



REFOCUSSED

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

June to mid July 2020



Letter to the parish from Reverend Paul Gismondi

To the members of the Hatfield Community -
Greetings.

I have recently started as the Chaplain to the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury at Hatfield House, and it's a great joy and a privilege to be here amongst you all.

I believe it's been some time since a Chaplain was resident, so I'll have to learn as I go along. It's a shame to be in the midst of the restrictions which makes it difficult for me to meet most of you, but I have already received a warm welcome from those of you I have met.

Once the restrictions are eased, you are invited to the service of Morning Prayer in the Chapel each day at 8.45 (which lasts around 15 minutes) and to Holy Communion each Sunday at 8.30. When the House is open to visitors we plan to have a short daily Service of Prayer each weekday at 12. And once I get my bearings, I hope to begin a programme of Evensong from time to time, with some guest Preachers and Choirs. In the meantime, I am here and available on chaplain@Gascoyne.org or you can find me around the Chapel at North Lodge.

A little personal background. I was born and raised in Cleveland, USA on the edge of the Great Lakes (what we call the "North Coast"). After college in Massachusetts, I lived in New York before moving to England in 1985. My father, who was based here during the war, was a great Anglophile, and it must have somehow rubbed off on me.

I spent most of my working career in the City, at Lazards, and after 24 years there, I decided

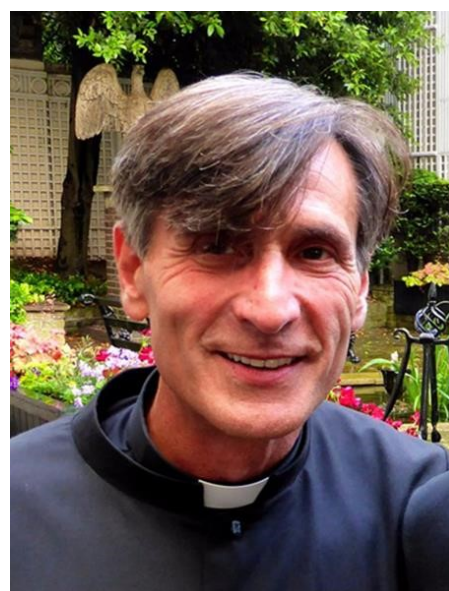
to pursue a different vocation, so in 2014 I started my theological training at Cambridge and was ordained at St Paul's in June 2016. Before arriving at Hatfield, I was at Holy Trinity Sloane Square, and most recently at the Sandringham Benefice in Norfolk, to which I will return from time to time.

I enjoy everything to do with the country, reading, bridge, and (when it's open) the theatre. But my greatest love are my 5 dogs: Olga, Lena, Lola, Emma, and Phoebe. Please bear with me if you see me struggling to keep them in order in the park.

I am so looking forward to getting to know you, and to complement the work that Fr Darren is doing at St Etheldreda's and in the Deanery. Please don't hesitate to be in touch, even if, for the moment, it might need to be virtually or remotely.

Blessings and best wishes,

Reverend Paul Gismondi



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

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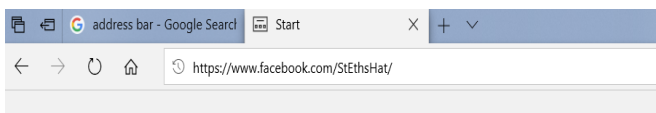
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<https://www.facebook.com/StEthHat/>



That will take you straight to our page on Facebook:

St Etheldreda with St Luke, Hatfield.

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

Our page will be listed in the results.

ONLINE SERVICES

Tune in at the following times to join us:

