



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSED

ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH
WITH ST LUKE'S CHURCH

April 2018 letter to the Parish from
Father Darren on the subject of hope



I've always loved the Emmaus Road reading, but within it seems to be one of the saddest sentences in the whole of the Bible. It comes from Luke 24:21, on the walk to Emmaus where two disciples encounter a 'stranger' on the road and tell him about what had happened to Jesus. They explain how he was crucified and then say: ***but we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.***

Imagine the way they had said, ***but we had hoped*** the same way that somebody might say: ***but we had hoped the medication would work; but we had hoped the accident wasn't so bad; but we had hoped they would lead a full life.*** The sense of loss is staggering. Hope and faith are kind of friends that walk hand in hand, and if you lose one, the other tends to fade away.

For these disciples, who had probably walked with Jesus and seen his miracles and hoped that things would change, this was an expression of the deepest despair. ***We had hoped things would change. We had hoped things could be fixed. We had hoped, but now we don't.***

The thing that catches me again and again about this passage is God's response to this hopelessness. He doesn't leave them because they lacked faith, but instead he gently scolds them for still seeing the world how they had always seen it, when the point of Jesus was that things would be different. Their hope

had been lost and their faith was dying, or perhaps their faith was in something more real to them, more easily verifiable—death.

So, what was his answer? It was to walk with them. It was to reveal himself by teaching them, by being present with them and enduring their faithlessness and calling them back to belief. It was to make himself known in a new way, in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus didn't suddenly appear, and they didn't immediately recognize him. Instead, he appeared to them but they didn't get it, so Jesus stuck around and it was only in looking back that they realised their hearts had been burning the whole time.

Where has Jesus been in your hopelessness? Where might God be injecting hope in your life? The Lord is risen indeed, and he has appeared, to Simon, to the disciples on the road, to the eleven, to Mary Magdalene, and to you. He is risen, and he is with you. Amen



What's On at Hatfield House

1 APRIL - 2 APRIL

THE FRENCH MARKET

The fantastic French Market returns to Hatfield House the French traders will drive to Hatfield from northern France in time for opening at 10am and will be selling products such as: baguettes, croissants, tarts, soft and hard cheeses, charcuterie, tartiflette, saucisson, crêpes, olives, spices, fruit, nougat, chocolate, Provençal soaps, garlic, onions and baskets.



21 APRIL @ 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

STABLE YARD ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES MARKET

Our FREE monthly antiques market features a huge range of antiques and collectibles. Pick up unusual curiosities including furniture, mirrors, hats and ornaments!

22 APRIL @ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

STABLE YARD FARMERS' MARKET

Our regular Farmers' Market held in Stable Yard selling Cakes, crafts, beers, breads, baskets and honey are often part of the market.

22 APRIL @ 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WEDDING FAIR

Whether you are planning an intimate wedding or large celebration, Hatfield House is the perfect setting for your special day.

23 APRIL @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL LAUNCH CONCERT

We're delighted to announce our launch concert, introducing this year's festival theme 'Brahms & Friends'.

The concert will be performed by a stellar line-up of artists all featuring in this year's festival programme. Featuring: Melvyn Tan (piano), James Gilchrist (tenor), Tom Poster (piano), Lotte Betts-Dean (mezzo soprano), Anna Tilbrook (piano), Guy Johnston (cello), singers from the Hertfordshire Chorus and musicians from the Purcell School.

