



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSED

March 2019

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH
WITH ST LUKE'S CHURCH



BISHOP'S
HATFIELD

Letter to the parish from Fr. Darren on—anything worth doing is worth preparing for ...

Just imagine that this Lent is going to be different from every other Lent we've experienced. Let's imagine that God is going to help transform our lives, with greater freedom, greater joy, deeper desires for love and service.

Lent is a wonderful season of grace for each of us if we give ourselves to it. So, in these days before Lent, we need to prepare our hearts. We need to prepare by realising how much we want to grow in freedom, how much we need to lighten our spirits and experience some real joy, and how much some parts of our lives really need changing.

So, preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing our sense of anticipation. If I imagine Lent as an 'ordeal' or a time I dread in some way, then I've already predisposed myself to not get very much out of it. These days before Lent are a time to start anticipating something wonderful that is about to happen.

Our sense of excitement and anticipation will grow more easily if we begin to imagine what God wants to give us. There is really something coming that we can truly look forward to. If we get too focused on ourselves, and what we are going to do or not do, we could risk missing the gift God wants to give us. We must keep aware of the fact that grace comes from God. This is about God's great desire to bless us. Then, it is easier for us to imagine that what we really need to do is place ourselves in a space to receive what God wants to give us.

Taking some time to get ready for Lent will ensure that we aren't going to miss the first week or two of it, because we are just getting started. Lent begins on the 6th March, Ash Wednesday, but we need to be ready to really take off on that day,

rather than just beginning to think about it as we are signed with the cross.

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and start with some preparations.

- What does God want to give me this year? This question may require that we slow down a bit and listen to our inner spirit.
- What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday? Too often, it is like every other day, except that we manage to get to church and get ashes on our forehead.
- Is there anything else I can do on Ash Wednesday?

It doesn't take a lot of time to prepare for the beginning of Lent. It just takes desire and focus. God can do so much with that. We can give Him more of a space to touch our hearts if we begin to establish simple patterns.

We could wake up each morning and for something like a half a minute, to a minute, stand by our bed and just ask God for the grace to let this day be one in which I long for the beginning of Lent. Perhaps we need to ask for specific help or grace to get ready to begin Lent.

Whatever we try to say, God can understand the Spirit trying to speak through our simple words. And all it takes is the time to find and put on our slippers. And each night, in the days ahead, we can practice giving thanks to God before we go to bed.

This simple pattern, in the morning and evening, can stir our spirit to look forward to and prepare for Lent as a season of grace.

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:

9am: Morning Prayers

7pm: Holy Communion or Compline

St Luke's Church

Sunday:

11.30am Holy Communion with Hymns

**Bishops Hatfield Team Ministry invites you to our
Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist and Imposition
of Ashes at:**

**St Etheldreda's Church
Wednesday 6th March 8pm**

*Remember that you are but dust, and to
dust you shall return (Ecclesiastes 3:20)*



Children's Sunday School Meets at 9.20am on Sundays in term time at 12 Fore Street (STEPS office)

March Weddings & Baptisms

Please contact Fr Darren to book your Wedding or Baptism

t: 01707 256638 e: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

What's on in March at St Etheldreda's & St Luke's Churches

- 3rd March 3-5pm Sing-a-long Musicals and tea and cake, St Etheldreda's Church
- 5th March 10.45-12.00am The Beatitudes Lent Course, St Etheldreda's Church
- 6th March 8pm Team Choral Eucharist for Ash Wednesday, St Etheldreda's Church
- 9th March 8pm Kings Men in Concert, St Etheldreda's Church

What's on in March in the Bishop's Hatfield Team

- 1st March 10.30am World Day of Prayer, Gracemead House, Hatfield
- 2nd March 8am Men's Breakfast, meeting, St Michael's & All Angels Church
- 2nd March 10am Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church
- 11th March 12.30 pm Lenten lunches begin at St Mary's Church, North Mymms every Monday
- 12th March 2.30pm Friendship Teas The Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford
- 15th March 2.30-4.00pm Poetry Group, St Mary's Church, North Mymms
- 17th March 4-5pm Welwyn Hatfield inter faith group, followed by afternoon tea:
The Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City
- 21st March 2pm and 7.30pm The Mystery of God. Lent course at the Vicarage, Great Braitch Lane

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Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke : Registered Charity No.1152011
St Etheldreda's Church, Fore Street, Old Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 5AN : **Printed** by STEPS 07973 469849

What's On at Hatfield House

23 MARCH @ 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
NGS GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY



24 MARCH @ 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
DOGS AND DAFFS CHARITY WALK



24 MARCH @ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
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More Info: www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events/
01707 287010 e: visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk

Lady Salisbury's Coffee Morning and Sale Tuesday 2nd April: 10.00 – 12.00 In the Old Palace, Hatfield House

Adults £3.50 in advance or £4 on the door

Children under 12 go free

Ticket includes free admission to the West Gardens
Advance tickets available from Station Lodge, Hatfield House—opposite the station

The farm will be open: Adults showing their ticket will receive 50% off the entry price and children go free.

