

REFOCUSSED

ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH
WITH ST LUKE'S CHURCH



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



**November 2017 letter to the Parish
from John Barnard, Reader,
on remembering ...**

My birthday falls in August and this year I reached one of those landmark birthdays that ends with a zero. My family marked this occasion by giving me the gift of a trip to Berlin with flights and accommodation for four nights. I have wanted to visit Berlin for some time and so I was extremely pleased to receive this. My wife, Linda, and I got up very early to catch the flight and by 9am local time we were there, ready to see the sights. The Brandenburg Gate; The Reichstag; Checkpoint Charlie etc. Places that I have read about, seen featured in news items and in films. Most of Berlin was destroyed in 1944/5 and has been rebuilt but there are a few buildings that have been left as reminders of the suffering of the people.

In November we turn our attention to remembrance when we think of our loved ones who are no longer with us at our All Souls Services on 4th at St Luke's and 5th at St Etheldreda's. Then, later in the month we turn our attention to remembering those in our armed forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

A few years ago I was handed the privilege of preaching at the service after the memorial parade at the cenotaph and there I focused on civilian population that suffered the effects of war as well as those in the forces. I had two aunts

who never married because most of the men of their age groups were killed in WWI. Not for them the pleasures of married life or of family. They led unhappy lives caused by conflict and I am sure there were many similarly affected.

During our trip to Berlin we were able to see how the civilian population suffered right through the twentieth century. The way landowners treated their workers in the early 1900's. Then, like here, the effects of WW1. In the 1930's raging inflation making ordinary life uncertain and precarious. The treatment of the Romany and Jewish populations. WWII, and then, austerity during the late 1940's and early 1950's. Just as conditions improved, up went 'The Wall'. Loved ones being forcibly separated from each other and the conditions imposed on the Eastern side.

I think it is important that we remember these events that happened not so very long ago and in some areas of the world are still going on and that we appreciate that people of both sides suffer. I also think that when we consider current issues and problems we remember our Christian values. Honesty, forgiveness etc., but above all how Jesus told us to live. Two commandments he gave us; love God and love one another. Sounds simple but so difficult to achieve. Let's keep trying.

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2017

**The Service of Remembrance starts at 10.50am in
the Memorial Gardens, by the main gates of
Hatfield House—all are invited to attend**

www.britishlegion.org.uk

Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke—Regular Services

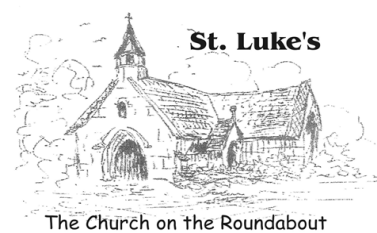
St Etheldreda's Church

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

Sunday School November: 5th, 12th, 26th, meeting at 9.20am in Upper room, Coach House Restaurant, Stable Yard

St Luke's Church

Sunday: 11.30am
Holy Communion
with hymns



What's on at St Eth's unless stated otherwise

Saturday 4 November 8am
Men's breakfast at St Michael & All Angels Church
Saturday 4 November 10am
Ramble leaving St Michael & All Angels Church
Saturday 4 November 5pm
All Souls Service at St Luke's Church
Sunday 5 November 4pm
All Souls Service at St Etheldreda's Church

Saturday 11 November 10am-2pm
Creative Corner at 89 Bradshaws, Hatfield
Saturday 11 November 10am-2pm
St Michael's & All Angels Church Christmas Fair
Saturday 12 November 10.50am
Remembrance Service at the Memorial Gardens
by the main gates of Hatfield House
Followed by a further Remembrance Service at
St Etheldreda's Church

Baptisms / Weddings in November 2017

Baptism: Ludoricos Edward Humphreys—4th November

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

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

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.

