



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSED

April 2019

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



BISHOP'S
HATFIELD

Letter to the parish from Father Carl on—Holy Week

Holy week is coming, the period from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. The last week of our Lord Jesus' mortal life. He who had shown his relationship with God, the creator God whose Spirit animates the universe, by how he lived, and spoke, and taught, and by how he healed by prayer and touch, so that 'power flowed from him', comes to Jerusalem.

Jesus said: 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself'. **John 12:32**

Who on God's part offered forgiveness and release, whose words 'Your sins are forgiven' had immediate, experienced effect. Who had freed people not just from guilt but from forms of spiritual and occult bondage. Who had given such hope to people of every sort and in every kind of lostness and weariness, and emptiness of soul.

So that they had moved from seeing him as a great religious teacher, to a Prophet, and then, increasingly, to seeing him as the Messiah they believed to have been promised through the Prophets of old. The Messiah in whose days there would be a new and greater dispensation of grace, a clearer understanding of what is right and wrong, a deeper revealing of the mystery and meaning of life, real remission of sin and finding of inner peace, a time for the Spirit of God to be shed abroad upon all flesh.

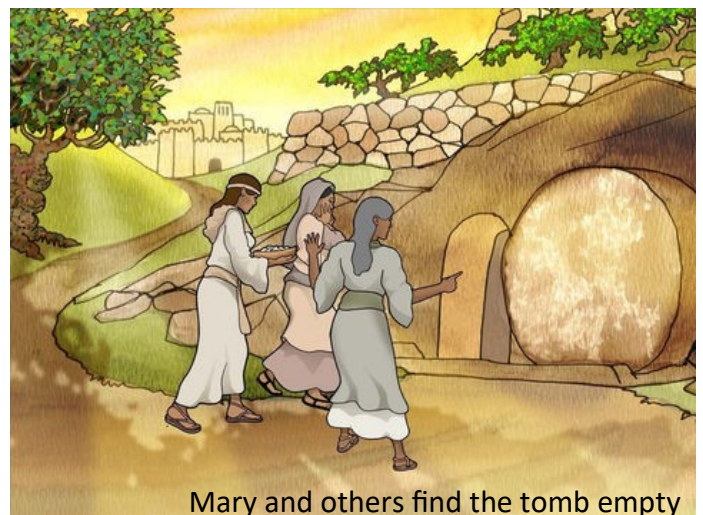
There was much opposition and hostility too. And an awareness on Jesus' part that suffering and death awaited him in Jerusalem, but that he had to persevere on his chosen path.

Then on Palm Sunday, deliberately enacting a Messianic passage, he enters Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. And crowds of pilgrims greet him with the Messianic acclamation, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosannah in the highest!'. It is during the week, while getting ready for the celebration of Passover, the feast of freedom, that Judas starts his betrayal.

Then comes the Passover meal, the Seder, on the Thursday night, when Jesus institutes a new Sacrament. He takes the unleavened bread 'the bread of sorrows' eaten in Egypt, and says 'This is my body', and he takes the cup after supper, the cup of blessing or salvation, and says 'This is my blood of the new covenant', followed by 'Do this in commemoration of me'. And so dedicates himself to what was to come: arrest, and trial and crucifixion.

During his last three hours on the cross, the sky was darkened, and at the end, as he died, there was an earth tremor, causing tombs to be exposed, and the lintel holding the enormous great veil before the holy of holies in the temple, to collapse, tearing the veil asunder.

Continued on pg. 4...



Mary and others find the tomb empty

Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke regular services

St Etheldreda's Church

Sunday:

8am: Holy Communion

9.30am: Holy Communion with Sunday School

3rd Sunday of month:

9.30am: All age Eucharist

Tuesday:

9am: Morning Prayers

Wednesday:

10am: Holy Communion

Thursday:

9am: Morning Prayers

7pm: Holy Communion or Compline

St Luke's Church

Sunday:

11.30am Holy Communion with Hymns

Children's Sunday School

meets at:

9.20am on Sundays in term time at:

12 Fore Street

(STEPS office)