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

www.stetheldreda.org

What's on in the Bishops Hatfield Team

2nd April 10.30am

Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral

Starts from St Michael & All Angels Church, Birchwood

7th April 8.00pm

Men's Breakfast St Michael's & All Angels Church

7th April 10.00 am

Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church

8th April 3.00-4.00pm

Community singing with tea and cakes

St Mary's Church, North Mymms

10th April 2.30pm

Friendship Teas, The Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford

21st April 12.30-2.00pm

Pot Luck Lunch St Michael's & All Angels Church

26th April 3.30-5.30pm

Messy Church St Michael's & All Angels Church



St Eth's & St Luke's Churches

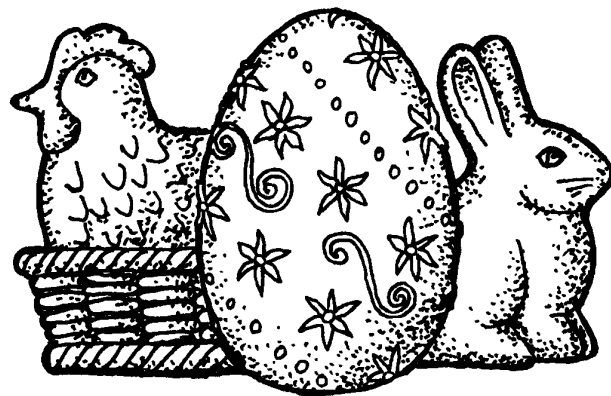


*Invite all to join us for our :
Afternoon Tea/Coffee Break
(cost from £1.80 per cup)
every Thursday at 2-3pm in
Angie's Deli
The Broadway, Old Hatfield
Just come along, we will be there.*

Easter comes but once a year - and when it does it brings Easter bonnets, parades and Easter eggs...

by Jo Roscoe

I've got that a bit wrong haven't I? But traditionally Easter was the occasion for new clothes and new hats, and the Easter Sunday afternoon family stroll in the park was the



Resurrection Work by Daphne Kitching

*Strong arms of Jesus
stretched out in His cross-work,
opening Himself to die,
opening the way for God's wonder-work
to raise Him to life,
to offer life to us today,
as responders.*

*Our work – to believe in Jesus,
to receive forgiveness and the Spirit,
to know those strong arms
enfoldng, supporting,
comforting, raising us
to be His New Creation
with resurrection power
for our time.*

Hallelujah!

occasion for the ladies to show off their new finery. We don't do that much these days, but eggs

are still with us as the supermarket shelves abound with chocolate ones.

Easter is of course much more than new clothes and flowery hats. It is the fulfilment of God's promise of forgiveness and eternal life. The Easter miracle is beyond explanation. I could as an intellectual preamble go on about humankind's instinctive need to atone - but we would be no nearer the truth. The death and resurrection of Jesus is a mystery and can only be accepted in faith.

All around us at this time we see new life – dead twigs shimmer with new pink and green leaves, previously lifeless bulbs push through the earth into glorious flower. A mystery, a lovely mystery. And Easter does come every year, though not always on the same date. Nearly 1700 years ago the Churches of Christendom pondered together about fixing the date, but differences remain. For us in the West, Easter Day falls between 22 March and 25 April on the Sunday that occurs some seven days after the astronomical full moon within that period. So sometimes Easter is late and sometimes, as this year – early.

St Georges Day 23rd April ... remembering St George as well as Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film How to Train your Dragon? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

*Woodcut frontispiece of Alexander Barclay,
Lyfe of Seynt George (Westminster, 1515).
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Saint_George_and_the_Dragon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_George_and_the_Dragon)*



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

Remembering those soldiers from Hatfield who died in service to their country in April 1914-1918

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13)

Hatfield lost seven men in April 1918, five in April 1917, one in April 1916 and two in April 1915. Our hearts go out, in particular, to the Stallan family with four sons who had all enlisted. Three sons died in action at Flanders, France. Albert aged 19 died in October 1917 from gas poisoning, Arthur aged 21 and William aged 24 died in April 1918.

The Stallans lived at 1 Cecil Cottages, Roe Green and the father, Henry Stallan, worked as a farm labourer. Before joining up Arthur had been in the employ of the Marquis of Salisbury. William left behind a wife and son.

The eldest and only surviving son, Sergt. Henry Edward Stallan of the 7th Bedfordshire Regiment, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in May 1917 (in May 1917 the battalion was involved at the Battle of Arras – the Third Battle of the Scarpe). Although wounded Henry survived the war and a piece was written in the Edinburgh Gazette, in July 1917 about his medal:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon with great determination to within a short distance of the enemy, where he maintained his position without support for fifteen hours. During the whole of this time he was under very heavy artillery fire. He set a splendid example to his men.

