



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# REFOCUSED

JUNE 2018

PARISH MAGAZINE

ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH  
WITH ST LUKE'S CHURCH



## Letter to the Parish from the Rev'd Penny Thomson on journeys, vocations and feeling welcomed ...

It is hard to believe that it is only ten months ago that I joined the congregations of St Eth's and St Luke's as your new Curate – I have been made to feel so welcome and now feel very settled within the fellowship of both churches.

I have not journeyed very far in miles from my sending church in Potters Bar, but I have travelled a long way in my understanding and affection for my new fellow worshippers during these months.

My first challenge, when I arrived was to be up bright and early for 8am Holy Communion on Sunday, celebrated at the High Altar in St Eth's, by a small, but faithful congregation. The 9.30am Parish Eucharist service follows this and sees a larger congregation, including families with children, gather for worship. Music plays a very important part in worship at St Eth's and listening to the adult choir and the junior choristers (Y.E.S), as well as learning many new settings for the sung parts of the service has been a joy. A quick gulp of coffee after this service and then off to celebrate Communion with the small dedicated congregation at St Luke's Church - a full and busy Sunday morning!

This year, I have experienced worshipping in several different styles as well as taking an increasingly fuller role in leading worship on various occasions. I have enjoyed gathering with others for Morning Prayer every Tuesday, followed by chat over coffee and a warm welcome at Angie's Deli in the Broadway afterwards. Other new ventures which have started up this year have included a new day-time fellowship group on Tuesday to cater for those who don't like to be out at night; Thursday Afternoon Tea at Angie's, Compline alternating with a Communion Service every Thursday at St Eth's, and a full and varied programme for our Ladies Group. These activities are led by various members of the team and are responding to our growing numbers.

Christmas services were very special and a highlight of the year, with over 800 people attending over the festival period. Good memories include beautifully arranged and sung anthems from the choir, acting the Christmas story in the rain, with real animals, for

the Farm Nativity; laughing at naughty shepherds throwing sheep at the angels at the Crib Service; feeling moved to tears, watching people light candles and place them on the altar at Christmas to remember those who had passed away this year; seeing relatives write the names of their loved ones on a star, then hanging the star on our church Christmas tree – we have prayed in church this year for everyone whose name was recorded there and plan to offer this opportunity again next Christmas; finally the peace, wonder and awe at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

The Church Parish weekend away last Autumn was an opportunity to get to know people in a informal setting and to have longer, deeper conversations – there are plans afoot for another Parish Weekend this October and I am excited to be helping to plan the programme with our church leadership team.

I am really looking forward to serving my church community more fully as I start to celebrate baptisms, weddings and conduct funeral services by myself, as well as to celebrate Communion Services after my priesting in June. Now... just to clear up some confusion - I am not leaving after my priestly ordination in June but will happily be staying here for the foreseeable future!

This year, I have met and experienced warmth and generosity and acceptance from the members of St Eth's and St Luke's. The churches are growing, with new people finding friendliness and enjoyable worship. Our Rector: Fr Darren, is my training incumbent, and has been generous with his time and wisdom which has helped me to progress with my training and enabled me to become increasingly confident to undertake my place in leading the worship of these congregations. The rest of the clergy team: priests, readers and in particular our church wardens from both churches, have made me feel very welcomed and a valued member of the team. And, every member of the church has, for me, truly acted out Jesus' command to look after our neighbour, as I have been welcomed to become a part of the worshipping congregations of these beautiful, historic churches. Thank you! Penny - Curate

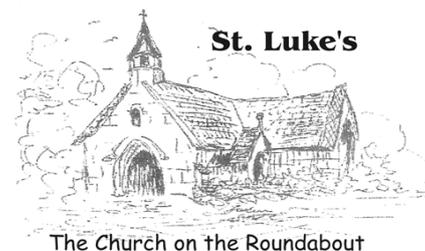
## Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke—Regular Services

### 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:** 7pm Holy Communion or Compline

### St Luke's Church

**Sunday:**  
11.30am  
Holy Communion  
with hymns



### Weddings in June

8th June—Nicholas Hounsam & Charlotte White  
9th June—Gerlando Profeta & Lauren Fitzgerald  
9th June—David Robinson & Jenny Martindale  
16th June—Barry Howard & Cathleen Scully  
23rd June—Elliot Bateman & Sarah Turley  
29th June—Toby Stayt & Kirsty Dyce

