

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSSED

ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH
WITH ST LUKE'S CHURCH

December 2017 letter to the Parish
from our Editor, Mary Rathbone....



Dear readers, as many of you are aware we have been producing this magazine, Refocused, for over four years now. It is our way of reaching out in our community and letting you know what is happening in your local churches, St Eth's and St Luke's.

We are very grateful for all the support that we receive in this work. Many people are involved, from both church and wider community, and as the Editor I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help to make it happen. This includes: our amazing printers, STEPS; the small army of people who deliver to over 1,000 local homes and in particular those who manage the distribution, also the management of delivery by email; the local businesses who advertise with us and whose payments cover the costs; all the many contributors, in particular the front page leaders; those people who work closely with me in the editorial team, proof-reading and keeping me on track; and finally, thanks goes to Father Darren who leads us ever onwards and upwards in development and growth.

We are always looking out for more support however, so if you would like to advertise, deliver, or contribute articles then please do contact us.

This is a special issue of the magazine because, as a one off, we are printing an extra 500 copies for distribution in the wider parish. We would love to be able to distribute to the whole parish every month, but this is not practically possible. If this is the first time you have received the magazine and would like to have a regular copy, then you could always pick one up from the back of either church. Alternatively, you could have your name added to our mailing list: e:linda.barnard3@btinternet.com.

This issue includes a supplement

providing formation on all our Christmas services.

Pages six and seven contain a spread on our medieval history. We hope that it might bring to life the unique (and rather unsung) history of St Etheldreda's Church and Hatfield.

Did you know that a church has stood at the top of the hill in Old Hatfield since the 7th Century—and our own St Eth's since 1240? Isn't it amazing to think there has been a continuous Christian community over all those years here? Perhaps you might like to find out more about the historical treasure in our midst? You would discover that although it is historical, St Eth's is certainly not a mausoleum. It is a living church steeped in centuries of worship, prayer, celebration and loss in the lives of so many gone before.

At this time of year our two churches, St Luke's and St Eth's, pull closer together with a full diary of events. Our supplement provides details of all the services we are holding to bring our faith in Christ alive at Hatfield this Christmas. So, if you are churchgoers or not, why not come along and see what's going on? **All** are most welcome.



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: 7pm Holy Communion or Compline

St Luke's Church

Sunday: 11.30am

Holy Communion with hymns

Sunday School December 10th

Meeting at 9.20am in St Eth's Church Hall

Weddings in December 2017

December 9th Antony Tindale and Penny Stokes

December 16th Matthew Simson and Hannerie Hay

Please contact Fr. Darren —t: 01707 256638 —e: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk to book your wedding or baptism

What else is on in December at St Eth's unless stated otherwise

- 2nd 8.00am** Men's Breakfast Group at
St Michael & All Angels Church
- 3rd 6.00pm** Advent Carol Service
- 7th 8pm** Carol singing at the Eight Bells pub
- 17th 4.00pm** Nativity on the Farm
- 23rd 6.00pm** Nine Lessons and Carols
- 24th 5.00pm** Crib Service
- 24th 11.30pm** Midnight Service
- 25th 9.30am** Christmas Day Family Eucharist

Team Rector of Bishops Hatfield:

Fr Darren Collins—01707 256638
frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr William Clocksin
wfc@me.com

Journey Light Church:

The Rev'd Sue Stilwell
susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk

Curate: The Rev'd Dr Penny Thomson—07846 429737

rev@pennythomson.uk

Reader: John Barnard—01707 335074

john209barnard@btinternet.com

St Eth's Churchwardens:

Malcolm Caie 01707 586438
malcolm.caie@gmail.com
Richard Morton 07979 906330
richard@rm-architects.com

St Luke's Deputy Churchwardens:

Michelle Jervis—07584 897872
Alison Churchouse—01707 801567

Deputy Church Wardens:

Mark Jackson—07708 199591
Nicky Jackson—07745 630176

To Hatfield with Love

Hatfield Community Christmas Meal

Sunday December 17th from 4.00-6.30 pm

Food, Fun, Carol singing, Music—and more

Hosted by De Havilland Community Project

Howe Dell Community Hall (next to Primary School)

The Runway, Salisbury Village, Hatfield AL10 9AH

Great value Christmas Meal—only 50 tickets

Rev'd Sue Stilwell

e: susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk p: 01438 716338

Bell Steeple Keeper: Rob Goss—01438-718038

Choir Director & Organist: Jill Knight—01707 894949
jill.jkmusic@gmail.com

Church Hall Bookings: Church Hall is closed for renovation work and not currently available for hire.

