



REFOCUSSED

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

mid July/August 2020



Letter to the parish from Lord Salisbury, written on 29th Jun 2020

My wife visited the Hatfield food bank two weeks ago and she returned there last week taking me with her. The virus has greatly increased the demand for the bank's services and their response has been measured and effective. The volunteers that make the undertaking work are a remarkable bunch and the response from the supermarkets in increasing their contribution has made much of their recent work possible. This example is just one, of many that any inhabitant of Hatfield could cite, of the way our community has responded to the crisis.

We at Hatfield House have tried to make a contribution in a number of ways. For instance, just to take two examples, we have greatly increased our production of vegetables to support the food bank and we have kept the Park open to our existing pass holders so that there was at least some opportunity for fresh air and exercise during the lockdown. We have been very touched by the letters of appreciation we have received and the enthusiastic greetings I get from our neighbours when I walk our three dogs.

The congregations of St Etheldreda's and its sister churches in Hatfield have been wonderful supporters of the community during the last difficult months. I would particularly like to pay tribute to the Rector and his fellow clergy for the example they have set. It must have been particularly distressing to have to conduct such a number of funerals in circumstances which could not have been more difficult for the dead person's family and friends. For them to have to undertake the cure of souls without being able to use their churches even for online services was especially testing.

While I am on the subject of funerals, I would also like to pay tribute to the undertakers. I know, for instance, how imaginative J.J. Burgess

have been during a sadly busy time for them and how great a contribution they have made in other ways, quietly, during the lockdown.

As we begin to emerge, cautiously, from hibernation, we cannot yet know how the virus will have affected the way we live our lives in the future. I suspect that some things which would have happened anyway will happen more quickly: perhaps particularly in our patterns of work, our shopping habits and the way we travel. In short, the effects of the electronic revolution will hit us even more quickly than they otherwise would have done.

More immediately, I hope that we will be able to think carefully about the possible longterm risks to the young of the crisis. For instance, if the gap in educational attainment between the poorest children and the rest is to be bridged to give them a proper opportunity to live lives which fulfil their potential, we cannot allow the virus to delay their return to school. It is the poorest who find home education most difficult and the lockdown will only have made their education more challenging.

As for so much in this crisis, making a judgement as to when the damage wrought by the cure exceeds the damage wrought by the disease is almost impossible: whatever you decide may be fatal for some, but it is a choice that has to be made if we are to rebuild our lives and the economy that pays for them.

As The Queen so memorably reminded us, we will get through this. I hope and believe that the strength and sense of community our town has shown during these surreal and devastating months will be things which will emerge even more firmly embedded in Hatfield than they were before.

Salisbury

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

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Letter from the Editor

Well the last three months have certainly been different! Because of the pandemic the Diocese requested that we do not hand deliver copies of the parish magazine, although it has been going out by email. But this restriction has now been lifted and we are delighted that our wonderful team of Foot Soldiers are now out and about again delivering your parish magazine directly to your homes.

We are also delighted that Lord Salisbury agreed to write our front page leader with words of encouragement to Hatfield as we endeavour to return to normality.

Church buildings may have been closed, but we have worked hard over the last few months to continue delivering the message of hope that Jesus offers to all, in our online services.

Also be assured that we have been praying for all in Hatfield during this time. In particular those suffering due to illness, bereavement, loss of income, loneliness and isolation.

Whilst the current government advice is that churches may open for services from 4th July, there is still much to be discussed at the Diocesan level to keep us all safe. So we are not able to provide you with firm details of how we will be going forward with services in St Eth's and St Luke's yet. However, the Salisbury Chapel at St Eths, and St Luke's church, are now both open for private prayer and contemplation—timing details on page 5.

Our website and Facebook posts will be regularly updated with news on the way forward. In the meantime our online services continue—timings for these can be found on the back page.

Hatfield Park a poem by Violet E Godfrey (b Dec 1914 – d March 2009)

No tailored lawns or formal beds
Of regimented blues and reds
No tennis court or putting green,
No man-made pleasure to be seen.
Alone the Great Creator's face
Smiles gently on this lovely place.