The patriotism and heroism of all these men should not be forgotten. **Father Darren**

Frederick John Basil Age: 21

Rank: Private

Regiment: Hertfordshire Regiment

Date/Memorial of death: 8th April 1917/Bethune, France

John Wallace Pallett

Rank: Lance Sergeant

Regiment: Bedfordshire Regiment

Date/Memorial of death: 15th April 1917/Bethune, France

Charles William Bray Age: 27

Rank: Gunner

Regiment: Royal Field Artillery

Date/Place of death: 7th April 1917/Hesbecourt, France

Harry, D.C.M Randall Age: 25

Rank: Sergeant

Regiment: Hertfordshire Regiment 1st Bn.

Date/Place of Death: 30th April 1918/Voormezeele, Belgium

William John Cooper Age: 22

Rank: Private

Regiment: Bedfordshire Regiment 8th Bn.

Date/Memorial of death: 19th April 1916/Ypres, Belgium

David Sharp Age: 23

Rank: Private

Regiment: Bedfordshire Regiment

Date/Place of Death: 7th April 1918/Poizieres, France

John Charles Frost

Rank: Private

Regiment: Hertfordshire Regiment

Date/Memorial of Death: 17th April 1918/St Sever, France

Arthur Ernest Stallan or, Stallon Age: 21

Rank: Private

Regiment: Hertfordshire Regiment 1st Bn.

Date/Place of death: 30th April 1918/Voormezeele, Belgium

Reginald Walter Goodge Age: 21

Rank: Gunner

Regiment: Royal Field Artillery

Date/Memorial of death: 23rd April 1917/Aubigny, France

William Stallan or, Stallon Age: 24

Rank: Private

Regiment: Hertfordshire Regiment 1st Bn.

Date/Memorial of death: 4th April 1918/Poizieres, France

Thomas G Griffin

Rank: Private

Regiment: Bedfordshire Regiment 4th Bn.

Date/Memorial of Death: 23rd April 1917/Arras, France

Albert E Tyler

Rank: Private

Regiment: Bedfordshire Regiment 1st Bn.

Date/Memorial of death: 21st April 1915/Ypres, Belgium

Hubert John Hall Age: 34

Rank: Private Memorial: Vimy, France

Regiment: 1st Hertfordshire Regiment

Date/Memorial of Death: 27th April 1918/Tyne Cot, Belgium

Reggie Charles Wren Age: 20

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Welsh Fusiliers 17th Bn.

Date/Memorial of death: 8th April 1918/St Mary Magdalene's Hatfield
Hyde

Frederick Hipgrave

Rank: Private

Regiment: 1st Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment

Date/Memorial of death: 20th April 1915/Ypres, Belgium

**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. (Robert Laurence Binyon)**



St Etheldreda's West End Project *Richard Morton*

(Contact: m. 07979 906330 e. richard@rm-architects.com)

St Etheldreda's has been at the heart of the religious and community life of Hatfield for 900 years. It is classed as a building of national importance for its wonderful architecture and rich history, but the huge costs of maintaining this marvellous place are met just out of the pockets of the congregation and visitors.

Now though we have some special, very urgent needs and we are appealing for funds from national bodies and from people like you to make sure the church can continue to benefit all the people of Hatfield.

For fifty years we have enjoyed the use of the old school building at the top of Church Street as a church hall but unfortunately this cannot continue so we need to create a new hall within the church building and the design is shown on the drawing above.

At the rear of the church – the West End – the drawing shows a spacious new meeting room which can be closed off and used even if there is a service under way, or opened as overflow space for big services or concerts. The glass screen re-uses the classical oak columns which currently support the old church organ.

Immediately behind this, under the tower, we will, at last, have some toilets and a new kitchen. These will be an enormous benefit not only for the congregation but for concert audiences, practicing musicians, visitors and nervous

bridegrooms. With improved access through the tower these new facilities can be made available from outside use as well. Above that, with access via a broad new flight of stairs (and possibly a lift as well) is a new gallery which will provide more seating, space for a permanent display about the history of the church and a temporary exhibition area.