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Treasurer: Mark Knight—01707 894949

knightmark2@gmail.com

What's On at Hatfield House

2 DECEMBER @ 7:00 PM - 23 DECEMBER @ 12:30 AM

CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES



Our "Christmas at the Movies" shared party nights take place in the magnificent 15th century Old Palace. On arrival at 7.00pm, you will be greeted with a Christmas cocktail and then seated at long banqueting tables where you will be served a 3 course Christmas dinner and half bottle of house wine. Following dinner, you can dance the night away until 12.30am with our DJ playing some of your favourite songs from the movies.

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd, Friday 15th, Saturday 16th & Thursday 21st December.

10 DECEMBER @ 7:00 PM

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

Join us for another memorable evening as once again the Old Palace will be filled with the joyful and uplifting sound of the Hertfordshire Chorus Choir. Get the Festive season going with a wonderful mix of Christmas carols and songs old and new, including a chance to join the choir in singing some familiar pieces. And don't forget to enjoy seasonal refreshments before the start of the concert

16 DECEMBER @ 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

STABLE YARD ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES MARKET

17 DECEMBER @ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

STABLE YARD FARMERS' MARKET

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

What's on in the Bishops Hatfield Team

Christmas Tree Festival St Mary's Church at North Mymms

Friday 1 December Preview Evening

7pm Mulled wine, light refreshments.

8pm Concert by Buck Brass Trio

Tickets £10—contact:

e: Jill Pratt prattmsm@hotmail.com

p: Brenda Harris 01707 655355

Saturday 2nd—Sunday 3rd December

Festival open from 10.30m-4pm with
childrens workshop, refreshments, cakes,
craft & book stalls.

Saturday 2 December 10am

Ramble leaving St Michael and All Angels Church

Saturday 2 December 12.30pm

Ladies Pot Luck Lunch at St Michael & All Angels Church.

All welcome, bring a small plate of finger food to share.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday 2nd December 2.00-5.00pm

St Michael & All Angels Church

Tickets £10 each, to include afternoon tea.

A further £5 will be payable to the workshop leader
on the day for materials.

Contact Frances Hartley on 01707 260137

Sunday 10 December 5.30pm-7pm

Journey Light—informal gathering to worship and explore
the Christian Faith at Howe Dell School Community Hall

Saturday 16 December

Team outing to Cadogan Hall

Sunday December 17 6.30pm

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mulled
wine and Mince Pies St Michael & All Angels Church

Sunday December 17 6.30pm

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mulled
wine and Mince Pies St Mary's Church, North Mymms

Wednesday 20 December 7pm

Community singing followed by mulled wine and mince
pies at St Michael & All Angels Church

Introducing Natasha Quinn-Thomas *who has kindly answered a few questions put to her by the editorial team*

So, tell us what brings you to Hatfield Natasha?

I am working at St Etheldreda's and St Luke's as part of a Church of England scheme to see what it is like working in a church setting. I come from North Wales and have lived and worked for a year in the East end of London, so St Eth's is a completely new side of ministry to explore!



How are you finding life at St Eth's?

My first thoughts about St Eth's was how lovely and welcoming everyone is! I have found it an easy place to settle into and feel that everyone around has been greatly encouraging and supportive. I love working in a place which has such a colourful past and feel that the building reflects the very spiritual essence of the worshipping community. I feel privileged to be able to spend a year here.

Why do you think that our readers should join us at a service at St Eth's?

To come and say hello! St Eth's is a building that attracts people from far and wide and we offer a great range of services. The best way to find out what we are all about is by popping along to worship with us! St Eth's is an incredibly accepting congregation and you will certainly feel welcome no matter what your background is.

Lastly, what do you think is the best thing about Hatfield?

Hatfield House is by far one of the greatest buildings and gardens I have ever seen. It is a wonderful place for walks in all seasons. Another treasure I've recently discovered is the St Albans Way cycle route from Hatfield to St Albans (and back). It's a great track for pedestrians and cyclists, especially with all the beautiful autumn leaves on the trees.