Parish Eucharist Sunday 9.30am

Morning Prayer Mon-Fri 7.30am

Compline Mon-Fri 9pm

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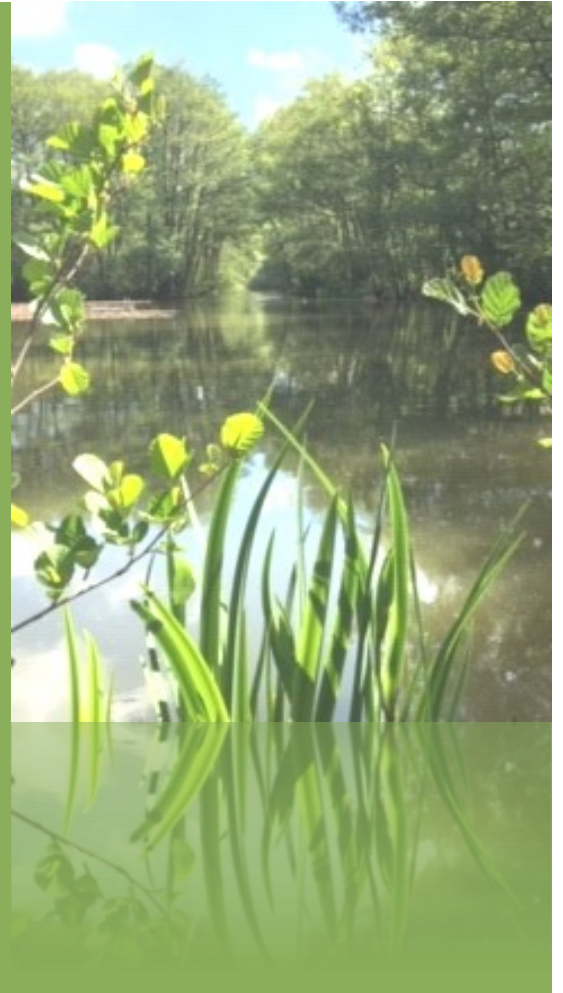
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Gobions Pond on a Spring Afternoon, by Penny Thomson

*The earth is stilled in virus grip.
No-one has told the birds, who call and chatter in warm-soil glee;
Sycamore, chestnut, oak wave their blazing bright green canopies, encircling, hiding, a sparkling jewel;
Fat catkins, spilt marshmallows, litter the pathways in abundance;
Blue scalloped helmets, attend and keep guard, bobbing and dancing in the breeze;
Candy-floss cow-parsley crowds the verges;
Forget-me-nots play with dandelion seed-heads, a faint verdant perfume tinges the air.
An urgent afternoon breeze, ripples across the pond surface; the jewel shimmers and dapples in peachy-pink as the sun begins to set;
Like April showers, tears fall, as those who will not see the Spring again are remembered, and then ... A rainbow.*



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

We hope to invite visitors back to the Park, Gardens, Woodland Walks and Old Palace soon. The team here at Hatfield House are busy reviewing the recent government guidance and taking steps to ensure both visitors and staff can maintain safe social distancing whilst still enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

The safety of our staff and visitors is paramount and for this reason, we will not be receiving visitors into Hatfield House itself for the remainder of this 2020 season.

Hatfield Park Farm and play area will unfortunately close and won't be re-opening in its current form. We are taking some time to review what attractions and experiences we can offer future visitors to this area of the Estate.

We hope to open the Coach House Kitchen with a reduced take away menu in a form which complies with the latest government guidelines.

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

7 JUNE @ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

2 JULY - 1 OCTOBER

POSTPONED | LORD BURGHLEY EXHIBITION

5 JULY @ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

8 JULY @ 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

CANCELLED | A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GARDENER

18 JULY @ 4:30 PM - 10:30 PM

POSTPONED | BATTLE PROMS

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

When I needed a neighbour where were you?

How to talk about mental health

This article is written by Rev Sue Stilwell, Associate Team Minister in the Bishop's Hatfield Team and Chaplain to Methodist Homes (MHA) and Rev Richard Allen, NHS Mental Health Chaplain. Richard and Sue are members of a group in the Diocese of St Albans who seek to encourage our churches to be places of welcome and inclusion and promote positive mental well-being.

The recent pandemic and consequent lockdown has, for many, been a difficult time. Speak to one person though and their experience of it will be quite different to another. In other words, the situation is the same, but our personal circumstances are not. It is the same for the effects on our mental well-being. Our ability to manage periods of isolation, insecurity in the workplace, working from home, concern for distant loved ones or becoming ill ourselves from the virus are just a few things that may test our lives now. In the foreseeable future as the lockdown slowly reduces this will bring about different kinds of anxiety and fear.

Without doubt, this period of lockdown and isolation will have many unintended consequences, including the effect on people's mental wellbeing. As chaplains, we notice much higher levels of anxiety in our workplaces for both those able to remain in work and those who were furloughed. For those whose work involves health and social care, the anxiety of inadvertently passing on the virus to anyone, not least vulnerable people, was felt as much as contracting the virus themselves and putting their families at risk.

