon's porch or portico: along a side of the Court of the Gentiles.

The feast of Pentecost was one of the three great pilgrim feasts of Judaism: and two main things were celebrated.

First it was an agricultural festival—the offering of the first fruits of the Wheat Harvest. One of the main readings was the book of Ruth the story of the widowed Moabite, gentile, and ancestor of king David, collecting the sheaves, and joining herself to the people of Israel. In Our Lord's time it was the major celebration for Jewish proselytes—that is gentiles who were in the process of conversion to Judaism. One of the rituals of the day was the offering of two loaves for the table of the showbread in the Holy Place—often understood to be a loaf for the tribes of Israel, and a loaf for the nations.

The second major thing celebrated was Moses ascending up Mt Sinai and first receiving the Ten Commandments. A careful reading of the Old Testament indicated that this happened 50 days after the crossing of the Red Sea. Not only were the Ten Commandments read in the Temple service, but the account of how they saw the sound and the fire, and the sound like a shofar—the ram's horn trumpet—and the mountain wreathed in cloud or smoke.

We are accustomed to translations that talk of thunder and lightning, but rabbinic interpretation saw the whole thing as a supernatural quasi-visionary experience. Not only was the cloud the cloud of glory, but the sound they heard and the fire or flames were seen as somehow tangible expressions of the word of God.

The Jewish writer Philo corroborates that this was a view current in our Lord's time: and he goes further saying that what they perceived implanted into their souls a type of hearing; 'the flame' he says 'being endowed with articulate speech in a language familiar to the hearers'.

It was as if the thousands who were at Sinai, and far too far away for Moses' words to be heard, yet heard and understood – even if some of them who had come out from Egypt were no longer familiar with the Hebrew tongue.

One of the other passages read was Ezekiel 1, with its reference to wind and cloud and fire and the glory of the Lord, and of his Spirit. And now our Lord had ascended to the throne of Godhead, and was obtaining for his followers the long promised gift of the Holy Spirit. The context for understanding was there: and would leave them in no doubt as to what was happening, they were being filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

The Hebrew word for Spirit is Ruach, it means Spirit, it means breath, it means mind: it means wind: Wind cannot be seen, but it can be felt, and it can be heard moving, and its effects seen. And so when the Spirit of God comes upon the disciples ^(Acts 2:1-4) they heard a sound like a rushing mighty wind: and they feel the Spirit within them. And they see what seem to be tongues of fire filling the place and alighting on each one of them: and they feel the warmth of the Spirit: and the joy and peace, and invigoration and excitement, and happiness.

Oh yes, they know. And it isn't a myth and it isn't just poetry: even in our own times people praying have heard the sound of wind, where there has been no wind, and felt a breeze blow upon them when there was no breeze: and some have seen tongues of fire come upon their friends. For we can register spiritual realities only with the senses we have got—yet of course what they knew and felt within, is far commoner and causes far less comment in our modern age.

'these people are drunk'

(Acts 2:13)

But there was one more thing: filled with the Spirit they began to speak in other tongues or languages *'as the Spirit gave them utterance'* ^(Acts 2:4). The noise caused a great number of pilgrims to gather around wondering what it was all about. Some just heard a babble and said in derision, *'these people are drunk'*. ^(Acts 2:13).

But despite the vast numbers, and all the disciples speaking together, something extraordinary happened: the hearers heard the great works of God being extolled in their own regional languages—languages of every part of the world whence pilgrims had come: And they were bewildered and amazed – which shows they realised there was something unusual going on.

'We are not drunk, this is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel, that God would pour out his Spirit upon all people' (Acts 2:15-17).

For the miracle was not so much the prayer languages of the disciples, but the fact that each was hearing God being praised for his deeds of power. And indeed this is something that has been recorded down the ages, and in our present time: and I have myself seen and experienced this.

That what happened was what can be called an example of the Spiritual gift of the interpretation of tongues ^(1Cor 12:10) is perhaps also indicated by the fact that when Peter stands up to explain, he addresses them all in a common language—presumably his own native tongue—the Aramaic dialect of Hebrew.

And his word are: *'we are not drunk, this is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel, that God would pour out his Spirit upon all people'*. ^(Acts 2:15-17).

The way he quotes the prophecy shows too that he believes that the portents and signs like the sun being turned to darkness and the moon to blood have already happened—fulfilled not just in the blood moon of November 29 AD, but especially in the darkness that covered the earth when Jesus shed his blood upon the cross. His message is that now is a day of salvation, forgiveness of sins is now: and the promise of the Spirit is now—for us and our children ^(Acts 2:39).

As we come to celebrate again the feast of Pentecost (on 23rd May) let us pray that we may always receive and welcome the gift of the Spirit, and experience its workings, and manifest its fruit, and rejoice in its charisms, and grow in it day by day as faithful servants of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

'On the day of Pentecost they were all together in one place...and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:1-5)
Alleluia!

Just Giving to Alzheimer's from Phil Robinson

'Because, this year marks the 5th anniversary of my mum, Barbara Robinson, passing away from Alzheimer's'



Well hello there St Etheldreda's family and friends. Time me thinks for an update from the mad cyclist up north.

And what an update this one is. Since we last communicated I have been hitting the roads and the turbo trainer hard and I am now sitting on over 2500 miles of training for the year so far. I have been off to see Blackpool Tower for a 110 mile outdoor ride, which was fantastic other than major issues with my gears and getting a rear tyre blow out at 24mph.

