



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSSED

ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH
WITH ST LUKE'S CHURCH

February 2018 letter to the Parish
from the Rev'd Penny Thomson



"Thank you God – you've answered my prayers!"

These were the words spoken by Simeon as he scooped the baby Jesus into his ancient, gnarled arms. Simeon, was a righteous man who had been waiting for many, many years on a promise from God, that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour of the World appear – now he could die peacefully. Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph, looked on, possibly bemused. There had been so much about this baby's birth that had been strange and unusual.

They had brought the infant Jesus to the Jerusalem Temple to make the customary offerings for him. Now this elderly, mysterious man was declaring that their son Jesus, whom he cradled affectionately in his arms, was God's long-promised Messiah, the person destined to be a Light for the people of all Nations, showing them the way back to a loving relationship with God. Then they were joined by the very elderly prophetess Anna, who declared to all around that this baby was indeed God's salvation

The picture shown below is of one of the stained glass windows in St Etheldreda's church. It depicts the scene in the Temple, with Simeon holding the baby Jesus and the prophetess Anna to his right. Mary is portrayed holding a Lily—a flower often associated with her, symbolising purity. In her other hand she holds two doves which would have been offered as the required sacrifice.

This scene is remembered as the church celebrates the feast of Candlemas, which

falls on February 2nd – forty days after Christmas Day. For most of us, our Christmas decorations were packed away long ago on Twelfth Night, but in some countries, the tradition is to keep decorations up and the Nativity scene on display, until this feast day.

Some churches have a tradition at Candlemas of blessing all the candles that are to be used in worship the next year. In some countries people place a lighted candle in their house window to mark the celebration and to remember that Jesus was born to be the Light of the World.

Later in February, we celebrate Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Lent period. At St Etheldreda's Church, during Lent, we will be holding a day-time course on Tuesdays which will last for five weeks. The course is called: *#LiveLent: Let your Light Shine*. We will be studying the Gospel of John and thinking about ways in which Jesus is a light for the world. We will be reflecting on how we can carry Jesus' message of light in the darkness to others.

For further information about the Lent course, which is open to both church and non-church members, please contact St Etheldreda's Church Office: bhteamoffice@gmail.com



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 February

Meeting at 9.20am in St Eth's Church

For Weddings/Baptisms

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

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

Saturday 3rd February 8am

Men's Breakfast at St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 4th February 9.30am

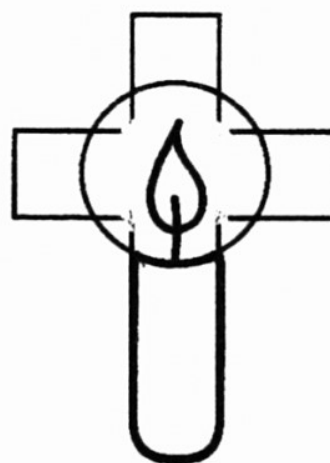
Candlemas combined with Holy Communion

Sunday 4th February 6pm

Choral Evensong Candlemas at St Etheldreda's

Wednesday 14th February 7.30pm

TEAM Ash Wednesday service



Team Rector of Bishops Hatfield:

Fr Darren Collins—t: 01707 256638

E: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr William Clocksin

e: wfc@me.com

Journey Light Church:

The Rev'd Sue Stilwell

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Curate:

The Rev'd Dr Penny Thomson

m: 07846 429737 e: rev@pennythomson.uk

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Richard Morton 07979 906330

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Michelle Jervis—07584 897872

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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

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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

Hatfield House will reopen for the 2018 season on Saturday 31st March

We are delighted to share with you the exciting events we have planned for 2018, please take a look at our website for details:
www.hatfield-house.co.uk



Special announcement:

We are really excited to announce that Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's acclaimed River Cottage is coming to Hatfield House.

Opening on 23rd March, River Cottage Kitchen and Deli brings the River Cottage team's world renowned ethos to visitors who can expect the finest ingredients, nurtured and respected, from the farms and producers they work with, all the way to the plate.

