



REFOCUSSED

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

April 2020



Easter letter to the parish from Fr Darren Collins

Sometimes when I read the bible in preparation for preaching on a Sunday, I get the feeling that whatever I say will never do justice to the words of scripture that God has laid before me. This is never more evident than when I read the stories of Jesus resurrection. It is so amazing and life changing that what ever I can say would seem inadequate and poor in comparison.

Below is the story of Jesus Resurrection as found in St John's Gospel:



Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where

the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, Rabbouni! (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.



Through the death and resurrection of Jesus the world was changed forever. This passage from St John changed my life; perhaps it could change yours too.

Fr Darren

Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke

St Etheldreda's Church Services

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 Service

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)

Weddings & Baptisms in April

Wedding: 5th April—Chris Nsiah & Jone Martinez Gomez

Baptism: 12th—April Vinnie Reggie Crack

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

What's on in the Parish in April

7pm, 23rd April—St Etheldreda's Church

THE RT REVD DR MICHAEL BEASLEY

THE BISHOP OF HERTFORD

Dr Michael Beasley will be speaking about his dual role as a Bishop and Epidemiologist, and how the Church of England is working to stop the spread of Ebola in Sierra Leone.

All are welcome to join us and learn more.

Regular Hatfield Team Social Events

Men's Breakfast Club

St Michael & All Angels Church
8am on 1st Saturday of month

The Thursday Tea Break

Angie's Deli, Old Hatfield
2pm every Thursday

Poetry Group

St Mary's Church, North Mymms
2.30pm, 3rd Friday of month

Knit & Natter

St John's Church, South Hatfield
1:30pm—3:15pm every Friday

Friendship Teas

St John's Church, Lemsford
2.30pm, 2nd Tues each month

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Parish of Bishop's Hatfield St Etheldreda with St Luke : Registered Charity No.1152011
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Find us on 

www.stetheldreda.org

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St Eth's + St Luke's — Holy Week + Easter 2020

Palm Sunday April 5th

8am Holy Communion, St Eth's
9.30am Holy Communion and Procession of Palms, St Eth's
11.30am Holy Communion, St Luke's
4pm Choral Evensong, St Eth's

Monday April 6th

7pm Holy Communion followed by silence and Compline, St Eth's

Tuesday April 7th

7pm Holy Communion followed by silence and Compline, St Eth's

Wednesday April 8th

7pm Holy Communion followed by silence and Compline, St Luke's

Maundy Thursday April 9th

8pm Holy Communion and The Watch (until 10pm), St Eth's

Good Friday April 10th

11am Good Friday Service, St Luke's
12 noon Seven Last Words from The Cross, St Eth's
2pm Stainer's 'Crucifixion', St Eth's

Holy Saturday April 11th

8pm Service of First Light, St Eth's

Easter Sunday April 12th

8am Holy Communion, St Eth's
9.30am Holy Communion, St Eth's
11.30am Holy Communion, St Luke's

Easter Monday April 13th Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral

What's On at Hatfield House in April

HATFIELD HOUSE looks forward to welcoming you for the start of a new season on Saturday, 4th April

OLD PALACE TOURS – APRIL 2020

1 April @ 11am—3 April @ 3pm

LORD BURGHELEY EXHIBITION

4 April—27 September

This exhibition, on the 500th anniversary of his birth, celebrates his achievements and legacy. It will be enjoyed by all those visiting Hatfield House during the 2020 open season.

EASTER BUNNY PARK TRAIL

4 April @ 10:30am—12noon

Follow the Yellow trail on our Woodland Walks where participants will be challenged to find eight different coloured wooden bunnies. Collect a form to complete from the Stable Yard Kiosk and then enter the Park free of charge between 10:30am – 12pm. After 12pm forms will not be available and admission prices to the Park will occur.

TUDOR LEGACIES – MEET THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII ... in the Stable Yard

5 April @ 11am—4pm

Visitors will have the exciting opportunity to interact and engage with the six wives of Henry VIII. The Real Housewives Of Hampton Court.

Join us to celebrate the start of the
2020 season with our free
fun bunny park trail



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

Good Friday and Good News

by Fr Carl Garner

“Good Friday” is the English name for the day on which Jesus was put to death on a cross. It brings us up short. Good? It is saying that a day that looked like a defeat is a day of victory. Not the seeming triumph of wickedness and the power of evil, but the triumph of Jesus, and of good. While enduring human malice and culpable callousness and stupidity, Jesus remained whole and humane, praying even for the soldiers who hammered nails into him. Experiencing suffering and humiliation and death, he overcame evil with good. “Jesus Christ died for us, leaving us an example” (1 Peter 2:21).

