

Working at St Elizabeth's

The Centre is a significant local employer, with a workforce of over 650 people including:

- care and support staff, senior carers and managers, (in both adult and child care residential services)
- nurses, therapists and other health care professionals
- school teachers, learning support assistants and further education lecturers promoting independent living
- support services staff (e.g. domestic, catering, laundry, grounds and maintenance),
- administration staff (e.g. finance, HR, training, IT, reception and secretarial)
- fundraising, charity shop staff and volunteers

We also operate our own 'bank scheme' offering casual work. For many posts, no prior experience is necessary although staff must be willing to undertake training and continual development.

St Elizabeth's Centre is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our clients, so all staff are required to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

We welcome people who bring care, compassion, enthusiasm and commitment to our work.

It is important that staff and volunteers respect our ethos, values and our 'Service Pledge'. This commits staff to continuously improving standards, and suitably reflects our mission and distinctively person centred approach for clients, their carers and families.

Fundraising and Volunteers

St Elizabeth's receives public funding for many of the basic services we provide, but these fees rarely meet our full costs and usually leave no funding for extras like trips, social activities, covering all holiday costs and special equipment etc that help improve the quality of life for the people we serve. We also have to raise all our own funds when carrying out adaptations and alterations, providing new buildings, improving the grounds and their amenities.

We rely greatly on voluntary fundraising, from individuals, groups, clubs, businesses or grant giving charitable trusts, to help to continue to develop our services and facilities for the benefit of the children, learners and residents at St Elizabeth's. We are also grateful to volunteers who help in our charity shops and those businesses that encourage their staff to participate in our corporate volunteer days, e.g. working in the gardens or orchard.

There are numerous different ways people and organisations can support the work of St Elizabeth's. Please contact our Fundraising team via telephone or website if you think you or your school, club, church or company can help and want to know more.



St Elizabeth's is a registered charity 1176777 and a company limited by guarantee 11087989. The Registered Office is at St Elizabeth's Centre, South End, Much Hadham, SG10 6EW



INFORMATION AND LOCATION GUIDE

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★ St Elizabeth's Further Education

College is an independent specialist college for learners aged 19-25. It meets the needs of young adults with a broad spectrum of learning difficulties and/or disabilities, particularly epilepsy as well as autistic spectrum conditions and other complex needs. Learners will benefit academically, but also from our specialist health expertise and therapeutic support which is not available at most other colleges.

A unique feature of the College is that all learners hold their own tenancies in Much Hadham or Bishop's Stortford with local housing associations. The rights and responsibilities of the tenancy contract are a core component of the "waking day" curriculum delivered in and out of term time over a full 52 week year.

Learners access housing benefit, income support and personal independence payment to ensure they can meet their everyday living expenses. St Elizabeth's has registered its own Domiciliary Care Agency that delivers care, learning and health support directly to each learner in their own tenanted accommodation.

The College provides the opportunity to learn and develop life skills and independence to help move towards adulthood and a more fulfilled life, either in long term supported living or residential care.

★ St Elizabeth's Adult Residential Care

service offers a nationally renowned centre of excellence in the care of people with complex neurological and other conditions caused or complicated by epilepsy, often with other associated disabilities. Our intensive health and therapeutic support services are a key feature of the provision at St Elizabeth's.



There are over 100 adult residents living at St Elizabeth's. Their accommodation comprises 13 purpose built bungalows, each of which is home to between six and ten residents. Residents are placed in peer households with people of a generally similar age with similar support needs. Each bungalow has its own committed and experienced staff team who are qualified and trained to meet the needs of the particular clients they support. Thus, whilst working to the same high standards across the service, each bungalow has its own unique character.

Adult Services can also offer planned or emergency respite care admissions when appropriate. All respite clients receive a full assessment of need and are able to access our wide range of social and leisure opportunities.

★ **St Elizabeth's Day Opportunities and Enterprise projects** provide people with a wide range of stimulating learning, leisure, social and vocational opportunities to meet their needs, interests and aspirations. These include physical activities such as horse-riding, trampolining, music, drama, arts and crafts, therapeutic multi-sensory experiences and the opportunity for clients to learn or further develop IT skills.

As well as enjoying day and evening/weekend activities on site, the Centre has a fleet of vehicles to enable residents to have regular access to facilities and events in the local community.

St Elizabeth's also has three Enterprise projects where Adult residents can participate at a level that suits them. Ashvale offer experience in organic horticulture, growing and selling fruit, flowers and vegetables. The Drawing Room produces award winning ceramics, paintings and prints and The Jewellery Project makes and sells attractive jewellery. Each project offer a 'therapeutic wage' to all those who attend.



