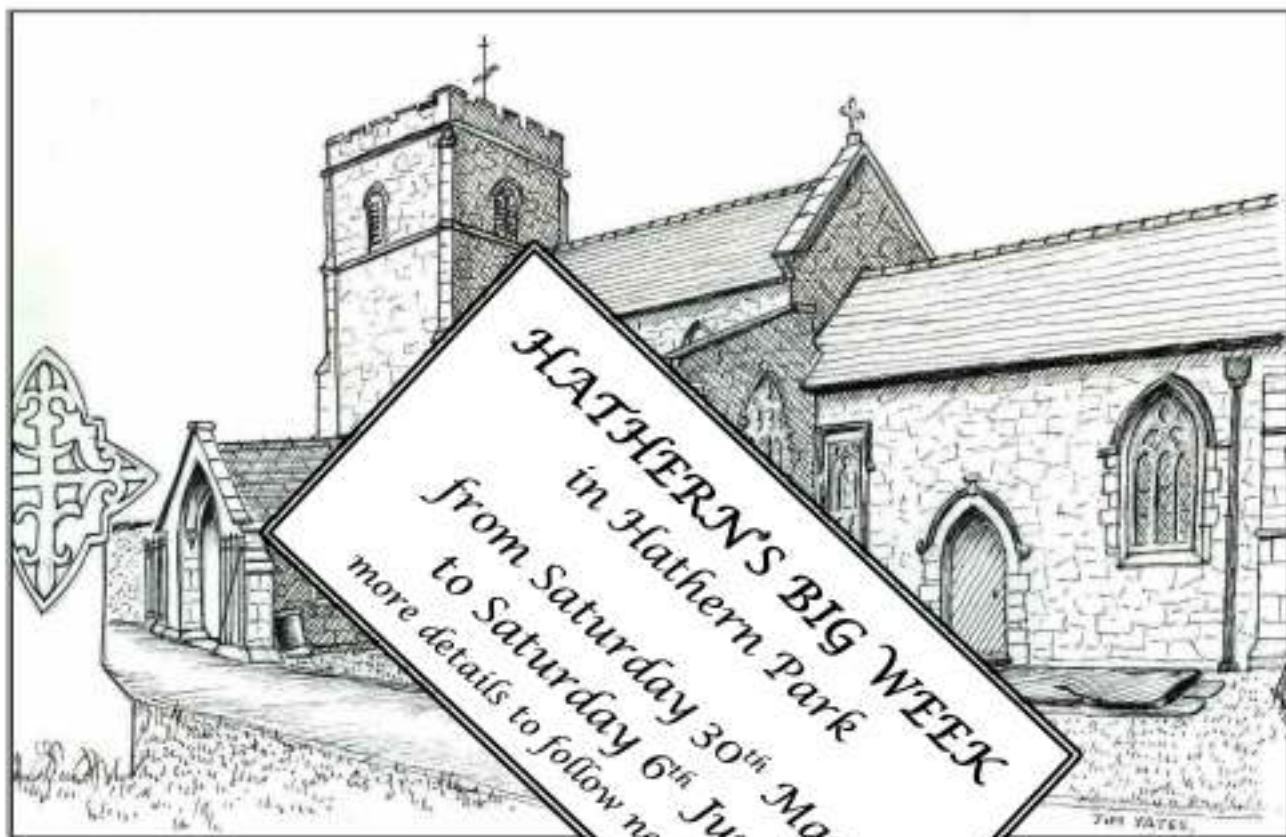


SS PETER & PAUL, HATHERN

No.534 - APRIL 2026



Hathern Church is a member of the Kegworth & ... Ministry. Clergy and Church Members work together throughout the united Benefice. Enquiries regarding Marriages, Baptisms & Funerals should be directed to the Administrator.

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LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

FRIENDS, BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS I pray that the hostilities in the Middle East will have ceased and that a degree of calm will have been re-established. I remain deeply suspicious of the motivation behind the war and have struggled to find any (good) reason that justifies it, just as I have struggled to understand the invasion of Ukraine and the war in Gaza. I pray that there will be no post-conflict backlash against innocent civilians nor against armed forces that have been caught up in it. Watching so-called statesmen boasting of their "mighty achievements" is difficult, when the brunt of the conflict is borne by civilians. There is much that has been written on "just war" none of these three wars seem, to me, to be just and all three reveal a disturbing contempt for the dignity of human life, on the part of those who are prosecuting the wars. I felt I should share my thoughts with you and encourage you to continue to pray for peace and justice in our world.

On a much happier note, we have again arrived at the pinnacle of the Christian year. A time when for some, the brakes are off! All the lovely things we set aside for Lent are back in place, the promise to exercise has at last stopped nagging us, the meat/ fast food is back on the menu, the Easter eggs - if we were blessed with Easter eggs - have been demolished; in short, we are indulging ourselves after some time of abstinence. And why not? If we did give something up during Lent then, in the words of one of the Easter prayers, "we have grown closer to Christ"; we have experienced temptation, we have resisted it and now comes our reward.

The temptation for me right now is to write a long list of the things that folk may have given up, and another list of the things that people may have tried out for Lent. The Lenten

CofE focus was "draw near to God", I'm often suspicious of anything that lists 40 acts that will "help me to draw closer to God", consequently I didn't engage, mainly because that looked to me as if it was asking for 1 extra thing every day to pile on to an already busy schedule, or, if I was (as I suggested in a few of my Lent sermons) making room in that busy schedule, to reflect on God's relationship with me, then those 40 acts, would probably distract me from that goal!