**Baptisms in June**—7th June—Florence Frances King

Please contact Fr. Darren —t: 01707 256638 —e: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk to book your wedding or baptism

### What's on in June at St Eth's

**St Alban's & St Etheldreda's Patronal Festival will be celebrated on the 24th June**

#### 9.30am Eucharist Service

Will incorporate St Alban's Patronal Festival

#### 6.00pm Evensong

Will incorporate St Etheldreda's Patronal Festival

#### Sunday School

Meets at 9.20am in St Eth's Church

**Team Rector of Bishops Hatfield:** Fr Darren Collins—t: 01707 256638 E: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

#### Assistant Priest:

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e: wfc@me.com

#### Journey Light Church:

The Rev'd Sue Stilwell  
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#### Curate:

The Rev'd Dr Penny Thomson  
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## What's On at Hatfield House

10 JUNE @ 6:00 PM –8:00 PM

THEATRE IN THE PARK

### ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Take a trip down the rabbit hole with Chapterhouse Theatre Company this summer as they present the classic tale of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Join Alice as she stumbles into the magical world of Wonderland and meet a whole host of colourful characters.

From the unforgettable White Rabbit and the madcap Mad Hatter to the terrifying Queen of Hearts, Alice's journey couldn't be filled with more adventure.



14 JUNE @ 8:00 PM - 16 JUNE @ 11:30 PM

### THE LUNA CINEMA 14-16 JUNE

Join us for an evening under the stars with a choice of 3 fantastic films including Darkest Hour starring Gary Oldman in his Oscar-winning performance as Sir Winston Churchill, a classic, Pretty Woman and the thoroughly enjoyable Moulin Rouge! which we are sure many viewers will want to sing-a-long with.

16 JUNE @ 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### STABLE YARD ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES MARKET

17 JUNE @  
10:00 AM -  
2:00 PM  
STABLE YARD  
FARMERS'  
MARKET



More Info: [www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events/](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk/events/)  
01707 287010 e: [visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk](mailto:visitors@hatfield-house.co.uk)

*Roll up Roll up!  
For all the fun of the  
Countess Anne School*

*Summer Fete on  
Saturday 23rd June  
1-4pm*

*Entrance: Adults £1  
under 16 free*

*Games, competitions, prizes and stalls!  
Food and drink a plenty and a cake  
stall that is the best in the business.  
See you there!*

## What's on in the Bishops Hatfield Team

Saturday 2 June 8am

Men's Breakfast at St Michael & All Angels Church

Saturday 2 June 10am

Ramble leaving St Michael & All Angels Church

Saturday 16 June 10am – 12 noon

Strawberry Event at St Michael & All Angels Church

Saturday 7 July 8am

Men's Breakfast at St Michael & All Angels Church

Saturday 7 July 10am

Ramble leaving St Michael & All Angels Church

Saturday 7 July 7pm

Thelma and Friends in Concert at St Etheldreda's Church

## Bishops Hatfield Team Retreat

16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> November 2018

is at Pleshey Retreat House  
near Chelmsford

Our Retreat Leader this year will be  
Revd Dr Penny Thomson.

Please contact Linda Barnard on  
01707 335074 or email her at

[bhteamoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bhteamoffice@gmail.com) for further  
information or to book a place.



St Peter

## Feast of Saints Peter and Paul — 29th June

### The Vocation of St Peter & Journeys of St Paul

Mary Rathbone & Jo Roscoe

Saint Peter had possibly the most amazing vocation ever. From humble fisherman, he became the Rock upon which the Church was founded. Saint Peter's CV might have read along these lines:

#### Curriculum Vitae of St Peter

Died circa 64AD. Originally Simon,

a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee

- Met Jesus through his brother, Andrew.
- Named Cephas (Peter) by Jesus, which means Rock.
- Is always named first in the list of apostles.
- Was one of the three apostles privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.
- Told by Jesus that he would be the Rock on which His Church would be built, that the 'gates of hell' would never prevail against it and that he would be personally given 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. (Matthew 16:17-19)
- First of apostles to see Jesus after His Resurrection.
- Is entrusted by Jesus with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of His flock.
- Organised the choice of Judas' successor.
- Preached with stirring authority at Pentecost.
- The first apostle to work a miracle.
- The first to realise that Christianity was also for the Gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius.
- Played a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem.
- Was a major influence on Mark in writing his gospel.
- Very likely the writer of The First Epistle of Peter.
- Played a big part in the early Church.
- Is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts.
- Was invoked by Christians as a universal saint.
- English monasteries dedicated to him: Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster.
- English Cathedrals named after him: York, Lichfield and Worcester.
- English pre-Reformation churches dedicated to him : 1,129
- English pre-Reformation churches dedicated to St Peter & St Paul together: 299

