

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

March 2019



St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted Team **Revd John Russell**

St John's Vicarage, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden, HP1 3BY

Tel: 01442 214898, john_russell@live.co.uk

www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stpeterstpaulittgadd?fref=ts

We are in the Berkhamsted Team Ministry with Great Berkhamsted, Great Gaddesden and Nettleden with Potten End. Enquiries regarding Baptisms, Banns, Weddings, Funerals and Memorials in the Churchyard should be made to the Vicarage. Messages can be left with the Churchwardens. If the Vicarage telephone is on the answering service please leave a message which will be attended to as soon as possible. To contact The Berkhamsted Team, please call The Parish Office on 01442 878227 or John Russell at the numbers above.

All are welcome to our House of God. All have their place in His Kingdom and their part to play in His work

Phone numbers preceded by code 01442 except Heather Tisbury

CHURCHWARDENS:	Mrs B Sheard, Golden Valley Cottage	843591
	Mr M Carver, Windyridge	842658
READERS:	Mrs G Moore	842054
	Mr A Archer	842397
	Mrs H Tisbury	01582 842807
PCC OFFICERS:	Treasurer: Mr A Webster	843157
	Secretary: Mrs A Wooster	842469

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Normal Sunday 9 am Sung Eucharist (with Sunday School)
6 pm Sung Evensong (Not 3rd Sunday)

2nd Sunday of the month, or sometimes switched with another Sunday for a particular occasion 9 am Family Service (no Sunday School)

If there is no Eucharist at 9am one will be provided at another time or in one of the other churches.

5th Sunday 9 am Joint Sung Eucharist at one of the three churches
6 pm Sung Evensong

WEEKDAY SERVICES: **Thursday** 10am Said Eucharist

BELL RINGING: Sunday 8.30 am Practice: Tuesday 8.00 pm
Tower Captain - Virginia Westmacott LG 842428
CHOIR PRACTICE: Friday 7 pm - John Leonhardt LG 843550

LITTLE GADDESSEN We welcome all children aged 4 – 11. Contact the Headteacher,
C of E JMI SCHOOL: Mrs Charis Geoghegan, for more information. LG 842464

PARISH NEWS EDITORS: Mrs H Hockings, Mr D Nowell-Withers, Dr N Murray, Mr M Walsham
See inside back page for full contact details.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: James Mitchell LG 842710

WEEKLY UPDATES: PEW SHEET distributed in church each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be sent to the Vicar or Helene Hockings, a_dmin-church@outlook.com by 9 am on each **Thursday**.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Helene Hockings on a_dmin-church@outlook.com or 01442 842493

Vol 42 No.03
From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

What might you consider to be a no brainer in your life, where there's just a simple choice to make? In other words, what are the things you hold as your basic principles for living? I doubt when it comes to it there are very many.

In our complicated, mesmerising wealthy world, we have huge choice. You can't go into a coffee shop these days without being presented with a bewildering array of choices. What's your favourite? Latte, Skinny latte, Americana, Cappuccino, Mocha? Never mind where the actual beans come from!... Things would be so much simpler and easier if they just served Coffee - perhaps!

With choice has come sophistication; a few years ago, you had to specify if you wanted a heater in your new car and pay extra for the privilege, then it was air conditioning, now you may have your quilted seats not just heated or cooled, but they may massage you as well!

The promise of choice extends to so many areas of our lives. What to wear, what not to wear, what to eat, what not to eat, where to go to school, where to work, live or take our leisure. What holidays do we take? Which utility company do we use? Where do we shop? Which bank do we trust? Such is the proliferation of choice that a whole industry has grown up to help us navigate the many choices we have to make. We can compare and contrast the market, find out the going rate and get the best deal. But, then again, which comparison website should we choose to begin with?? Agggh!! Life is certainly not simple in the twenty-first century and far from making things easier, too much choice can in fact cause us anxiety and blight our lives with the constant question, 'What if?' Consumer choice is heralded as the way to attain happiness, but is that really true?