But, beyond the cross and burial, God’s vindication of him was shown by the transformation of his resurrection, and by his appearing, and by his being taken into the heights of glory: and then also by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. All this confirming what he had said about himself.

It is more than example therefore: more than the Moral compass provided by his teaching, more than the inspiration of his life. It is also the truth of who he was: the anointed of God, the “fulness of the godhead dwelling bodily” with us (Coloss 2:9). God was in Christ coming alongside us, and experiencing the depths of physical and spiritual suffering for us, and death itself. Through what happened that Good Friday, God made possible the presence of Jesus with us now, in this life, bringing inner healing and peace, and strength and spiritual life, and the known and experienced forgiveness of sin and removal of guilt, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit too. All this through a committed faith in him: Jesus the Christ. This is a religion to live by, and live in, and live for. Truly Good news from God for this life.

And not only for this life. Jesus taught too of life to come: a teaching proven as true by his rising and ascending. Through his presence and his Spirit, he also makes available to us a felt assurance of that life to come. In addition, his word spoken to the penitent thief on the cross speaks of the immediacy of that life to those who die with faith: “Today you

will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). The garden of God—a place of growth and refreshment and joy and peace. Moreover, in his saying “In my father’s house are many rooms” (John 14:2) space is left for the cleansing and forgiveness and preparation even of those whose faith is dim, and penitence incomplete.

But what of those who have sought for good, but have no obvious faith in God, and have not really heard the news of Jesus in this life? It was a question the early Church had to respond to. They answered firstly by asserting the justice and fairness of God who wants all to be saved (Romans 2:10-16, 1 Timothy 2:4), and secondly by stressing the importance of an article of the faith enshrined in the Apostles Creed: our Lord’s “descent into hell”: his proclamation to the departed upon his death. A proclamation which brought perfection and new joy to the Saints of old. But more than that, to quote St Peter in a reading traditionally set for holy Saturday:

“In the spirit Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison - even to those who had not obeyed God when he waited patiently in the days when Noah was building the ark... this is why the Gospel was preached also to the dead, so that in their spiritual existence they might live with the life of God.”
(1 Peter 3:18f)

What this means was emphasised by many early teachers of the Church, such as St Clement of Alexandria, writing about 200 AD:

“It is the direct teaching of Scripture that our Lord preached to the dead: not only to Jews and Saints, but to the heathen as well, which was only fair, since they had no chance of knowing”

“The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of Man.” Jesus says of himself in John 5:25. That voice continues to resound to all who can hear. It is to Jesus that God has given the keys to life, and to the world to come. And in whom we look forward also to the great climax of the general resurrection and renewal of all things, the “yet more glorious day”. Truly Good News from God for the life to come as well.

Music at St Eth's 2020

The last weekend of February brought two musical milestones for St Eth's. Firstly, on Saturday 29th, we were privileged to have a concert from St. Albans Cathedral Choir at St Eth's, directed by Tom Winpenny, the Assistant Director of Music, and accompanied by James Orford (organist in residence at Westminster Cathedral). This concert was supported by the **St Albans Cathedral Music Trust** (Registered Charity No.1051072) whose vision and aim is to preserve and enhance the centuries of choral worship at the Cathedral. It was a wonderful experience, particularly when our own choir joined forces with the Cathedral Choir to sing "O thou, the central orb of righteousness" by Charles Wood. We raised the roof and also £964 towards providing some much needed facilities at St. Eth's.

Then on Sunday 1st March, Mark and I were delighted to be invited to St John's College Chapel, Cambridge to witness one of our former



young choristers, Sam Smith, being admitted as a full chorister at St John's. The music was magnificent, including the top C from the trebles, and Sam sang his first solo in the Chapel. We wish him all the best as he starts his musical and spiritual journey with St John's Choir beginning with a tour to the USA at the end of March.

Further details of their events can be found at: <https://www.sjcchoir.co.uk/events>

Jill Knight, Choir Director and Organist
E mail: jill.jkmusic@gmail.com



The Oasis – Bereavement Café

One of the great privileges of faith ministry is that we are often called upon to be alongside people who are suffering or hurting in some way, maybe because of family breakdown, difficult relationships, bereavement or other causes.

We at St Etheldreda's with St Luke's believe that God meets us in our grief and sadness and longs to comfort us. We want everyone to know that whatever your emotions, you are not alone.

If you have lost a loved one recently (or not so recently) or are hurting in some way and would like to sit for a while with a cuppa and someone to talk to, come along to our bereavement café. The Oasis.

We shall be open on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30am to 10:30am as St Luke's Church (The church on the roundabout). Come for tea, coffee and cake. If you want to sit quietly and or have a chat you will receive a warm welcome.

Drop in and see us. Contact John Barnard 07770 519290 for more information or just come along.