A message from Neighbourhood Watch about an increase in Purse Dipping/Pickpocketing in Herts

Purse dipping/ pickpocketing offences are possibly the highest ever in Hertfordshire, if a few more reports come in today we will possibly be well over 80 Crimes for October 2017.

This increase is possibly the attractiveness of stolen contactless cards, which can now be used for up to £30 five times a day, so, if a victim has a couple of those in their purse plus £100 cash the criminal gets £400.

If a gang of three offenders steal 5 purses a day at £400 a time, 6 days a week, 4 weeks a month that's £400 x5, x6 , x4 = £48000. Or £16000 for each offender. £48000 a month for 12 months makes £576,000. Why would you stop doing this ?

The other disturbing statistic is most of the victims are vulnerable, elderly females. That's a lot of our mums, grans, aunts and next door neighbours. We have to be vigilant and spread the word about this problem.

Here is some general advice for the Public:

DON'T GET DIPPED, KEEP YOUR BAG ZIPPED.

- Use a handbag that can be closed properly, make sure it is zipped up, so that it is more difficult for someone to open it and reach in to get your purse.
- Never leave it unattended or leave it in a shopping trolley.
- Be aware of people around you.

IS SOMEONE WATCHING YOU ?

- Always look after your Bank Card, never let it out of your sight.
- Always shield your PIN number when paying for items in shops or at cash machines.
- Never tell anyone your PIN number, it is only for you to use at Bank or Payment machines.
- Ensure your PIN number is not kept near your card.

If you have any information about Crime please contact Hertfordshire Constabulary via the Police Non-Emergency number **101**, or report information online at:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/Report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime.aspx> You can report Crime on this Link.



Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King! *By Jill Knight, Organist and Choir Director*

As I write this, we have just had another thoughtful Remembrance Sunday service at St Eth's. As part of the Act of Remembrance, our choir sang an anthem that I composed whilst we were living in Canada called "In Flanders Fields" with words from the poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae – the first Canadian to be appointed consulting surgeon to the British army. He wrote the poem whilst serving at one of the field hospitals in Ypres in April 1915. The anthem is dedicated to my great uncles, Walter and Arthur Blackwell who both fought in WW1. Walter was critically injured at the first battle of Ypres in 1915, may even have been treated by John McCrae, but died from his wounds just after the war; Arthur was gassed and returned home to his small mining village in South Yorkshire, never to work again and needing constant care for the rest of his life from his mother, his siblings and in later years, my own mother.

A member of the congregation at the Remembrance service asked if we were now turning our thoughts to preparations for Christmas. For me, these actually start in August, when I begin to consider the music that we will be singing for the Advent and Christmas Carol services. I play and listen to some new carols but try to

balance these with more familiar ones too, so that both the choir and the congregation experience the joy of singing well-known words and melodies but also have the challenge of learning and listening to something fresh. It may seem a little early, but in order to begin working on the music in November, we need to have all the copies sourced, ordered or borrowed by September in time for them to arrive ready for our rehearsals in November and December. This year, you can look forward to carols such as "Silent night", "Once in royal David's city", "In dulci jubilo" and "Bethlehem Down" but also hear some new ones such as "Huron Carol" by Sarah Quartel and a new setting of the words "Away in a manger" combined with "Dormi Jesu" by me.

Our young singers, Y.E.S! have recently organised and collected 35 shoe boxes full of gifts to be sent, via Link to Hope, to families in eastern Europe. They also have a busy few weeks ahead. They are singing at the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's, North Mymms on Sunday 3rd December. On Friday 15th, they will be singing at Hatfield House for Lord and Lady Salisbury, followed by tea, and on Sunday 17th, they feature in our Farmyard Nativity. Y.E.S! will also be singing with our adult choir in the **Nine Lessons and Carols Service** which is at St. Eth's on **Saturday, 23rd December at 6.00pm**. We hope you can join us at one or more of our services over Christmas to celebrate in carols, readings and prayers the greatest gift ever given – the birth of Jesus Christ in our world.