In March wild daffodils shout their praise,
Massed violets sing their softer lays.
Green mist floats through the hawthorn brake
As buds obey spring's call to wake.
Bluebells, may and elder flower
Come each at the appointed hour.
Then sweet white roses clamber high,
Pink stars against the summer sky.
Butterflies dance where seeding grasses

Tremble as the light wind passes.
Grasshoppers click and crouch and leap.
Through harebells on a sunny steep.
In woodlands shaded from the heat,
Where brambles snatch unwary feet,
Gnarled oaks their twisted branches raise,
Tough veterans of bygone days.
Dark scars remain where limbs were torn
So long before this age was born.
Deep rooted in their Mother earth
In which dropped acorns gave them birth,
Steadfast, unmoved through storm and strife
They witness to enduring life.
Beneath their stillness rest at ease
To share the flow of strength and peace.

On behalf of the pass-holders, we would like to say many thanks to:
The Salisbury family—Gascoyne Cecil Estates—Station Lodge staff
and all others working hard in the background to keep us safe and Hatfield Park open during the lockdown

What's On at Hatfield House mid-July/August

THE PARK, GARDENS & WOODLAND WALKS ARE NOW OPEN THURSDAY TO SUNDAY. ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL AT:
www.hatfield-house.co.uk/your-visit/opening-times-prices—AND EITHER PRINTED OR VIEWABLE ON A SMART DEVICE.

- WEST GARDEN: OPEN 10:30AM - 5PM
- WOODLAND WALKS: OPEN 10:00AM - 5PM
- RESTAURANT: OPEN 10:00AM - 3PM
- STABLE YARD: OPEN
- HATFIELD HOUSE: CLOSED FOR THIS SEASON



THE SCREEN SPACE—4 JULY @ 8AM - 2 AUGUST @ 8PM Arriving on the 4th July, an amazing host of fitness instructors have been lined up to bring you exercise and wellness classes in the great outdoors, at Hatfield House we have the perfect location to attend solo or with a group of friends for socially-distanced sessions. With HIIT classes guaranteed to get your blood pumping, or sunrise yoga for the early risers there really is something for everyone. No childcare, no problem! Family-fun has been jam-packed into the schedule with kids' classes ranging from street dance to theatre to keep your kids active and entertained.

TUDOR LEGACIES—MEET THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII—16 AUG, 11 AM - 4 PM—STABLE YARD

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

A book review of: **The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse**, by Charlie Mackesy: Review by Mary Rathbone, Lay Reader



Have you ever looked into a kaleidoscope and seen dazzling reflections of endless varieties of patterns? That is what this book made me think of—the many beautiful facets that fit together to make each one of us uniquely who we are.

The introduction explains how the boy, mole, fox and horse have individual weaknesses common to us all—I have many more of my own that I could add too! Written for children of all ages (8 to 80 and upwards) it is an unexpectedly easy read, with much of the narrative understood through reflecting on the accompanying illustrations.

The story is told with simple words, beautiful drawings and universal wisdom—encouraging the reader to move out of fear and into love—and be the best version of themselves possible. It is a story of emotional fragilities ingrained within us all, and how these can be gradually overcome through the power of love and kindness.

The boy, for example, is a bit lonely and lost; the mole, a bit greedy; the fox, because he has been hurt and wounded by life, a bit wary; the horse is scared of showing anyone just how magnificent he really is, in case they don't like him because of it.

The four characters, from a timid start, begin to relax with each other and then become firm friends able to support and value each other. The final quote is from the horse who says: *'Sometimes all you hear about is the hate, but there is more love in this world than you could possibly imagine'*

The thing is that we live in an imperfect world in which many of us will have, to some extent, received mixed messages about who we really are. For example, the characters in the story might have been told that they were worthless, insignificant, or just not wanted—the list is endless, but the underlying message is—they were not quite good enough. These messages often stick in the mind, producing the insecurities described in the story—a hard fact of life.