Pioneer Co-Housing – The Cockaigne Houses in Hatfield

by Richard Morton, Church Warden

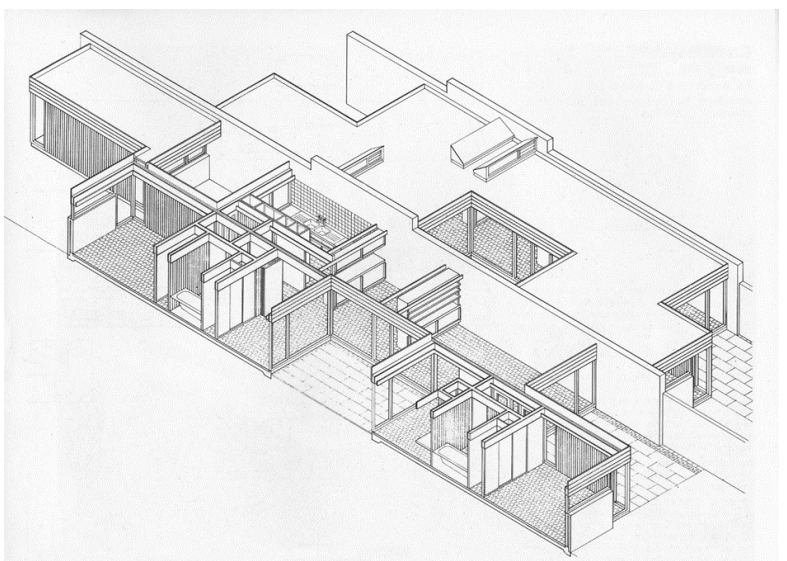
The grade 2 listed Cockaigne Houses – those strange black bungalows on the Ryde – are renowned architecturally as one of the best twentieth-century housing schemes, and I have lived there for over 30 years.

The Cockaigne Housing Group – named to reflect its utopian aspirations - was formed in 1962. It initially had no land and no obvious source of funds, but some officers in the Hatfield Development Corporation and Hatfield RDC were prepared to back the idea. Not only did they make a site available without a down-payment, but they were prepared to fund the scheme despite its very unconventional nature, by means of a loan for construction and by offering 100% mortgages.

The other decisive piece of good fortune was finding architects – (Phippen, Randall and Parkes -now PRP) capable of delivering this vision. The idea was 'to work out afresh the needs of the family of today' and it is striking how utterly different the houses are from the standard early '60s products nearby.

The privacy of each home was high on the list of objectives. Alongside this were other requirements for economy of construction and adaptability and out of all this arose the concept of narrow frontage, deep plan, single storey terraced houses, with roof lights and internal patios to let the sunshine in. Each house would have its own frontage to the road with a garage but would connect at the rear to a hidden, shared garden running the length of the site with a tennis court at one end and the community house at the other. The designs, though reticent externally, work extraordinarily well inside and achieve an intense relation of indoor to outdoor space which was entirely new for UK housing of this time.

Unsurprisingly, the original residents were predominantly young professionals. 24 houses out of the 28 were taken by couples who already had, or were soon to have, young families and this first generation were fired by the co-operative concept. The group's original aspirations were many and varied with talk of swimming pools, shared boats, and even a shared holiday home. Even without these, the community life in the early days was a defining feature of Cockaigne but was not pursued dogmatically and suggestions that the group would be able to blackball subsequent purchasers or take a levy on enhanced resale values were firmly put aside.



Not just for Sunday

By Jo Roscoe

Time was when Sunday was a special day of the week. No shops, no offices and often no buses or trains.

The pattern would vary depending on the times of morning worship. But typically it would be a later time for getting up, a family breakfast, then the children packed off to Sunday School. Mother would start up the oven, prepare meat and veg for the Sunday roast, and then – to make full use of the cooker – make a couple of fruit pies or a cake together with an “oven-bottom” egg custard tart (for recipes, find an old Bero book!). Father meanwhile, having polished his shoes, would set off to his local for a leisurely pre-lunch drink.

Lunch over, a snooze and the washing up done, it would be a family walk in the countryside or local park, followed by a splendid high tea with Mother’s delicious efforts from the morning.

It would have been in about 1970 that Cockaigne reached its peak in terms of population (about 90 including children) and of its co-operative character. Parties were frequent and lively involving many friends from the surrounding area, the nursery school flourished, tennis and volleyball tournaments brightened the weekends and much of the maintenance was done by in-house working parties. Shared meals and joint excursions were regular events facilitated by a well-organized babysitting circle. The strength of the personal bonds developing from all of this are well attested by the large numbers of former residents who still attend social functions.

