



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

REFOCUSSED

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

November—mid December 2019



BISHOP'S
HATFIELD

Jane Garner—Steadfast and Faithful

By Jo Roscoe

Last month our front page celebrated the lifelong ministry, at his retirement, of Father Carl Garner calling him a Sower of Seeds. It is tempting to continue the agricultural simile and call Jane “a worker in the fields”! But instead I have chosen to use the words inspired by the citation in the certificate of the Order of St Alban award, referring to faithful service. More of that later.

First a little background: born in Yorkshire, when Jane was six her clergyman father moved the family to South Africa and the Diocese of Johannesburg. Thus it came about that she met and married Carl Garner and, after eight years when he was Chaplain at St Paul's Theological College, became what at the time was the typical role of a vicar's wife as unpaid, and often unsung, working partner—dispensing hospitality and charity when needed, helping to run the Sunday School, managing her household and bringing up her three children. And all this with a good and willing heart.

On returning to the UK where Carl took up post with St Albans Cathedral as Diocesan Missioner, Jane used her international connections to work for the diocese as link person to Mothers' Union (MU) groups around the world. The MU supports family life, prayer, worship and service especially in Africa, India and the Caribbean where communities can be isolated by large distances and many women live in difficult circumstances.

Jane joined the diocesan mission council. Her role: linking St Albans with “mission partners” working overseas, visiting them when in the UK and corresponding often. She and Carl hosted many overseas visitors to St Albans, including an African dance troupe on their way to a conference in York. There was a group from Zimbabwe who got lost in Verulam Park and had to be taken to their host families in Harpenden. There was Bishop Michael Curry en route to a Lambeth Conference in 2009. Readers may remember his lively sermon at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. There were visitors from Nigeria and Egypt and church workers from Antigua who had to be taken to Gatwick in a hurry. *(continues on back page)*



Jane with the Order of St Alban award, inside the Cathedral

Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke

Regular Services

St Etheldreda's Church

SUNDAY: 8^{am} Holy Communion BCP
9.30^{am} Holy Communion with Sunday School

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH:

9.30^{am} All age Eucharist

TUESDAY: 9^{am} Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY: 10^{am} Holy Communion

THURSDAY: 9^{am} Morning Prayer

7^{pm} Holy Communion or Compline

FRIDAY: 9^{am} Morning Prayer

St Luke's Church

SUNDAY: 11.30^{am} Holy Communion with Hymns

**CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

meets at 9.20^{am} on Sundays in term
time at 12 Fore Street (STEPS office)

November/December Weddings:

30th December—Thomas Stephenson and Lucy Sampson

Please contact Fr Darren to book your Wedding or Baptism

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

What's on in November/December in the Hatfield Team

Saturday 2 November 8am – Men's Breakfast, St Michael's & All Angels Church

Saturday 2 November 10am – Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church

Saturday 2 November 3pm – All Souls Service, St Luke's Church

Sunday 3 November 4pm – All Souls Service, St Michael's & All Angels Church

Friday 8 November 7pm – St Etheldreda with St Luke—Quiz at the Riding Stables

Saturday 9 November 10am-2pm—Creative Corner at 89 Bradshaws, Hatfield

Saturday 9 November 10.30am – DVD 'A County at War' to be shown, St Etheldreda's Church—open to all

Saturday 16 November 10.30am – Christmas Fayre, St Michael's & All Angels Church

Saturday 16 November 7pm – An audience with Elizabeth I, St Etheldreda's Church

Friday 29 November – Sunday 1 December – Team Retreat to Pleshey Retreat House

Sunday 1 December 6pm – Advent Carol Service, St Etheldreda's Church

Friday 6 December – Sunday 8 December – Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Nth. Mymms (see pg.7)

Friday 6 December 5pm-8pm – Taize Evening Retreat, St Etheldreda's Church

Saturday 7 December 8am – Men's Breakfast, St Michael's & All Angels Church

Saturday 7 December 10am – Ramble leaving St Michael's & All Angels Church

Saturday 14 December 3pm – Joint concert brass & choir from Herts Music Centre & St Eth's choirs, St Eth's