From 23rd March at Hatfield House you will have the chance to either dine in the new River Cottage Kitchen restaurant or alternatively take away light snacks and salads from the new River Cottage Deli and enjoy in the grounds.



www.stetheldreda.org

What's on in the Bishops Hatfield Team

Sunday 3rd February 10.00 am

Ramble leaving St Michael & All Angels Church, Birchwood

Sunday 11th February 5.30pm-7pm

Journey Light—Informal gathering to worship and explore the Christian faith. Community hall at Howe Dell School

Tuesday 13th February 2.30pm

Friendship Teas at St John's, Lemsford in the Annexe

Sunday 11th March 9.30am

Mothering Sunday All-age Eucharist at St Etheldreda



Ongoing Refurbishment and Security

This year, we at Breaks Manor Youth and Community Centre will be using the very welcome contribution from Lady Salisbury's popular Community Coffee Morning to upgrade and refurbish our facilities to meet the needs of the growing numbers of young people and community groups using our premises.

Additionally, following a number of unauthorised intrusions and security breaches of our site, we feel it is time to install a closed circuit television surveillance system (CCTV). This particularly includes Enterprise Hall, which is used extensively by youth club members and community groups alike, including the highly popular and well-attended Rock Den Music Nights, and the twice monthly Wednesday morning meetings of the U3A (University of the Third Age), which attract 150 or more people of mature years to hear lectures on a variety of subjects.

We welcome all comments from the general public, and anyone wishing to learn more about our extensive facilities, including our floodlit artificial grass-covered play area and our fully-equipped recording studio, can contact the Centre on:

01707 263201.

Lady Salisbury's Annual Coffee Morning 20th March 10am – 12pm The Old Palace

You are invited to join Lady Salisbury, Breaks Manor Youth & Community Centre and St Etheldreda's Church in the Old Palace to the ever popular Annual Coffee Morning and West Garden Preview .

The Coffee Morning ticket entitles you free admission to the West Garden allowing you to preview before Hatfield House, Park and Gardens open for the season!

In addition, Adults receive 50% off the Farm entry and Children go free, Bloody Hollow included! Adults must show their Coffee Morning ticket at the Farm to receive this offer.

There will be stalls including home produce, plants, second hand treasures and a raffle. All proceeds from the Coffee Morning are being donated to Breaks Manor Youth & Community Centre, Improved Security (see pg. 3) and St Etheldreda's, West End Project (below).

Donations of home baking, second-hand treasures/unwanted gifts, plants, raffle prizes, are much



appreciated. Contributions please to Station Lodge, Hatfield House (opposite Hatfield Station) from 10am to 4pm on Monday, March 19th, or to Breaks Manor Youth and Community Centre, Link Drive, Hatfield AL10 8TP between 9am and 2pm weekdays.

Advance tickets are £3.50 and £4 on the day. Ticket and information in advance can be obtained from Hatfield House Gift Shop in the Stable Yard or alternatively Breaks Manor info@breaksmanor.org or St Eth's hjmorton@hotmail.co.uk. Parking is free in the main visitors Car Park known as George's Car Park (AL9 5HX).

St Etheldreda's Church – West End Project

by Hilary Morton

St Etheldreda's is one of the finest churches in Hertfordshire and has a rich history involving kings, queens and three prime ministers. However, it is not only an historic building but also the living centre of the community.

Every year, in addition to our regular services, we welcome orchestras, choirs, local groups and many tourists from around the world.

Our thriving congregation urgently requires facilities which will meet the needs of the twenty-first century. We have developed sympathetic designs for a new west end project providing meeting spaces, toilets, a kitchen and exhibition areas. These will enhance the wonderful building and provide a more comfortable, flexible space for the worshippers, visitors and the local community. Our plans are ambitious and we welcome your support in bringing this project to fruition.



The Great War — Roll of Honour — WW1 1914/1918

Remembering those soldiers from Hatfield who died in service to their country in January and February

On 4th August 1914 war was declared with Germany. The British population were expected to do their patriotic duty and the people of Hatfield were no exception.

The September 1914 issue of Bishop's Hatfield Parish Magazine announced *'it is the duty of all young men to join some military force, a man clearly ought to do something for his country at a time like this'*. The magazine printed lists of Hatfield men mobilised every month throughout the war, along with promotions, awards and casualties. Sadly for each month of the war there was also a Roll of Honour for those who had died.