Anxious family members place pressure on loved ones not to go into work, which compounds the situation. Those who normally appear to embrace all that 'comes their way' instead experience a fear of dying (even though they remain in good health) as they struggle with feeling out of control in a situation far bigger than they and indeed any of us, have dealt with ever before. So, what has become clear, is that there is an even greater need to talk with one another about how this situation affects us and to respond.

This situation shows us just how vulnerable in one way or another we all are and that we really are in this together. It also shows us just how closely balanced survival and struggle really are, as we experience the changes in our usual patterns of daily living, separation from our families and friends and a lack of a clear and certain future. For some, the tables turned and suddenly we experienced what it meant to support others both practically and emotionally in ways we have not done before. What new insights this brought!

It is also interesting to note how our language changed during the lockdown. Already, the term 'new normal' is becoming widely used. We are getting used to the idea that Covid-19 is not a short-term blip, but something that will change individual, family and communal lives and relationships in the long term.

As Sam Wells (the Vicar of St Martins-in-the-Fields in central London) reflected on a recent *Thought for the Day*, the Hebrew Scriptures record a number of grave national events that had a lasting impact on the whole population. He observed that the prophets spoke into these critical situations. They offered words of comfort and solace. Then, and only then, they advanced a vision of a future that could not be based on going back to the past.

Whatever 'normal' was to be, it would not be the normal the populace had experienced before. It will be a new normal. For, Wells concluded, that is precisely what God offers us each time we face an existential crisis, such as Covid-19; the opportunity to be honest with ourselves and each other, reflect on all we are going through, and work out what we might do for the better in the future.

What is clear to both of us in our chaplaincy roles is just how much the various parts of our lives interact with each other. There is no way that we leave our home life at the threshold of work, and somehow pick it up at the end of our shift; no way that our mental and spiritual wellbeing does not impact on our physical health. It is simply remarkable how many people in the health and social care fields (and others as well) have found the courage to continue working whilst living with the stress, anxiety and trauma of family and friends battling with Covid-19.

That is where neighbours have come in. They appear in all shapes and sizes – work colleagues, delivery drivers, the grumpy person in the flat next door and so on. And, in a crisis such as this, neighbourly roles do not follow the usual patterns. Cleaners listen to managers, children care for parents, health care assistants look out for chaplains. When it comes down to it, we can all be neighbours in a crisis.

The question “Who is my neighbour?” started Jesus off on the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 29-37). For the man who was robbed, neighbourliness came from an unlikely source; from someone who should, by all the conventions of the time, have had nothing to do with the victim. Yet Samaritan looked after Jew and God again showed how a new normal could be born.

If all we do right now is to let our mental health emotions, experiences and questions run round our heads, we shall indeed be tested to the limits! But being able to name them and talk about them, whether directly, by phone, Zoom or email, reduces their impact on us. It enables us to manage our mental wellbeing. Not everything gets sorted out, but somehow a problem shared really does feel like a problem halved.

Maybe, that’s what those Hebrew prophets were trying to get at, 2500 years and more ago. The new normal is that which takes our human experiences, including that of our mental wellbeing, and applies new and healthier ways of dealing with them. Perhaps we need to recognise the Samaritans amongst us, those who do NOT think as we do, and embrace them (adopting appropriate social distancing of

course!) for what they can offer us and what we can offer them. Then ‘them’ and ‘us’ cease to have any meaning as we are all neighbours in the new normal.

Nothing will be lost in this experience; instead it has opened our hearts as we share in the struggle and bear the load. Isn’t that exactly what Jesus wanted us to do all along? In the words of John Bell and Graham Maule:

*To the lost Christ shows his face;
to the unloved he gives his embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes with his friends, a
touching place .*

Prayer:

*Risen Christ, for whom no door is
locked, no entrance barred: open
the doors of our hearts, that we may
seek the good of others and walk the
joyful road of compassion and peace
to the praise of God the Father.*

Amen.

(Collect from Church of England – Daily Prayer)

Richard Allen’s biography

Richard has been involved with mental health work for two decades, initially as a volunteer and, for the last 17 years, as a mental health chaplain within the NHS. He is currently the spiritual care manager at the NHS Trust that provides mental health care across Hertfordshire and beyond.