The prophet Jeremiah presents us with a simple choice - do we trust in God or not? It's quite straightforward according to the prophet. If you put all your trust in human powers you will be like a shrub in the desert that will become desperate for nourishment and shade, but if you put your trust in God, you will be like a tree planted by water whose leaves will stay green, bearing fruit to the end of the ages. He sees the choice as a very easy one: do we want to flourish or not? Do we want life or death?

Similarly, the Psalms often call us to consider our choices. If we choose to 'delight in the Law of the Lord', we will be happy; if we choose to ignore the Law of the Lord, we will perish. Again, the choice is actually very simple.

In his first letter to the Corinthians in chapter 15, St Paul also presents us with a simple choice, a stark choice. Do you believe that Christ was raised from the dead? Or not? This question lies at the very heart of our faith. It provokes us to give a 'yes' or 'no' answer. There cannot be any 'ifs', 'buts' or 'maybes'.

God has already chosen us, he's put his cards on the table...set out his stall. And we are offered his promise of life for all eternity; so the choice is there before us and it ought to be a no brainer.

But what does that eternal life look like? Will it all be plain sailing? No more worries or cares? Is this an easy path? I mean Jesus said, *'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'* (Matthew 11:28-30). It is in comparison with the alternative, but God's Kingdom is a strange topsy turvey kingdom - at least in the eyes of the world and at the very least offers some discomfort. In the Kingdom of God, the world is turned upside down, expected human choices are subverted and we are invited to enter into a new way of looking at the world and a new way of navigating life. The poor, Jesus tells the down trodden people of First Century Palestine, will inherit the Kingdom of God, the hungry will be filled, and those who weep will laugh. They are the ones who will now be called 'happy' or blessed.

For us, choosing Christ opens up possibilities for everyone whose lives have been diminished: the downcast, the dejected, the dispossessed. All those who have been denied choice by human powers and dominions will find liberty in the blessings of God. The trouble is we are the wealthy of the world; we are blessed, pretty much, with the power to choose whatever we like.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his listeners that effectively those who control their lives (i.e. the Roman Empire and corrupt local rulers), will be brought low, the well fed will be hungry, and those who laugh will come to mourn and weep. This message is easy to take literally and out of context, but nevertheless, if we wealthy and privileged of today, choose to follow his way of life in all its fulness then opportunities and ways in which we can share the material things we enjoy will be presented, and then we can really play our part in God's Kingdom.

I am yours in Christ,

John.

A New Electoral Roll

Every six years all the parishes in the Church of England have to prepare completely new Electoral Rolls. This takes place now in 2019.

We are required to start from scratch with everyone specifically applying to be included – not merely remaining on from the previous year or five! Application Forms will shortly be sent to all families on the mailing list and forms will be on display in the church.

If you would like to be a member of the roll:

1. you should be baptized and over 16 years of age;
2. you must declare you are a member of the Church of England and you live in the parish,
or, if you live outside the parish you must have habitually attended public worship at St Peter and St Paul in the past six months;
or, you should be baptised into any denomination in communion with the Church of England, also declare yourself to be a member of the Church of England and confirm you habitually attended public worship in the parish in the past six months.

What is the significance of the Electoral Roll?

Members of the church are encouraged to play a part in the life of the church. They can vote in elections at the Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

As ever enrollment brings both rights and responsibilities. Members are expected to contribute to the stewardship of the church and its activities in the locality. This should include financial support of course but also the Diocese of St Albans has an initiative – *Living God's Love* – to encourage a greater focus in our Christian life with the key aims of *Going Deeper into God*, *Transforming Communities* and *Making New Disciples*. Our ongoing Mission Action Plan is continuing to develop these areas in our locality.

There can be some confusion over the purpose of the roll. From an historical perspective it was used as a guide to identifying who could be married in a specific church. However this has now been repealed and anyone with a direct connection to a church can approach the Vicar to be married here.