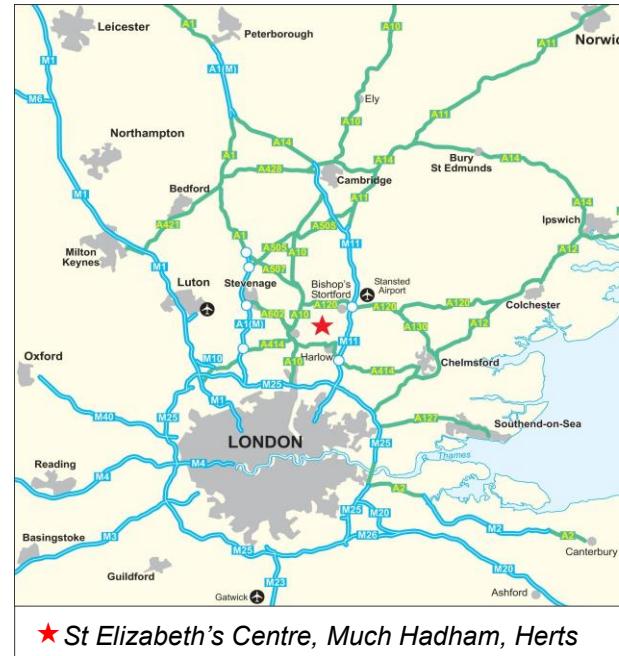
Our popular day activities and Enterprises are also available to people who are living in the community who wish to participate as day clients or those who are visiting St Elizabeth's for respite care.

St Elizabeth's Centre was established in 1903 and is proud to have received an award for over 100 years outstanding service to the community. Whilst we are proud of our heritage, our services are completely up to date. The Centre specialises in providing care for people of all ages with severe epilepsy, associated neurological disorders, learning disabilities and other complex medical conditions.

Well coordinated multi-disciplinary care and therapy staff supported by 24 hour specialist nursing and on-site GP surgeries enable intensive, professional monitoring and early interventions that improve management of care, medication, seizures and challenging behaviours. Evidence shows our expertise often stabilises or improves complex health conditions, enhances social and personal development, reduces risk and can save lives.

The Centre is set in 68 acres of parkland (only 10 minutes from Bishop's Stortford) and comprises a **Residential Special School** for young people up to the age of 19 years; a **Further Education College** with **Domiciliary Care Agency** supporting learners aged 19-25, (with housing both on campus and in Bishop's Stortford), and a "village" of modern bungalows for over 100 residents requiring **Adult Residential Care**. **Nursing and Therapy** support is integral to all services.

Friendships and lifestyles at St Elizabeth's, both on and off campus, are enriched through the Centre's own **Day Opportunities Service** provision and various **Enterprises** offering supported training and employment in organic horticulture, artwork, ceramics and jewellery with retail outlets in surrounding towns. The Centre also provides an **Adult Respite Care Service**.



Epilepsy and Learning Disabilities

Epilepsy is a tendency to have recurrent seizures and is the single most common, serious neurological disorder in the UK.

The vast majority of people with epilepsy will be able to manage their condition through medication and thus lead a relatively conventional life, but a small minority will have complex epilepsy with severe seizures which remain difficult to control.

There is a strong relationship between difficult to control epilepsy and other disabilities including learning, physical, behavioural difficulties and autism. For some the condition will be life threatening. St Elizabeth's is a centre of excellence specialising in supporting people with disabling epilepsy, or other related complex needs and learning difficulties, to have every opportunity to lead their lives to the full.

