



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSED

June to mid July 2019

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



BISHOP'S
HATFIELD

Letter to the parish. Pentecost is celebrated on 9th June this year and Fadia, a member of our congregation, tells us how Pentecost is celebrated in her home country of Syria

On the seventh Sunday after the Resurrection our Holy Church celebrates Pentecost which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the Upper Room (The Cenacle) on Mount Sion. The Holy Spirit appeared in the form of 'cloven tongues of fire' with the sound of a rushing wind.

Pentecost is also called the Festival of Reaping or Festival of Weeks in the Bible and falls on the fiftieth day following Easter Sunday.

It is an honour to be able to share my Orthodox tradition of celebrating the Pentecost with you all. I come from an ancient Syriac village which dates back to 2000 BC located north of Damascus in Syria. With the kind help of an Orthodox Priest (Mor Antonios) I am able to share our traditional Orthodox Pentecost celebration.

During the Liturgy, after the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the church holds a special service of 'kneeling prayers' during which a bowl of pure water and a bundle of walnut leaves are placed on the first step of the altar.

The service then begins with an opening prayer followed by hymns and other prayers and readings from the Scriptures. After a Litany, a deacon cries out in a loud voice; 'Let us beseech the Lord and kneel down'.

The Priest and the clergy then kneel before the altar and the entire congregation follows suit. They gently touch one another's back with the tips of their fingers repeatedly alerting each other, as did the disciples at the time of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them. The deacons chant *Kýrie eléison* [meaning Lord Have Mercy] while the priest recites a prayer silently.

Once the priest has finished the silent prayer, he shouts aloud '**Stand up by the power of God**'. Everyone then stands up reverently in their respective places. One of the deacons holds the bowl of water and stands at the right hand side of the priest who then takes the bundle of walnut leaves from the bowl and sprinkles and gestures at the altar in the shape of a cross three times then sprinkles the clergy and the deacons.

The priest then comes down from the sanctuary and sprinkles the whole congregation with drops of water encircling the congregation and returning to the sanctuary. This act signifies the gifts of the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples. While sprinkling, the priest chants 'May the Holy Spirit come and descend upon each one of you'. The ceremony ends with a final prayer.

An Eastern Orthodox icon of the Pentecost



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 Prayer

Wednesday:

10am: Holy Communion

Thursday:

9am: Morning Prayer

7pm: Holy Communion or Compline

St Luke's Church

Sunday:

11.30am Holy Communion with Hymns

Children's Sunday School

meets at:

9.20am on Sundays in term time at:

12 Fore Street

(STEPS office)

June/July Weddings:

June 8th: Andrew Burkitt and Ankhelitz Kyriacos
Simon Lytton and Caroline Smith

July 19th: Thomas Mattin and Lillie Rose Adams

June/July Baptisms:

June 2nd: Isla Rose Skinner

July 28th: Isabel Nieve Hudson
Brendan Kyle Hudson

Please contact Fr Darren to book your Wedding or Baptism
t: 01707 256638 e: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

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

1st June 8am Men's Breakfast at St Michael's Church

1st June 10am Ramble Leaving St Michael's Church

4th June 7.30 pm "Start" Enquirers Course at St Etheldreda's Church

11th June 2.30 pm Friendship Teas in the Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford

22nd June 2.30pm Midsummer Tea at St Luke's Church

30th June 7.30pm Hatfield Chamber Orchestra at St Etheldreda's Church

1st July 7pm Mid Herts Music 'Commuters Concert' at St Etheldreda's Church

6th July 8am Men's Breakfast at St Michael's Church

6th July 10am Ramble leaving St Michael's Church

6th July 10am Ladies Coffee Morning in The Stable Yard Hatfield House

9th July 2.30 pm Friendship Teas in the Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford

Join us for a Walk In The Park

on Thy Kingdom Come

Pilgrimage Walk

Meeting in the Church Yard of
St Etheldreda's Church on
Monday 3rd June at 6.45pm
we shall walk in Hatfield Park for
about 50 minutes to an hour stopping
three times, when we shall read some
of Jesus' miracles and think about
what they mean for us today

See page 4 for full details on Thy Kingdom Come in the Bishop's Hatfield Team

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What's On at Hatfield House June-July

6 July @ 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Murder in Hollywood

Murder Mystery Dining Experience

The Riding School

£60 for 3 course dinner, a drink on arrival and the murder mystery experience

13 July @ 4:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Battle Proms

A summer celebration with music, Spitfire, cannons, cavalry & fireworks! Pack up the hampers and champers and join thousands of loyal fans for an exceptional afternoon and evening of entertainment at the 19th annual Hatfield House Battle Proms Concert.

14 July @ 12:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Folk by the Oak

A festival of folk's finest acts gathered in beautiful leafy parkland for one uplifting summer day of music.

26 July - 28 July

The Game Fair 2019



The only event at the heart of fieldsports, shooting and land management with a sprinkling of glamour, amazing food and shopping. Celebrating British field sports and country life, The Game Fair boasts a comprehensive itinerary for the whole family, including gundog handling, clay shooting, archery, fishing, falconry and ferreting. Visitors can also enjoy a host of food, drink and shopping stalls, as well as outdoor activities including off-road driving. Ensuring there is something for everyone.

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

An invitation to join us at St Albans Cathedral



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

If you have not been to the cathedral before, or recently, or even if you have been recently, why not join us when we visit on 7th July at 2.30pm for a service in which Mary Rathbone will be licensed by Bishop Richard, to serve as a lay minister in the Bishop's Hatfield Team.

Also at 6pm that evening at St Etheldreda's Church for a Desert Island Disk inspired hour of musical entertainment including stories of faith presented by John Mark Ainsley, followed by a toast to Mary's future ministry.

Musical events at St Eth's

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

St Etheldreda's Church

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)

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 protege, William Byrd.

Free Admission—tea and cakes



Thy Kingdom Come



Thursday 30th May

3.30 pm Messy Church **St Michael's Church Hall**
7:00pm Team Ascension Service **St Etheldreda's Church**

Saturday 1st June

10.00 am Coffee and Croissants
10.30– 12 noon. "How to Share your Faith"
12.15—1.15 Bring and Share Lunch
St Mary's Church North Mymms
7.00pm Compline **St Luke's Church**

Monday 3rd June

7.00-8.00pm Pilgrimage Walk in **Grounds of Hatfield House**
(Starting point is at 6.45pm in St Eth's Churchyard)

Tuesday 4th June

9.00 am Morning Prayer at **St Etheldreda's Church**
9.30 am Coffee at Angie's
10.00am Eucharist at **St Michael's & All Angels Church**
8.00pm Bible Study Group venue TBC

Wednesday 5th June

10am Eucharist - **St Etheldreda's Church**
10am Morning Prayer at **St John's Church, South Hatfield**
9.00 am School Service, 10am Morning Prayer 10.20 Prayer station, 12.00pm Midday prayer
12.30-5.00 prayer station at **St John's Church, Lemsford**

Thursday 6th June

10am Morning Prayer, 10:40 prayer station , 12 noon midday prayer
12:30 to 5pm prayer station 5pm Evening Prayer, 7:30 Compline at **St Michael's Church**
2.00-3.00pm Tea-Break at Angie's
7.30pm Songs of Praise at **St Etheldreda's Church**
followed by bring and share Pimms or your choice of beverage in the Churchyard

Friday 7th June

9.00 am Morning prayer , 9.30 Prayer Retreat 11.45 am Eucharist **St Etheldreda's Church**

Saturday 8th June

9.00 Morning Prayer at **St Etheldreda's Church**
10.00 am Coffee Morning The Stable Yard

Sunday 9th June

6.30pm Beacon Event at **St Albans Abbey**

There will be prayer stations in;
St Etheldreda's Church, St Luke's Church
and St Michael's & All Angels Church
during the day throughout this time



West End Project Update *from Richard Morton, Church Warden*

Finding design ideas for the West End which would get approval from the congregation, our patron, Lord Salisbury and Historic England (among others) always seemed like a serious challenge but we have made good progress. Now though we have the even bigger job of raising about £2 million!