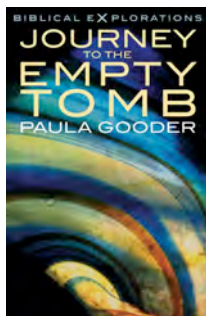
The size of the roll determines other aspects such as the number of representatives at Deanery Synod. It also determines our financial share (contribution to costs at the Diocesan level). Essentially the larger the roll

the more we pay. Nevertheless we welcome all on the roll as a record of our active and contributing parishioners who are involved with the Church and its mission.

Notices about the new roll will be sent out in February/March and registration forms will also be available in the church in the run up to our Annual Parish meeting on 7 April 2019. If you would like to discuss this further please talk to John Russell; the churchwardens: Barbara Sheard and Michael Carver; or me, the Electoral Roll Officer.

Terri Adams
Electoral Roll Officer

Midweek Group – Lent Review March and April 2019



Various suggestions were made at the end of our discussions on the Nativity story as to what we might study during Lent this year. These have been looked at and we have chosen the book:

Journey to the Empty Tomb by Paula Gooder

Dr Gooder has just been appointed Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, with responsibility for growing and leading the Cathedral's expanding theological and learning programme. She is one of today's best-known New Testament theologians, a scholar and teacher who most recently has been Director of Mission Learning and Development at the Diocese of Birmingham.

The first of five meetings will be on **Thursday, 14th March in the evening at 7.45 for 8.00pm** ending no later than **10.00pm**. The venue is with the Nowell-Withers at **Wood Ash, Gatesdene Close, Little Gaddesden, HP4 1PB**. At this session we can review the convenience of these arrangements for those attending over the following four weeks.

All those interested in participating in all or any of these informal sessions are asked to contact:

Anthony W. Archer, Reader
PCC Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted Team Ministry
07721 504125, 01442 843249
anthony.archer@bridgewaterassociates.co.uk

Friends of Great Gaddesden Church

Quiz Night



Saturday March 23

Great Gaddesden Parish Hall

7.00 for 7.15

Supper Included + Bar

£15

Tickets contact : 01442 246513



1st Little Gaddesden Scout Group JUMBLE SALE

On 9th March 2019

in Little Gaddesden Village Hall
10.00 – 12 noon

For collection contact Glenda on 842505 or Linda on 842512
or bring Jumble on Friday evening 8th or early Saturday 9th

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 7th April 2019

in the Church

following on from the 9.00am service

All parishioners on the Electoral Roll are very welcome to attend this meeting to find out what has been happening during the last year and to ask questions of the Vicar, the Churchwardens and other members of the PCC.

LENT LUNCHESES

These are held every **Friday**, from 8th March and continue until 12th April.

They are held in the Church Vestry from 12.30pm – 1.30pm

For the small sum of £4.00 you can enjoy a bowl (or two) of delicious soup,
bread and cheese, fruit, tea or coffee.

Come and chat with old friends and meet new ones.

Any surplus money (after expenses) will go to DENS.

Virginia (842428)



Mothering Sunday Service

Sunday 31st March 2019

9.00am Family Service

All welcome



Village Produce Market

**Saturday, 2nd March
from 9.30am to 12.30pm
in
Little Gaddesden Village Hall**

Selection of stalls selling locally produced fruit and vegetables, cakes,
soups, bread, preserves and pies;
Local artists selling quality gifts and cards;
Healthcare products;
Charity stalls including the VPA store and British Humanitarian Aid;

Breakfast baps available all morning, plus tea and coffee

Free Entry

Please support this local initiative

WHAT DID MUM DO IN THE WAR, DAD?

Get your head round this conundrum,
Born female, transgenders to a bloke,
Then decides to become another yummy mum,
“How versatile!” exclaim us ordinary folk.