Father Darren Collins, Team Rector

The Rectory, 1 Fore Street

Old Hatfield

Hertfordshire AL9 5AN

Tel: 01707 256 638

Email: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

Refocused Editor: maryrathbone@icloud.com

Parish Team Office

Open Saturdays: 9am – 10am

12 Fore Street

Old Hatfield

Hertfordshire AL9 5AN

Tel: 01707 260 800

Email: bhteamoffice@gmail.com

Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke : Registered Charity No.1152011
St Etheldreda's Church, Fore Street, Old Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 5AN

Christmas Programme at St Eth's & St Luke's



December 2019

1st—6pm **Advent Carol Service**, St Eth's

15th—4pm **Nativity on the farm** Hatfield Park Farm

21st—3pm **Bishops Hatfield Top Ten Carols**, St Luke's

22nd—6pm **Nine Lessons and Carols**, St Eth's

24th—4pm **Crib Service**, St Eth's

24th—11.30pm **Midnight Mass**, St Eth's

25th—9.30am **Christmas Day Communion**, St Eth's

25th—11am **Christmas Day Communion**, St Luke's

Girl with Christmas Tree

By Franz Skarbina (1849-1910)

<http://www.stadtmuseum.de/php/sammlungen/sreb.php?id=264>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2033118>

What's On at Hatfield House in November / December

CHARITY CHRISTMAS MARKET

2 NOVEMBER @ 10:30AM TO 4:00PM

The Riding School Admission £2.50



Join the Welwyn Hatfield Conservatives, once again in conjunction with Isabel Hospice to explore a range of bespoke and artisan products, many made from right here in Hertfordshire. This small relaxed market of around 50 stalls will be located inside the Riding School.

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

8 DECEMBER @ 4:00PM AND 7:00PM

The Old Palace

Admission Adult: £16.00 Child: £11.00

Join us for another memorable evening as once again, the Old Palace will be filled with the joyful and uplifting sound of Hertfordshire Chorus. Get the Festive season going with a wonderful mix of Christmas carols and songs old and new.

Please note that due to popular demand a second concert has been added. The 4pm concert doors for the performance will open at approx. 3:30pm. For the 7pm concert, doors for the performance will open at approximately 6:30pm.

Seating will not be allocated at either concert and is selected on arrival based on availability.

For more information on all events at Hatfield House

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

Personalised Christian funerals in your home church

By Mary Rathbone, Lay Reader

Did you know that every person living in a Church of England (CofE) parish has the right to a CofE funeral, whether a practising Christian or not?

Whether you like us or not, the CofE belongs to its parishes and has been helping people mark the end of life for countless generations. And, as in the past, all people living in our parish today have the right to a personalised funeral at either St Eth's or St Luke's, or at a crematorium or burial ground.

The message at all our funerals, wherever they happen, is one of hope. Although there is sadness because someone you know and love has died, every one of our funerals also include a message of hope in life after death and is delivered by a CofE priest or licensed minister.

As in all CofE parishes, we offer those coming to terms with death a place: To be; To pray; To talk; To return to. We offer a local place of continuity in the eternal cycle of birth, marriage and death.

Christians believe that each and every one of us is uniquely made in the image of God. So a CofE funeral is a good place to give thanks for all that was particularly special about the person you knew and loved. It can include unique details, specific to that person, such as in the music, readings, prayers and Eulogy—family and friends can also take active roles in these parts of the funeral service if they would like to.

The Ship

What is dying?

I am standing on the seashore, a ship sails in the morning breeze and starts for the ocean. She is an object of beauty and I stand watching her till at last she fades on the horizon and someone at my side says: 'She is gone'

Gone! Where?

Gone from my sight that is all.

She is just as large in the masts, hull and spars as she was when I saw her, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to its destination.

The diminished size and total loss of sight is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says,

'She is gone'

there are others who are watching her coming, and other voices take up a glad shout:

'There she comes!'

and that is dying.