- Churches dedicated to St Paul in England: 667
- Cathedrals dedicated to St Paul in England: St Pauls Cathedral, the seat of the Bishop of London and the mother church of the Diocese of London.
- Monasteries dedicated to St Paul in England: St Paul's Monastery, Jarrow



St Paul

Before his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul was called Saul. Saul of Tarsus was thought to be roughly the same age as Jesus. His trade was tentmaker. He was a Roman citizen – an important mark of status in the Roman Empire of which Palestine was a small part (similar to being a British citizen in the days of the British Empire) – a Jew and a Pharisee.

The Pharisees were a sect within Judaism who held rigidly to the Law and traditions of the Jewish scriptures. Pharisees, unlike the Sadducees, also believed in a resurrection which would happen on the Last Day, when the Messiah came down from heaven. Thus his outrage at Jesus's claims to be the Son of God and apparently careless attitude to some aspects of the Law and ritual - for example healing on the Sabbath, conversing with the woman at the well and speaking against the stoning of the woman taken in adultery.

Saul was journeying from Jerusalem to Damascus with a mandate from Herod to persecute and root out Jewish converts to Christianity. It was during this journey that he was suddenly struck by a brilliant light and – falling to his knees, blinded and confused – he saw the figure of a man. 'Who are you?' he asked, and the reply came 'I am Jesus, go into the city and you will be told what to do.' We can read the story in Paul's letter to the Galatians, Ch.1.

We are told that Saul – not yet Paul – left Damascus and went to Arabia for three years. One can imagine that he spent this time trying to make sense of it all; searching his heart, mind and soul; and reading deeply into the Scriptures. Then he returned to Jerusalem, made himself known to Peter and the other disciples and learned all that he could from them.

Now, as Paul, he commenced his journeys, taking the gospel of Christ to the world beyond Palestine. Preaching, from synagogue and market place, it was mainly the Gentiles who responded to him, and thirteen of the twenty seven books of the New Testament bear witness to his unstinting labours, establishing and nurturing churches throughout Asia Minor. Paul is studied intensely even nowadays by Christian and Jewish scholars. Although he said some things which are difficult to understand or accept today, his letters show he preached the gospel of Christ and the saving power of faith with vigour and humility.

*'If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ... and now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love'* Corinthians 13: 1 & 13

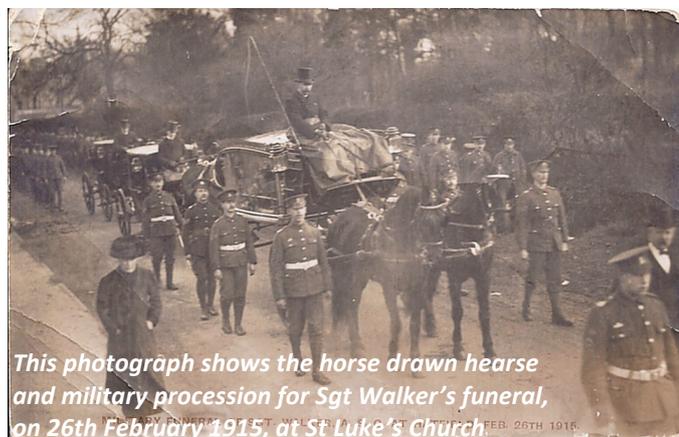
After more than twenty years of travelling ministry, it is thought Paul died with other Christians put to death as scapegoats after the great fire of Rome in AD 64.