The Hatfield Local History Society (HLHS) have diligently scoured through the Parish Magazines of the

time and, combined with other sources, have compiled a comprehensive album of facts on a total of 172 Hatfield men who died as result of WW1. The book 'Hatfield Parish in Memoriam' is a work of great dedication in honour of the fallen, a copy was donated to St Eth's.

All the soldiers who fought in the Great War were heroes and, using the HLHS book, this year we will be remembering those who died as a result of the war in this Parish Magazine. It will be month by month, then in November there will be a recreation of the service held at the north front of Hatfield House the day after the armistice was signed. The patriotism and heroism of all these men should not be forgotten. **Father Darren.**

Harry Davis

Rank: Company Quartermaster Sergeant
Regiment: Machine Gun Corp (infantry)
Age: Not known
Date of death: 20th January 1920 (a result of war)

John Edward Green

Rank: Sapper
Regiment: Royal Engineers 112th Railway Coy
Age: 27
Date of death: 20th February 1919 (a result of war)

Henry Gregory

Rank: Private
Regiment: Honourable Artillery Company, 1st Bn.
Age: 30
Date of death: 8th February 1917

Albert Edward Loseby

Rank: Private
Regiment: 1st Bn. Hertfordshire Regiment
Age: 28
Date of Death: 12th January 1917

Ernest Mardle

Rank: Private
Regiment: Royal Sussex Regiment 7th Bn.
Age: 29
Date of Death: 1st February 1918

William Joseph Randall

Rank: Lance Corporal
Regiment: Royal Engineers
Age: 28
Date of death: 11th February 1916

Albert William Walker

Rank: Sergeant (Saddler)
Regiment: Army Service Corps No 1 H.T.Coy
Age: 31
Date of Death: 19th February 1915

George Thomas Webster

Rank: Corporal
Regiment: King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 8th Bn.
Age: 22
Date of Death: 1st February 1916

George John Wren

Rank: Private
Regiment: Royal Berkshire Regiment 6th Bn.
Age: 36
Date of death: 17th February 1917



***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.***

Lent comes around every year, just before

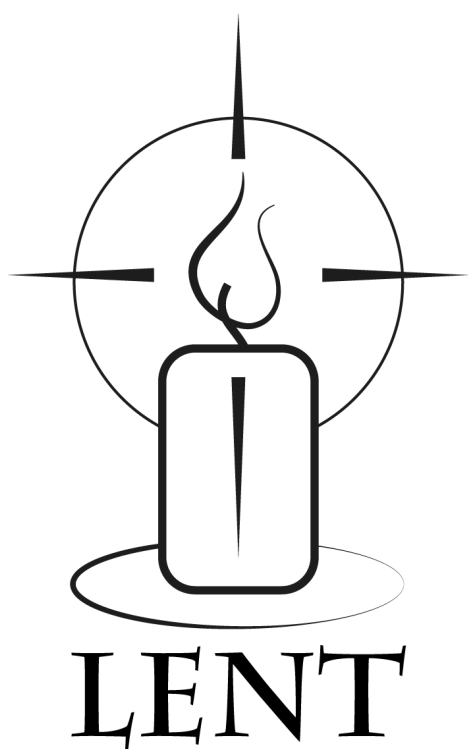
Easter, but what is it? *by Mary Rathbone,*

Lent is a 40 day time period, this year between Wednesday 14 February and Thursday 29 March (Sundays are not counted). It is a time when Christians either reflect on the time of their baptism and confirmation and its significance in their lives today, or spend time making preparations for them. The 40 days represent the days Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Lent is also a time to think of what we might have done wrong by God, and how we might do better in the future. It is marked by giving something up as a sign of self control, or by fasting. It culminates with Holy Week where we remember Jesus's death on the cross on Good Friday and celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which is always preceded by Pancake Day. It might seem strange that confessing one's sins and preparing for baptism should involve making pancakes! But, this is because in centuries gone by, pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. So Lent, the most important festival in the Christian calendar, is always preceded by the tradition of Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day, and starts on Ash Wednesday.