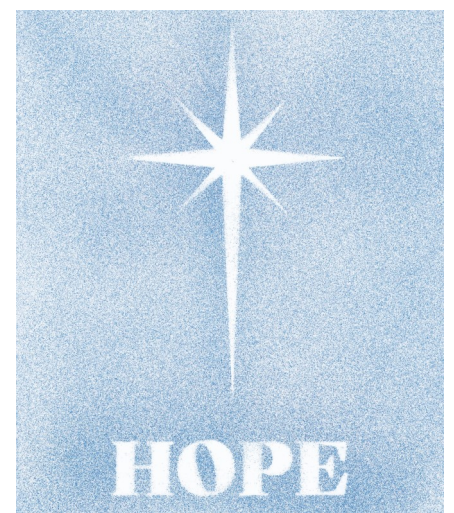
Hatfield Night Shelter Update *(continued from back page)*

There has been quite a bit of practical work to do to make sure that all the appropriate permissions have been obtained and that St Luke's is suitably warm, safe and secure for our guests and that they have suitable toilet and washing facilities.

Aside from St Luke's church providing the premises, many other churches in Hatfield have provided very important support, not least in the shape of donations and volunteers.

The Night Shelter will be open between 6pm and 8.30am. Outside those hours, St Luke's will revert to its use as a place of worship and reflection and our guests will be able to make use of other facilities being provided by the council.

The hope is that it will be more than just over night accommodation for the coldest part of the year, but the start of something better in the lives of our guests.



Cardinal Archbishop John Morton, *by Richard Morton, Church Warden*

You may have heard that our tower at St Eth's and the Old Palace were both built by John Morton who was Bishop of Ely in the late fifteenth century and you may have read in '1066 and all that' of 'Morton's Fork', an ingenious stratagem, devised by the same man, for extracting taxes from early Tudor nobility, but what else do you know about this extraordinary man?



Hatfield Old Palace today

John Morton was born into a reasonably well to do family in about 1420, in Dorset and after early education at Cerne Abbey went to Balliol College Oxford where he graduated in 1448. He achieved rapid advancement in both law and the church serving Edward, the eldest son of King Henry VI, and Queen Margaret as a trusted close advisor. In 1461 however the course of the Wars of the Roses changed dramatically after the Yorkist victory at the appallingly bloody Battle of Towton. Henry's court went into exile in Flanders and Morton, after being imprisoned in the Tower, escaped to join them for the next ten years.

Extraordinarily, on his return to England in 1471, after the murder of Henry VI, he quickly found favour with the new Yorkist King Edward IV and soon became Master of the Rolls as well as holding increasingly senior posts in various cathedrals. In 1478 he became Bishop of Ely, at a time when

Ely was a diocese with vast wealth and influence; no fewer than eight of its bishops having also been Chancellors of England.

It was at this time that Morton turned his attention towards the diocesan lands in Hatfield where, over the next five years or so, he built one of the great palaces of the day, the great hall we see now being but a small portion of the original. It was here also that Morton found a retreat after Edward's death, when it became clear that he did not have the trust of Richard III, and he makes a brief appearance in Shakespeare's play, conspiring against the new king.

After Richard's death at Bosworth, Morton's rise resumed under Henry VII, who made him Archbishop of Canterbury in 1486 and Chancellor of England in 1487.