But it gets confusing, for after he gave birth,
It was decreed that the birth cert. stated ‘Mother’,
So Dad went to court, and then for what it’s worth,
Claimed Baby had no mum - was born of Mr. A.N. Other.

Should he win, he’ll slap this thigh and thank his lucky stars,
And make a case for baby changing rooms in all the best pissoirs.

My brain, it really, really hurts.

Josie Jeffrey

From the Registers:

17th February

Holy Baptism

Barnaby and Primrose Storey

2019 PILGRIMAGES TO YOUR CATHEDRAL

ADVANCE NOTICE

April 22nd Easter Monday

As usual, there should be a party walking from Little Gaddesden to St Albans via Great Gaddesden. This is the **Annual Youth Pilgrimage** which our church has probably not missed in 50 or 60 years, though sometimes lately it has only been the superannuated youth who have been our representatives (that means the ones who are no longer youthful.) The rest of the diocese are doing much better than us with their young pilgrims, so we need to catch up. We can show our younger ones the route, **a mere 12 miles mostly on country footpaths**, or let you navigate your own way! A large cheerful crowd gathers at the Cathedral (Abbey Orchard) around 2 o'clock for an Easter Service with the Bishops. **Mark the date.** More details in this magazine next month or contact Peter Leonhardt on 843550.

June 22nd Saturday, St Alban's day

This gathering has become in recent years a spectacular event in the City of St Albans, to commemorate St Alban himself. The gathering takes place at St Peter's Church at the "top" of the High Street and processes down to the Cathedral with bands playing. Giant puppets portraying Alban and other contemporary characters are carried in the parade. "Contemporary" in this instance meaning the second century AD, when Alban became the first recorded Christian Martyr in Britain, at Verulamium. His shrine is in the Cathedral.

We do not have an organised group from our parish for this event (but someone could make one happen).

John Leonhardt

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, 6th March

8.00pm

Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

at

Great Gaddesden Church

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

First up: Good news. There is to be a new hedge planted along the footpath from Nettleden Road, next to the pub along to the gate into the little field, a section of The Chiltern Way Footpath. It is hoped to be planted by early March (otherwise it will be too late, due to nesting and will be planted next winter). The hedge, consisting of native species of hedgerow shrubs, such as hawthorn and hazel will be inside the field fence on the north side of the path and when it grows and spreads out will provide some protection and shelter from the north wind that roars across the open field along the footpath. This will also provide a good length of wildlife friendly corridor for small mammals, insects, invertebrates and birds to safely move and disperse. It will also provide shelter and protection from harsh weather and some predators, food, and roosting and nesting places. A complete habitat. Bees and butterflies will partake of nectar from the flowers in spring and summer, and many birds will be supported through the winter months with resulting berries.

The bad news is that the existing hedge, behind Bede Court and to the gate into the field where the Chiltern Way continues will be taken out in order that the replacement hedge can be planted further back, along with the chainlink fence, thus widening the footpath. There is no doubt that this will cause major disruption as many small birds, hedge and house sparrows, tits, robins, blackbirds and finches tend to nest and generally hang out in the hawthorn, holly, rose and bramble shrubbery. There are also bank voles, providing food for tawny owls and secret paths used by foxes, badgers and the occasional escaped pig (or five). There is no doubting that this will be no less than catastrophic this spring and until the replacement grows, about four or five years before it is of any use. In the meantime, the resident birds will be massively displaced as there is so little hedgerow around the village. The best being around some of the older gardens: perhaps those householders with laurel hedging could do something wonderful: grub it out and replant with hedgerow plants that shelter our native and much beleaguered songbird populations. I would be more than happy to help in any way I can.