Sue Stilwell’s biography

Sue has been a Chaplain with MHA (Methodist Homes) for 10 years working with people living with dementia and life-limiting illness. Alongside this work, she has been licensed for the last 9 years to the Bishop’s Hatfield clergy team in St Albans Diocese

LOGA PRADHABAN

1968—2020 RIP

With a mixture of shock and grief, Old Hatfield residents recently learned that Loga Pradhaban, local businessman and proprietor of the Costcutter convenience store in Salisbury Square, had succumbed to the Covid-19 Virus, resulting in his death on May 2nd. Loga has been a well-known and supportive member of the community for 26 years and will be sorely missed, not least by his wife Subha and his ten year old son Kavayan. On behalf of all those who knew the family, and many who didn't, we would like to take this opportunity to express heartfelt condolences at their untimely loss.

In 1994, Sri Lanka-born Loga acquired the lease to the convenience store in Salisbury Square, which at that time was located in the unit which now houses Falcon Kitchens. He was twenty-six years old, full of ambition and ideas. First, he added a Post Office to the services he offered, and within two years, in 1996, he and his staff received an award as "Best Post Office in the South East". Earlier that year, he had returned to Sri Lanka to marry the lovely Subha, who quickly settled into the community where he had made his home. They were a happy, devoted couple whose lives were made complete by the arrival of son Kavayan some years later.

In May 1999, the convenience store with Post Office, moved across the square to larger premises and became Costcutter, which is there to this day. The Marchioness of Salisbury cut the opening ribbon, as Loga and Subha observed.

Winner of "The Best Post Office in the South-East Award—1996"

Loga's staff line up for photo. Barbara Lawrence, left, worked with Loga from the beginning of his tenure in 1994 to the present day.



As the word of Loga's death has spread throughout our community, we have received several accounts of his many acts of kindness, two of which are given below. If others would like to contribute similar



items, perhaps they could provide the basis of a small book about this outstanding citizen that would provide comfort to his family—so please email your recollections of Loga to; maryrathbone@icloud.com.

From Nan Mitchell, with her husband Dennis ("Real Tennis") Mitchell, twenty years resident on Fore Street, now living in Anglesey: *Loga was much more than Costcutter. I remember how much he helped out when our newly-formed Old Hatfield Residents' Association held our first summer "do" in the square. Not only did he give us raffle tickets and generous prizes, he gave everyone plastic ponchos when it poured with rain! In other years, he set up generous barbecues with wine and beer laid on.*

From Jean Lance: *In 2004, John and I had a party in the village hall to celebrate 50 years on Fore Street. We invited Loga and Subha, who immediately offered to provide the drinks. We thanked them warmly, but politely declined. They insisted, however, on giving us a particularly nice bottle for ourselves, which we were happy to accept!*

Truly, may he rest in peace.

Obituary written by Hilary Burningham

A Memorial Bench for Loga in Salisbury Square

A number of people thought it would be nice if we clubbed together to buy a bench in Loga's memory. His family are very pleased with this idea.

If you would like to contribute then you can find the GoFundMe page set up by the local Residents Association by Googling:

'gofundme a memorial bench for loga in salisbury square'

....and on the seventh year let your land lie fallow:

Exodus 23:11 written by Jo Roscoe

Exodus is the Second Book of the Old Testament. It tells the story of how Moses led the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to a land “flowing with milk and honey”.

But the journey was long and arduous. The people began to grumble and quarrel. Moses, probably at his wits’ end, drew apart into the mountains to seek God’s wisdom.

He came back with the Tablets of Stone which held the Ten Commandments. What happened next is well known. Eventually the people calmed and listened to God’s instructions given through Moses on how to build a just and fair society. The Sabbath (seventh) Day was decreed a day of rest for all. Even the land was to be rested in the seventh year; left unploughed and unseeded; to lie fallow. Such crop as it produced was to be given to the poor and then to the animals.

Farmers today also allow their fields to lie fallow and the resultant hay becomes fodder for the animals. Lying fallow is a rest and recuperation period, when strength and goodness can be restored.

Can you see our enforced lockdown as a fallow period? To relax and ponder the blossom on the trees and the blue sky has been wonderful for many.

But for others, cramped in a tower block apartment with children, it has been very difficult. Certainly it is true that fallow, seemingly-at-rest land is actually a hive of activity underneath. And our first-line key workers – shop workers, refuse collectors, care workers and NHS staff at all levels - have never been busier – or more appreciated. Yet these are some of the lowliest and lowest paid of our society.