Morton, now the most powerful man in

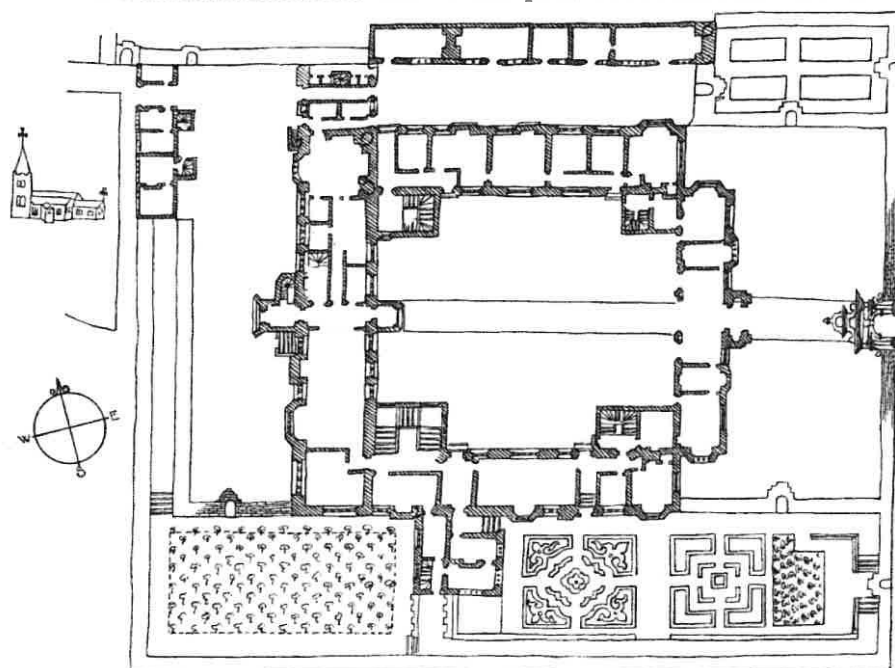
the country after the king, moved from Hatfield to the even more splendid palace at Knole in Kent from where he administered the country, devising the taxation system which bears his name and which was, over the next few years, to make him hugely unpopular.

His rise however continued and in 1493 he journeyed to Rome, to a Sistine Chapel ablaze with new frescoes by Botticelli (Michelangelo's work was yet to come) where he was elevated as a cardinal by the Borgia Pope Alexander VI. This was a rare honour indeed (there were only 20 pre-reformation English cardinals) but may not have been entirely a result of Morton's spirituality since he was one of twelve new cardinals chosen to bolster the pope's authority; one of the others being Alexander's 'nephew' Cesare Borgia. Cesare was the dedicatee of Machiavelli's 'The Prince' but might also have learnt a thing or two from Morton, the consummate English politician of the day.

Back in England, Morton, now by the standards of the time, an old man, continued to hold court at Knole where the young Sir Thomas More became his protégé, and retained his hold on government until his death in 1500. His magnificent tomb now lies in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral but strangely, for a man who held huge power over 50 years, straddling three bloodily opposed regimes, he is not now widely known and there has never been a full biography written of him.

Morton was only resident in Hatfield for seven years but he left his mark here, so give this fascinating man a thought next time you look at our church tower or the Old Palace.

HATFIELD PALACE From an old plan at Hatfield House C:1608



Is this St Eth's best kept secret?

By Mary Rathbone

I wonder how many of our readers know of St Etheldreda's Church in Ely Place, London? It was the town chapel of the Bishops of Ely from about 1250 to 1570 and built by John De Kirkeby, Bishop of Ely and Treasurer of England under Edward I. From 1316 orchards, vineyards, gardens and ploughlands were added, finally spreading over 58 acres (approx. a square mile). It was almost like an independent state. The Bishops entertained the great and good of the time there, including Henry VIII, at vast banquets which lasted for days.

John De Kirkeby died leaving his property, together with liberties, to his successors in the See of Ely. So the whole estate was administered by the See of Ely, outside the jurisdiction of the City of London.

In its day it was one of the most influential places in London. Today just the chapel remains, offering a haven and spiritual sanctuary from the Middle Ages. It is now hemmed in by the glittering wealth of Hatton Garden where gold, silver and diamonds are traded and millions of pounds change hands daily. It is the oldest church in England still in use by Roman Catholics and one of only two remaining buildings in London built in the reign of Edward I.

Back to Hatfield—a church has stood at the top of the hill, where St Eth's now stands, since the 7th century. The land was gifted to the Bishops of Ely in 1109. A new church was built in 1240 and dedicated to St Etheldreda, queen, foundress and abbess of Ely. From an early date, the bishops kept a manor house at Hatfield. This would have been a convenient place for them to stay when travelling to and fro between Ely and London, as well as being a 'country residence' away from London. It, latterly, also provided a safe haven, away from the hustle and bustle of London, where Henry VIII's children spent a large part of their childhood.