Lent starts on a different date each year (according to the date of Easter) and this year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, share the same date! Which seem a bit of an odd mix at first, yet there is an obvious link—love! Lent is about learning how to love Christ more, as we give Him extra space in our lives over the 40 days.



www.stetheldreda.org

Lent 2018

Wednesday, 14 February, until

Thursday, 29 March

Holy Week 2018

Sunday 25 March, until

Saturday, 31 March

Easter Sunday 1 April 2018

The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday because on that day, at church services, Christians would traditionally have had their foreheads marked with a cross of ashes. It was intended as a sign to say sorry to God for any wrong doings, which I personally think a wonderful thing as I find that, despite my best intentions, I often get things wrong. Today, at St Eth's, we still have the opportunity, should we wish, of participating in this tradition.

Lent is a time of allowing more moments to think of Jesus and what He means in our lives. Of allowing more space for His love and forgiveness to breathe into our souls.

Ashes are mentioned a lot in the Old Testament and it is there that Ash Wednesday has its beginning. Ashes were often referred to as a sign of mourning for personal and/or national disaster, as a sign of repentance and at times of prayers for deliverance.

It is also interesting to note the Old Testament makes reference to ashes (or dust) to remind us of our mortality: *'All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.* Ecclesiastes 3:20

So, Ash Wednesday is a good time to turn to Christ

Have you been thinking of drawing closer to God, but don't quite know how to go about it? Well joining us at our Ash Wednesday service and/or informal Lent discussions might be a way forward. Remember that the prodigal son, despite all he did wrong, was welcomed back by his compassionate father when he returned home to him, and so Christ welcomes all of us who turn to Him. What a wonderful offer—with nothing to lose!

Lent leads us up to Holy Week with Good Friday on 30th March and Easter in April (this year) when we remember the death and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Next month we will be looking at what makes up the different aspects of Holy Week.

The Church (Liturgical) Year – and where we are in it! *by Jo Roscoe*

Having just stopped saying Happy New Year to people I met in January, it amazes me to think that we are already almost halfway through the Church Liturgical year – not that the Church closes its doors for the next 6 months – there is plenty more to do as you will see.

The Liturgical year begins with **Advent**, working up to **Christmas** and our celebrations of Christ's birth; then 40 days of **Epiphany** with the story of the Three Wise Men and ending with Mary presenting her baby Jesus in the Temple (see Penny's front page letter). Traditionally Epiphany ends with a **Candlemas** service, when people brought their candles to the church to be blessed with the church candles. In the days before electric light and powerful torches, candles were an important source of light and safety. And then we have **Shrove Tuesday** which we more commonly call Pancake Day (I can still hear my father's plaintive cry 'why do I have to wait all year for a pancake!'). Of course in his day the church calendar marked important milestones in everyday life and – I think – were thus more meaningful.

Candlemas Prayer—2 February

*By Daphne Kitching
(Luke 2:22-40)*

February snowdrops we welcome you!
Candlemas Bells,
winter's half-way markers,
symbols of hope and light to come,
creation's reminders of the Creator
revealed in the child in Simeon's arms.

Jesus -
fulfilment of God's promise
to save and illuminate.
Jesus -
who overcame darkness and death
to live for us and in us.

At the snowdrops' prompting,
Lord Jesus, we welcome you afresh,
Hope and Light in person.

St Etheldreda's Church

*warmly invites all to
join us at our*

Ash Wednesday service

7.30pm on 14th February

*Also for our daytime Lent
discussion groups.*

See front page for details.

Traditionally, presumably after the feasting on pancakes and other goodies, the people would be called to be 'shriven' when they would confess their sins and receive forgiveness. The next day, **Ash Wednesday** marks the start of **Lent** and a period of repentance and humility. Mary's article on page 6 deals fully with the period of Lent culminating in **Good Friday** and the **Resurrection on Easter day**, with the **Ascension** and **Pentecost** bringing the Liturgical year to a close. More of these and subsequent events in the development of the disciples' and Paul's teaching in Refocused over the year.

