



# REFOCUSSED

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

May 2020



## Letter to the parish from the Revd Penny Thomson

### Lock-down brings about transformation.

We are living in the strangest of times! As I write this front page (April 16<sup>th</sup>), we have just heard that the social isolation measures and lock-down of our communities will continue for at least another three weeks. Sadly, that means that our lovely churches of St Eth's and St Luke's must remain closed for a little while more.

This lock-down is so hard for so many of us and for so many different reasons. Those who live alone perhaps long for some human company and touch, friends to laugh with, family to meet up with, hug and embrace. Those who live with others perhaps dream of some time alone, unused to being cooped up day and night with the same people, irritating habits becoming – well, even more irritating!

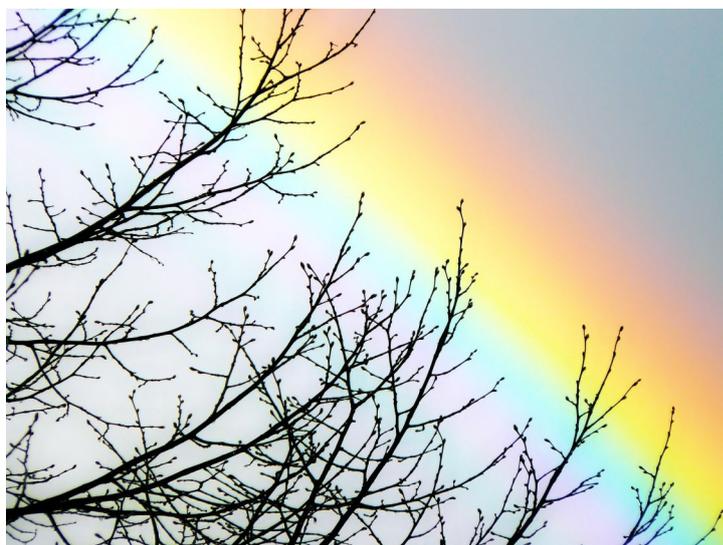
We are contrary creatures – but we are also resilient creatures!

Older people among us will have gone through similar times of uncertainty and hardship during the war and post-war years. And strangely, people from that era often remark that although times of difficulty bring moments of sadness and strain, particularly when a loved-one or close friend falls ill, hardship can often bring out the very best in our human spirit. The response of volunteers during this challenging time has been amazing, offering to help with cooking and fetching meals, shopping,

walking dogs, phoning people to keep in touch – thank you to all those who have so generously looked out for their neighbours!

We must also give thanks and praise to all those who have placed themselves on the front line, taken risks through their work, yet done so cheerfully and sacrificially, putting the welfare of others before their own safety and comfort. For everyone who works for the NHS – no matter how small their job, the ambulance drivers, the fire-brigade, the police and our armed forces personnel; those who drive our buses and trains, the supermarket and factory workers, the bin-collectors, the lorry drivers, our government – national and local and all those who work in offices, carefully navigating our way through these uncharted waters. Indeed, we are grateful to everyone who has worked so tirelessly, in so many different ways to keep our country up and running. Thank you! Thank you!

*Letter continues on page 4*



# Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke

## St Etheldreda's Church Services

**SUNDAY:** 8<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion BCP  
9.30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion with Sunday School

**3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH:**

9.30<sup>am</sup> All age Eucharist

**TUESDAY:** 9<sup>am</sup> Morning Prayer

**WEDNESDAY:** 10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

**THURSDAY:** 9<sup>am</sup> Morning Prayer

7<sup>pm</sup> Holy Communion or Compline

**FRIDAY:** 9<sup>am</sup> Morning Prayer

## St Luke's Church Service

**SUNDAY:** 11.30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion with Hymns

**CHILDREN'S  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

meets at 9.20<sup>am</sup> on Sundays in term time  
at 12 Fore Street (STEPS office)

**Due to Coronavirus all usual services and events are suspended until further notice. Please join us for online services as detailed below**

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

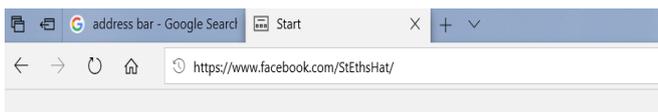
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you will need to go to our Facebook page on a computer or mobile device. Mobile devices are either phones (e.g. Iphone or Android) or tablets, such as Ipad etc.

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The simplest way to find us is by copying the following address into the address bar at the top of your web browser (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Safari etc.) and press the 'Enter' key ('Go' button on phones).