We have made a good start with a very successful series of concerts, Lady Salisbury's coffee morning, £40,000 of donations in the early part of this year and some very promising initiatives to raise a six-figure sum of which we hope to have further news soon.

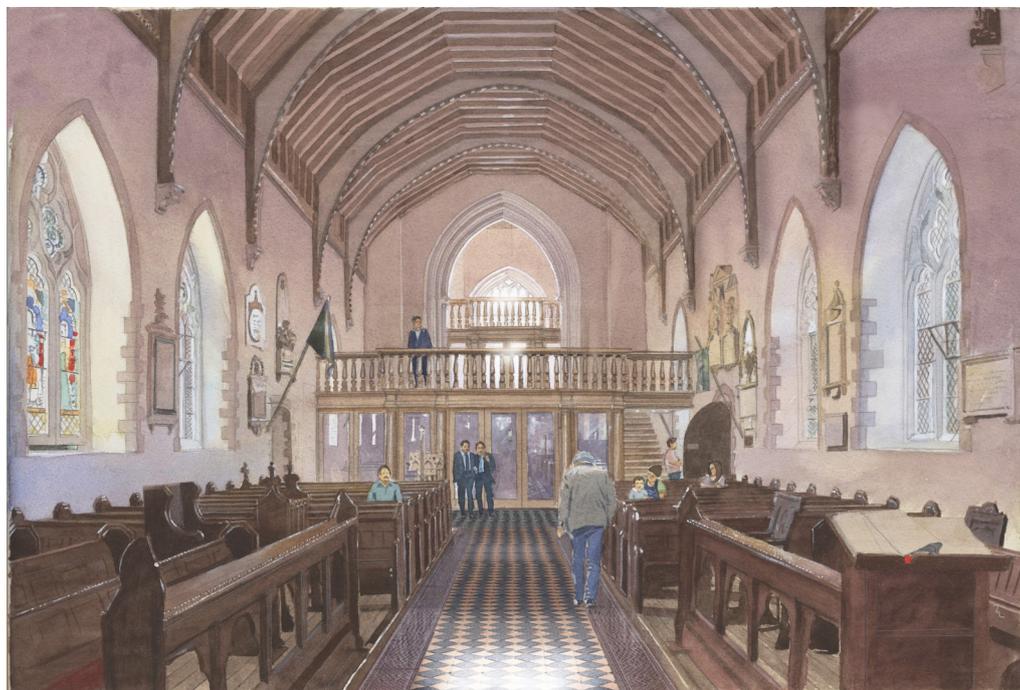
Moving onto the next stage though, we have come to the conclusion that we need help from a professional fund-raiser to maximise our chances of success with a wide range of potential grant givers. After a suitably rigorous selection process, I am delighted to report that the decision has been taken to appoint Spires Heritage.

Spires are based in east London and have a very impressive track record in raising funds for churches there such as

St Mary Walthamstow. They have come to us with impressive ideas, bags of enthusiasm, a really committed approach and excellent references. They see us as having a very strong case and are very optimistic that they can help us on the road to success.



Spires will be starting to work with us straight away and have promised to take a high energy, high profile approach so you may well come across them. We are very excited to be moving forward to this next stage.



Let there be light! *By Malcolm Caie, Church Warden.*

Those of you who have recently taken a walk up to the top of Fore Street could well feel that they have been transported back to 1803, as in the church there is a picture of that date which looks remarkably like the scene you will now see before you.