This affection for Cockaigne and the remarkable adaptability of the houses have also ensured a very low turnover in ownership. After more than 50 years there are still 3 original owners in place with up to a dozen others who have been owners for more than 25 years. Not so long ago it looked likely that what was originally a utopia for young families would become a de-facto retirement community, but this shift has reversed, and recent incomers have all been younger couples. Currently we have 18 pensioner households and 10 of working age - some with small children – and the management of the scheme has also passed from the old guard to the younger generation

Sunday these days is a little different, often involving a trip by car to the supermarket but hopefully including a walk in the country or round the park.

In Hatfield we are able to enjoy the lovely expanse of Hatfield House Park and many of us do, also calling into St Etheldreda’s, the church on the hill, which has stood and served Hatfield people for almost a thousand years.

The church is now open, for the rest of the year, to visitors *every* day of the week except Mondays.

This old and very beautiful church has absorbed the happiness and the tears of generation after generation. And it is here now for you too.

Call in and sit for a few moments or for an hour; bring your sorrows and joys. There is nothing which these walls will have not heard before. But perhaps it is you who needs to be heard now.

Come in and feel the compassion, tolerance, peace and love that this place has to offer.

The social life also still thrives with the community house in regular use for quizzes, management meetings, U3A events, parties, yoga classes, a gardening club, informal lunches and shared dinners. About half of the current owners participate on a regular basis. The community house was originally designed so that it could easily be sold off as a dwelling if things didn't work out but in fact it became necessary fairly early on to extend it and it is still regularly filled when groups of forty or so share an evening meal.

Two formerly important uses have disappeared. The nursery school moved out in 1993 and through process of time the function of the house as an informal youth club where the teenage children could 'hang out' and play table tennis, has also gone but the small guest flat (it has a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen) continues to be very well used as a facility for residents and provides a good source of community income from long term lets.

Maybe in another fifty years the community house will have been sold and the management will be carried out by commercial agents but all the signs at the moment are that Cockaigne, because its original aspirations and design were inclusive and well-balanced, is in excellent health. It is a remarkable pioneer of co-housing and intergenerational design.

Hatfield Men's Shed

by Mary Rathbone, Lay Reader

Did you know that we have our very own Men's Shed in the Parish? Located at Breaks Manor, Link Drive, it is available to all who need it. Launched in August 2019, it now has over 100 members and recently installed a second shed.

Men's Shed is a community-wide outreach programme with tens of thousands of shedders throughout the UK—and benefits men's health and wellbeing by giving them a space to meet.

Peter Lowe, the founder of Hatfield Men's Shed, says central to the scheme are the five steps to mental wellbeing, and he lists them below.

I would like to add that these five steps work just as well for women's mental health too! Also, I suggest that faith in God and hope in a glorious afterlife (we all qualify for this) is a good sixth step. *Mary*



1: Connecting

Men's Shed gives our community the chance to connect with each other. Research shows that men 'connect' better shoulder-to-shoulder when working together, rather than face-to-face.

Connections can be built peer to peer, peer to community or intergenerationally. The power of working on something for the good of the community (either the immediate community or the wider community), builds self-confidence and self-esteem.

2: Learning

We have teamed up with a local Social Enterprise to offer short course accreditation for a small number of qualifications. We have gone out of our way though to ensure that all of the courses are 'credit based' so that no one has the stress of exams and tests, and that all the qualifications are evidence based.

Informal learning is really the *raison d'etre* for our shed. We recognise that each shed member, young and old, has experience to share and things to teach as well as learn.

3: Giving

Giving to others—be it time, a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on, just being there—even making tea and coffee. It's all important. Giving releases endorphins in the brain that start making us feel happier.

4: Be Active

At Men's Shed we enjoy what we do; we don't over-stress about what time we roll in and we either complete our own projects or work together on a project. We have some pretty major projects, some continuing projects, some sponsored projects and some 'mindfulness' projects.

The 'chatter' around the shed is pretty active too and I always tell people who ask us what our most valuable tool is, that it is The Kettle. So much happens around the kettle it's a magical place where dreams come alive and take shape.

5: Take Notice

Projects like building bird boxes and hedgehog houses force us to notice the small things in life that bring great pleasure, like our 'Sparrow Terrace'. Ten Bird boxes in a long line all feeding from our bird table, all nesting and all demonstrating the strength that community brings, it's life affirming!

Hatfield Men's Shed

Link Drive, Hatfield AL10 8TP (Breaks Manor Carpark)
Open Tuesdays: 10am—2pm

Contact: Peter Lowe - 07941 660417

Email: hatfieldmen@outlook.com

www.facebook.com/groups/678715189210824

www.hatfieldmen.webs.com

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Please contact—maryrathbone@icloud.com if you have any editorial contributions.

Lemsford Fete

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Organised by St John's School and Church

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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.

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