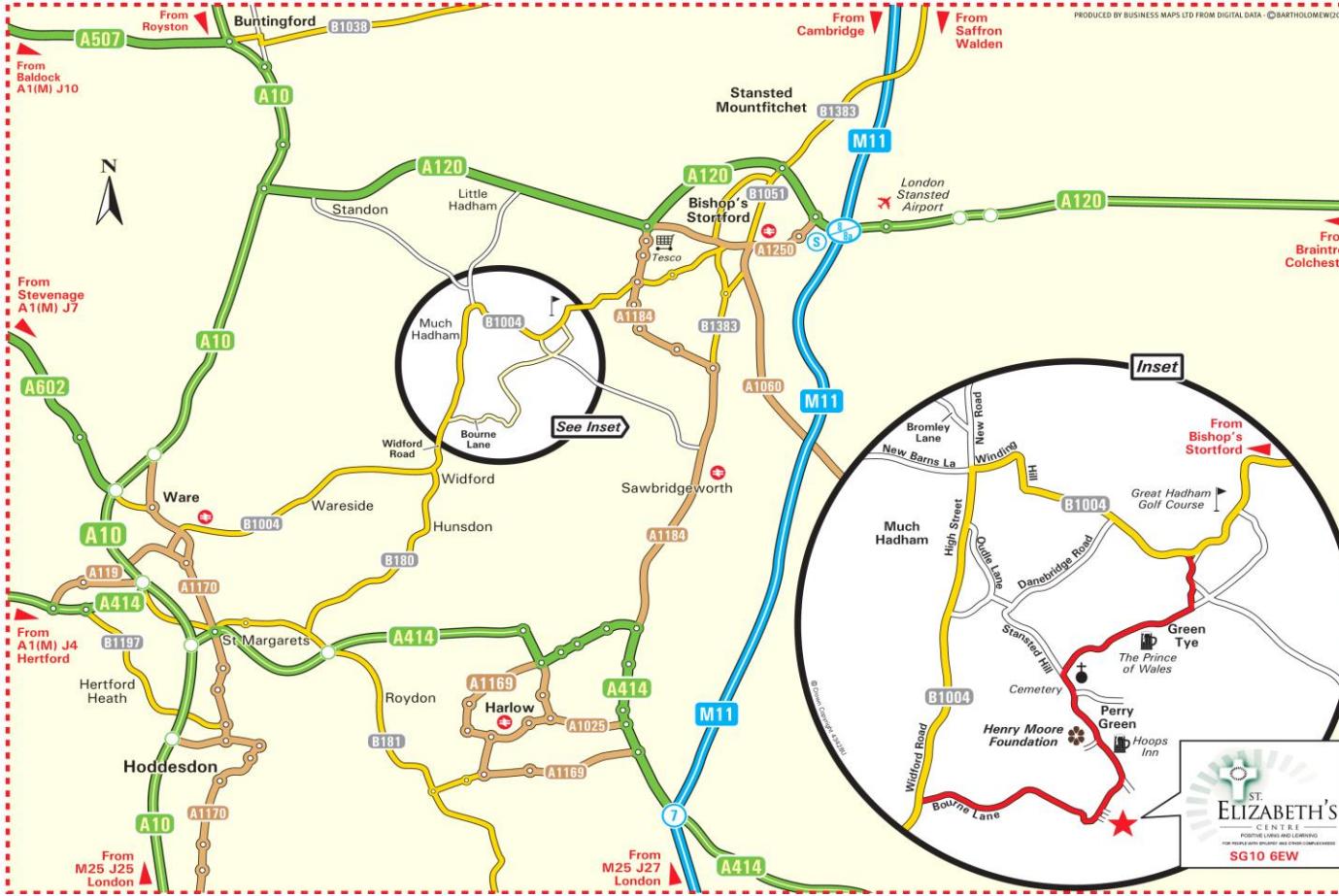
Ethos and Objectives

St Elizabeth's is a welcoming and inclusive community. The Centre was previously administered by the Daughters of the Cross of Liège, a Christian charitable organisation that has developed care, support, health and education facilities for especially vulnerable people, recognising them to be unique individuals who should be valued, supported and enabled to maximise their potential in all areas of life. Despite now being our own charity, St Elizabeth's still honour the ethos and values set so carefully by the Daughters.

The Centre is an equal opportunities organisation that, for over 100 years, has provided its services for all people irrespective of background or belief. We look at everyone's abilities as much as their needs. Our aim is to offer especially vulnerable people the opportunity to live their life to the full.



The School, College and Adult Services are all distinctly separate agencies co-located on the same campus, but the Centre has a shared sense of community, heritage and belonging.



★ Directions – Postcode SG10 6EW

- If approaching from either direction on the M11 it is usually better to exit at Junction 8 rather than Junction 7, taking the A120/A1184 bypass around Bishops Stortford before joining the B1004.
- The Centre is about 20 minutes drive from M11 Junction 8 or 15 minutes by taxi from Bishop's Stortford railway station.
- Alternatively it is about 20 minutes from the A10.
- St Elizabeth's is in Perry Green, just south of the Henry Moore Foundation, (a nearby visitor attraction on the same road, which is well signposted at either end off the B1004).



★ St Elizabeth's School is a specialist residential school and Children's Home, (with a limited number of day pupils), registered for young people of both genders aged 5 – 19 years. We offer a warm, welcoming, safe and secure environment for children from throughout the UK.

The School is a centre of expertise in supporting and educating young people who have moderate or severe learning difficulties (MLD/SLD) or some profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) or other neurological conditions which may have been caused or complicated by epilepsy, often with other associated disabilities. Our multi-disciplinary teams, in partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital, also equip the School to serve a wider range of complex needs such as autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) and associated attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with language and communication needs or difficult to manage behaviours.

Every young person we welcome to our School is different and unique. Our integrated care, therapeutic and academic provision is planned around the individual and delivered through a seamless, coordinated and consistent waking day curriculum, either in the classrooms or in our homely residential accommodation, available up to 52 weeks of the year.