<https://www.facebook.com/StEthHat/>



That will take you straight to our page on Facebook:

St Etheldreda with St Luke, Hatfield.

Alternatively, you can copy the address into any search engine (e.g. Google) and press the 'Enter' key.

Our page will be listed in the results.

## ONLINE SERVICES

Tune in at the following times to join us:

**Parish Eucharist Sunday 9.30am**

**Morning Prayer Mon-Fri 9am**

**Compline Mon-Fri 9pm**

[www.facebook.com/StEthHat/](http://www.facebook.com/StEthHat/)

## CONTACTS

**Father Darren Collins, Team Rector**

**The Rectory, 1 Fore Street**

**Old Hatfield**

**Hertfordshire AL9 5AN**

**Tel: 01707 256 638**

**Email: [frdarren@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:frdarren@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Refocused Editor: [maryrathbone@icloud.com](mailto:maryrathbone@icloud.com)**

**Parish Team Office**

**Open Saturdays: 9am – 10am**

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**Old Hatfield**

**Hertfordshire AL9 5AN**

**Tel: 01707 260 800**

**Email: [bhteamoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bhteamoffice@gmail.com)**

Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke : Registered Charity No.1152011  
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# HATFIELD PARK by Violet E. Godfrey (b Dec 1914 – d March 2009)

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No tailored lawns or formal beds  
Of regimented blues and reds  
No tennis court or putting green,  
No man-made pleasure to be seen.  
Alone the Great Creator's face  
Smiles gently on this lovely place.

In March wild daffodils shout their praise,  
Massed violets sing their softer lays.  
Green mist floats through the hawthorn brake  
As buds obey spring's call to wake.  
Bluebells, may and elder flower  
Come each at the appointed hour.  
Then sweet white roses clamber high,  
Pink stars against the summer sky.  
Butterflies dance where seeding grasses  
Tremble as the light wind passes.

Grasshoppers click and crouch and leap  
Through harebells on a sunny steep.

In woodlands shaded from the heat,  
Where brambles snatch unwary feet,  
Gnarled oaks their twisted branches raise,  
Tough veterans of bygone days.  
Dark scars remain where limbs were torn  
So long before this age was born.  
Deep rooted in their Mother earth  
In which dropped acorns gave them birth,  
Steadfast, unmoved through storm and strife  
They witness to enduring life.

Beneath their stillness rest at ease  
To share the flow of strength and peace.

## What's On at Hatfield House Covid-19 (Coronavirus) update

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### Hatfield house opening postponed

The health and wellbeing of our visitors and the people working here is our overriding priority during the developing situation, we have therefore decided the following:

- Hatfield house opening will be postponed to the end of June when we will review the situation at that time.
- Opening the park and gardens is being reviewed in line with government guidance.
- Hatfield Park Farm opening has been delayed.
- The Coach House Kitchen is now closed until further notice.

There are changes taking place to upcoming planned events see right:

For more information: [www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events) t: 01707 287010 e: [visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk](mailto:visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk)

3 May @ 11am - 4pm

**POSTPONED** | TUDOR LEGACIES  
MEET THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII

7 May @ 10am - 10 May @ 5pm

**POSTPONED** | LIVING CRAFTS

Living Crafts has now been postponed to  
8th – 11th October 2020

8 May @ 1pm - 3pm

**CANCELLED** | VE DAY – 75TH ANNIVERSARY

13 May @ 12pm - 1pm

**CANCELLED** | A DAY IN THE LIFE OF  
A GARDENER

23 May @ 3:30pm - 11pm

**CANCELLED** | SLAM DUNK – A DAY TO  
REMEMBER

24 May @ 9:pm - 11pm

**POSTPONED** | SLAM DUNK

Slam Dunk has now been postponed to  
6th September 2020

# Revd Penny's letter (Lock-down brings about transformation)

continued from front page .....

When Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, he appeared first to some of his closest disciples outside the Garden Tomb. But, on that day, most of his close followers were in lock-down, in an upper room in Jerusalem, fearful of the crowds who had so unexpectedly turned on Jesus and cried for his execution. Huddled together, they felt safe behind the locked doors – and if something happened, at least they would be able to face it together.

Afraid, but feeling safer behind those locked doors, Jesus' disciples were amazed when suddenly, he came and stood among them, saying *"Peace be with you."* He showed them his hands and feet, the places where the nails, that had fixed him to the cross, had been cruelly driven through. And then he ate with them and breathed his Holy Spirit on them, comforting, encouraging and emboldening them. Yes- Jesus really was alive and risen from the dead.