Creative Corner: ruth.letton@googlemail.com

Communications Officer: Linda Barnard
linda.barnard3@btinternet.com

Flower Team:

Carrie Shannon—carrieshannonuk@gmail.com

Mother and Toddler Group:

Charlie Pisanski—queenbeemum@yahoo.co.uk

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Nicky Jackson—07745 630176

St Etheldreda's Printing Service (STEPS):

mikeberwick@ntlworld.com— 07973 469849

Treasurer: Mark Knight—01707 894949
knightmark2@gmail.com

What's On at Hatfield House

4 NOVEMBER @ 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Join the Welwyn Hatfield Conservatives in aid of Isabel Hospice for their annual Christmas Market held in the newly refurbished Riding School within the Stable Yard.

16 NOVEMBER @ 10:00 AM - 19 NOVEMBER @ 5:00 PM

THE FROST FAIR

Held in The Old Palace, the Riding School, Stable Yard and heated marquees on Palace Green and George's Car Park.

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.



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.

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

How can a church possibly end up friendless?

by Mary Rathbone, Reader in Training

Friends of Friendless Churches (Friends) rescue, repair and campaign for historic churches in England and Wales which have become unable to support themselves. Now 60 years old, Friends have had the patronage of a multitude of prominent people over the years, including the famous poet John Betjeman. Lord Salisbury is the current President of Friends and offered St Eth's as the venue for their Choral Evensong this year on 14th October.

Matthew Saunders, Friends Director, wrote a book called *Saving Churches* about the charity, in which he said 'we believe that churches are the most precious of all building types. They were constructed to the glory of God, are witnesses to life's principal rites of passage and many house supreme expressions of human genius.'

The Rt Rev'd Wyn Evans, sometime Bishop of St David's Episcopal, gave the sermon at our Evensong. In which he said '*the very existence of a church is in itself a sermon cast in stone, a statement of faith and these statements criss-cross throughout the towns, villages and hamlets of England and Wales. All these churches, regardless of size of congregation, offer a man made holy space and the hope, for all, of an experience of heaven meeting earth, as Jacob had at the stairway to heaven*' (Genesis Ch.28 vs.10-15)

The performance of our all age choir was outstanding and one member of the congregation so enjoyed it that he wrote to our Music Director, Jill Knight: '*May I please add my compliments to your choir and organist—and to your good self - on the splendid Evensong we enjoyed at the celebration of the work of the Friends of Friendless Churches at St Etheldreda's on Saturday. As a life-long organist and choirmaster, since the age of 14 in East London, and recently ordained as Priest, I, having just flown in from Seattle from a spell working, playing and preaching in America, was delighted to sit back and let the excellent choice and performance of your music flow into my 'tired veins' and it was better than any known cure for jet-lag yet recommended to me. ... Revd [Fr] Ed Elsey CJ*' (abbreviated version of letter).

Lord Salisbury commented for our readers: '*The Friends of Friendless Churches does a wonderful job under the Chairmanship of my former colleague, Roger Evans. Many attended the Hatfield service and all were bowled over by our choir and the welcome they received. Thank you to all at Hatfield who made the day such a success*'

War Memories *from a member of the congregation*

When the Great War started in August 1914 many university students, particularly those who were members of the Officers Training Corps, volunteered to join the army. My father was among those and he joined the local regiment, the Highland Light Infantry, as a Second Lieutenant.

After months of training the Battalion, consisting mostly of volunteers, was posted to France in 1915 and it was sent to Loos as part of the reinforcements following the major battle there in September, when gas was used by the Germans for the first time

The regimental diary shows that it was not until October 1915 that steel helmets were issued by the army in an effort to reduce head wounds. The weather during February and March 1916 was recorded as being vile with snow, frost and rain making life in the trenches, a nightmare for the men.

By chance, I have discovered that the Rev'd. Bill Todd's uncle – Lt. Todd – was also in the 12th Battalion and undoubtedly he would have known my father.

At this time during the war there was a shortage of army doctors and all medical students were recalled to university to complete their training and so my father returned to Glasgow where he qualified in 1917. His next posting as part of the RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps) was to join General Allenby's forces in the Middle East.

