

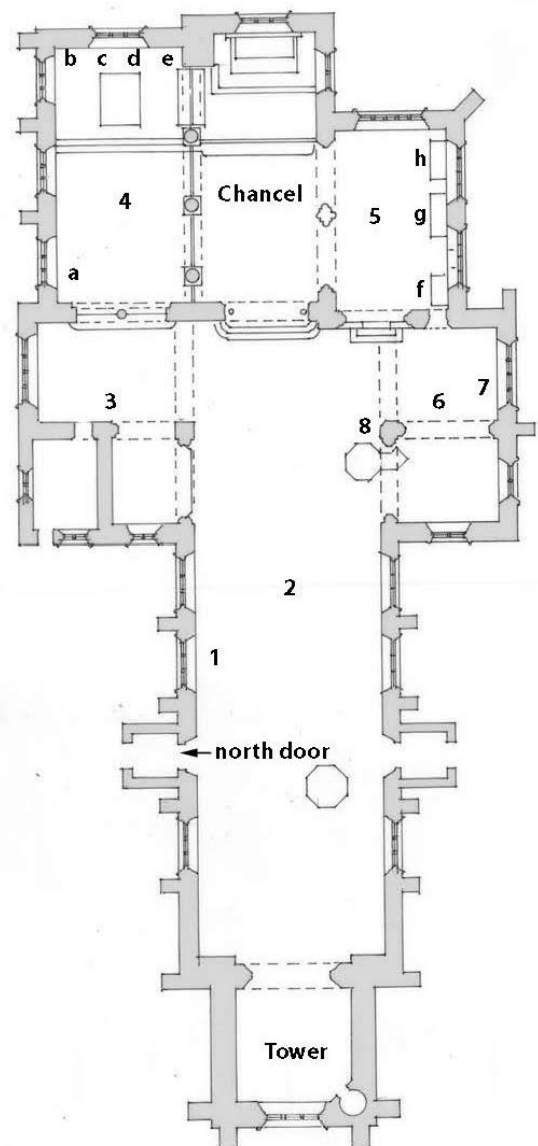
Welcome to our church!

St Etheldreda's, although it lies only a few steps from Hatfield House and shares much of its history, is not part of the House. As parish church, it serves a vibrant local community and also welcomes tourists from all over the world. It is funded entirely by the congregation and the generosity of visitors. We hope you enjoy your visit. Here is a quick numbered trail that will guide you round the building and give you brief details of the highlights. For further information, please ask one of the guides (if present) or purchase one of the guide books on display at the back of the church.

Brief History

People have worshipped on this site for a thousand years. In about 970, King Edgar presented the manor of *Hetfelle* to the Benedictine monastery of Ely which was dedicated to the Saxon princess, Etheldreda. In 1108, the Abbey of Ely became a bishopric and Hatfield became a residence of the bishops. This is why our parish is named Bishop's Hatfield. In 1538, the Manor of Hatfield passed to the crown under Henry VIII who used it as a nursery for his children. It is possible that Edward, Mary and Elizabeth worshipped here.

1. **Stained glass window** (1920) presented by the fourth Marquess in memory of the three sons of Lord William Cecil who died in WW1.
2. **The nave:** In 1871-72 the nave was rebuilt, having fallen into disrepair. There are several interesting memorials on the walls, including one to the Searancke family who owned the Hatfield Brewery which stood at the bottom of the hill.
3. **North transept:**
A metal plaque records King Charles the First's visit to the church on 27th June 1647. He was prisoner of the Army of the Scots at the time.
4. **The Salisbury Chapel** (see overleaf)
5. **The Brocket Chapel** (see overleaf)
6. **South Transept:** This contains some of the oldest parts of the church, including a medieval doorway and a pillar bearing scratched crosses said to have been made by pilgrims departing on crusades
7. **Stained glass window** (1894) in memory of Mrs Charles Drage. It was designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones and made in the William Morris workshop. Technical advances made possible the glowing colours, rose, green and blue.
8. **Memorial plaque to William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne 1729 -1848** (on the pillar near the pulpit)
This modest plaque commemorates Melbourne who was Prime Minister to William IV and then to the young Queen Victoria. He is buried in a vault nearby. His wife Lady Caroline Lamb (1785 – 1828) achieved notoriety due to her well-publicised love affair with the poet Lord Byron. She described him as "Mad, bad and dangerous to know". She declined mentally and physically in her last years and is buried in the churchyard.



THE SALISBURY CHAPEL

In 1618, this chapel was added to the north side of the church by William, Second Earl of Salisbury, to house the tomb of his father, Robert Cecil, first Earl and builder of Hatfield House. In 1875, at the direction of the third Marquess, the chapel was re-roofed and furnished with a marble floor and wall paintings.

a. Wall paintings of the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

These recently restored paintings are the work of the Italian painter Giulio Taldini who worked on the Marble Hall in Hatfield House in 1878. Each figure is depicted with his traditional symbol: St Matthew – an angel, St Mark – a winged lion, St Luke – a winged ox and St John – an eagle.

b. Tomb of William Curll (? - 1617)

He was warden of the royal estates in Hatfield for 25 years.

c. Tomb of Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury (1563 - 1612)

This magnificent tomb was made by Maximilian Colt from a model chosen by the Earl himself. The Earl is shown in his Garter robes and holding his wand of office as Lord High Treasurer. He became Secretary of State in 1596 and served Queen Elizabeth and King James I.



The four kneeling figures represent the Cardinal Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance. The skeleton below reminds us that power is transitory.

d. Effigy of a knight (unknown)

This little knight is probably the oldest inhabitant of the church. He is said to date from 1160.

e. Centotaph to Robert, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury (1830 – 1903)

Robert Gascoyne-Cecil was three times Prime Minister to Queen Victoria at the height of the British Empire. The effigy is identical to the one in Westminster Abbey. The Marquess is buried in the Salisbury graveyard between the church and the Old Palace. The phrase 'Bob's your uncle' is thought to have derived from Robert Cecil's appointment of his nephew, Arthur Balfour, as Chief Secretary for Ireland.



THE BROCKET CHAPEL

Brocket Hall used to be in the parish of Hatfield. The chapel, built in the 13th century and rebuilt in the 15th century, contains three interesting monuments on the south wall.

f. Tomb of Sir John Brocket (circa 1540 - 1598)

Sir John was twice Sheriff of Hertfordshire and a Member of Parliament, knighted by Queen Elizabeth I. In 1588 he marched a band of local men to Tilbury to resist the landing of the Spanish Armada. Look up and you will see his helmet.

g. Tomb of Elizabeth Moore (died 1612) and her mother Agnes Saunders (died 1588)

Elizabeth was John Brocket's second wife. This tomb is a prime example of Elizabethan funerary art.

h. Monument to the Reade family (1760)

Brocket Hall passed through Sir John's daughter Mary to the Reade family. This marble monument is by the Flemish sculptor John Michael Rysbrack, one of the most eminent artists of his period.

If you have enjoyed your visit, please make a donation to the upkeep of this historic church. Details of our fundraising project to renovate the west end of the building can be found on the board at the rear of the church. UK tax payers can gift aid donations using the blue envelopes. THANK YOU!