Meeting the risen Lord Jesus transformed these cowering, frightened men and women into brave disciples who from that time on, sought to bring to others, Jesus' message of joy, hope, peace and acceptance for all.

This time in lock-down is difficult to endure, but we too might allow ourselves to be transformed in a good way by the experience. Denied of many of our usual distractions, we have been given time to consider what is really important to us and what in this life is of real value: family and friends; performing little acts of kindness; allowing others to show us little acts of kindness.

A slowing-down and taking time to see the beauty of God's Creation, which is renewing and exploding into Spring life all around us. Finding time to sit quietly, to speak or pray to God, asking his blessing, both on ourselves and on those we know and love.

At the beginning of this lock-down period, the painter David Hockney

remarked, that although this time would be hard to endure, we would come through – yet we should each consider what we might have learned from this experience.

Jesus' fulfilling his promise to his disciples to come back from the dead transformed his fearful, locked-down followers into confident messengers proclaiming the Good News – embracing a new way for God to show his love for his people and a new commandment for us all to love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves.

My hope and prayer is that, even for those of us who might sadly have suffered the loss of a dear one at this difficult time, we might all have learned something good about ourselves and about one another. That we might be changed into people who can be even kinder, bolder, more compassionate. People who have more time for one another. People who seek to find more time to spend with God, our loving heavenly Father.

A final note of hope and encouragement for these strange days, was delivered by our Queen in her televised speech to the Nation:

*" We will succeed and that success will belong to every one of us..... We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."*



Horse Chestnut blossom

Despite the current lock-down and social distancing measures, music at St. Eth's continues to be heard and enjoyed by many in our community of Hatfield and beyond. Recorded singing sessions for Y.E.S! began within a week of lock-down, with all the children having access to a weekly rehearsal and vocal training session supported by RSCM ribbon-work through their books and folders. All the Y.E.S! families are keeping in touch via WhatsApp and sharing photos of their music practice. There is also a weekly on-line adult choir practice for our singers to access at their convenience.

We are including one hymn for everyone to join in with as part of our Sunday on-line worship, but also trying to incorporate other pieces of reflective music recorded by members of the St. Eth's Choir. I am also sending out musical gems from St. Eth's to members of the congregation and community via email on Saturday evenings. These include recordings of our own choir singing together and individual performances by members of the choir or congregation. Many of these can also be found on the music page of our church website, but please let me know if you would like to be included in the email list.

As part of our preparations to sing Choral Evensong at St. Albans Cathedral (which has sadly been postponed for now), Y.E.S! visited the Cathedral on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. We all took a coach to St. Albans where we had a tour and talk, followed by tea in the Abbott's Kitchen and then attended Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Girls Choir and Men. The children really enjoyed the visit and we all learnt a lot about St. Alban and the history of the building (see photos). This visit was funded by the *Choral Scholarship Fund* which aims to inspire, encourage and support our young choristers and organists and secure the future of music in our services at St. Eth's for many generations to come - so thank you for your contributions and help towards making it possible for all the children to take part. If you are interested in supporting our work with young people, please get in touch with me.

For the moment our concert series has been suspended but as soon as restrictions are lifted, we hope to bring you more live music from St. Eth's. Concerts are already being planned for the late Summer-Autumn season and further details will follow soon.

In the meantime, I thought I would share this with you; for those of us who struggle with enforced "rest", it is a timely reminder of our need to "Be still in the presence of the Lord".

There is no music in a rest, but there is the making of music in it. In the melody of our lives, the music is broken off here and there by "rests", and there are even times when we think we have come to the end of the tune. God sends a time of forced leisure – sickness, disappointed plans, frustrated efforts – and makes a sudden pause in the choral hymn of our lives. We lament that our voices must be silent and our part missing in the music which ever goes up to the ear of the Creator.

How does a musician read a rest? See him beat time with unvarying count, and catch up the next note true and steady as if no breaking place had come between. Not without design does God write the music of our lives. But be it ours to learn the time and not be dismayed at the "rests". They are not to be slurred over, nor to change the keynote. If we will look up, God Himself will beat time for us. With our eyes and ears on Him, we will strike the next note full and clear.