It is worth thinking about how Lent was for us. Did we take it seriously and engage with the idea of 40 days of something? Did we learn anything new, about ourselves, about God, about both or something else? Was it worth it? Did we observe it? If we didn't observe it (Lent), why didn't we? I write this in the third week of Lent and find that my idea of searching every day, to find where God might be speaking to me, is working quite well; I have felt God's presence, that presence is usually in nature (as I thought it would be) but there have been moments of sparkling clarity as well:- when I stop to think, or when I have set aside time for quiet reflection, or even (in one case) when I've been interrupted! God is definitely there/here.

And that got me thinking, why should I stop after 40 days? If, by a deliberate discipline, I can find God every day in the everyday stuff, why would I want to stop? So I'm not going to.

I hope that you have been blessed in Lent, and I pray that, just as Christ is risen, so our hearts will rise with Him, and we will find our love of God and neighbour renewed in us, so that we are empowered to continue to share that love with those around us.

Happy Easter! *Revd Chris Taylor*

*For without friends no one would choose to live,
though he had all other goods.*

Aristotle

REGISTERS

Christian Funeral

27th February

Ray Satterthwaite, aged 59 years, d 31st January

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFERS NOW AVAILABLE AT HATHERN CHURCH

WE'RE AIMING TO CATER FOR EVERYONE and now have a supply of gluten free wafers, so if you would like to take Holy Communion but have a gluten allergy there is no need to worry. Just let the person at the door, the Churchwarden or the priest know before the service. The new wafers will be kept on a separate paten to avoid cross contamination and there will be a separate chalice to dip the wafer in, too.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



Grandad always used to keep the red flag flying –
he wasn't a communist though, just a lazy life guard on Skegness beach!



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HATHERN OLD CRICKET CLUB 200 CLUB

March 2026 Draw

£20 - Nr 20 - Chris Thomas

£5 - Nr 31 - Ruth Attridge

A FEW SPECIAL DAYS IN APRIL

International Safety Pin Day 10th April

To mark the date the safety pin was patented
by Walter Hunt (inventor) in 1849. Read about him in
the book Necessity's Child: The Story of Walter Hunt,
America's Forgotten Inventor.

National Tea Day 21st April

Founded on Queen Elizabeth II's birthday in
2016. Tea was introduced in UK in 1840's to satisfy
hunger pangs between lunch and dinner.

Earth Day 22nd April

Founded in 1970 by US Senator Gaylord
Nelson to raise awareness of environmental issues. In
1990 it went global and in 2016, 170 countries signed
the Paris Agreement.

Saint George April 23rd

Saint George is the patron saint of England.
He's popularly identified with England and English
ideals of honour, bravery and gallantry - but actually
he wasn't English at all. Very little, if anything, is
known about the real Saint George.

BUT he is patron saint not only of England but
also of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania,
Palestine, Portugal, Germany and Greece; and of
Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice (second to
Saint Mark).

He's also patron saint of soldiers, archers, cavalry and chivalry, farmers and field workers, riders
and saddlers, and he helps those suffering from leprosy, plague and syphilis. In recent years he has
been adopted as patron saint of Scouts.

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WEATHER REPORT FOR HATHERN

FEBRUARY

Rainfall : **96mm (3.8")**

Max temp : 15.5°C, Min temp : -2.2°C

YEAR TOTAL TO DATE

Rainfall : **165.5mm (6.5")**

Max temp : 15.5°C, Min temp : -6.9°C

LAST YEAR TOTAL TO DATE

Rainfall : **78.8mm (3.1")**

Max temp : 15.6°C, Min temp : -7.1°C

Nearly 4" of rain in February, making it more than TWICE the rainfall by this time last year!

An old tramp, down on his luck and all dishevelled, is walking dispiritedly along a remote beach when he sees an old oil lamp in the sea weed. As he rubs it to see what it is, a genie pops out – "Thank you for releasing me after all these years! You can have 3 wishes for anything you want, master!"

The man thinks a lot then says "Get rid of all the lawyers in the world!"

"That's a bit harsh" says the genie

"Well, they did for me, look where I am now. I used to be a multi-millionaire before they got me!"

"Yes, but ..."

"No" he says "Do it, you granted me 3 wishes for anything I wanted!"

"OK" and the genie screws his face up. "There, it's done"

"Excellent, now my 2nd wish is ..."

"There are no more wishes left" said the genie

"But you promised me 3" said the man

"That was then, this is now"

"But you've not kept your promise!"

"So sue me!"

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If you deeply observe, everything is your teacher.

Buddha

A man lost his left arm in an accident at work, now his right arm is left.

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INSCRIPTION NEAR TOMB OF THE VENERABLE BEDE, DURHAM CATHEDRAL

Christ is the morning star
Who when the night of this world is past
Brings to his saints
The promise of the light of life
And opens everlasting day.

Inscription near tomb of the Venerable Bede, Durham Cathedral

**HATHERN
Open Gardens**



OPEN GARDENS 2026

Saturday & Sunday

27th & 28th June.

WE NEED YOU TO OPEN YOUR GARDEN!

It's fun and is a great way to welcome folk to Hathern's
hidden corners, and it's not viable with fewer than 12
gardens to look round!

DO GET IN TOUCH

John Worsfold, 01509 842585, JHW.hathern@gmail.com

Tony Croft, 01509 842364, The.Croffies.32@gmail.com

My friend said "The Stone Henge management team says there's been lots of graffiti by a new group".
"Which is?" I said. "No" he said.