This involved embarking on a troop transport, the Aragon, at Marseilles en route to Alexandria escorted by a destroyer. At the entrance to Alexandria harbour the Captain of the destroyer ordered the Aragon to wait until the channel had been cleared of mines, however later a naval trawler signaled the ship to follow it into harbour as the passage was clear.

At this point the destroyer returned and the captain, furious that a junior officer had given the order to steam ahead, told the Aragon to turn about and head out to sea again. This was done and not long afterwards the Aragon was torpedoed by a German submarine and it was sunk with the loss of 600 troops.

All the nurses were evacuated in the ship's lifeboats and they were taken aboard a destroyer, which in turn was hit by a torpedo. Ultimately they were rescued for a second

time. This episode demonstrates the futility of such actions in wartime due to loss of pride that resulted in a totally unnecessary loss of life.

My father was in the water for some time before he was rescued, I don't think he was keen on swimming after that. However, after that adventure he was posted back to the Western Front where he remained until the Armistice and later he was part of the British Army of the Rhine.

He must have enjoyed the army as he continued as a serving officer until he retired in 1936, having served in Iraq, India, China and Malta.

In 1939 at the start of the Second World War he was recalled to the army and he was sent to France as part of the BEF (British Expeditionary Force).

After the retreat from France, he remained in Britain finishing as the commanding officer of the 100 bed military hospital in Edinburgh Castle. He retired finally in 1946.

We Remember

by Megan Carter

The Somme, Dunkirk and Passchendaele
Cause us to think of times of war,
When men and boys went bravely out
They fought, some died and returned no more.

They gave their all that we should live,
We never should forget such cost,
Remembering with thankful hearts
Our freedom gained as lives were lost.

Another Man gave up His life,
Another war, another fight,
With all mankind held fast in chains
As darkness fell as black as night.

The cost was high, a sinless life
To break the chains and set us free,
The Lamb of God on Calvary's cross
Paid that price for you and me.

Hatfield relatives of those who served in WW1 needed for exhibit



Edward Dodds— left

Next year the Hatfield Local History Society is planning to organise an event exhibition to commemorate the ending of WW1. The Society has already researched the men from the Parish of Hatfield who were killed in action or died as a result of going to war but are hoping to find out about the men who returned and tell some of their stories.

Edward Dodds was born on January 25, 1901, in Hatfield and lived in Park Street with his parents Thomas David and Mary and his siblings. He joined the navy as a 'boy 1st class' and in October 1916 the Royal Naval Hospital in Plymouth wrote to his mother to say he was suffering from Rubella.

At the end of the war, Edward returned to Hatfield and in 1927 married Ada Maddison. The couple lived first in Park Street with his parents then moved to Briars Lane where they raised their five children.

During WW2 Edward worked at de Havilland, repairing and painting Mosquito aircraft. The workers were given milk and orangeade to drink to try and minimise the risk of dust from the dope paint used on the aircraft.

Edward a painter and decorator later worked for Welwyn Builders. He was also a keen gardener who grew wonderful sweet peas. He died aged 67 in March 1968.

Edwin Payne, 24, was living at 18 Primrose Cottages when he enlisted in the Royal Engineers at the end of 1914.

After basic training he was shipped out to the Middle East with the 10th Division Signal Company Royal Engineers, serving in countries such as Serbia, Macedonia, Palestine and Egypt. During the war, Edwin wrote a diary of his experiences which will be featured in the exhibition.

Afterwards, Edwin returned to Hatfield where he started a successful printing business.

By 1931 Edwin was living at Dovecott, Cecil Crescent where he carried on his business and raised a family. He retired in 1964 aged 74, and when his wife died moved away from Hatfield to be nearer his daughter.



Edwin Payne

If anyone has a story to tell about one of their relatives who served in WW1 and then returned to Hatfield the society would love to hear from you.