# William Carpenter (1935 -2020) written by Teresa Hore – April 2020

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William Brodie Carpenter (known as Bill) was born in Harrow in January 1935, the son of Mary and Eric Carpenter. Bill was the eldest of 4. He had 2 brothers, Simon and Mark, and a sister, Mandy. As a child during the war, his father's work (as a dentist) was essential, so he was not evacuated, and he stayed at home with the family. He recalled that in the garden, they had an Anderson shelter, which frequently flooded!

After time serving National Service, he took on an apprenticeship at De Havilland Aerospace, where in 1956, he was awarded apprentice of the year! He met his bride to be, Rosemary Bird, at a Young Conservatives meeting in 1955. On 6<sup>th</sup> June 1959, he and Rosemary were married. They were a devoted couple. Last year, the family celebrated Bill and Rosemary's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at St Peter and St Paul, Tring. It was a wonderful occasion, which we as a family look back on with fondness and thanks.

Rosemary and Bill went on to have 4 children, Penny (born 1961) Philip (born 1963) Tim (born 1966) and finally Teresa (born 1971) Eventually Bill and Rosemary became "Grandma and Pa" to 9 wonderful grandchildren, Matthew, Stuart, Laura, Joshua, Hannah, Nathaniel, Thomas, Alex and William. (from ages 33-8) They all recall enjoyable and memorable days out with Grandma and Pa,

particularly at Whipsnade zoo, of which Bill was a fellow. He was an animal lover, and he liked visiting the Meerkats and the lemurs at the zoo best of all! Laura recalls happy afternoons painting with Pa, and Josh recalls discussions about recent Dr Who episodes, but Pa always insisted that William Hartnell was the best!

The family lived in Sandridge and Bovington, and then, in the late '70s, Bill became drawn to the ministry. He was ordained in 1979. In 1980, they moved to Hemel Hempstead. The house needed a lot of renovating, and luckily all the family were there to help out. He worked as a non – stipendiary deacon, then priest at St Mary's Church in Hemel Hempstead, a large church with a thriving family centred community. This was a very happy family time, and Bill and Rosemary always had a busy happy house, with friends popping in and out! In 1981 he proudly gave his eldest daughter, Penny away at St Mary's church.

Bill and family then moved to St Etheldreda's Church, Hatfield, where he worked as a priest, working particularly with the youth club, and with families. Many members of this parish remember Bill and Rosemary with incredible fondness, and are grateful for the love and support that they offered. The family were also part of church life. Phil became a youth leader, and Teresa joined the

## William Carpenter (1935 -2020) continued ...

church choir. Bill and Rosemary always worked together, with Bill attending to parish duties, whilst Rosemary helped with the social aspects of the churches that they worked in. They were an incredible team, wherever they went. Bill ran pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to Jordan, and again, “Team Bill and Rosemary” were a fantastic crew. Many parishioners went on pilgrimages with Bill and Rosemary more than once.

Bill and Rosemary, Tim and Teresa moved to Reading in 1988, where Bill was priest in charge, and then vicar of St Andrews, Caversham. The parishioners wanted to call him “Reverend” and “Father Bill” but he always just wanted to be known as “Bill!” Again, the members of St Andrews remember Bill with fondness, and his photo still adorns the new wing of the church complex. Whilst there, he also directed some musical productions, including Joseph, and HMS Pinafore. Bill gave Teresa away at St Andrews church in July 1996.

Bill retired in 1999, and Bill and Rosemary moved to Tring. Rosemary recalls how welcome they felt,

as they arrived there. The church was in an interregnum, and Bill was happy to help cover the busy schedule during this time. In true “retired” vicar style, he wasn’t ready to retire just yet! He enjoyed being part of the team at St Peter and St Paul, as well as the church at Wigginton. Bill and Rosemary had a very happy retirement, and they enjoyed being part of the church and community here in Tring. Sadly, Bill’s dementia started to become clear in the last 6 or 7 years of his life. In 2019, he moved permanently to Lime Tree Manor Care Home, in Adeyfield, where he appreciated the many visitors who came to see him during his short time there. He especially enjoyed lots of chocolate deliveries!

Bill passed away peacefully on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April after a short illness. The warm and lovely tributes that Rosemary and the family have received in recent days and weeks have helped keep his memory alive, and we are grateful for the happy memories and warm recollections of his life. Many thanks to you all.

## Falcons Kitchens, Salisbury Square, Old Hatfield

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# Stone, Flint and Brick

by Richard Morton, Church Warden

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Our church and the Old Palace next door, both beautiful but very different, one built largely of flint and the other in brick, together tell part of a fascinating story about ancient buildings and the materials used in their construction. To us the sight of a flint church seems entirely normal and the finest examples – churches like Long Melford and Southwold – are stunning, but such buildings are rare outside the South-East and East Anglia and almost unknown outside Britain. So what is the story and what are the alternatives?