Bishop Brent (1862—1919)

When someone dies there is much to think about and much to organise. We understand how difficult this can be, but we can help you to say your goodbye in a way that really helps.

Fr Darren Collins can advise further on personalised CofE funerals offered in this parish

t: 01707 256 638 e: frdarren@yahoo.co.uk

From the moment you are in touch with us, throughout the funeral service, and for as long as you need us afterwards, we're here for you.

The Church of England is in every community, and has been helping people mark the end of life for generations. Find out more about what makes a Church of England funeral special here:

www.churchofenglandfunerals.org



Remembrance services November 2019

10.50am 10th November: Hatfield Memorial Gardens, Service of Remembrance

(Lord Salisbury has kindly arranged refreshments in the Old Palace afterwards)

10.50am 11th November: Armistice Day Service of Remembrance

At the WW1 War Grave Cemetery (going south on the A1000, is on the left-hand side well before the Oxlease Drive bridge). Hatfield House was a hospital for wounded soldiers during WW1, the cemetery is for them.

Other ways that St Eth's and St Luke's can help you to pray for loved ones:

Candles: By lighting a candle and saying a prayer, for your loved ones, living or deceased

Prayers: At weekday Morning Prayers we bring to God prayers visitors have left in our prayer book

Christmas Tree: Hang a written prayer on our tree before/after our Crib Service on 24th December

Hatfield café opens with pay-what-you-can concept

(courtesy of Welwyn Hatfield Times, Charlotte McLaughlin)

Resolve's Sparks Community Café dedicated to the late Welwyn Hatfield mayor Lynne Sparks - is getting busier every day.

But day manager Dean Norris, of the Resolve-run night shelter which is located at the back of the Queensway-site café, said the pay-what-you-can concept is a little difficult at first.

"People don't want to seem tight and they don't want to over-pay," Mr Norris explained. "The café is really for the community and we have kids coming in during the school holidays and helping out."

The money patrons offer goes towards the running of the drugs and alcohol charity.

It pays for things like a bed, breakfast and a meal for one night (£10) or a meal for someone who cannot afford it (£5).

Mr Norris said: "Our chef is amazing. He makes everything fresh and you need to try the onion soup."



Charlotte McLaughlin
www.whtimes.co.uk/news/resolve-s-community-cafe-doing-well-1-6196869

Chef Bradley Hill, 23, believes in cooking everything fresh with good quality ingredients, saying "going through and cooking with packets is child's play".

Mr Hill, who lives locally, was a little apprehensive about taking the job as the area "doesn't have the greatest reputation" but said he's liked it so far and really enjoys talking to the customers.

He said: "There's nothing around here like it. I'm always seeing new faces and the word is spreading."

He thinks the community can really support people in the area who are "struggling just to get something to eat".

"I eat out whenever I want and I think you take for granted if you can afford it."

The shelter - officially opened on June 30 - has 10 people boarding and Mr Norris is hopeful they can support most to go in to homes.

He said: "Our volunteers are fantastic and give so much of their time." "We'd love some more."

Socialism and Christianity

By Kerstin Schmidt

Introduction by Mary Rathbone

Kerstin started attending services at St Eth's a few years ago and is much loved by us all. I was fascinated when I discovered that she had been brought up as a Christian in Eastern Germany, and was present when the Berlin Wall came down. She has kindly agreed to share some of her memories with us.



Martin Luther's Rose Seal

Contrary to the belief and reports in the Western world, in the German Democratic Republic we had churches, paid church taxes and had regular services. Our system was not a communist system, like Russia for example, but a more moderate one called 'Socialism'. Christianity was not necessarily encouraged by this so called Democratic System but we were allowed to pursue whatever faith we wanted to – Lutheran church, Catholic Church, m and a few more too.

I was baptised in 1953 as "Birgit Kerstin Schmidt". However, everybody calls me Kerstin as I did not like my first name.