Contact Derek Martindale on 01707 269662 or email dderekmart@aol.com.

Article and photos courtesy of Welwyn Hatfield Times and Hatfield Local History Society.

Remembering Home *by Jo Roscoe*

Hatfield Local History Society's September Newsletter includes a letter from a soldier serving in the Adriatic who had received a copy of a programme of 'Holiday At Home week'; an event organised to raise money for Servicemen's Charities.

His letter speaks longingly of his Hatfield childhood and his memories, particularly of his days in Hatfield Park with its dells, the lake and the swans. He thanks the then Lord Salisbury for his generosity in allowing free access to the park – a generosity we still enjoy to this day, though we have to 'sign up' for it.

Canon Harold Lovell *by Jean West*

Had you met this priest, you'd have thought 'what a lovely man', and so he was. He and his wife, Mary, lived in the lodge at the top of Church Street and he'd served his ministry for the most part in Jamaica. I believe he helped out at a now redundant church and was Chaplain to the 6th Marquis for a time. He taught children, with whom he had a great affinity, though sadly had none of his own.

I met him in the 1970's when he came into the Parish Office wanting to have some papers copied. I saw that they were handwritten and volunteered to type his homilies, which I found illuminating, he was especially fond of St Mark's Gospel. I remember him explaining it was the first to be written and that the writer had had a direct connection to someone who had known Christ. He pointed

'To his amazement, he learned that an Armistice had been signed which ended the conflict.'

ed out that although the briefest of the Gospels, it included many details that others did not, ie. cushions in the boat on Lake Galilee.

He also recounted to me the period when he had

What stopped me in my tracks was his comment that '*the few hardships we have been asked to face*' were worth the joys he had experienced and hoped to return to. And fighting to preserve and keep our homeland safe was the morale and motive for all our servicemen and women.

While the thought of war is so abhorrent to us and to be avoided at all costs, we must never forget the sacrifice made by those who have gone out on our behalf.

'the few hardships we have been asked to face were worth the joys he had experienced in Hatfield'

been Chaplain to the Jamaicans who had joined up to help fight for their Motherland, as they called the UK, and accompanied them to the Western Front which must have been a terrible surprise to them. I believe the Jamaican troops were not actually involved in fighting, but did their bit in many other ways in Labour Corps. However, in the autumn of 1918, the Military decided that they should be moved across the Alps to Italy who was an Ally at that time and had been involved in bitter fighting against Austria/Hungary in the mountainous region in Northern Italy.

Which is why he and the Jamaicans were on a train in November 1918 heading for Italy which in the north would not have been warm and sunny at that time of year—strange the way the Military Mind works! The train stopped just over the frontier and Canon Lovell got out to find out why. To his amazement, he learned that an Armistice had been signed which ended the conflict.

I never learned whether they continued their journey south or what happened later, but I remembered the story he recounted and saved it up to tell nearly a century after it happened.

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500th Year Anniversary of a Royal Birth and Christening at Hatfield, Part II *By Malcolm Caie*

Our July/August edition carried the story of a Royal birth at the old Palace on 17th July 1517 with the christening two days later at St Etheldreda's. The mother was Henry VIII's younger sister Mary Tudor, popularly known as the French Queen (although by then widow of Louis XII) and now married to Charles, Duke of Suffolk. That baby was Lady Frances Brandon.

With the wonder of the internet there is much information that can be found on the life of Lady Frances for those readers who would like to discover more. With the limit of space here I can only mention a few incidents of a life lived through the volatile and dangerous times and intrigues of the Tudor Court.

Lady Frances Brandon was close to her Aunt, Catherine of Aragon and a childhood friend of her first cousin the future Mary I. In 1533 she married Henry Grey, Marquess of Dorset and had three daughters by him, the eldest being Lady Jane Grey. (12.10.1537-12.2.1554). Her title now is: The Most Honourable Frances Grey, Marchioness of Dorset.