The Bishops of Ely also entertained royal visitors at Hatfield. For instance:

March 1211—**King John** passed through Hatfield

February 1303—**Edward I** spent a few days here

July 1309—**Edward II** visited

Edward III was at Hatfield six times, including the Christmas of 1336

Then around 1480 the manor house was grandly rebuilt in brick by **Bishop John Morton**. (The only wing surviving today, contains the great hall and kitchen, now known as the Old Palace). It was an especially important Tudor residence and so more royal visitors came to Hatfield;

Lady Frances Brandon, daughter of the Duke of Suffolk and mother of **Lady Jane Grey**, was born here in 1517, and then christened at St Etheldreda's Church.

Henry VIII visited in November 1522 the same month in 1524, and August 1525. In June 1528 he moved to Hatfield from Hertford 'because of the sweat.'

Princess Mary resided at the royal Hatfield palace with a household suitable to

her state as **Princess Royal**, until Henry's divorce from Katherine of Aragon in 1533. In December of that year her household was diminished, and **the infant Princess Elizabeth** was brought to Hatfield. A little later Mary's household was dissolved and she remained at Hatfield as a mere lady-in-waiting to the infant Elizabeth.

In 1538 the manor of Hatfield **was transferred, by Thomas Bishop of Ely to Henry VIII**, in exchange for other properties.

Princess Elizabeth and the young Edward seem to have passed much of their childhood at Hatfield. Elizabeth, left at the time of her father's death (1547), but had returned by 1548.

In 1549 **Edward VI granted the manor of Hatfield to John Earl of Warwick**. But Princess Elizabeth had become **so attached to Hatfield** that she petitioned against this action, as a result of which the Earl of Warwick returned it to the king in 1550. **The manor of Hatfield was then transferred to Elizabeth**, who gave other lands in exchange to the Earl of Warwick.

In 1607, Elizabeth's heir, **James I** offered to exchange Theobalds (the **Cecil family**

home) for the Old Palace and manor of Hatfield. **It has since remained and stays firmly within, within the Cecil estate** and has continued to receive many royal visitors, including:

1800, **King George III**

1846, **Queen Victoria & Prince Albert**

1909, **King Edward & Queen Alexandra**

More recent years have enjoyed numerous visits from **The Queen's** direct family.

All these royal people who have visited Hatfield over the years in connection with the Bishops of Ely and Cecil family, would very likely also have visited our church which, because of its history, has always had an inextricable relationship with the owners of Hatfield palace and House.

Hatfield palace was for living in and attending to matters of state. It was the church which offered a holy space, central to the Bishop's work. It was where all the important religious rites of passage would have taken place, as is still so today.

With thanks for contributions from:
Robin Harcourt-Williams
www.british-history.ac.uk/
www.stetheldreda.com



St Etheldreda's Church, Ely Place, London

That was the weekend that was *by John Barnard, Reader*

I may have mentioned from time to time that we were planning a weekend away for the people of our parish in October of this year. Well, the weekend happened. Rather than me giving a report, I asked a few people to give their opinion of 'how it went' and 'what they got from it'. Here are their replies:-

From Ruth and Steve Brayshaw

We arrived about 3:30pm at the conference centre not knowing what to expect. Our room was lovely with everything we would need over the weekend. After our delicious evening meal we all met up in the Chapel Barn, our assigned meeting room for a 'Beetle Drive' which we had never done before. We found it great fun, actually speaking to people we had only nodded to saying 'good morning' in the past. Prayers and different service were held throughout the weekend with lots of quiet time.

Activities were held over the next two days. We participate in making a glasses case; a bug hotel; singing and 'doing' a puppet show which was great fun and we laughed till we cried. We would love to have taken part in the other activities such as playing the ukulele, how to pray, robes and vestments explained, brass rubbing and colouring icons but time ran out. We came home feeling refreshed and nearer to God after such a lovely weekend, knowing our church family better than we did before.

An extract from the thoughts of Fiona Roberts

On the Saturday of the Parish Weekend there were a huge range of options of things to do. I did: building insect hotels, spiritual colouring and then the puppets, which was the highlight of the day! That evening we performed the puppet show and then we did a quiz, and evening service. On Sunday we had another morning service, breakfast and then there was a MAP meeting, a full service, lunch and then we went our separate ways.

John has asked me to be totally honest about what I thought about the weekend. I really enjoyed the activities on Saturday, but I felt I didn't have much to contribute to the MAP meeting (so it got a bit dull!). It would have been more interesting if there had been another teenager to keep me company!