# The Great War — Hatfield Roll of Honour — WW1 1914—1918

## Remembering those WW1 soldiers from Hatfield who died in service to their country in June

Inside St Luke's Church there is a War Memorial to those who died in WW1, the final resting place of these soldiers is in another land, but we remember them here. There are also twelve WW1 graves in our cemetery and the Herts Advertiser reported on a Military Funeral at St Luke's in June 1916:

*'Sapper William John Parrot, of the 173 Company of the Royal Engineers, whose home is in New Town, Hatfield, was so badly wounded during the repairing of the trenches on Hill 60 that, after lingering on for some time in St Thomas's Hospital, London, he died on 6th June. He leaves a widow and four children. He was buried with full military honours at Hatfield by the 1/11 Battalion London Regiment. The cortege moved off from Hatfield Station at 1.30pm in the following order:*



*This photograph shows the horse drawn hearse and military procession for Sgt Walker's funeral, on 26th February 1915, at St Luke's Church.*

*The Firing Party under Sgt. Carter; the Band and Bugles, under Bugle Major Rose; and a large detachment under Sgt. Sayer. The Band rendered during the march to St Luke's Church, the 'Dead March in Saul' and the hymn 'Abide with me'. Then followed the coffin with eight pall-bearers, and mourners. ... The route from station to cemetery was lined with friends and members of the 1/10 London and 1/11 London Regiments. Upon reaching the church, Canon the Rev. Lord William Gascoyne-Cecil held a short service, assisted by the Rev. G F Baxter. The procession was then re-formed for the last journey to the cemetery. Rev. Lord William Cecil carried out the last rites, delivering a short address to the mourners, followed by three shots being fired, by the Firing Party, over the grave and the 'Last Post' sounded by the Buglers of the 1/11 London Regt'.*

The photo (left) is of another WW1 military funeral procession, for Sgt Walker who died of his wounds in a London hospital on 19th February 1915. It is believed to be making a similar journey from Hatfield station, down French Horn Lane to St Luke's and is led by James Burgess (Great Grand Father of Justin Burgess—see bottom right hand corner). It is assumed that all twelve WW1 soldiers buried at St Luke's would have received the same full military honours at their funerals.

***May they all rest in peace and rise in glory ...***

***... Father Darren***

**Peter A Arnett, Age: 19**

Rank: Private

Regiment: Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment)

Date/Cemetery: 6th June 1916/St Luke's Church Yard

**Herbert Beach, Age: 32**

Rank: Private

Regiment: The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Date/Memorial: 24th June 1917/Loos Memorial

**Herbert William Bray, Age: approx. 28**

Rank: Corporal

Regiment: Hertfordshire Regiment 1st Bn.

Date/Cemetery: 21st June 1916/Aire Communal Cemetery

**John Henry Canham, Age: 21**

Rank: Private

Regiment: Hertfordshire Regiment 1st Bn.

Date/Memorial: 2nd June 1915/St Luke's Churchyard

**James Hallsey, Age: approx. 41**

Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: Canadian Infantry 49th Bn.

Date/Memorial: between 2nd-5th June 1916/Lemsford War Memorial

**Edward Ingram, Age: approx. 30**

Rank: Private

Regiment: 12th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Date/Memorial: 28th June 1916/Loos British Cemetery

**George Lawrence, Age: 31**

Rank: Private

Regiment: Canadian Infantry 75th Bn.

Date/Memorial: 8th June 1917/Canadian Cemetery Neuville St Vaast

**Frank Mardle, Age: 25**

Rank: Bombardier

Regiment: Royal Field Artillery D BTY 5th Bde.

Date/Memorial: 11th June 1916/Lemsford War Memorial

**William John Parrott, Age: 39**

Rank: Sapper

Regiment: Royal Engineers

Date/Cemetery: 8th June 1915/St Luke's Churchyard

**Archibald Risebero, Age: approx. 25**

Rank: Company Quarter Sergeant

Regiment: 1st Hertfordshire

Date/Memorial: 19th June 1919/St Luke's Churchyard

**Leonard W Speller, Age: approx. 25**

Rank: Gunner

Regiment: Royal Field Artillery

Date/Memorial: 5th June 1918/Ponsbourne/Newgate St Memorial

**James William Strong, Age: 23**

Rank: Lieutenant

Regiment: Lancashire Fusiliers 18th Bn.

Date/Memorial: 11th June 1916/Lemsford War Memorial

## A calling in the Church can come at any time of our lives regardless of age, because 1,000 years are as a day in God's eyes and a day as 1,000 years

Mary Rathbone, Reader in Training & Vanessa Hadley-Spencer, Ordinand

It seems like a lifetime ago now when the Rev Richard Pyke invited me, **Mary**, in my retirement, to be Editor of the parish magazine. In May 2015, he passed me his front page leader for the June issue, in which he was appealing for people to come forward if they felt God was calling them to a vocation in the Church.