Bloody Hollow play area included!



Coffee and biscuits will be served, music will be performed and there will be stalls featuring:

- Cakes and jams
- Second-hand treasures and gifts
- Plants
- Raffle

All proceeds are shared equally between St Etheldreda's West End Project and Breaks Manor Community Centre.

PLEASE HELP! Donations of home baking, second-hand treasures/ unwanted gifts, plants and raffle prizes are much appreciated. Please refrain from donating books.

Contributions please to Breaks Manor Youth and Community Centre, Link Drive, Hatfield AL10 8TP between 9am and 2pm any weekday. Or Station Lodge, Hatfield House, opposite Hatfield Station, from 10am to 4pm on Monday 1st April.

For further information, please contact Hilary Morton: 01707 266132. Full details of St Etheldreda's West End Project can be seen on the church website.

One late Sunday afternoon last month

..... a confirmation service was held at St Etheldreda's (3rd February). Fifteen candidates from the Hatfield team of churches – at least half of them adults – presented themselves to publicly confirm the vows made in most cases on their behalf by parents and godparents at their childhood baptism (four of the candidates undertook their own baptismal vows during the service.)

The church was filled with supporters – family, friends and members from the congregations of St Etheldreda's and the other team churches: St Luke's, St Mary's, St Michael's, St John's Hilltop and St John's Lemsford. But more than that the church was filled with light, ablaze with candles and the special light that comes from love, joy and wondrous expectation and the profound sense of being in a truly holy place. The music was inspiring, heartbreakingly beautiful and at times triumphant.

Bishop Michael in all his apostolic authority accepted and blessed each of the candidates. And, to much laughter, liberally sprinkled the younger members of the choir as well as Fr. Darren and the clergy with the remaining baptismal holy water!

A very special occasion. I felt I wanted to paraphrase the words from the Shepherd's carol: "And Holiness Shone Around". *Jo Roscoe*

Ash Wednesday, Lent and Mothering Sunday, *Mary Rathbone, Reader in Training*

Ash Wednesday on 6th March, heralds a time of challenge for Christians in the lead up to Holy week and Easter. It is a six-week period of self-denial known, of course, as Lent. Depending on our personal discipline, we may, or may not, like to give something up at this time. An alternative, of course, is to take something up, perhaps in service to the wider community? However we choose to approach Lent, it is always a process of unselfishness rather than being wrapped up in our own personal desires.

In the middle of these six-weeks we celebrate Mothering Sunday. This is a time when the Church has a natural half way break as we remember mothers, as well as Mother Church.

Lent was also a time in the past when some Christians studied and prepared for Baptism and Confirmation. However, things are a little more relaxed these days and our confirmation candidates for 2019, as can be seen above, have already been accepted into the church by Bishop Michael. Nevertheless, study is always an important part of this season for Christians and on page two you can see details of various Lenten study groups running throughout the Hatfield Team.

Above all, Lent is a time of preparation for entering into the Easter mystery; not only the Passion of Jesus but also sharing with Him in the hope and joy of the resurrection. However we choose to take the six-week journey, we do so with faith and hope in the risen Christ, who greets us in the glorious light of the Easter dawn, then invites us to turn back around into the direction of love and service.

*Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.*



Bishop Michael

St Etheldreda's Church on 3rd February 2019

More photos on the back page

A Story for Lent 2019 *Jo Roscoe*

As a church we are now entering the period of Lent; this commemorates the period when Jesus spent time in the wilderness of the Judean desert before beginning his ministry of teaching and healing. He knew this would offend the hierarchy of the Temple in Jerusalem and lead inevitably to his death by crucifixion.

For Christians now it is a time of penitence and contemplation. We have all had our times of despair in the wilderness, but His sacrifice has set us free and His hand is always reached out to us.

It is 'I think' a fitting time to tell you the story of one person's journey out of the wilderness.

The story of course starts way back in time with a little girl listening in wonder to her Sunday School bible stories, and weaves its way through a life typically beset with ups and downs – mostly ups it should be said - to a point of deep trauma and loss, to an utter and desperate call for God's help. And He did help, leading her eventually to the warmth and kindness in the St Etheldreda's family.

To cut a long and very personal story short, my friend and editor of this magazine, Mary Rathbone, heard a challenge to consider training for lay ministry. A licensed lay minister in the Church of England, also known as a Reader, is authorised by the Bishop to preach, teach and lead worship. Tentatively she put herself forward and was not rebuffed. Full of self-doubt: was she good enough?; was

God really calling her?; wouldn't it be easier to just enjoy being a popular member of the congregation?