While we're on bad news, I have learnt that there are estimated to be five million grey squirrels in Britain and only 150,000 native reds, which in the south survive only on Anglesea, Isle of White and Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. Proof, if proof were needed that the grey is overpopulating can be verified via my scientifically based Road Kill Index. By which I scientifically note how many greys I spot as road kill whilst driving locally. There is good news as sterling work is being done by many local nature lovers in assisting in a slight decline around the village via trap and shotgun. Grey squirrel is now featuring on some restaurant menus as healthy wild/foraged low cholesterol and very tasty meat. So, more good news! Double portion with chips please.

Josie Jeffrey

Bishop Alan visits Nettleden Church

On Sunday 10th February, Bishop Alan visited Nettleden Church and officiated at a Joint Parish Communion for the three parishes. This is the first ever visit of a Bishop of St Albans to Nettleden. About 60 people attended from all the parishes and this was followed by a reception hosted by Alan and Virginia Burden-Cooper, during which the Bishop participated in a Question and Answer session.



(l to r – Revd John Russell, Merlin Howells, Alan Burden-Cooper, Jo Connell, Bishop Alan, Barbara Sheard, Robert Mann, Michael Carver)

Thank you

Dear Residents of Little Gaddesden

February marks one year since our mother, Tracy Jefferson, moved out of neuro-rehabilitative care and back into the house we have called home for over twenty years. The past few years have been extremely difficult for us all, and the past year has come with a new set of challenges. But, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank some people in the village who have made this transition a lot easier.

Firstly, everyone in Cromer Close who invites mum over and pops in for cups of tea, it is truly a bit of normality that mum loves. Thank you Shirley, Penny, Carol and Fiona for all your fundraising efforts! And to Fiona Masters who is always at hand to help, taking mum out at every opportunity.

Thank you to Nina Quinn for taking mum horse riding weekly, we're all shocked at how amazing she is getting on with this! And thank you to everyone at the WI for being so welcoming and accommodating, for taking the time to include our mum in your weekly coffee mornings and beyond.

Our mum has also found a new community within the Church. Thank you to Vicar John Russell for welcoming mum into the church, for always taking the time to make sure that it is a comforting, welcoming and inclusive space. This has had a significant positive impact on her confidence! And thank you also to those who have helped our mum get involved in activities such as Bell Ringing and Choir.

All the Best, Alice and Harry Jefferson

Vestry@50

Even though there's nothing much to see, work is progressing well. Michael Carver has dug the trial holes which were inspected at a meeting on site with the Architect, Christopher Higenbottam, and Structural Engineer, Timothy Salmon, when many details were looked at. Since then Christopher has been working up the design drawings. We have a meeting arranged with members of the St Alban's Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) on the 22nd February when we will hear their comments on the drawings before they are developed too far. Christopher can then carry on, knowing that we have DAC support.

We have been monitoring a crack in the centre mullion (middle vertical stone piece) of the window in the wall at the west end of the north aisle. This is the one which will be covered by the glass roof to the ambulatory. Our stonemasons visited and advised that it was failing and it should be replaced by new stone. This was not initially part of the project but it needs to be done. We are waiting for an estimate.

The Archaeological Surveyors, KDK, have submitted their initial report and plan of work to excavate the ground to be built over, and that has been sent to Dacorum.

Fund raising is progressing extremely well. The Burns Night ceilidh was a great success and raised a fantastic £2,000. Many thanks to Annie Saner and Sarah Gall for organising the evening, and to Jane Murray and Jane Walker for heroically bashing the neaps and spuds; it was well worth it!

Obtaining grants is proving quite difficult because most agencies will only consider applications for secular projects. As our present name seems to count against us, we are proposing to refer to the project as The Thomas Field Hall when applying for grants. Thomas Field is the name of the man whose headstone is just outside the present wall of the vestry, which will have to be re-sited because of the extension. The PCC agreed that it was very suitable to call our large room after him, although we still need to refer to the Vestry@50 when reclaiming VAT so we will continue to use that appellation as well.

Fundraising has now reached a total of about £210,000 leaving some £40,000 to go to get to our target. As the detailed building design is developed we will be able to make better informed estimates of the likely costs and start to put a more detailed budget together, and be sure that we have raised a realistic amount to fund the whole project.