April Weddings 27th April Matthew West and Marianne Woodyard

April Baptisms 6th April Christopher Alexander Callum James

Please contact Fr Darren to book your Wedding or Baptism

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

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

2nd April	10.45-Noon	Lent Group, The Beatitudes, St Etheldreda's Church
9th April	10.45-Noon	Lent Group, The Beatitudes, St Etheldreda's Church
7th April	6pm	Passion Sunday Choral Evensong St Etheldreda's Church
15th April	7pm	Eucharist at St Etheldreda's Church 8pm Compline at St Etheldreda's Church
16th April	7pm	Eucharist at St Etheldreda's Church 8pm Compline at St Etheldreda's Church
17th April	7pm	Eucharist at St Luke's Church 8pm Compline at St Luke's Church
18th April	7pm	Maundy Thursday Vigil, followed by service, St Etheldreda's Church
19th April	11am	Good Friday Service, St Lukes Church
	1—2pm	7 Last words of Jesus, St Etheldreda's Church
	2—3pm	Veneration of the Cross, St Etheldreda's Church
20th April	8pm	Service of First Light, St Etheldreda's Church

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

4th April	2pm and 7.30pm	The Mystery of God Lent course at the Vicarage Great Braitch Lane
11th April	2pm and 7.30pm	The Mystery of God Lent course at the Vicarage Great Braitch Lane
17th April	7.30pm	The Mystery of God Lent course at the Vicarage Great Braitch Lane
18th April	2pm	The Mystery of God Lent course at the Vicarage Great Braitch Lane
6th April	8am	Men's' Breakfast Meeting St. Michael and All Angels.
6th April	10am	Ramble leaving St Michael & All Angels Church
8th April		Team Outing to the Postal Museum leaving St Michael & All Angels Church
9th April	2.30pm	Friendship Teas The Annexe, St John's Church, Lemsford
19th April	6.30pm	Service for Good Friday at St Michael & All Angels Church
20th April	8pm	Easter Eve Service at St Michael & All Angels Church
21st April	3pm	Community Singing followed by Tea and Cakes St Mary's Church, North Mymms
22nd April	10.30am	Leave St Michael & All Angels Church for Easter Monday pilgrimage

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What's On at Hatfield House

Lady Salisbury's Annual Coffee Morning and West Garden Preview

2 April @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join Lady Salisbury, Breaks Manor Youth & Community Centre and St Etheldreda's Church in the Old Palace to the ever popular Annual Coffee Morning and Garden Preview

Hatfield House – Opening Weekend Activities

6 April Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Join us to celebrate the start of the season with fun, Easter-themed entertainment and activities in the Stable Yard.

There will be live music performances throughout the day and everyone is welcome to join in a number of free activities within the Riding School.

Storytelling at Hatfield Park Farm

20th & 21st April

Come and join the fabulous Alex Jones for an interactive storytelling workshop! There will be singing, movement and games as we explore one of Julia Donaldson's classic books, 'A Squash and A Squeeze'. There will also an Interactive Easter trail around the farm inspired by another one of her fabulous stories, 'What The Ladybird Heard'. The workshop will take place from 12pm-1:30pm. This event is suitable for children aged 3-6yrs.



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

Too many people go from the poinsettias of Christmas to the lilies of Easter without grasping the thorns of Good Friday

Jo Roscoe

Refocused's editorial team had gathered together to talk about future editions, and in particular the Easter edition. I was thinking green fields, fluffy white lambs and golden daffodils when Father Darren made the comment above which I have used as my title.

His comment struck me forcibly and I resolved to write about the tremendous event of Good Friday— which is at the heart of our Christian faith.

Jesus was not the first nor the last to suffer death by crucifixion – a most horrible way to die. But he endured, during the weeks which we commemorate as Lent, the anguish of knowing what was to come and the temptation of the possibility of avoiding it.

We are taught that in his death throes he took on the sins of the world – that he suffered not just his own pain, his own despair, his own fear, but he carried the sins of the world – the pain, the fear, the despair of us all.

'Wilt thou not watch with me one brief hour?' he asked his sleeping disciples during the night that he was betrayed. But they did not understand, and neither perhaps can we. It is a mystery too deep for human minds.

In our communion services we approach the bread and wine with 'humble and contrite hearts', but it is perhaps in our own personal times of weakness and despair that we can in a small way experience the agony he endured. It is our privilege to have one day set aside for full and deep contemplation of this awe-ful earth and heaven shattering event—this day is Good Friday.

May we meet this Good Friday with true humility, penitence and gratitude that the crown of thorns has been replaced for us by the Glory of Hope.

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Continued from front page ...

As if creation itself was protesting, causing the centurion to exclaim: 'Truly this was a righteous man, the son of God'. Yet we call it 'Good Friday', the day of Jesus' death and burial – 'Good' because of what followed, because of what was made possible by Jesus' death: 'It is accomplished'. And while his body lay in the tomb, a fulfilment too of his words that even the dead would hear the gospel.