But the 'pull' did not go away. Not a little fearfully she entered the long period of discernment set down by the diocese. At each stage of the process, interviewed by a panel of clerics and experienced lay people, always expecting to be gently 'failed', she passed to the next stage. Finally, the letter of approval came from the Bishop and her three year formal training began.

That first year was not easy; the academic demands were high and she often felt discouraged. Time and time again she was thrown back on the Word of God, to her strong conviction that He was with her in the journey, and to a small and loyal group of supporters.

On July 7th this year Mary will complete her training and be confirmed by the Bishop as licensed Reader in the Diocese of St Albans.

Over these years she has grown from a fearful and hesitant would-be Reader in Training to a confident competent preacher, humble before God but bold in her belief and conviction. July 7th will be the end of one part of her journey but the beginning of another.

Think of her that day (you will be reminded!) and be happy for her. And be happy for St Eth's having an additional licensed lay minister.

Ministry in our local Care and Nursing Homes Come and find out how you can support!

If you'd like to find out more about how we can offer support to our local Care and Nursing Homes, please come along for an information afternoon from 2.15pm to 4.15pm on either:

Saturday 23rd February or Saturday 9th March 2019 at:

Acacia Mews Care Home
St Albans Road East
Hatfield, AL10 0FJ

Tea and coffee will be served

Many of our churches are already serving a number of Homes in the area, but it would be good to offer our support to even more residents, working in small teams and getting to know individual homes and residents.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Rev Sue Stilwell

susan.stilwell@clara.co.uk or 0143871 6338

Music at St Etheldreda's Church

Community Sing-a-Long

March 3rd—3pm-5pm

Come and join us for a fun sing-a-long led by our Director of Music, Jill Knight. From 'Mary Poppins' to Oliver and beyond.

All are welcome, everyone can sing.

Free Admission

Tea and cakes to follow

The King's Men

March 9th—8pm

A welcome return of this highly acclaimed vocal ensemble formed from the Choral Scholars of Kings College Cambridge.

Tickets: www.stetheldreda.yapsody.com.

£20/£7 children

Jill Knight Pupils Concert

March 30th—3pm

An informal concert from pupils of all ages, piano and voice.

Free Admission—tea and cakes to follow

Choir and Brass

May 5th—4pm

A varied programme from the Da Capo Brass ensemble led by Richard Harris, with joint contributions from St Etheldreda's Choir, including Gabrieli and Rutter.

Free Admission

Tea and cakes to follow

Y.E.S!

(Young Eth's Singers)

June 9th—4pm

A wonderful selection of music from our highly regarded junior choir.

Free Admission.

Tea and cakes to follow



Hatfield Chamber Orchestra

June 30th—7.30pm

A much anticipated return from this highly professional ensemble with a stunning programme.

Mozart Sinfonia Concertante

Haydn Symphony No. 100

Barber Adagio

Beethoven Symphony No.2

Tickets: £10/£8 (OAP)/£3 (children)



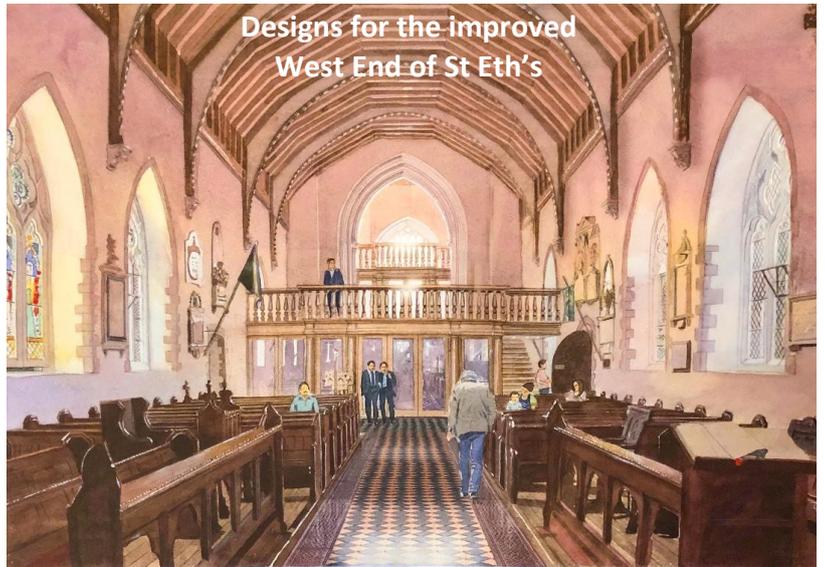
2019 Concert Diary

Mini Choir Concert

July 7th—4pm

A short concert and talk from members of St Etheldreda's choir, featuring sacred vocal music by Thomas Tallis and his pupil and proetage, William Byrd.