I still clearly remember chuckling to myself as I cut and pasted his wording onto the front page, thinking 'Good luck with this: who would want to take on the onerous task of a church ministry'. But, strangely I could not get the subject out of my head, a seed had been sown — —then suddenly realisation — — 'Oh no, don't say I am being called to do this'. It seems that I was, as by the end of that year I had received a letter from the Bishop of Hertford inviting me to train as a Reader.

A Church of England Reader, is a Lay Minister licensed by the Bishop to teach, preach and lead services in the home Parish/Team. The initial training takes three years to complete, much of it at the Theological College, opposite St Albans Cathedral, alongside Ordinands (people training to eventually be Ordained as Priests).

We work to the school year and attend college on Tuesday evenings. The preparation work for classes can be rather academic (I am not) but the penny usually drops, eventually. In addition to Tuesday evening lectures, we are given assignments to complete on subjects we are studying. We also have separate workshops on teaching, preaching and ministry practices. Now, coming to the end of my second year of training, all going well, I shall be licensed by the Bishop next May and commence work as a Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) in our Parish.



One of the main differences between a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) and an Ordained Priest (OP) is in responsibilities. Only an OP can take complete responsibility for a Parish, offer absolution, preside at Holy Communion, marry and baptise. LLM's tend to lean towards specific areas of ministry, such as: outreach; education;

working with the elderly, youth, children, sick—or even funeral ministry—and concentrate their efforts there.

The training has been life-changing in so many ways for me and an unexpected bonus is meeting many wonderful people at college and developing lasting new friendships with fellow students. Also, in the Parish, the support from both St Eth's & St Luke's congregations has been just wonderful.

So if you feel God is calling you, whatever your age, why not have a word with your priest about it? Don't have preconceived ideas, about where it might lead, just be open to suggestions and go with the flow—it might change your life too!

**Vanessa Hadley-Spencer** spent two years in the Bishops Hatfield Team as part of a scheme called **ROOTS** which, locally in conjunction with the University of Hertfordshire, allows young people to explore a possible vocation within the Church. She spent a year at St John's Church at The Hilltop, and a year with us at St Eth's & St Luke's.

After thoroughly immersing herself in the cultures of all three churches, as well as being a Chaplain's Assistant at the University, and having discussions within the Diocese at many different levels—it was agreed that Vanessa should apply to be considered for training to become an Ordained Priest.

This lengthy process resulted in the Bishop of Hertford offering her the opportunity to commence with the first steps towards the long journey

of becoming an Ordained Priest, as an Ordinand. Her training commenced last September at Westcott House Theological College in Cambridge. Almost a year later Vanessa, immersed in theological academia, has kindly agreed to answer some questions for us:

**With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.**

2 Peter 3:8

### **Vanessa, how has your first year of your training gone?**

My training has gone really well so far, it has been challenging at times but enjoyable.

I am fortunate enough to be immersed in a high quality learning environment and am learning so much; gaining a foundation of theological knowledge which I hope will sustain me in my future ministry.

I have explored questions about God, learning how to tackle difficult questions like 'the problem of evil', learning about the history of the church, The Old and New Testaments and even tackling learning New Testament Greek!

As part of my training pathway I also have to learn the practise of Theological Reflection, helping me to connect my theological learning to the practice of ministry.

I have also spent the year on attachment at King's College Chapel and even preached there in January! I will be on a long placement in Manchester for six weeks over the summer.

In terms of life at Westcott House, I was elected to the position of Domestic Representative meaning that I am responsible for co-ordinating the hospitality of the house as well as discussing the important matter of food with the kitchen staff!

I was also appointed by the Principal to the role of Guest Team lead which means I am responsible for taking care of our visiting candidates as they decide whether Westcott is the place for them to train, something that is a real privilege.

My musical life has continued as well. I sing with the house choir as well as being on the cantor rota and I even play the organ for the daily office and eucharist once a week.

### What has been the best thing ever about it?

The pattern of life at Westcott House involves a rhythm of Daily Prayer, Eucharist and Compline which I find grounds me and helps me to stay focused on God whom I am serving and whose calling I am following. We are well supported by our life in the community and the tutorial staff and this has become a sort of family in itself, building relationships which I hope will continue as we all journey on to our respective ministries.