Many paradigms have been used to illuminate what was happening: how through his death Jesus made it possible for all people everywhere to experience God's promises of grace through faith in him; sacrifice, propitiation, redemption, atonement, reconciliation... and all corroborated and vindicated and manifested by what came next on Easter Day— new life; an empty tomb and Jesus appearing in a body risen and transformed, with the promise of the Spirit's Pentecostal outpouring soon to be fulfilled.

Live it anew for yourself through the Liturgy—through prayer and meditation and hymn and song and bible reading, and symbol and sign, through joining in the worship of Holy Week!

The procession with palms on Palm Sunday; the Mass of the Last Supper on Thursday evening, with an enacted footwashing, and the time of silent prayer at the end, recalling Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The coming up in reverence to the cross on Good Friday. The Easter Vigil with the lighting of the fire and the Paschal candle, on Holy Saturday Evening, symbolising the light of Christ that even the tomb could not quench.

And then the wonderful Eucharist of Easter Day, with the church decked with flowers, celebrating our Sun, the Lord Jesus, risen in glorious splendour. And meeting Him in the breaking of the bread.

Easter Holiday Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral

Michelle Jarvis & Alison Churchouse

On April 22nd 2019 people of all ages from across the diocese of St Albans will make their way to St Albans Cathedral for the Easter Monday Pilgrimage, an event which has been taking place since 1944.

Most of the pilgrims (who usually number more than a thousand) will have walked some, if not all, of the way from their home churches.

For many years a group of people from churches across the Bishop's Hatfield Team have walked together along the route of the old Hatfield to St Albans railway line (now, of course, known as the Alban Way) which is a very pleasant way of reaching St Albans without encountering road traffic.

We set off at 10.30am from St Michael and All Angels Church in Birchwood (where car parking is available) and have a short rest and picnic lunch (indoors, courtesy of the 4th St Albans scouts, if the weather is inclement). We reach the Cathedral in good time to process in for a lively service of Holy Communion at which the Bishops officiate. The route is about 6 miles; easy walking on the flat. Usually (courtesy of lifts which are

available) we are back in Hatfield shortly after 4pm. Everyone is most welcome to join us. It is a lovely opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones (and perhaps to walk off some of the excesses of Hot Cross Buns and Easter eggs!)

Dogs are very welcome to join in not only the walk but also the gathering in the Cathedral.

At St Luke's we are looking forward to adding the 13th pilgrims' badge to our banner as pictured below.

If you would like to join us, you can just turn up on the day but if you would like a lift back please contact:

Michelle - 0758 489 7872 so we have an idea of numbers



Photograph reproduced by kind permission of Arun Kataria

Lord Salisbury appointed Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Marquess of Salisbury to be a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The appointment of the Knights and Ladies of the Garter is in The Queen's gift, without Prime Ministerial advice. Appointments to the Order of the Garter are therefore in the same category as the Order of the Thistle, the Order of Merit and the Royal Victorian Order.

This announcement brings the number of Companions to twenty-three (out of a maximum of twenty-four).

Lord Salisbury is a Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, and was Chairman of the Thames Diamond Jubilee Foundation, which organised the Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames in 2012. Lord Salisbury is also Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire.

What is the order of the Garter?

In medieval times, King Edward III was so inspired by tales of King Arthur and the chivalry of the Knights of the Round Table that he set up his own group of honourable knights, called the Order of the Garter. Nearly 700 years later, the Order is the oldest and most senior Order of Chivalry in Britain. The Knights, now both male and female, used to be limited to aristocracy, but today they are chosen from a variety of backgrounds, in recognition for their public service

The spiritual home of the Order is St George's Chapel, Windsor. Every knight is required to display a banner of his arms in the Chapel, together with a helmet, crest and sword and an enamelled stall plate.

Today, the Order includes the Queen, who is Sovereign of the Garter, several senior Members of the Royal Family, and twenty-four knights chosen in recognition of their work.



Arms of the Order of the Garter:
A cross of St George, circumscribed by the Garter

Garter Day

The annual iconic Garter Day procession, where The Queen and the Knights process in grand velvet robes, glistening insignia and plumed hats, is one of the most traditional ceremonies in the Queen's calendar.

Every June (17th June this year) a grand procession of the knights takes place at Windsor Castle, accompanied by a marching band and Officers of the Order, all in grand ceremonial dress.

The day begins with The Queen formally investing any new Companions (this year Lord Salisbury & Dame Mary Peters) with the Order's insignia in the Throne Room of the Castle. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh entertain the members and officers at a lunch, then all process, on foot, to St George's Chapel. There is a short service there where new Companions are installed. The Sovereign and other members of the Order then return to the Upper Ward of the castle in carriages and cars.