I then had this mad idea that I needed to up the anti to get the donations coming in. I decided to carry out a 24 hour charity ride on my turbo trainer.

During this 24 hour period I then had an even crazier idea to try and cycle up the equivalent height of Everest. I completed this ride on Saturday 10th April at 9am after starting on the Friday morning riding right through the night.

I ended up cycling 258miles and 30,600ft of Elevation. It was definitely the hardest thing I have ever done in my life, but could never of completed it without the support of friends and family.

It was just amazing that during the 24hrs I only had a period of 15 minutes that I did not have a person on cycling with me in my virtual world of Zwift. I was so humbled by the support I got from my Zwift community, also my local cycling club Sefton Velo and even more incredible getting back in touch with friends from school that I had not spoken to in 32 years who heard about it via Facebook and came online and road with me for an hour.

I have to say both dad and I and the whole family cannot thank people enough. I am so proud to say that I have already blown my fundraising target of £5000 out of the water and I still have 4 months to go before the event in September.

Please feel free to sponsor me at:

www.justgiving.com/philrobinson-lejog.

Just remember with a little practice, a little bit of effort and lots of love and support anything is achievable and the St Eth's family has really helped me get here.

Thanks again The Mad Northern Cyclist.



Bradhams Fantastic Flowers



We're so excited to announce the long-awaited opening of Bradhams Fantastic Flowers at 38 Fore Street in Old Hatfield. Owned by floral stylist Theresa Bradstreet, the long-anticipated Shop, Design Studio and Art Gallery hopes to become a firm destination on the map for visitors to Hatfield and Hatfield House.

Officially opening 11am-4pm from Thursdays – Sundays (and at unscheduled other times – if the door is open, just come in!). Pop in to buy fresh and dried flowers from a constantly changing selection, or pre-order specific flowers to suit your home and interior design scheme. Flower Subscriptions are also really popular! Why not set up a weekly order of your favourite flowers, which can even be provided with a new vase to suit your home. Or simply drop in with your own vase and Theresa will use that to create a bespoke arrangement for you.



Gift bouquets can also be delivered across many Herts destinations, including free local delivery in Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Essendon and Brookmans Park. Order in the shop in person, or 24/7 online at www.fantasticflowers.co.uk

If you're looking for longer-lasting flowers, Bradhams will also be selling a growing selection of dried flowers and grasses, both in ready-made bouquets and in bunches of single varieties. If there's a colour scheme you'd like to match, or specific dried varieties that you need to decorate your home or business, then Theresa will be happy to take your orders to buy dried flowers bespoke for you.

The new shop is also part Art Gallery, featuring suitably fitting floral and nature paintings by locally renowned artists Judy Bywater and Jo Bower, all available to buy, with many more to come in due course.

Hand-made artisan candles supplied by Herts entrepreneur "Art By Emily" provide divinely fragranced finishing touches to any floral gift, and might be just the thing to bring a touch of relaxing glamour to your home alongside the art and flowers.

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Helping Herts Young Homeless (HYH)

We started in the autumn of 2020 with just a few ladies knitting squares to make blankets for HYH to sell and raise funds for their charity.

Interest in the project quickly grew and we became a team of 30 ladies knitting, sewing and forming new friendships along the way.

We knitted our way through a dreary winter and have now produced a total of 16 blankets with more still in the production process.

The next stage is a handover of the blankets to HYH so that they can start selling them and raise funds from our efforts.

Knitting will continue by our group as time in the spring and summer allows, but newcomers are very welcome to join us—see contact details below,

What HYH do

HYH's focus is on preventing homelessness - from education in schools and family mediation through to supporting 16-24 year olds in their first homes or caring for adults of all ages who have mental health issues and housing needs.

HYH services empower young people to be able to deal with the difficult situations in their lives, giving them the ability and confidence to 'do it themselves' and ultimately find stability.



If you would like join this working group, then please contact:

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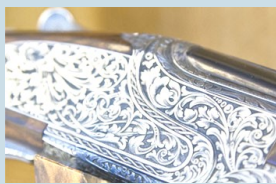
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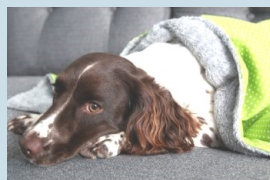
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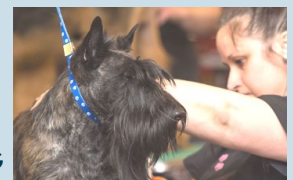
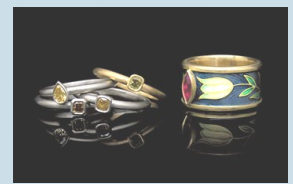
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Please contact—maryrathbone@icloud.com if you have any editorial contributions.

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Herts Young Homeless

Knitting is the new yoga (apparently)



St Mary's Church in North Mymms has been knitting blankets for the homeless for 5 years.

The blankets are for young people who are coming out of council care and setting up their first homes.

We are going to join St Mary's efforts and start knitting the squares that make up the blankets.

Is this something you would like to help with?

The soothing effect of knitting can be quite relaxing too—so it's a great win-win winter activity

Contact: maryrathbone@icloud.com



The Herts Young Homeless charity at Gracemead House, in Hatfield Town Centre, helps young people in Herts aged 18-24 who are coming out of care, to establish their first homes.

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