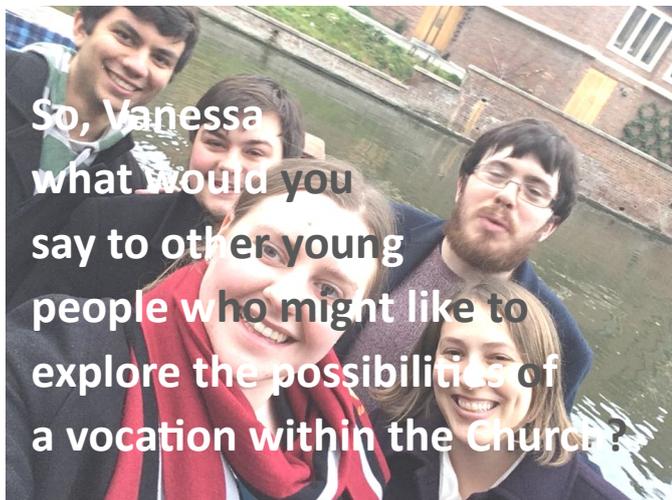
### Any downsides?

Living in community can sometimes be tough, having to live like a student again can be tiresome but being surrounded by people means you are never alone and any 'blue' period is usually short-lived. I had to accept defeat and get a bike as my lectures are spread out over Cambridge and dashing from one side of town to the other to get from one lecture to the next in time can only really be done by bike!

### The first year is nearly ended, what happens next year?

Next year I will move into the second year of my pathway completing modules in Ethics and further study having grasped some of the basics. I am moving placement to a parish church a little way out from the centre of Cambridge which I am really looking forward to – I've missed being in a parish this year. As we begin year two as 'returners' we will all be responsible for looking after the newcomers and our community will change significantly with 33 people leaving to be ordained this year.

At around this time next year I will begin conversations with the diocese about where I might serve a curacy which will make it very scary and real but, will also be exciting as my focus will start to shift to where I am called to serve.



Be confident, trust in God, explore, allow yourself to make mistakes. The Westcott motto is 'The one who calls is faithful' and this is certainly true. If you have a vocation, the nagging feeling will never go away, don't sit on it, act on it! What this opens up is a real joy and I have found it to be very fulfilling.

Don't be put off by sceptical 'you're too young' or 'get some life experience' comments either because there is plenty of time for learning, ministry is so varied and rich that it makes for continual learning no matter what age you are.

### Canine Corner with Bennie



Thank goodness that cold winter is now well behind us and I can now get out to the park more and see my chums. Although, aside from the cold, I do quite enjoy the winter days which I spend in semi-hibernation, snoozing, eating and just dashing out every now and then to carry out essential personal operations. Also, that mode of life style allows more time to listen in on the Mistress's telephone conversations, under the guise of being asleep.

I really cannot believe the things she discusses with people on the phone though! One day, for example, I had just finished a marvellous chicken lunch and was ready for a short snooze (6<sup>th</sup> sleep of the day) when someone called on the telephone (unfortunately, I cannot reveal the identify of the caller due to Data Protection rules). The loudspeaker was on though and I could clearly hear everything being said and they got onto the subject of life after death for pets!!!! I could not believe it, this is something that I had absolutely never considered as I am perfectly content with life as it stands – what's not to like?

It seems the caller had been reading a book written by a certain C S Lewis, in which he describes an amazing theory regarding another life for animals after they die. So, keen to know more, I pricked up my left lug—not an easy feat for a cocker spaniel with gigantic hairy ears—and gave a bit of a harrumph, which I hoped indicated that I was going for another sleep...

... but I wasn't, and this is what I heard being said;

**Caller ...** *did you know that C S Lewis has a theory that pets have a life after death ...*

**Mistress ...** *yes, I have read about that in his book called The Problem of Pain. His idea is that when the curse fell upon mankind, in the Garden of Eden because Adam disobeyed God, sadly the curse fell on animals too ..*

**Caller ...** *but C S Lewis suggests that when an animal is given a good home, is loved and domesticated, the curse on the animal is broken and a bond is formed between it and that person/people—which can never be broken...*

**Mistress ...** *so when an animal, like my Bennie for example who has a good home is well loved and looked after, dies — the theory is, in the fullness of time, he will be reunited in another life with the human(s) who showed him such kindness.*

I have absolutely no idea what-so-ever to make of all this. But, all in all, it sounds like quite a good plan. Although it apparently cannot be proven, I am happy to go with the flow on it, as it seems that there is nothing to lose and all to gain.