But when we accept Jesus (the very essence of love) into our lives we become adopted children of God, the creator of the universe. He knew us before we were born and loves us more than any of us can possibly imagine—just as we are.

The thing is we do not see ourselves as God does. We see ourselves through distortions caused by the insecurities of others, the fears we carry and the brokenness of this world. God sees us as his beautiful children and offers us peace and love, rather than condemnation.

Regardless of this we may still have struggles in our lives. But by accepting Jesus as our saviour, we can live in the hope of being more than just good enough. We can live in the hope of being glorified with Him and of eternal life.

Because, those who perceive themselves as worthless, God knows as precious. Those who perceive themselves as insignificant, God knows as important. Those who perceive themselves as outcasts, God welcomes and accepts.

This is the message that I took from the book. So, I thought it might be a good starting point for anyone wondering how to find God today, or for those who know Him to journey further.

Why not give it a try and see if you are able to glimpse the difference simple, old fashioned, love and kindness can make—which is the central message Jesus came to earth to deliver.

Not just for Sunday

By Jo Roscoe

The article below was written for the April issue of Refocused. It was printed but never distributed because the Covid-19 virus had descended upon us.

Some copies were issued by email, but the larger portion of our parish did not receive it. So, we thought it worth re-printing for this issue which will be printed and delivered in the Parish.

The last paragraph of the article rejoices in the daily opening of our church during the summer months. Although not in quite the same way, we rejoice in the opening of our churches after the closure due to the virus.

I wrote of a time past which was still within touching distance, but events since COVID-19 have put that time almost out of sight. I hope you will enjoy the reminiscence. We are still in a strange country and who knows how our lives will have changed when this period is over.



The Salisbury Chapel at St Etheldreda's is open for private prayer and contemplation Tuesday-Sunday from 8am-4pm. St Luke's is likewise open between the hours of 10am and midday each Saturday and Sunday. Social distancing measures will be observed at both churches. Online services continue—times on back page.

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.

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.

Music at St Eth's during lock-down

Jill Knight, Director of Music - E: jill.jkmusic@gmail.com T: 01707 894949

During these challenging times, music often has the power to bring us together and lift our hearts and minds closer to God, making us aware of all the blessings that He has given us. I am particularly thankful for the time and efforts of members of the choir in recording hymns and other music to support our on-line Sunday Eucharist services. Since we started with these you will have heard music from Isobel on the cello, flute and piano, Tom on the trumpet, hymns from Robin, Mark, Tom and Katrina, and an array of beautiful anthems and hymns from Cheryl, our Head Chorister.

Y.E.S! has also been involved with recording music for our services. On 17th May you will have heard our first attempts at putting together a "virtual" hymn, "Here I am, Lord" with Catriona, Evie, Sophie and Cheryl all recording their individual parts at home which we then edited together to create a choral ensemble. It's been a steep technological learning curve, but, we have been producing hymns and anthems for the Sunday Eucharist from the whole St. Eth's Choir (and a few of the congregation) with individual recorded tracks.

Our "Saturday Music from St. Eth's" mailing has featured a great variety of musical items including: a medley of Scottish airs and dances on the violin (Catriona); "Pie Jesu" from Fauré's Requiem (Cheryl); a Romanian folk song on the piano (Matthew); "Spread a little Happiness" on the recorder (Isobel); a Rhumba for piano, violin and saucepan (Maria, Julija and Sofia); Mendelssohn's "O for the wing of a dove" (Sam and Isobel); the on-line launch concert from Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival and myself on the anniversary of V.E. Day, playing "Moonlight Serenade" by Glen Miller. If you have missed any of these or would like to be included in this mailing list, please let me know.