I had several godmothers/ godfathers and one of them was a vicar in the village church where I was born and baptised and where my grandparents lived. Every Saturday morning from the age of 3, I packed my little

suitcase, walked to the bus stop the driver of which knew exactly where to drop me off. I stayed overnight with my godparents and they took me to Sunday school at the village church the next morning. I enjoyed the singing and praying, especially when it was somebody's birthday. One of my other godmothers played the organ and allowed me to practice after the service.

There were no restrictions, although I now believe there were a few non-believers in the church who then reported to the secret service. But no actions were taken, names just registered. I followed that routine until I started school at 7 years of age. I then went by train on Sunday morning to the next village for Sunday school until I was 14. I spent Sunday lunch with my grandparents who took me to the station to return home on Sunday night.

From the age of 14 we did not have Sunday school but proper church services every Sunday and get-togethers during the week. I enjoyed the company and learnt so much about, not just church, the bible and proper behaviour, but a lot more about people.

My Lutheran confirmation was when I had turned 14, but I also had to have the socialist confirmation. I was now considered an

adult. This did not bother me much and I still went to church every Sunday with my mother. We were the only ones in the household to attend church – my father and brothers were non-believers but thanks to my godparents, and my dear mother, I hung on in there until I started university in Berlin.

I got a little confused as nobody went to church there so I gave up and only went when I was at home with my mother. Socialist education was paramount so Christianity fell by the wayside. My first, as well as my second, husband did not go to church so I stopped regular visits, especially after my mother had died so young at 63. However, I always went to church on special holidays like Easter and Christmas on my own and I always pray before I go to bed. That is a custom that cannot be removed and I feel it has helped me through difficult times and still does.

I started going to church again after my husband died and feel it gives me a lot of care, help and assistance. When I did not go the other week because I had a visitor, some people from church came and asked me if I was alright. Though I do not have a family here nor a husband I still feel looked after and that is reassuring.

Good News from St Luke's by Michelle Jervis

One of our best attended services at St Luke's is our 11am service of reflection on Good Friday. Last year it exceeded all expectations and some late-comers had to sit on the storage chests at the back of church! Having more than 40 people present did, however, highlight our shortage of hymn books with several people having to share. Whilst sharing is not necessarily a bad thing, it can be tricky if the person next to you is much taller or shorter or needs to hold the hymn book at a different distance to make out the words!

Like many churches, limited funds mean that the purchase of large items is a challenge to be balanced along with covering the insurance premium and the utility bills.

We're not quite sure when we might have managed to get together enough funds to buy additional hymn books.

So you can imagine how amazed and grateful we were when Fr Darren told us that an anonymous donor would buy us more than 40 new hymn books (including some large-print ones). The very generous gift extended to a matching set of 35 CDs with all the tunes to the 850+ hymns. This means we have a musical accompaniment for those times when Jill, Catriona or William are not able to come and play for us.

We now have more hymns to choose from and it is much easier for us making a selection of appropriate hymns to know immediately

The hymn books and CDs are not the only gifts we have been lucky to have had recently; our very smart new Noticeboard and our new curtains on the West Door are both gifts from past/present members of our small, devoted congregation.

that we have both words and music. Previously we sometimes had chosen a hymn as having particularly appropriate words only to discover that we did not have a tune on any of the varying sets of discs.

Although our thanks have already been given to the donor via Fr Darren, we hope they are reading this and know how very grateful we are for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

St Mary's Church North Mymms Christmas Tree Festival 6th—8th December 2019

The Christmas Tree Festival is back by popular demand. The theme this year is *****STARS*****

We are inviting families, individuals, schools, businesses and organisations to enter a tree and provide a glittering display to light up the church. We are also delighted to announce that the **Buck Brass Trio** who wowed us all at the last festival will be returning to play at the **Preview Evening** Friday 6th December: Tickets £15.

Entry on Saturday and Sunday is £2.00 (free for those under 16). There will be refreshments, children's workshops, cake, book and craft stalls.

As last time, when we had over 40 trees, visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite tree. For more information, opening times and details on how to enter a tree or to buy tickets for the Preview Evening go to:

www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk
or, email sheila.hoile@btinternet.com.