Yours truly, Bennie e: [bennie@stetheldreda.org](mailto:bennie@stetheldreda.org)

## Hatfield street names, *by Jean West*

Generally street names were an indication of where they were going, or had come from, or were near to—and those in Old Hatfield are indicative of this, Fore Street (or High Street, Main Street) was an important through road in days past with much traffic. Church Street (previously known as Back Street) and Church Lane led to the church and Park Street on Hatfield Park's edge tell their route. The Great North Road was the important through road from London to the North, but since the collapse of Wrestler's Bridge does divert.

Hertford Road and St Albans Road lead east and west. Some roads reflect the various names connected with the local aristocracy—Cecil Crescent, Cranborne Road, Cavendish Way, Chelwood Avenue and Talbot Road are all examples. A few refer to the Victorian Prime Minister, Disraeli—Beaconsfield Road, was his title; Endymion Road and Lothair are titles of his novels. French Horn Lane does puzzle me as it's been so named since 1702 and in no way resembles the musical instrument. Likewise Batterdale—the original housed several businesses, a scenic house and The Colonel's House—all allowed to become derelict and then pulled down.

Any route that has the name 'Green' in it means it was a Drover's road, used to drive cattle to markets and as such tried to avoid toll roads and generally had a few pubs along the way for the benefit of its users. Green Lanes and Roe Green Lane are examples leading to St Albans Cattle Market and the London markets would have been approached via Briars Lane and Travellers Lane as ways to avoid tolls (Bell Bar, Potters Bar) and get to the capital, to Smithfield and Holborn.

Many roads in the 1930s were called after farm or field names they had displaced. Birchwood being one and Crawford Road was named after the Scottish farmer who sold the land. When the New Town came, many more names had to be found—some being ancient (Oxlease); most being modern and some named after individuals—Haseldine Meadows and Spring Glen were Waterworks managers for example, Chantry Lane of College Lane refers to Julia Shallcross whose family paid for 'Chantries' to be sung annually to remember her death—both names remain, Ellenbrook is so called after the brook which used to regularly flood in my youth, Selwyn Estate was name by the developers.

Maybe the namers of roads ran out of ideas after they had used trees, shrubs, animals, flowers, aviators, etc. to name roads. One that jars with me is 'Reservoir Road' on the waterworks site, as there was never one there—'Aquifer Ave' might have been better!

Hatfield has always been on the main route north and being around 15 miles from Barnet was an important spot to change horses or rest up in the days when roads were not maintained well. Samuel Pepys records in his diaries that he rode from Stevenage to Hatfield, having come from Brampton, and attended church here; but his wife was so wearied by the journey that he had to pay a half-a-crown for her to complete the trip back to London via a coach from Baldock.

## Who was St Etheldreda? *by Mary Rathbone*

In the month of St Etheldreda's annual Patronal Festival (see page 2) it seems a reasonable time to ask, who she was and why was our Parish church is named after her.

Etheldreda was one of four daughters of King Anna, ruler of East Anglia from 635 until 654, who had been converted to Christianity four years before becoming sovereign.

Married twice, Etheldreda's first husband was King Tondbert of an East Anglian sub-kingdom in the Fens. He bestowed upon her, as a wedding gift, the estate of Elge, which was to become the Cathedral city we now know as Ely.

After the death of her first husband, and fleeing her second, Etheldreda decided to commit herself to a life dedicated to Christ at her beloved Elge (Ely). She built a double monastery there on the site of what is now Ely Cathedral.

She died in 679, with the groundwork of her legacy Ely Cathedral, firmly in place. Taking some 300 years to build, the magnificent cathedral was finally completed in 1109.

Being a Cathedral it was now governed by Bishops, who needed to attend the House of Lords regularly as Lords Spiritual and Ely was a four day ride on horse back from Ely—not exactly convenient commuting!

It seems that at around the same time a large swathe of land in Hatfield was gifted by the then king, King Edgar, to the Bishops of Ely. It is assumed today that this was in order to provide a convenient place for the Bishops to stay when travelling to and fro between Ely and London, as well as being a 'country residence' for them away from London.

The Bishops also owned land in London and, this is probably Hatfield's best kept secret, built a sister church named after St Etheldreda in Ely Place London. During the time between 1250 to 1570 it covered almost a square mile and operated under the Bishops of Ely like an independent state. They entertained the great and good of the time there, including Henry VIII, at vast banquets which lasted for days. In its time it was one of the most influential places in London.