Free Admission—tea and cakes



The Eden Consort

July 21st—From 3pm

An afternoon of vocal music spanning five centuries. Come and explore our beautiful church in between three, 20 minute, recitals including music by Tallis, popular Spirituals & other Folksongs. **Free Admission—tea and cakes**

St Etheldreda's Church has a musical heritage which goes back over hundreds of years and offers an exciting diary for 2019.

Tickets are available at the door for all concerts, and in advance on some.

At free admission concerts a donation is encouraged to go towards fund raising for improvements to the West End of the church—as pictured above.

Songs from Stage and Screen

August 17th—3pm

Jill Sergiou, Voice—Jill Knight, Accompaniment

Free Admission

Thelma and Friends in Concert

September 7th—7pm

A welcome return of Thelma for her 18th concert, accompanied by a host of family and friends.

A wonderful evening of entertainment.

Tickets: £5 (children free)

Chris Goward, Clarinet—Mary Anstey, Piano

August 4th—3pm

Music for clarinet and piano to include works by Saint Saens, Mendelssohn, Finzi and Joplin.

Free Admission

Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival

September 26th-29th

A magnificent festival of chamber music, showcasing the very best professional musicians, hosted by Lord and Lady Salisbury and directed by Guy Johnston.

The concerts, over four days, are held in various parts of Hatfield House and also in St Etheldreda's Church.

Tickets: www.hatfieldhousemusicfestival.org.uk
£10/£8 (OAP)

The Gamay Ensemble

October 26th—7pm

An entertaining evening with a delightful programme of music from this local wind ensemble.

Free Admission



Tail End.....News from the Bell Ringers

Mary and Rob Goss

The Thursday evening bellringing practice nights continue to be well attended and we are grateful to our regular experienced visitors from Lemsford and Sandridge who help ensure our learners get plenty of opportunity to learn Plain Hunt and Plain Bob. Sunday mornings are also well attended with about 8-10 ringers at the tower most Sundays and we rang throughout the Christmas period including Christmas morning.

The younger readers of Refocused might be interested to learn that Bellringing appeared on the CBBC programme 'Blue Peter' on Thursday 10 January. There was plenty of footage of Presenter Lindsey Russell trying her hand at ringing. Look it up on BBC iPlayer!

On 19 January it was Hatfield's turn to host the Annual Bellringers' District Meeting. Hatfield is one of 20 towers in the St Albans District and around 25 ringers turned up for the evening meeting which was followed by some ringing. We had all 10 bells going to 'Rounds and Call Changes' and we also rang Grandsire Triples and Yorkshire Surprise Major. Unfortunately the 5th rope partly broke during the evening (one of the three strands snapped). We've made a temporary repair and we'll be using one of our spare ropes until we get the rope professionally repaired by a company in Loughborough. The break is just below the sally so a new 'tail-end' needs to be spliced into the sally using a special purpose machine.

Contact: (01438-718038) mary.rob.goss@gmail.com

Calling all writers, or would be writers

We are looking for new ideas and approaches for your Parish magazine.

Would you like to write something for it about our local community, churches or Jesus?

maryrathbone@icloud.com

All content is subject to editors approval.

The coming of the railway to Hatfield – and a Rector's shattered dream, Steve Roberts

When, in 1844, a railway was proposed to run from London through Hatfield to York, local reaction was generally favourable, particularly so for Hatfield's Rector at the time, who saw that cheap coal from Yorkshire would enable people to keep their homes cosy and warm and therefore reduce the lure of the pub.

Giving evidence to a parliamentary committee in 1845, Reverend F. J. Faithfull declared, "The scarcity of coal has an unfavourable effect on the inhabitants' morals. It drives them from their desolate homes to seek comfort in public houses and other places of questionable resort."

Lord Salisbury, too, was broadly in favour, as the railway gave him the opportunity to move the Great North Road out of his park to run alongside the tracks.

The only real obstacle was created by Lord Dacre of Codicote, who objected to the line going through Welwyn and Codicote, which meant that a viaduct had to be built over the deep Mimram valley which created a bottleneck on the line causing headaches for rail operators to this day.

Construction work began in August 1847, with the first 14 miles on a steep gradient from London to beyond Potters Bar, seven tunnels and sticky London clay making this a particularly challenging section. From then on the 30 miles from Hatfield to Hitchin was mostly gravel and chalk, and much easier to work.

It is thought that about 250 construction workers lived in or around Hatfield, prompting some extra policing – 'Three men and a Superintendent should be sufficient', according to Lord Salisbury. Anyway there are few reports of trouble, the "navvies" and locals seem to have co-existed amicably enough.

On Wednesday, 7th August 1859, the Great Northern Railway was opened from London through Hatfield to, initially, Peterborough.

Poor Reverend Faithfull – his dream of a sober Hatfield never came true. The coming of the railway triggered a growth in Hatfield's size, and in the two years from 1850 eight new pubs were opened in the town.

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