This transformation has taken place due to the recent hard pruning back, firstly of the border hedging around the Churchyard in March in partnership with the garden team from Hatfield House, and in this month the reduction of the Yew trees that had become so overgrown along the church paths. These Yews were not ancient; a photo taken in 1965 shows them as newly planted saplings.

The pruning has opened up the views of the church, making a safer approach to the North porch, letting a lot more light into the building and improving the bright colours of the stained glass windows. The flora has not been removed completely and will continue to grow, but under the advice and guidance of the Hatfield House garden team, we hope to keep the vegetation to an appropriate and manageable level.

Fore Street – Hatfield’s First Shopping Centre *by Steve Roberts*

The closure of Peta Shaw marks the end of many centuries of retailing in Fore Street.

The Fore Street of 200 years ago was very different from today’s quiet residential street with its attractive, well cared for houses. If you were a time traveller arriving there in the last years of the 18th century, you would have found yourself in a busy high street lined on both sides by shops providing for every need, as well as more than its fair share of taverns and alehouses.

Apart from locals going about their shopping and daily business, there would have been a constant stream of coaches, carts and wagons up and down the steep hill – this was after all the main route between London, York and beyond.

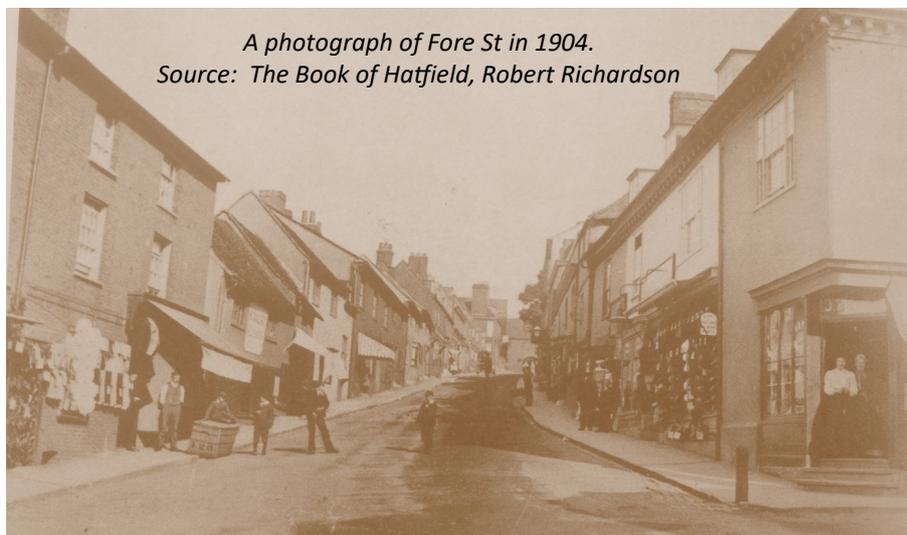
What would strike the 21st century traveller, apart from the noise and bustle, was the smell. All the vehicles on the road were, of course, horse-drawn, which meant manure by the ton. Add to this the smells from the brewery and maltsters, not to mention the tannery in Batterdale, and you were assailed by a variety of fragrances around the clock.

In the 1780s there were some 25 shops in Fore Street, as well as some in Duck Lane (Park St), and a number lining the Great North Road on its route through Hatfield Park.

All the familiar trades were there – baker, butcher, fishmonger, and less familiar ones such as cordwainer (a maker of shoes from new leather) and a peruke maker, who made the periwigs which were worn by most of the adult male population. There was also a wheelwright, a saddler and two plumbers. At the very top of the hill, facing travellers from London, was the mighty Salisbury Arms, with its generous accommodation and stabling for 40 horses.

All the shops were small, and probably not that well stocked, and of course there were no chain stores.

There was no post office as such, although there are records of letters being sent from Hatfield as early as 1756. Instead, two post boys, based at the Salisbury, would deliver letters on horseback.