So when we come out of this difficult time, will we have learned valuable lessons? Will our society change to be more like that of God’s plan, summarised by Jesus “Love God and your neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 22).

We may do things differently for a time before our selfish nature rears its head again. But the wisdom of God’s commands will never change or be diluted or bettered. Hold on to them and be glad.



Lock-down greetings from Bennie

Hello readers, I thought you might appreciate a briefing on lock-down from a canine's view. Well my goodness me what can I say, we seem to have entered a strange world of avoidance—not my cup of tea at all.

We start the day in the park, which of course should be amazing as I am never happier than when pottering about in the lovely woodlands, and admiring the Rhododendrons at this time of year.

But these days the mistress constantly pulls me away from all my many friends who only want to say hello as we walk about. Everybody seems to be very politely side stepping away from each other whilst saying a cheery good morning. We then seem to make a hurried return to the safety of our home, where I get wiped down with anti-bacteria wipes, then face a day that seems to drag on for ever.

But one of the highlights of my week is food deliveries. I am just mad for those days and can hardly contain my excitement. Well to be perfectly honest, I cannot contain my excitement and squeal like a banshee, because we have the most delightful array of food delivered, directly to our front door. Then the strangest thing happens—the mistress fills the kitchen sink with soapy water and starts mopping all the packages down. What's that all about???? I have no idea – food is food and I just want to eat it all.

And, it is not just food that we get delivered, various other packages and parcels also arrive. But the delivery people don't wait for us to open the door, they just knock and leave it on the doorstep and run away. Am not sure if they are just super busy or if they think we might pass on this wretched virus thing to them. But the mistress handles all these packages with forensic precision too—and follows a careful decontamination process.

Another new thing in our lives is Zoom meetings. These are the most bizarre things. The mistress sets up the computer at an appointed time, then all of a sudden various people, some I know and some I don't, suddenly appear in little boxes all over the screen and I can hear their voices.

I like to show my solidarity at these events so sit with the mistress and wave at people with my ears so they can see that I am pleased to be there with them. It seems to cheer them up. But other than that, there is not much else that I can do, so I then fall asleep. What the point of all this is I have no idea—but I feel that I am doing my bit to rally people's spirits.



I feel the time is probably right for me to confess to my readers, that when this well known photo of me was taken, I was just a four month old puppy. But those who have a personal relationship with me, tell me that I have not changed one bit (only possibly even more handsome) since—although I will be seven years old in July.

My thinking is that you have either got 'it' or not. So, to be quite honest, feel there is no point in commissioning a new personal portrait of myself any time soon. Love Bennie xxx

Then there is my personal grooming. I understand that no one can get a haircut these days—for love nor money. As a very hirsute spaniel, I enjoy the ability to grow a rather splendid 'skirt' which usually runs the length of each side of my body. But this got a bit matted in lock-down, so the mistress decided one day, to cut it off—aargh! Much as I love my mistress she is no dog groomer and it was brutal, she even drew blood.

I was completely lost for howls. Please keep me in your prayers at this really scary time for canines. Please pray that dog groomers will be amongst the first people the government instruct to return to work and save us hounds from haircuts from ... well am not sure if I am allowed to say the word—certainly not Heaven—but the other place!

All the best from your roving canine reporter...
Benjamin Rathbone

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

AN AUDIENCE WITH ELIZABETH I



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

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

THE QUEEN WILL GIVE AN INSIGHT INTO THE THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS BEHIND MANY OF THE MOMENTOUS EVENTS OF HER REIGN. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO HER IF YOU WISH.

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Non sine sole iris

For over 400 years rainbows have filled Hatfield House. From light reflecting through the windows to symbolism in paintings. The most famous painting is 'The Rainbow Portrait' painted in around the 1600s.

This iconic portrait of Queen Elizabeth I is full of symbolism. The motto: Non sine sole iris (no rainbow without sun) refers to Elizabeth I as the bringer of peace. In her hand, she is holding a rainbow—a message of hope.

Today, we look to rainbows to celebrate our wonderful NHS and front line heroes.

Full article:

www.hatfield-house.co.uk/latest-news/our-rainbow/



The Rainbow Portrait At Hatfield House

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