After her two brothers died the title of Duke of Suffolk reverted to the crown and was granted to her husband as a new creation. So in 1551 she became Her Grace Frances Grey, The Duchess of Suffolk.

Frances was third in line to the English throne following Edward VI's half sisters Mary and Elizabeth after Henry VIII's elder sister Margaret Tudor's descendants had been removed from the succession under the Will of Henry VIII in which he laid out the succession of the throne.

By June 1553 Edward VI was seriously ill. The succession of his Catholic half sister Mary would compromise the English Reformation, so he was opposed to Mary's succession, not only on religious grounds but those of legitimacy (both sisters had been declared illegitimate when Henry had remarried.) He therefore drafted a document to change the succession as had his father. Edward passed over his half sisters and settled the crown on his cousin Lady Jane Grey. In so doing he also passed over Frances who would otherwise have been Heir Presumptive. After a private audience with the King she had to renounce her own rights to the throne in favour of her eldest daughter Jane.

Jane was declared Queen on 10th July 1553 at the age of 16. She was so confused that Frances was summoned in

the middle of the night to reassure and impress on her that it was all correct. However, as we know, she was deposed by armed support in favour of Mary on 19th July 1553; she was Queen for only 9 days.

Frances husband, the Duke of Suffolk was arrested but was released after Frances pleaded with Mary I to pardon her family.

However another revolt against Mary took place and this time Frances was unable to save her husband who was executed as a traitor. She however managed to plead for forgiveness and for mercy for the rest of her family, although they were to live in poverty during Mary's reign and she had to sit beside her at court so that Mary could keep her under close observation.



In 1555 she decided on a 'safe' marriage (despite pressures to marry higher in the aristocracy) to her Master of the Horse, Adrian Stokes. She retained her title as Frances Brandon, Duchess of Suffolk.

She died on 20 January 1559 aged 42 and was buried at Westminster Abbey at the expense of her cousin Elizabeth I. The inscription on her grave reads in Latin:

***'Nor grace, nor splendour, nor a royal name,
Nor widespread fame can aught avail;
All, all have vanished here.
True worth alone survives the funeral
pyre and silent tomb'***

No Standing Still for Countess Anne! *by Jo Roscoe, School Governor*

The 2016/17 academic year ended on its usual high note with Year 6 achieving the heights of Helvellyn in the Lake District and our current year 6 have already challenged the slopes in Snowdonia. Year 5 have enjoyed a multi experience day at the Emirates Stadium *'Your Future, Your Ambition'* event. They have tried out Virtual Reality headsets; presenting the weather with ITV; designing currency with De La Rue – (designer of the new £10 pound note); finger printing with the London MET and coding with Minecraft, (the video games designer). Whilst the younger end of the school is already preparing their Christmas productions.

Countess Anne is fortunate in the commitment and dedication of teachers and support staff who go the 'extra

mile', bringing their particular interests and talents to enhance the curriculum and broaden the minds of our young people.

Other schools in Hatfield are similarly fortunate, and we would be happy to hear from them in Refocused. Schools are not what they were, and managing them, not what it was – *ever thought about being a School Governor?*

(Jo Roscoe is a Governor at
Countess Anne C of E Primary School)

Countess Anne School
A Church of England Academy

Royal British Legion Western Front Trek 2018 *by Mark Jackson, St Etheldreda's Deputy Church Warden*

To commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War, I will be trekking through the Battlefields of the Somme and Ypres to raise money for The Royal British Legion.

The trek is over 5 days in September 2018 and I will walk about 70 miles in 4 days. It will be an emotive and physical challenge. I have a very personal interest in both world wars so this will be a poignant experience as it will enable me to be able to help make a difference to The Royal British Legion's work.