*A photograph of Fore St in 1904.
Source: The Book of Hatfield, Robert Richardson*

By 1900 the mix of shops had changed remarkably little, bearing in mind that, since the arrival of the railway in 1850, and the moving of the main road to run alongside it, the street had effectively become a cul-de-sac. There was no cordwainer, although there were two bootmakers, and of course the peruke maker had long gone.

However, there was a greengrocer and, a sign of the times, a Mr S.C. Lawrance, Cycle Agent. Further modernisation came when, in 1904, the Rose and Crown, next to the Peta Shaw premises, became Hatfield’s first telephone exchange. As for the Salisbury Arms, this managed to survive the arrival of the railway for 30 years, finally closing in 1881.

The railway had other big influences too, notably the steady migration of people and businesses to ‘California’, so called because it seemed so far west of the original town. This is the area occupied by the present town centre, and where we first see some trading names which were still familiar until the end of the 20th century – Tingey, Dollimore – and at least one – Simmons – which thrives today.

As for Fore Street, shops gradually closed or moved west or, in a few cases, re-opened on the Great North Road, once known as Brewery Hill. Butler, the butcher, kept the Fore Street shop open until at least the beginning of the 1970s, while a shoe shop arrived for a while, and several antique shops came and went.

Now, we have an exceptionally attractive street, with houses large and small, in a variety of architectural styles, which pulls visitors from all over Britain and beyond. It is also popular with film makers, so its stone pavements have been trodden on by every sort of character, from amateur sleuths to zombies.

An extract from the Gascoyne Cecil Newsletter on Building Services

The winter months have been extremely busy in the Building Department, with ongoing projects and planned work as well as properties coming back that have needed a quick turnaround to get them back onto the market again. Hill End House and Corner House are two of the larger properties that have been vacated, and both have needed a complete paint throughout. Hill End House also required large amounts of asbestos to be removed and the heating system to be upgraded.

Next to Station Lodge, 62 and 64 Great North Road or as it is now known, 1 and 2 Park Villas, has now been snagged with just a few external items that need completing.

Over the winter months, Orchard House has turned a big corner with the completion of all of the structural repairs, second fix carpentry, plumbing and electrics completed. The decorators are halfway through the work and were on track for completion by the end of April, just leaving the external work to be finished.

After over two years of preparation work, scaffolding has started to go up around St Etheldreda's Church Hall so we can start on the reroof of the property.

The internal layout is going to be changed as well, to include a bar and small preparation kitchen for the purpose of holding small functions of up to 70 people.



With the Gift Shop moving from Stable Yard and into the Victorian Kitchen of Hatfield House, we have been busy converting the old shop into an extension of the Gun Shop.

The two buildings are now joined with the former Gift Shop having new flooring installed, a new heating system and a repaint throughout. We handed the unit back to the Gun Shop for them to complete their fit out ready for opening at Easter.



Three and four Park Cottages have been knocked through upstairs and downstairs to make one property. All of this work was done in three weeks which was an amazing turnaround by everyone involved, considering we had to remove two fireplaces, a large section of the partition wall, install steels designed to carry the loads from the first floor and the remaining chimney stacks, reconfigure the first floor bedroom layout and redecorate and carpet the two properties throughout.

In Hatfield House the final phase of painting the Armoury ceiling and the North Hall is complete. This has been a two-year project, which has also incorporated all of the stone door openings and columns that have been changed from white to stone effect, which you would now think is stone and not painted.

COUNTESS ANNE SCHOOL SUMMER FETE

Saturday 29th June 2019 1pm – 4pm

(be there or be square)

Fun – Games – Prizes – Stalls – BBQ – Punch & Judy – Fire Engine

Aspects of Organ Playing *Part 1 in a series of recollections of being the church organist from Thelma Dummer*

Anyone who thinks that organ playing is dull should think again. I have to say that as a kid I was carted off to church, sometimes unwillingly, where the organ seemed to churn on relentlessly and it certainly had no appeal whatsoever. My father used to say to me “Can you spot the tune?”, such was his dry wit. I never thought at the time to say “You mean there IS a tune?” It was then that I vowed and declared that of all instruments, the organ was one that I would avoid at all costs.