But **Lent**; Mary has suggested how we as individuals might deal with Lent, but what of the church? What will be different in St Etheldreda's and St Luke's in Lent. Our Sunday services will be much the same, though our hymns and music may be more solemn, recalling our need to repent, to be more conscious of how unworthy we are and to be humble in the face of the freely offered forgiveness. The church altars will be stripped of bright colours and ornamentation; altar dressings and priest and deacons will wear purple – the colour of repentance and mourning.

Two occasions will lighten this sombre mood: the celebration of **Mothering Sunday** when children will bring flowers to the ladies in church – and before anyone starts murmuring 'what about fathers' – watch the delight that crosses their faces as the children approach; and then there is **Palm Sunday** when the children are involved again to distribute the traditional palm crosses.

Next time, more of all this, and if we can find a simple enough way, we will explain why Pancake Day and all that follows is not on the same date every year!



Canine Corner, from Bennie

Hello again readers, am not sure if I'm too late for Happy New Years, but I offer you one anyway.

I started 2018 in a somewhat philosophical mood, as I have good news for you and sad news for you, but then more good news.

You might remember from my report last year, that I was told I needed to lose 3K of my marvellous body weight. Well I am pleased to tell you that I am half way there with a current weight loss of 1.5K. Mercifully, the Mistress seems pleased with this.

But I have some very sad news. We lost my dearest old chum Alfie at the end of last year. Words cannot describe how wonderful he was, truly a very grand old chap. A lovely chocolate brown lab, he was very well known and loved by local dog walkers and will be sadly missed by all. I caught wind of a community dog walk in his name which I think a most apt gesture. You can email me for more information at e: bennie@stetheldreda.org.



Introducing Radish

On a happier note, we have a new arrival in town. A delightful little bitch called Radish has recently moved into Fore Street. Now four months old the wonderful Vizsla puppy is apparently—a bit of a minx! But, having had all the necessary inoculations she is now out, and about, making new friends and generally causing even more havoc!

I remember those days as a young pup. What a wonderful time I had with all those other puppies, of the day, in Hatfield Park: tumbling; wrestling; squabbling and nipping. Although, I am certain that I still have scars from the nips—**you all know who you are!**

But let's welcome Radish to living amongst us—overall, it's not a bad spot for us canines to reside in.

The Hatfield Night Shelter – and Emmaus

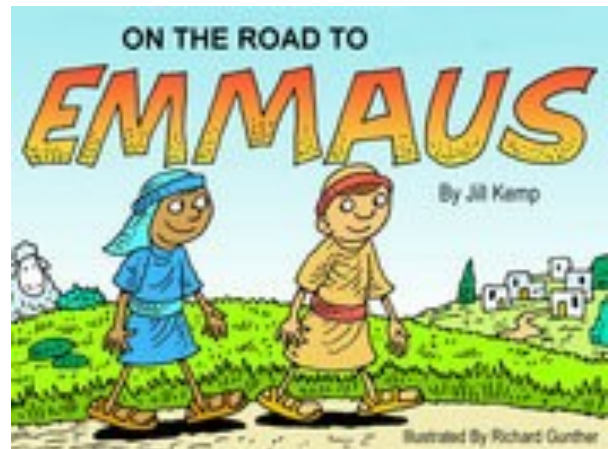
Jo Roscoe, with thanks to St Albans Emmaus kitchen staff
There was much excitement and enthusiastic support for the Hatfield Night Shelter when it was launched at the end of last Autumn.

Always intended as a pilot project for the winter months, a full review will be taken later by those involved, but it would seem so far to be a success. Between 8 and 10 people have been sheltered and fed each night during these last cold months – with a couple more to come.

Much credit goes to the volunteers who keep turning out to open up and supervise proceedings. A main player is the St Albans charity **Emmaus**, which has provided hot meals for 5 of the 7 nights per week.

Let me tell you about Emmaus: it is an international movement founded in Paris in 1949 by the Catholic priest Abbe Pierre to combat poverty and homelessness. Now a secular international organisation, it has retained the biblical name of Emmaus which comes from the story in St Luke (Luke 24, 13 - 35) about two men on the road to the town of Emmaus, who met with the resurrected Jesus and were filled with hope. How appropriate that the Night Shelter in Hatfield is provided by St Luke's Church!

www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-emmaus/



In St Albans and locally many of us are familiar with the Emmaus furniture vans collecting still usable but unwanted furniture or with the furniture shop at Hill End, but although this is a major part of its fund raising work, much more is going on. It caters (which is where the kitchens come in!) for 35 young people who would otherwise be homeless, providing food, accommodation, mentoring and access to training at college or on site to equip them with the means to earn a living.