St George is the patron saint of the Order of the Garter, as well as the patron saint of soldiers and England. Many other countries also claim him as their patron. We remember him on 23rd April each year. He might be hailed as a national hero, but he was actually thought to have been born in modern day Turkey and to have died in modern day Israel. He was probably an officer in the Roman army.

A devout Christian, he was executed and martyred because he refused to make a sacrifice in honour of pagan gods. He probably never visited England, but was adopted Patron Saint during the Third Crusade in the 12th century, by Richard 1st who placed himself and his army under his protection. He also adopted the emblem of St George, a red cross on a white background, which was worn as a uniform and later used on the English flag. To this day his cross still appears on the Garter badge and his image is the pendant of the Garter chain.

Much of the information on this page has been acquired from www.royal.uk

A Tale of Two Trees John Holmwood

I well remember the day after the storm, when I drove along St Albans Road East and saw the damage sustained to the magnificent oak tree which stands sentinel beside St Luke's Church. I gasped with shock to see the huge severed limb, and began to fear for its future.

But it has survived – albeit in a truncated, and somewhat lop-sided, form – and I am hopeful that, in time, it will recover. Nature often seems to have a way of absorbing damage by the elements and restoring equilibrium. Oak trees, after all, are resilient and long-lived, which is undoubtedly one of the reasons they are so revered, and have achieved such an elevated cultural status.

Much is written, and said, about the value of oak trees; whether it be as wildlife habitat, as a source of sought-after timber, or as participants in history – and that is as well as their plain amenity value. I was recently reminded about the biblical story of the 'Oaks of Mamre' which featured in a compelling series of talks by the Rev'd Penny on the theme of 'Finding God Through Trees'. The oaks of Mamre were the setting for an encounter between the great patriarch Abraham and three mysterious visitors to his tent. It was one of those visitors who told Abraham that, against all the odds, his wife Sarah would, the following year, give birth to a son and heir.

It turned out to be a seminal moment in the early part of the biblical narrative; and as the great sweep of that narrative unfolds, it leads purposefully, and gloriously, to a climax with the events of the first Easter.



Today it is the oak tree that provides a key element of the setting for St Luke's Church. Not quite the tree it was perhaps – such is the power of nature – but still there, watching over a place where a 'family' of Christians gather; a place too for visitors (mysterious or not), for encounters, and for celebrating Easter.

By contrast, at St Eth's it is a cherry tree that provides the arboricultural interest for those entering and leaving by the north porch. In Britain cherries may not have the cultural status of oaks—Japan, of course, is the place where cherries are most revered and celebrated—but St Eth's cherry is nevertheless a very fine tree. Its considerable age and fissured bark lend it a venerable air, which is more than sufficient an attribute for me. Overall, it seems to have a rather quiet presence: that is until the spring, when a mass of white flowers calmly open, and it is suddenly transformed. It then comes overwhelmingly into its own, eloquently announcing its presence with a renewed, and youthful, flourish.



The poet A. E. Houseman famously described the cherry in full spring bloom as the 'loveliest of trees' – a description that is borne out by our St Eth's cherry. He further mused that the cherry 'stands about the woodland ride / wearing white for Eastertide'. St Eth's cherry sumptuously clad in abundant white, and watching over the path to the church door, never fails to bring added joy to the Easter season. Houseman rightly concludes his musings by observing that life is too short to be missing out on the sight of cherry trees in bloom – or 'hung with snow' as he so imaginatively puts it. We are fortunate to have one on hand to see and appreciate; especially at Eastertide.

Music in March at St Eth's

March has seen the start of our 2019 music programme at St Eth's with two very different but well-supported events.

We began the month with 60 people, (young, old and lots in between) attending a community "Musicals Sing-a-long" led by our Director of Music, Jill Knight - with songs from Mary Poppins, The Sound of Music, Oliver and Mamma Mia followed by some delicious tea and cakes.

A week later, over 100 people were entertained by the wonderful "King's Men" - current choral scholars at King's College, Cambridge - with their third visit to St. Eth's. They performed a varied programme including sacred anthems, madrigals, sea shanties, folk songs, and arrangements of popular music, delighting the audience with their superb close harmonies and excellent tonal blend.

After Easter, our next event is a joint Brass and Choir Concert on Sunday 5th May at 4pm followed by tea and cakes. This will feature the Da Capo Brass Ensemble and include music by Gabrieli and John Rutter. We hope to see you there.

Updated leaflets are available in church and the local community with further details of Music at St. Eth's for the rest of 2019.