Many years later, however, someone said to me that, with my musical talent, I might consider playing an organ and she added that I would receive money for playing for weddings and funerals but still it held no appeal for me whatsoever, believing that to do so would result in my piano technique suffering because there is a difference in the way one plays an organ compared with the piano. It is amazing, therefore, that, several years on I should find myself playing on the very instrument that I vowed and declared that I would never go near. I started to play at St John’s Church in South Hatfield for a while but decided to return to St. Etheldreda’s Church where my husband worshipped. I joined the choir there believing that that was the end of my organ-playing. How could I have been so very wrong?

I somehow managed to have my arm twisted by the Rev. Richard Sutton who was vicar at St Michael’s Church at the time. It started with an evensong service and, because that went well, I was thrown in at the deep end with a Nine Lessons & Carols service with a couple of rehearsals thrown in for good measure. I survived the service, and so fortunately did the choir and congregation. Well! They were very trusting don’t you think?

One day, at home, minding my own business, there came a tap at the door and there was the Rev. Richard Sutton. The reason for his call was to ask me if I would play for a Sunday morning service on a rota basis. All this was building up. First it was an evensong service, then the Nine Lessons and Carols service, then the odd Sunday here and there, and if that wasn’t enough, the choirmaster, Roger Fisher joined forces into twisting my arm into playing more often. He would say ‘the organ seat is always there for you. I wondered if he expected me to stand up and play the organ. Eventually I agreed to take on the job as their organist, the big softie that I am.

It was during one of my Sundays as a supply organist that the person responsible for the intercessions was praying for the life of the church and she appeared to be carried away, so fervent were her prayers. ‘We pray, dear Lord’ she intoned ‘for a proper organist!’ One assumes that she probably meant ‘permanent’. She can’t really have had me in mind knowing that I did warn them that I was an unorthodox organist!

Before that particular service started I had managed to grab Rev. Richard and tell him that I would give this job a three month’s trial but when, at the end of the service he announced that Thelma had agreed to be our organist, he must have conveniently forgotten or chose not to hear the three months factor, so that was me committed to becoming the organist at St Michael’s Church! Well! They were pretty desperate weren’t they? Anyway I seem to remember receiving a round of applause.

Little did they really know what was about to hit them!

Canine Corner *with Bennie*

Dear readers, sorry that I have not been in touch lately, I have been busy exercising as the Mistress is still insisting I am chubby, so I am being forced on a route march each morning through the park! Starting off at the crack of dawn at Station Lodge we take the green nature trail off to the left after the viaduct. This takes us through what appears to be ancient woodlands. On most mornings we then pick up the blue track which takes us down to the lake, where I take the opportunity of a quick dip—very bracing. If we have time we then pick up the red track, more lakes and quick dips. We then seem to turn back on ourselves and return to Station Lodge through more woodlands and over the show ground. We cover 2-3 miles each day seeing hares, deer, foxes and all manner of birds along the way, so there is no time left for me to do anything else other than sleeping and eating for the rest of the day.



It is wonderful to see so many of my chums (new and old) when I am undertaking this gruelling ritual and I often mention that (if the Mistress allows me time to stop and chat that is) we would welcome their comments in my column. So, please drop a line to the Mistress, maryrathbone@icloud.com, if you would like to get your opinions published here as we always welcome doggy views of the world. Sorry, must go now (yawn) as is time for another sleep (10th of the day), yours truly, Bennie

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What's happened to the Churchyard Yew trees?

You may have noticed that the Yew trees in the Church Yard have had a rather brutal hair cut! Find out more about this inside on page five, where our Church Warden explains why this has happened. Some good news though, the church clock is now working again and hopefully the carillon will soon be working again too. Watch this space for more updates!



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