I knew very little of all this work until now and I can tell you that Emmaus will be on my regular donation list from now on. And in case you were wondering, chicken curry is a firm favourite.

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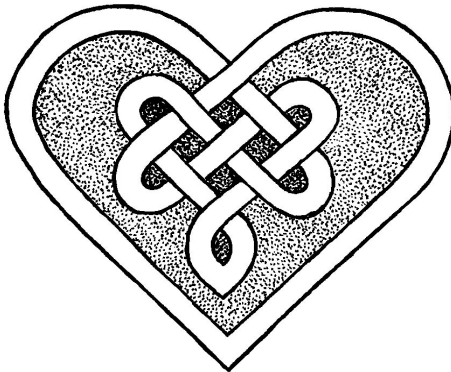
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St Etheldreda's Flag Pole

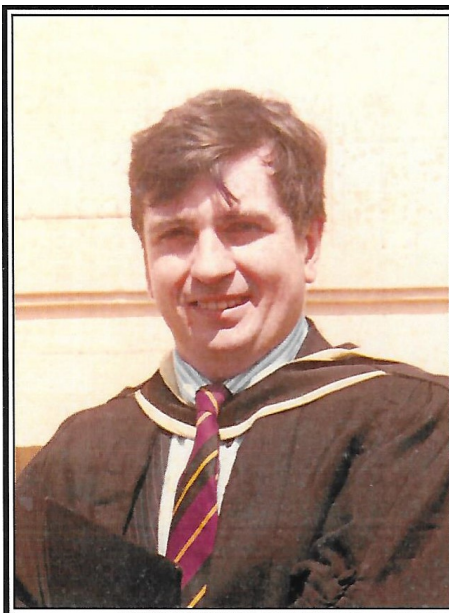
by Mick Clark

The flag on St Eth's Tower was one of the symbols of our arrival in Hatfield in 1945 simply because the house we lived in was 9 Great North Road and it faced the church tower from any of the three front bedrooms. The view followed the pathway through the original Salisbury Cottages, up Jacob's Ladder and past Hillside in Church Street that was the house where some of the clergy lived. At that time there were two curates living there, Paul Goddard and family and David Farmbrough. The view then continued over the cottages on the left side of Church Street and then we could see this beautiful tower with the flag flying in all its majesty, such a delight.

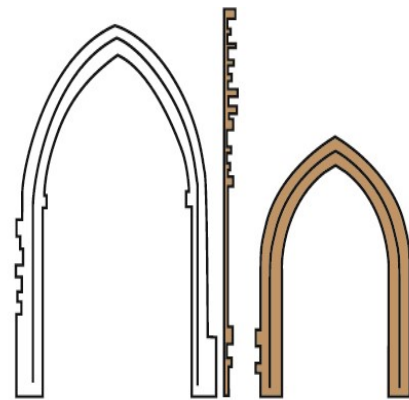
1970 we had all moved on from number 9, but the Clark interest in the flag continued. After our father died in 1978 my sister happened to see the verger at our garage, Gray's. The conversation was about how the family could do something in St Eth's in memory of our father. The reply was that the existing flag was nearly worn out so how about purchasing a new one. We were pleased to do this and to carry on with replacements as necessary.

The death of my younger son, Richard Clark, in October 2016 was another time when I wished to leave something in St Eth's, something in his memory that everyone could share with me. St Eth's flag pole was now very old and no longer fit for purpose. I was very pleased to provide the finances for a new flag and flag pole. Seeing the new flag flowing in its full glory, on its new pole, is something very special to me because it reminds me of Richard.

It was a privilege to pay for this flag pole and flag and I thank Fr Darren Collins and Malcolm Caie most sincerely for their co-operation.



**Richard J Clark MA BSc (Econ), ACA,
aged 51, died on October 7th 2016**



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