Today just the chapel remains, offering a haven and spiritual sanctuary from the Middle Ages. Conversely, it is now hemmed in by the glittering wealth of Hatton Garden where gold, silver and diamonds are traded and millions of pounds change hands daily.

We hold a Patronal Festival each year to remember St Etheldreda and her work, which significantly helped to develop the Christian community in the East of England.

### *Old Hatfield Residents Association Cricket Match Thursday 5th July Hatfield Park*

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## Tail End....News from the Bell ringers

On April 14th the YES (Young Eth's Singers) choir had a go at bellringing. Fifteen youngsters rang hand bells and chimed the church bells under the supervision of six members of the regular ringers. They also climbed the forty seven scary uneven steps up the spiral staircase from the Ringing Chamber right up to the Belfry and were able to see the 6th bell rung full circle by Oscar (our youngest Sunday Service Ringer). The children were warned to place their hands over their ears as a bell ringing full circle just a few feet away is really quite noisy!

The Bell Ringers certainly enjoyed the afternoon and I think the children had a good time as well – many thanks to Jill Knight for helping to supervise.

Thursday evenings continue to be well attended although John has moved to his new home in Shillington and we hope he will continue to learn to ring on the five heavy bells at All Saints. Graham, who has joined the band since Christmas, can now handle a bell and is

learning to ring 'Rounds'. Sue is learning Plain Hunt which is the first stage of 'Change Ringing'. Oscar has had his first go at Plain Bob Doubles and Jonathan rang 120 changes of Plain Bob Doubles last week but we rely on visiting ringers from nearby Lemsford to make up a strong team around them to give them the best opportunity to learn.

As part of the development plans for the West End of the church, the proposed new floor level is an exciting venture for the Ringers as Hatfield bells are certainly not the easiest in Hertfordshire and reducing the rope length should bring benefits to the handling and 'go' of the bells. If you go up the spiral staircase in the Tower there is an old doorway that has been bricked up at approximately the level where the new floor will be. We don't know when it was last used – you can't see it from the Ringing Chamber as there is a peal board covering the wall.

We have had a specialist church bell installation company visit the tower to report on this and it won't just be a matter of reducing the rope length by 10-12 feet as the new floor area will be

slightly smaller than the existing one. The 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th bell ropes are currently very close to the west window and the north wall so some of the bell ropes will need re-routing – but this is still a great opportunity to reduce the rope circle slightly and have a brand new Ringing Chamber.

Want to know more about bell ringing at St Eth's? Then contact: Mary and Rob Goss (01438-718038) mary.rob.goss@gmail.com

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## Visit to Ruth & Richard Pyke by St Eth's choir

St Eth's Choir had an away-day on Sunday 13th May, travelling north up the A10 to St Margaret's of Antioch Church in the parish of our former Rector's wife, Rev Ruth Pyke. We all had a wonderful time singing choral evensong in this beautiful village church and

catching up with Richard and Ruth. One of the highlights was afternoon tea in the beautiful garden of one of the church-wardens, where Y.E.S! especially enjoyed discovering lots of secret corners and dropping stones down a 50' well to hear them splash 5 seconds later. After such excitement, concentration for Choral Evensong was a challenge, but the choir sang well and the service was much appreciated by everyone.

**St Luke's May Fair** on the 19th provided a lovely warm up to the royal wedding on that day.

Offering a warm Christian welcome to all who passed by, or came to see what we were doing, it was a happy and fun time.

£600+ was raised towards St Luke's upkeep—thanks to everyone for their support and good will.



## Vanessa & friends at Cambridge

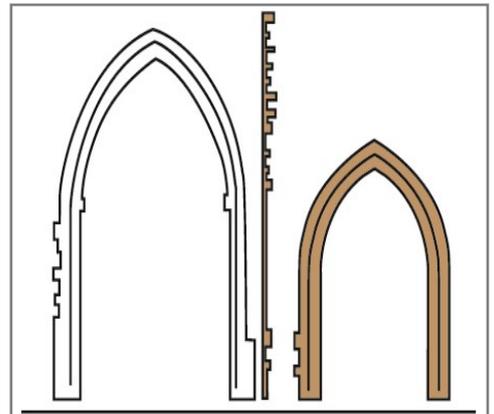
Find out more about life in Cambridge on pages 6 & 7 ...

*(Vanessa is bottom right)*



## St Eth's junior choir, YES!, testing out the full capacity of the church bells

Read more about this on page 9 ...



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