You might think of brick as a possibility and we are familiar with the cathedral tower at St Albans, constructed out of bricks salvaged from Roman Verulamium, but brick churches were, in fact, very rare in Britain until Victorian times, and we had no other brick cathedrals until work started at Westminster (the Catholic Cathedral) and Guildford early in the twentieth century.

The main reason for this, is that brick manufacture stopped in Britain when the Romans left in the fifth century and did not resume on any scale for another thousand years. During that time buildings of any size were built of stone. In the North and West this was of course no problem but in the South and East the nearest sources of good building stone were far away. The Normans imported stone from Caen and later supplies came from quarries around Stamford, but transport over such distances made things very expensive. At St Eth's the only part built entirely of stone is the Salisbury Chapel, probably with limestone from Ancaster in Lincolnshire.

An ingenious, more affordable and, as I have said, uniquely British alternative is the flintwork which we see at St Eth's. Local flints gathered from the fields or chalk pits, are set into lime mortar with some details like the west door carved in clunch, a very soft local stone, and with good building stone just for a few key elements like the buttresses. The flint was renewed for most parts of the church during the 1870s restoration, but the tower, dating from 1470, is in something much closer to its original state.

Now we come to something of a puzzle though, because Bishop John Morton while building our tower in flint was, at the same time, building his own palace next door in

brick, which had become fashionable after manufacture restarted in the early 1400s. He was not alone in making this distinction. At Tattershall in Lincolnshire the magnificent 1430s castle was built in brick with the church next door in stone and likewise at Trinity College in Cambridge the stone chapel stands out from the surrounding brickwork of the Great Court. Brick was used for many of the country's most important buildings throughout this period, including Hampton Court, the most splendid of Tudor Palaces, but it was not used at all for churches until much later, following the Great Fire, and only very rarely until the Nineteenth Century.

In this, England differs significantly from Continental Europe where brick had been used continuously since Roman times and where it is used for many great churches and cathedrals such as those in Lubeck and Albi.

I can think of no practical reason why this distinction should have been maintained and brick had great advantages when good stone was scarce because it could be made locally. If you venture, for instance, into the south eastern part of Hatfield Park you will find Brick Kiln Wood.

The tradition that only stone could be used to build the House of God appears though to have remained unshakeable even when it was being used for the magnificent houses of Kings and Bishops. The contrasting materials at the top of Fore Street are not an accident but a fine example of an important but curiously English building tradition.



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Please contact—[maryrathbone@icloud.com](mailto:maryrathbone@icloud.com) if you have any editorial contributions.

## AN AUDIENCE WITH ELIZABETH I



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN READING ABOUT QUEEN ELIZABETH I AND WONDERED WHY SHE MADE CERTAIN DECISIONS?

LIVING HISTORY HATFIELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH OFFERS A CHANCE TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO LEARN WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE TUDOR COURT AND TO MEET THE QUEEN HERSELF.

THE QUEEN WILL GIVE AN INSIGHT INTO THE THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS BEHIND MANY OF THE MOMENTOUS EVENTS OF HER REIGN.

THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO HER IF YOU WISH.

VENUE: ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH

**NOW RESCHEDULED FOR:**

30TH JULY AT 2.30PM (DOORS OPEN AT 2.00)

**TICKETS £12.00**

AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR OR IN ADVANCE FROM:

[www.fisherhistory.co.uk](http://www.fisherhistory.co.uk)

Parking available in the George's Gate car park at Hatfield House AL9 5HX

## Mill Green mill has returned ....

to doing what they know best. With the supermarket flour stocks depleted, they have been working hard to support local residents by fulfilling flour orders.

Their two millers have been keeping their distance inside the mill, and wearing masks throughout the milling process. They have also established a contactless collection process, to keep both their staff and the local community safe. They are very proud to be able to provide this service to the Welwyn Hatfield Borough and it is great to see our local neighbours at Mill Green mill continuing to thrive as they write a new chapter in its long history.

It's great to see people taking up new skills during these very uncertain times; making their first loaf with Mill Green flour or baking with their children when they are off school.

[www.hatfield-house.co.uk/latest-news/mills-green-mill-returned/](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk/latest-news/mills-green-mill-returned/)

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