

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 14th March, 7.15 for a 7.30 start: Mike Stanyon, Paper making in Hertfordshire

Thursday 14th April, 2.15 for a 2.30 start: Bob Redman, Elstree Britain's Hollywood

Monday 8th May, 7.15 for a 7.30 start: AGM followed by Louise Reed, Travelling Ladies:
Eccentric Women Travellers

Thursday 9th June, 2.15 for a 2.30 start: Our Summer open meeting a chance to socialise talk
and share memories of Hatfield.

All meetings are held at Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield,
All are welcome. Members £1 non-members £2

From March 5th 2011 you can log onto the "Our Hatfield" website.

www.ourhatfield.org.uk

A community archive for everyone. Add your memories, photographs
and local events you have enjoyed.

Nanny: The Story of an Angel

The Life of Mildred May Angel

By

Nicky Weller

This is the recollections and research of the life of Mildred May Angel, who was born in Hatfield in 1890, and the grandmother of the author. Here are Mildred May Angel's experiences at the Hatfield Union Workhouse, employment at Hatfield House and her subsequent marriage to a widower with five children at Hatfield Parish Church.

£2.00

St Luke's Church and Churchyard

In the summer of 2009, volunteers from the Hertfordshire Family History Society undertook a memorial inscription survey at St Luke's Church. Over half the memorials in the churchyard were carefully examined, recorded and indexed. A book has now been published.

The Church received its dedication to St Luke in 1937, was formerly known simply as Newtown Church originally being a small chapel built by the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury to serve the needs of the cemetery. Regular Sunday services commenced in 1888 and in 1893 the chapel was enlarged by the addition of a chancel and transepts to form a cruciform church. The church was conveyed to the Diocese of St Albans in 1951.

The stained glass east window was added in 1924. The font, from the former Methodist Chapel in Old Hatfield, was given by Mr E.T.Tingey in time for his granddaughter's baptism on 29th January 1939. Mrs Marion Naden gave the wooden sanctuary panelling in 1957 to replace the previous curtaining. Central heating was installed in 1968 and roof tiles were replaced by the tiles from the old Memorial Hall. Approximately 4,500 tiles were wheeled across the road by scouts for a "Bob-a-Job" week.

The churchyard, formerly known as Newtown Cemetery or Newtown Churchyard, dates from 1872. An acre of land was purchased from the Marquess of Salisbury to be used as additional burial ground for the parish and over the years additional plots were added. The whole churchyard, now 3.8 acres, was closed to new interments (except for burials in family graves and of ashes in the two cremation sections) by Order of Council in 1996.

There are a great variety of surnames in the cemetery, with some local family names well represented. One unusual name is Casemir Tessier who as French chef to the Marquess of Salisbury, in 1846, not only cooked an excellent meal for Queen Victoria but also introduced her to the practice of drinking coffee with her meal. Also, in the areas of the cemetery surveyed there are no fewer than 50 memorials associated with the two World Wars. The main purpose for transcribing memorial inscriptions is to record them before they are lost to erosion or other causes. They provide crucial details that may not be found elsewhere

The original and much longer article was written by John Pearson, Project Co-ordinator, HFHS. Information came from St Etheldreda's PCC history of the St Luke's Church by Henry Gray, Parish Clerk and local historian. To find out more about Hertfordshire Family History Society or to obtain a copy of the book,

Hertfordshire Monumental Inscriptions
The Church of St Luke, Bishop's Hatfield
Part 1 M.I.
series no.96
(£7 by post)