Choir rehearsals have continued throughout lock-down, initially with separate weekly recorded rehearsals for the adult choir and Y.E.S! and now through Zoom. Each week the choir has continued to work on vocal technique, learning the music for the weekly services and on other longer-term projects. This is a challenge, because, as some of you may realise, we cannot sing together over the internet due to the sound delay between everyone's devices. During the rehearsal we have to mute our microphones and sing individually otherwise there would just be a cacophony of sound! Despite this, we have continued to meet together, produce music for our worship and catch up with each other's news. On 8th July Y.E.S! are having a "Zoom" picnic and party and then we are taking a break for the summer holiday.

Many of you may be wondering when we will be able to meet again in church and hear the choir sing. At the moment this is still not clear as we need to have more scientific evidence that it is safe for everyone to do so. We are hoping to have music of some sort in our services from September if this is allowed by the Diocese, but this will not involve the full choir until later in the year. In the meantime, our choir and especially our choral scholars will continue to work hard to provide music for our worship.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Below: Jill Zooming with Y.E.S!



Diversity in adversity

by Mary Rathbone

There is a quarter of an acre of land in Hatfield House east gardens that has had a very interesting life over the last 150 years.

I was told that it was probably the first lawn tennis court in England, commissioned by the third Marquess (1830—1903) as an alternative for ladies to the very energetic sport of the day, Real Tennis. It was used as a garden-party game, devised for women dressed in whalebone corsets and starched petticoats and men in long white flannels, which gave birth to the modern day sport of Lawn Tennis. At some point the lawn tennis court was turned into a Croquet Lawn, but earlier this year (photo below shows rolled up turf) it was dug up and turned into a Vegetable Garden to support local people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project, led by Lord and Lady Salisbury along with Head Gardener Andrew Turvey, has been a remarkable success. Now, local foodbanks, Countess Anne School and pensioners on the estate are benefiting from the great vegetable bounty.

Guided by Andrew, the Estate gardening staff have been hard at work. But there have also been willing volunteers. Daisy, a niece of Lord and Lady Salisbury, has helped out in all aspects of the project—as have father and son, John & Peter Oakenfall.

The range of vegetables produced seems to be endless: beans, cabbages, lettuce, carrots, cucumbers, carrots, herbs—to name just a few. The seeds germinate and flourish quietly under the guardian eye of Ben the flowerpot man scarecrow.

There are also plans to grow pumpkins in the Victorian walled kitchen garden on the estate—a crop of 360 is predicted for later in the year.

Andrew told us that the project would continue for a further year, the area would probably then revert to a Croquet Lawn.

It will be interesting to see how things develop in these unpredictable times.



Tail End.....Lockdown News from the Bellingers

No ringing since mid-March. However, the bell-ringers have been holding 'Zoom' meetings every Thursday evening. Virginia, who moved to Lancaster about 18 months ago, has been able to join in. Yes, we do talk about bellringing and it's been good to keep in contact with our fellow ringers to find out what they've been up to from one week to the next.

We also created a Whatsapp group in March and this has generated some splendid photos being circulated for of all sorts of subjects from wonderful sunsets, bluebells in April to cygnets before the end of May and more recently tomato growing comparisons.

We've set ourselves bellringing targets for our return. David wants to ring his first Quarter Peal, Sue wants to ring Plain Bob Doubles using rope-sight and not by learning a string of numbers and Graham is keen to improve his technique. Judith (who's home tower is Lemsford) says she'll have a

go at ringing the 2nd at Hatfield (a notoriously difficult bell to ring). Lucy and her sons (Oscar & Toby) just want to make sure they have not forgotten everything they learned prior to lockdown. (Don't worry Lucy, it's just like riding a bicycle – once learned never forgotten). Ron, Judith, Mary, Dianne and Rob are keen to get back to Kimpton where we often get the chance to ring Superlative Surprise Major, Stedman Triples and London Surprise Minor amongst other methods.

In these bulletins for 'Refocused' I normally ask for recruits. However, since the tutor needs to stand very close to the student to ensure that control of the bell is maintained, it will be quite a while before we can go back to recruiting.

Mary and Rob Goss
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Refocused mid-July/August 2020—Page 9

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