

# Hatton Mission, *Steam Farm Lane*

Hatton Mission, 'Chapel at Ease to St Mary's East Bedfont'



Ordnance Survey Map 1894

Francis Clive-Ross in his booklet 'The Church of St Mary the Virgin' apologises for "not being able to comment on the Chapel at Ease at Hatton"

This was through lack of space, but he continues with "it celebrated its centenary as a Chapel a year or so ago" His booklet bears the date March 1978 therefore we can draw from that that the Chapel opened late 1870's

It may seem 'today' that this small hamlet did not require a chapel but 100 years ago there were more houses in Hatton than today; most now however being under the tarmac of Heathrow.



The Chapel was provided by Lord & Lady Pollock of Temple Hatton for the benefit of Hatton people who, it was said,

*"had such a long walk to the mother church"*

Temple Hatton was Pollock's large country pile situated opposite the Green Man Public House. The house, following Pollock's departure, became in 1905, a Roman Catholic Home for Orphans 'St Anthony's Home'

The image of the Chapel (circa 1960) – is a date borne out by the Boeing 707 - 320 on short finals above the 'mission' and the lamp Posts and the 'boys' hairstyle. The Barn in the foreground was demolished in the 1970's



In the April issue of the Bedfont Parish Magazine 1960 under the heading of 'Memories of Hatton Church 1890' the writer, Mrs Emily Maud Hine ne' Sorrell, of Faggs Road Hatton, provides some very detailed information on its early years, but it may have been written earlier as she [later] mentions Reverend Bardsley who was Vicar 1953 to 1962)

Mrs Hine also refers to the Pollock's home as Hatton House which is not correct for Hatton House was the home of the Langslow family – who through marriage were related to the Pollock's

From Mrs Hine's recollections (which are a little short)

*"When our little church was ready all the villagers came to worship.*

*The Reverend Pilkington started holding the Sunday services there at 3-30 in the afternoon for both parents and children.*

*The children on reaching the age of 10 they attended Sunday school at Bedfont School*

*The appearance of the church has not altered [1890] much but the interior has been made much more comfortable".*

*"The Reverend Pilkington used to travel from Bedfont Vicarage [to Hatton] on his tricycle until he married a lady with means who provided a Horse and Carriage and a Coachman."*

*"The Reverend Reichard took the service every Sunday" "He formed a choir, of which I was a member" "there was very little entertainment during the week; perhaps the Church Army would visit for a few days"*

*"everything then was so peaceful and happy [where is this place] no airplane noise to drown the Vicars sermon"*

She continues further - noting having 'good parents' with many happy times with them – they also attended Church – she remembers always chatting at the church gate and then going home to a good old fashion Tea – and how clean their house was "nice white cloth on the table and brass candle sticks at each end"

## Hatton Band of Hope

As can be seen the Branch was formed 1880 and it would infer that the group was part of the Chapel at ease with St Mary's



The image was taken June 1912 in the grounds of The Riding School Whitton Dene upon the annual gathering of the South West Middlesex Band of Hope Summer Fete and Sports day

The Banner also bears out that the Chapel was opened around or just before the date displayed



The Reverend Nicholas Gee Pilkington MA was vicar at Bedfont from 1871 to 1909 retiring, after 38 years, to Brighton and dying in 1915 six days before his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Although not being 'collated' to the post at Bedfont until 1871 he first came here as Chaplain to Middlesex Industrial School [Feltham Borstal] in 1861.

In 1867 he became Curate to Reverend Henry Vincent Le Bas at Bedfont 'under the title "a kind of voluntary winter missioner"'

Continuing with Mrs Hine's account she speaks of the Pollocks –

*“Lord Pollock held the highest of situations in the Judiciary and many other high profile government positions”.*

There are many other interesting facts [in her account] and contemporary matters an example being in 'Children's Corner 'The Discoveries'

*“what possible importance can they be to someone living in 1960” - this was a question by children as to Old Testament Prophets; Amos “a bitter man” - in particular!*

The 'night flights' image of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1960 was taken outside the home of Lord Douglas of Kirkside Denham Buckinghamshire



It is felt that among the protesters are some Felthamites, particularly the man, on the left, in the dark glasses.

Anciently it would appear (13c) that The Friars of Holy Trinity Hounslow built a small chapel here but that most probably was a 'portable' one for the visiting King, not in evidence today.

The industry (Mills) that shaped the eastern area of Bedfont did not extend to Hatton; farming being the main occupation of the few that inhabited the area.

The Roads, through and around Hatton, even today are few being that before the Enclosure of 1817 much was Heath-land - and today because of its close proximity to Heathrow the position remains the same.

On a personal note, I [Alan Rice] recall on a couple of Saturday mornings back in 1964 helping 'Pop' Butt, then late 70's, together with his grandson Peter Goddard, re-point the brickwork, both inside and out, of this place. Pop used to work for the Bedfont builder Fred Bird.

With regards the Mission 'of recent times' [1984] a report in a local paper mentions a grant [Listed Buildings Grant] towards essential roof repairs. The amount was given as "up to £1000" the Planning committee agreed the grant because the Tiles were of special 'Clay Tiles' which is an architectural feature in its own right.

The demise of the Chapel came in June of 1992 when worshippers were ordered to leave the church 'immediately' because of concerns that the roof might collapse. The Vicar of the time, Father Patrick Hutton, was adamant that the damage was due jets *thundering* overhead but this was discounted somewhat forthrightly by a Heathrow Community Liaison officer – saying "recent research showed aircraft noise could not damage buildings" – the Reverend Hutton

retorted with that *“he had done services there when Concorde has flown over and the whole place shook”*

The building became an Office in 2000; presumably fully sound proofed and shake proof

The Register [Hounslow Local Studies] of listed buildings does not give any information to it being a mission church.

The following are extracts from The Middlesex Chronicle which appear, profound in nature, but do not provide answers or outcomes

30th October 1875 – Hatton Chapel ‘Endowment’ ‘an important presentment in relation to the endowment came before the Bishop of London at his visitation at St Pauls’

29<sup>th</sup> June 1876 ‘disappointed congregation’ ‘Vicar indisposed’ it would appear that the Vicar was not well enough to take morning service at St Mary’s and that fact was not translated to the Hatton people’ The service ‘at a late stage’ was taken by Vicar Stedman of Stanwell ‘eventually’

13<sup>th</sup> December 1877 Advent Service and 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1878 ‘service of song’ ‘a sort of Choral service by Mr Godwin’



*Oliver Newall outside his smithy,  
with William Wild, 1942*

Returning to Mrs Hine; she finishes with

*“I pray that our little church at Hatton will be kept for many years and with God’s blessing get more support”*