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Venue: St Etheldreda's Church, Old Hatfield, AL9 5AN

Date: 16th November

Time: 7.00pm (Doors open 6.30)



Car parking in the George's Gate Car Park, Hatfield House

Aspects of organ playing—the choices of music

Part 3 in a series of recollections of being the church organist from Thelma Dummer

The question of what to play? Well I made a list to start with but every so often, something would be said in a sermon or in the announcements at the end of the service that would give me a very good clue as to what would be suitable or, in some cases, fun to risk playing, and here I state as an example that when a sponsored cycle ride was going to take place, I played “Daisy, Daisy, Give me your answer do” Of course it had to be played in the style of a church composer and who better than J.S. Bach? This idea I borrowed from the late Joseph Cooper of “Face the Music” fame, a television programme cleverly devised by him many years ago. He later published a book of what he called “Hidden Melodies”. These same melodies are quite a good idea to play as voluntaries because they are so tuneful. Who needs lists?

It is my firm belief that an organist should be sensitive in his/her choice of music and when hymns are played, to pay special attention to the words, ie. does a verse require quiet playing?—should the joyful verses played loudly? It certainly makes for variety rather than having every verse of every hymn played at the same volume. Two examples come to mind here, and these call for careful thought on the part of the organist: Remembrance day services & Funerals I previously stated that funeral music should be quiet and sensitive! At least, that is what I have always believed! WRONG! One day I received a ‘phone call from the Rev. John Horner, once a vicar at St. John’s church, asking me if I was alright playing the music of Glenn Miller, a famous jazz band leader! I was told that for the end of the service I was required to play the music of “In the Mood”! while the coffin was being carried out! It transpired that the deceased liked the music of Glenn Miller and wanted me to play some of it before the service. Luckily the Good Lord has given me an excellent facility to do just this, ie. play the music, so I played “Moonlight Serenade, and Little Brown Jug” and some of the music from the book of Glen Miller’s that a friend had kindly lent me for the purpose. I have to say though that I felt very strange doing all this, particularly playing “In the Mood” when the coffin was being carried out! Usually I play quiet music when this happens! Oh well! It is all ex-

perience I suppose and at least I was paid for it! What made all this really funny was that at this particular church, the organ was very wheezy and it still is, particularly on the swell manual (the top set of keys).

I was sometimes asked to play for funerals in Welwyn Garden City and there in one of the churches is an organ that had just one manual and eight stops that were quite stiff to pull out and I imagine it’s a bit like pulling pints in a pub, although I wouldn’t know of course! It is a lovely and warm church. Here I was required to play music before the service and the hymns of course, but at the end as the coffin was carried out, taped music was going to be used. I said “going” but this didn’t turn out quite as planned because when the poor girl put the required tape on, all we heard was a very weird sound coming from it because the tape was scratched. The poor girl’s face was very red and she was in a bit of a state and informed me that she was going to give it another try. I felt tempted to tell her that the same thing would happen again but she was determined to give it another try but the result was the same. Consequently I had to provide the tune, which I knew well, and all turned out fine in the end. There were so many incidents I could record but as I played for more funerals than weddings, it could make boring reading.



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Jane Garner—Steadfast and Faithful

Continues from front page ...

Guyana in South America has an official link with St Albans Diocese. Jane joined the Guyana Diocesan Association (GDA), a support group for the Anglican Guyanese church. She visited the country and made lasting friends there. For many years she acted as GDA Secretary and edited its magazine, always trying to increase knowledge of the place and improve communications.

I must however come back to the Bishop's citation. On Saturday September 21st, Alan, Bishop of St Albans, awarded Jane the Order of St Alban with its medal and certificate for her faithful Christian Service, especially for international work on behalf of the diocese. Five other people were similarly honoured, not all for such glamorous-sounding work but each deserving of the description "Steadfast and Faithful". There are heroes and heroines everywhere but modest, unassuming Jane is our lady of the month!



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