Under the tower, where the bell ringers stand now, will be a new vestry for our growing choir and above that again we will be re-creating a bell ringing platform which was built high up in the tower hundreds of years ago.

Very recently we received the excellent news that the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the key decision makers on work of this sort, will, in principle, give their support, subject to the provision of more detail, and this enables us to move on confidently with our fund raising. This vital work is also very expensive, as you can imagine and there are many other costs looming for damp proofing of walls, re-tiling of the roof, lighting, a new organ, redecoration of the east end, completion of the heating system and a seemingly endless list of others. If you are in the position to offer any financial support, then it would be more than appreciated.

The church will be open to the public all day when Hatfield House is open for the summer season. Perhaps you might like to visit and imagine for yourself how this work will help to keep St Eth's at the centre of life in Hatfield for a few more centuries and see further details of this project on display.



Countess Anne School

A Church of England Academy

Recruiting Now!

The Board of Governors of Countess Anne Church of England Primary Academy is looking for two Foundation Governors.

A Foundation Governor (as distinct from a parent governor) is a member or supporter of a Christian Church who can be endorsed by the Church which is the Founder of the School.

The Board is looking in particular for someone who has a background or experience in general health and safety matters and for someone who has experience in the education profession. Additionally, some degree of computer literacy is desirable. But the Board is looking most of all for people who can give commitment to the school community.

The task is not too onerous, with Board members dividing their specific responsibilities across four committees: admissions, health and safety, finance and curriculum. The committees meet twice a term, and the whole Board 5-6 times annually.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please speak to Jill Knight or Murray Gifkins. You can find further details about the school at:

www.countessanneprimary.org.uk

Volunteering to serve the community in a variety of ways seems to be disappearing from our society, but that sense of community was perhaps never needed more than now. It brings its own rewards, and to join Countess Anne Board of Governors is to join a team of friendly mutually supportive men and women who are striving to do just that.

Murray Gifkins – Chair of Governors Tel. 01707 884534
mgifkins@countessanne.herts.sch.uk

Jill Knight Co-Vice Chair of Governors Tel. 01707 894949
jknight@countessanne.herts.sch.uk

Hatfield Night Shelter Update *by Michelle Jervis, Deputy Church Warden, St Luke's Church*

Whatever the warmth of the greeting you might get when you visit a church, they are not places you usually associate with high temperatures and St Luke's has, over the years, been no exception to this. It was with some trepidation that we thought of making the premises warm enough for our night shelter guests and the volunteers who would be looking after them. However, with the help of heating engineers and electricians the system was given a thorough overhaul in the late autumn and we were able to achieve something like acceptable temperatures.

You don't have to have studied Met Office statistics to know that this winter has seen some exceptionally cold nights so it was with horror that we discovered at the end of January that our boiler had sprung a leak which was irreparable. We have been very fortunate that our heating engineers were so sympathetic to the plight of our guests that they were very speedy in installing a replacement but even so we had to have recourse to some temporary heating.

It is a testimony to the dedication of the volunteers who have staffed the night shelter that it has been able to keep open every night from 26th November to 24th March. The original plan was for the shelter to run until 10th March but in the light of the recent bitterly cold weather the closure was deferred.

Over that period more than twenty people have been guests (not all at the same time!) having not only overnight accommodation but also a hot evening meal and a breakfast.

Apart from the obvious purpose of providing shelter and food, the project has also sought to help the guests to **progress**. This has been done by the guests working with local charity Resolve.

To date ten guests have places in more permanent accommodation and two guests have been helped to return to their home countries. Most of the guests have engaged in voluntary and paid work during their stay, working towards rebuilding their lives.

On a lighter note, the guests have also had some (more or less) welcome visitors in the shape of the Dentaïd van (well it's welcome when you have toothache) and a magician from the Magic Circle who did a free show for the guests and volunteers.