Some comments from Chris Stratton

As I am a relative newcomer to St Eth's, my main reason for attending was to get to know people better. Whilst I knew that Jill Knight's talents would come to the fore in the choral singing, I had no idea that Steve Brayshaw was an expert on insect hotels. The Bible study with Penny was an opportunity to find out that I had come to faith in a very similar way to others in the group discussion which I found very reassuring. To win the quiz was another highlight, as was playing "Beetle Drive", which I haven't done for 30 years.

The atmosphere in the Chapel Barn for services four times a day, with time for reflection and such evocative music crowned the whole weekend. High Leigh looked after us very hospitably, and the whole experience was one I would thoroughly recommend. Don't miss the next one!

As for me, I promise not to mention the words 'Parish Weekend' until asked. JB



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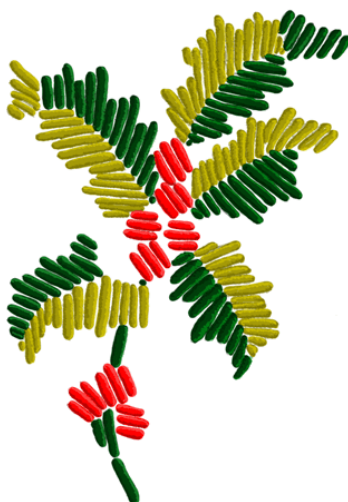
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Annual Carols in Salisbury Square

5.00pm on Sunday 10th December

followed by mince pies and mulled wine in Mary Church Hall. Everyone is welcome - bring your friends.

The singing will be accompanied by members of the WBC Brass Group. There will be a collection - half for Marychurch (free hall hire) and half for St Luke's Night Shelter



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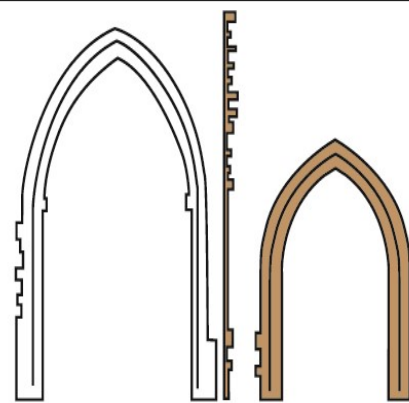
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Remembrance Sunday, Fr. Darren

There was an enormous turnout this year again for the Service of Remembrance, run jointly with Hatfield Town Council, in the Memorial Gardens at Hatfield House. It was particularly important for the church this year that Bishop Michael of Hertford joined us and led the service.

Hatfield Town Council leader, Lenny Brandon, said in the Welwyn Hatfield Times, *'Thank you to the people of Hatfield for making Sunday's parade and service of remembrance respectful, dignified and well attended'.*

Next year, of course, will be 100 years since the end of World War I and by kind permission of Lord & Lady Salisbury, after the regular Service of Remembrance at the war memorial is finished, we will march up to the steps of the North Front of Hatfield House as a recreation of what happened in Hatfield the day after the armistice was signed in 1918. There will be more information nearer the time and all will be welcome to join us.

Hatfield Night Shelter Update

from Michelle Jervis, Deputy Church Warden, St Luke's Church

By the time you read this Hatfield's Night Shelter will have had its official opening (21st November) and welcomed its first guests to St Luke's church.

From November through to March, St Luke's will be providing overnight accommodation for up to 10 local homeless people.

In addition to sleeping and washing facilities, our guests will get a hot evening meal (cooked by the Emmaus charity from food provided by Ocado) and a light breakfast.

As you can imagine, it has taken many months of work by many organizations and individuals to reach this point.

The Welwyn Hatfield Mayor – Cllr Lynne Sparks has taken a lead role in the project as have Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Fire Service involvement with the issue of local homelessness dates back to 2015 when a rough sleeper tragically died in a fire in the garage in which he had been living. This year, amongst other things, they have been busy with the training of more than 70 volunteers who will be helping to run the Night Shelter.

Another important partner in the Night Shelter is Resolve, a local charity which deals with addiction issues. They will engage with any Night Shelter guests who need assistance with those issues.

Fund-raising is obviously a very important part of any such enterprise and many local people and organisations have been very generous.

(continued inside on page 5)

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