At St Eth's we have always had good links with the charity most especially at this time of year with the Remembrance Service approaching. It would be great if you could support me in raising money for money for them. You could either donate through my Just Giving page or contact me personally if you'd rather via phone or email. Many thanks and wish me good luck with my training !

www.justgiving.com/Mark-Jackson2069?utm_source=sms
e: mark.jackson270@hotmail.co.uk m: 07708 199591



Urgent appeal on behalf of Bennie *by Bennie*

Dear readers, it is with a heavy heart that I write my report this month. Many of you living locally know me, having seen me around town or in the park with the Mistress and I would say most would congratulate me on being a fine specimen of a canine. However, I have recently been to see some good chums, well I thought they were my chums, for an annual visit that the Mistress deems most important. But it all turned out most odd and they took it upon themselves to announce that I am over weight! They even had the nerve to recommend that I attend a Canine Slimmer's Club !!!



There's nothing Bennie enjoys more than eating

Now I put it to you readers, who all know me as a most friendly and reasonable sort of chap, how could there possibly be too much of Bennie—what's not to like? If you agree, then might some kindly soul put together a petition and gather in names declaring this an outrage? Otherwise I will have to attend this wretched Slimmer's Club and the Mistress has already started cutting back on the few meagre morsels that currently find their way to me. It really is all too miserable to contemplate further cutbacks, and just before Christmas too! Please help me with a petition—it is my last hope. Yours ever hopeful, but starving, Bennie

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Sunday, 19th November 2017, 3pm
St Etheldreda's Church, Old Hatfield

The Gamay Ensemble and Friends

programme to include:

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MOZART

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
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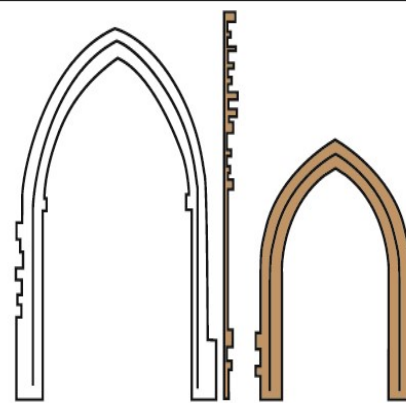
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Receive Refocused by email from linda.barnard3@btinternet.com

Remembrance Sunday 12th November *invitation from Fr Darren*

St Etheldreda's Church and Hatfield Town Council warmly invite all to join us at the Memorial Gardens, by the main gates of Hatfield House, for our joint Service of Remembrance starting at 10.50am.

We are very fortunate, this year, to have Bishop Michael of Hertford conducting the service, which will be followed by a further remembrance service at St Etheldreda's Church, please join us at both.



St Etheldreda's Church

Old Hatfield, Hertfordshire

Patrons: Lord Salisbury & the Lord Bishop of St Albans

Photos from Parish weekend at High Leigh 20-22 October



Countryside walks



Church
brass
rubblings



Insect hotels

Extra deliveries for Christmas

by Richard Morton, Church Warden

Each month our volunteer printing and delivery teams, not to mention a few writers and our wonderful editors, make sure that around 1100 copies of Refocused are delivered, entirely free of charge, to homes within the parish. We know that many people, church-goers and non-church-goers alike, enjoy receiving and reading our magazine each month. So we would like, once or twice a year at least, to do special issues, hopefully with some extra features and with an increased print run so that we can get copies out even wider in the parish area.

Our aim is for the next issue, going out at the end of November, to be our first Christmas Special with an increased print run. To make this work though we must have a few more 'foot-soldiers' to do the deliveries and hopefully you will be able to find an hour or so to get copies out to around fifty homes in a local area uncovered by us as yet. If you think you can, or if you already deliver but could do a bit more, then see below for more information.

Could you help St Eth's?

We are looking for a photo of the church in the winter for our Christmas issue, ideally including snow! If you can help please email maryrathbone@icloud.com



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Can you help St Eth's & St Luke's for just one hour at the end of November?

We need, one off, additional Foot Soldiers to help deliver copies of the Christmas issue of this magazine in the Parish. More details:

Michelle Jervis—07584 897872—michellejervis286@btinternet.com

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