It has been a real community project, led by our late Mayor, Cllr Lynne Sparks and Chris Welsh, Watch Commander from Hatfield Fire Station but supported by many of the other churches in Welwyn Hatfield, by generous donations of money, equipment and food from individuals, from local businesses and by the numerous volunteers (more than one hundred in total) both in the town and nearby who have given up time to cook and serve hot meals and breakfast and to staff the shelter overnight.

The results have been so heartening. At St Luke's we have been moved by the conversations we have had with the volunteers. Discussions are currently ongoing as to how the work of the Night Shelter might proceed.



Canine Corner *with Bentley*

Dear readers, I am delighted to be back as Chief Royal Correspondent and am deeply honoured to say a few words regarding our dear Queen's 92nd birthday this year. After all, I am the master of all things 'Royal'.

As I am sure you all know (if you have paid attention to my previous fine pieces of journalism), Queen Elizabeth II was born on 21 April 1926. Her Majesty has two birthday celebrations each year - one on her actual birth date and the other on her 'official' birthday. The tradition for monarchs to have two birthday celebrations was started by George II in 1748 reportedly due to the temperamental British weather (his actual birth date was during the Winter season). Hmm... I am not sure if this was the case - more likely the reason was to receive two lots of birthday cake and two lots of presents.

Her Majesty's 'official' birthday is usually celebrated on the second Saturday in June, when she is joined by other members of the Royal family at the spectacular Trooping the Colour parade. However, her actual birthday is usually spent privately with close family and, of course, those delightful Royal Corgis (who are much to be admired). The occasion is marked publicly by gun salutes both in London and Windsor. This year, her lifelong commitment to the Commonwealth is also reported to be celebrated on her birthday in April with a concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Royal celebrations continue this year with the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, due to take place on 19 May 2018 at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. With my Royal connections, I am expecting my invitation to drop on the doormat any day now and I await this with bated doggy breath. Oh the excitement of such an occasion - no doubt those delightful Corgis will be hosting an after party in the Corgi Room - how I would love to mingle with such esteemed specimens. I am already deciding whether to wear my Union Jack bow-tie and whether to have a side or centre parting to show off my fine head of white fluffy hair.

Anyway, I confess that I have been distracted, as I am here to report on Her Majesty's birthday, a truly remarkable milestone. Our Queen is the oldest monarch to have reigned in Britain, with second place going to Queen Victoria, who lived to the age of 81. Now at the age of 92, Her Majesty continues to be a much loved and respected asset to our country and I am sure you lovely readers will join me in wishing her a very Happy Birthday.

God Save the Queen

www.stetheldreda.org

What's going on at St Luke's? *The night shelter may have closed for the season but that doesn't mean to say nothing is happening at St Luke's.*

Thursday 29th March, we are very pleased to be hosting Countess Anne's end of term Assembly.

Friday 30th March at 11am, we will be holding a Good Friday service. Entitled "Meditations on the Cross", it consists of brief scripture readings and pieces of music (and of course some hymns). It will be followed by Hot Cross Buns and coffee

Easter Sunday 1st April, our usual 11.30am service of Holy Communion with hymns

Easter Monday 2nd April, some of the congregation will be taking part in the Easter Monday pilgrimage. We will be joining members of the other churches in the team to walk along the Alban Way to St Albans Cathedral. It's a lovely way to meet people (and walk off any over indulgence in Hot Cross Buns and/or Easter Eggs!) and finishes with a very uplifting service at the Cathedral. If you would like to join in, we all start from St Michael and All Angels in Birchwood at 10.30am. There are usually plenty of people who are able to offer lifts back.

Thursday 26th April, as our contribution to the Clean Up Hatfield Campaign we will be doing a litter pick of the cemetery and area around the church. Meeting at 3.30pm in St Luke's car park, equipment (high vis jackets, gloves and litter grabs) is provided courtesy of the organizers of the campaign. You don't have to worship at St Luke's to join our little team to help tidy up this area - all volunteers welcomed! More details: Michelle Jervis 07584897872

Sunday 29th April, at our 11.30 service you will be able to hear our newly repaired pipe organ and the young choristers of Y.E.S! who are kindly coming to sing to us.