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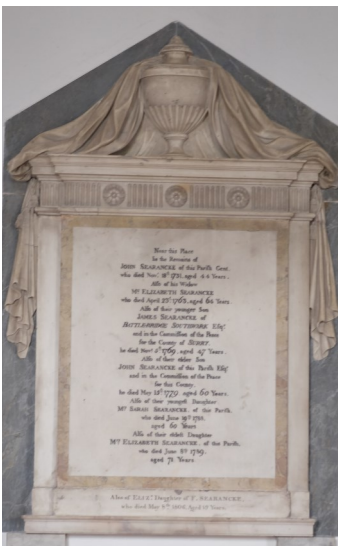
Trafalgar – and the great beer barrel burst

Steve Roberts

While the year 1805 is best known for Nelson’s victory at Trafalgar, there was another major event – at least for the beer drinkers of Hatfield – when a vast cask of beer at the Hatfield Brewery burst, sending thousands of gallons of beer down to the River Lea.

In medieval times England’s native drink was ale, brewed from malted barley. This did not travel at all, so all brewing activity was carried out in inns, ale houses and taverns as well as many private houses.

By the early 16th century, continental style hopped beer was being introduced to Britain, and it is likely that the Searancke family, living in Essendon but of Flemish descent, were the first to introduce this brewing method to this area.



The Searancks were an increasingly powerful family, as witnessed by the elaborate plaque commemorating them by the North door of the Parish Church, but it was John Searancke who, in about 1610, bought the Chequers Inn, opposite the Eight Bells, and its attendant Brewhouse.

From these modest beginnings the Hatfield Brewery grew, and by the end of its life three centuries later covered rather more than the area now occupied by Salisbury Square.

The family sold the brewery – by that time a substantial business – in 1815 and, after changing hands several times, it was bought by three members of the Pryor family. Later, in the century Edward Pryor brought his brother-in-law, Percy Reid, into the business which became Pryor Reid & Co Ltd.

Expansion continued with the acquisition of several other local breweries and the brewery continued to prosper throughout the Great War. Sadly though, Lieut.

The end of an era as the last shop in Fore Street—Peta Shaw— closes its doors for business

Mary Rathbone



Peta Shaw, in Fore Street, Old Hatfield, has been selling ladies fashions for many years. It was originally owned and managed by the well known local family, the Sherriffs. There were then two Peta Shaw shops, one in Fore Street, another in Hatfield town centre.

Pat and Peter Sargeant purchased the business in Fore St from the Sherriffs in 1975 and successfully managed the shop for many years. As well as running the ongoing flourishing business, they also supported many local causes including; St Etheldreda’s Church, the Old Hatfield Resident’s Association and Lady Salisbury’s annual coffee morning.

However, over the past 10 years sales have steadily declined for various reasons; change in requirements for ladies fashion, passing away of original customer base, and the ever present local parking issues. It is with regret that now because of all this, and Pat’s age and poor health, Pat and Peter have decided to close the shop. They would like to thank their many loyal customers for their support over the years.

Geoffrey Reid, son of the Chairman, was killed in action in 1915 and, with no-one to carry on the business, Mr Reid decided to retire. He closed the brewery and sold all 96 pubs to Benskins of Watford.

There were some turbulent times in the company’s long history, but by far the most dramatic event occurred in May 1805, as recorded by farmer John Carrington at the time: ‘About 2 o’clock in the afternoon one of Esqr. Searancks Great Caske at Hatfield Brewer Busted of 535 Barrels in the stoor House 3 of the Bottom Hoops flew and the Beer run down the water corse to the River from Hatfield.’

Local beer drinkers must have looked on in horror as thousands of gallons of the liquid cascaded towards the river. The fish in the Lea, on the other hand, would have been partying for days.

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Refocused, April 2019—Page 9

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Lady Salisbury offers the working team refreshing apple juice made with pressed apples from her orchard

St Etheldreda's Community Gardening Days

On Monday 25th February seven members of Hatfield House Park and Garden team assisted members of the congregation from St Etheldreda's Church tidying up the church yard, in order to improve the view of it from Fore Street. A large and dominant privet hedge had grown out of proportion over time and in doing so made the church less visible to visitors of Old Hatfield and Hatfield House. The privet hedge has now been cut back and will be maintained as a low hedge to allow the church to be easily seen, and admired, from a distance.

On the same day the team also began the process of removing the yew hedge which divided the family's private cemetery from the main cemetery. It revealed beautiful ornate railings, whilst also opening up the view of the church and Old Palace to one another.

Work continued on the 11th of March when the dedicated team removed the last section of hedging between the church and private cemetery, and overgrowth on the ornate brickwork on the other side of the private cemetery. The end result is a completely open view across the church yard, Old Palace and Fore St.

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