So, Lady Salisbury's Coffee Morning is now over and you have suddenly discovered some charming but sadly unwanted gifts which you would like to re-home.

Perhaps a spring clean of your bookshelves has revealed a number of books which you don't want to read again. *Maybe you have been dividing garden plants or have an excessive number of seedlings.* St Luke's would be very glad to receive any donations of these items for our May Fair which will be taking place:

Saturday 19th May between 9.30 and 12.30

Please contact Eve Lloyd for further information:

e: eve.lloyd2@ntlworld.com t: 01707 884981

The Bishops Hatfield pilgrimage to The Holy Land with Father Darren on 4th—13th June 2018

**This is last call now for those who may
wish to join us, there are just three
spaces left!!**

Travel with us to the Holy Land and let the Bible come alive as we meet the people and see the places of the gospel stories.

The Holy Land is unique in offering so many highlights and contrasts in a compact area. On our journey, we will visit places of pilgrimage and also meet the local Christian community, offering them our encouragement as we hear of the challenges they face. Our pilgrimage is planned for June when the weather is warm and sunny.

Visits include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Bethany, Nazareth and Capernaum, with a chance to float in the Dead Sea.

As with any pilgrimage there will be a reasonable amount of walking involved. If you are concerned about this aspect, or to find out more, please contact Fr Darren.

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Hatfield
from*

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St Luke's Churches*

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Lady Salisbury's Coffee Morning, Tuesday 20th March 2018 — a resounding success! *Reported by Hilary Morton*



songs from the shows and John Mark Ainsley, world renowned tenor and local resident, rounded off the musical entertainment with numbers on a spring theme. Thanks to them and to Jill Knight, Director of Music at St Etheldreda's, for co-ordinating the programme.

A big thank you is also due to everyone who donated items for sale, baked cakes, helped to set up the stalls on

Monday and served behind them on Tuesday, sold raffle tickets and cleared up afterwards – not forgetting all our customers who spent so generously.

The proceeds from the event, a staggering £2,274.65, will be divided equally between St Etheldreda's and Breaks Manor.

Our share, £1,137.33, will help the church to move forward confidently with its fund raising for the West End Project which aims to renovate and refit the bell tower, providing much needed kitchen and toilet facilities and extra meeting/display space.

Very recently we received the excellent news that the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the key decision makers on work of this sort, will, in principle and subject to the provision of more detail, give their support to the plans.

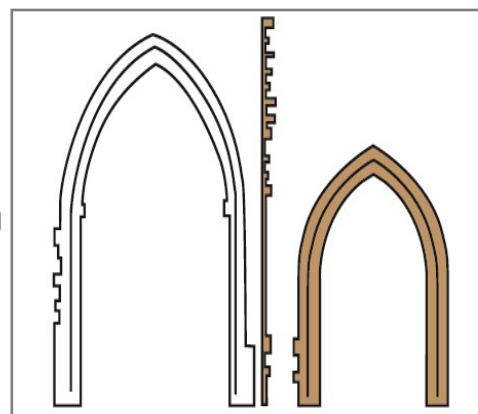
Look out for more news and fund raising events in future issues of Refocused

Two days before this year's coffee morning it looked as if the whole thing might have to be called off as the 'mini beast from the east' brought a fresh round of snow and freezing winds. Fortunately, by Tuesday the temperature had risen to a balmy seven degrees Celsius and only the farm remained closed – the animals sensibly preferring to stay indoors.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Lady Salisbury's team at Hatfield House and an army of willing helpers from St Etheldreda's and Breaks Manor Youth and Community Centre, the coffee morning has grown into a huge local event.

This year we graduated from the Riding School to the Old Palace but even this larger venue was a tight squeeze, such were the crowds.

We were delighted to welcome the choirs from Bishop's Hatfield and Countess Anne schools who sang beautifully for us. Jill Sergiou, our gifted soprano from the church choir treated us to some



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**Update on Hatfield Night Shelter
inside on page 7**

St Luke's Church December 2017

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