Michael Carver has been assessing the performance of the heating in the church through the use of sensors and a sophisticated computer program and the information will be used in the design of the new system. This will require specialist expertise and he is considering using the services of suitably experienced professional advisers.

Considering that we received planning approval just over a year ago, we have done astonishingly well, thanks to everyone's support and enthusiasm. We hope we can keep the momentum going.

Barbara Sheard

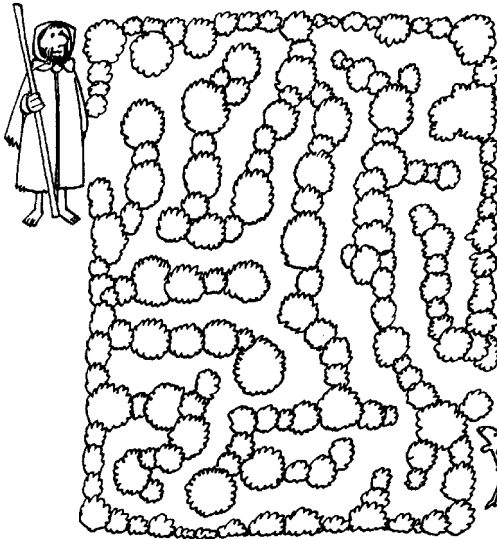
CHILDREN'S PAGE

March is the first month of Spring. The primroses and daffodils are in flower, painting the dreary brown ground with patches of gold, a promise of summer sunshine. The lambs are starting to arrive, dancing around in the fields and bleating for their mums.

Jesus talked a lot about shepherds and their sheep. Sheep were very important animals in Jesus' country because the land was very dry with little grass, and sheep were one of the few animals to be able to live there. Flocks of sheep with a shepherd to look after them were found everywhere. The shepherds had to protect their sheep from being attacked by wild animals. Unscramble the letters below to find the wild animals. (Read what Jesus said about his sheep in St. John, ch.10 v. 7-15.)

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
O N I L R A B E N L X Y F L O W

Help the shepherd find the lamb



JESUS SAID :

I AM THE

γ ρ □ □ ρ ♦ ~ ~ ~ ρ □ ~ ~ ~ ρ □ ρ

KEY:

D E G H O P R S
ρ ρ γ ~ ~ ~ □ □ □ ♦



THE LORD IS MY — — — — —

See Psalm 23 to find the missing word.

PRAYER PAGE

David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601, 1st March

Almighty God, who called your servant David
to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries
for the people of Wales:
in your mercy grant that,
following his purity of life and zeal for the gospel of Christ,
we may with him receive the crown of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c.460, 17th March

Almighty God, who in your providence chose your servant Patrick
to be the apostle of the Irish people:
keep alive in us the fire of the faith he kindled
and strengthen us in our pilgrimage
towards the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Lord Jesus, you have known a mother's love and tender care
and You will hear, while for our mothers most dear,
we offer this Mother's Day prayer.
Protect the lives, we pray, of those who have given us the gift of life.
May our mothers know from day to day
the deepening glow of joy that comes from Your presence.
We cannot pay our debts for all the love that we have received;
but You, Lord, will not forget their due reward.
Bless our mothers both on earth and in heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Deadline for the next issue of the Parish News: Sunday 24th March

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Nick Murray, 8 Little Gaddesden House, HP4 1PL; 843419; nicholas.murray@doctors.org.uk

Mike Walsham, 7 Ringshall, HP4 1ND; 842539; mike.walsham@btinternet.com

CHURCH SERVICES – MARCH 2019

I Sunday 3rd March – Sunday next Before Lent		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
Wednesday 6th March – Ash Wednesday		
8.00pm	Sung Eucharist with imposition of Ashes	Great Gaddesden
II Sunday 10th March – Lent 1		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Family Service (No Sunday School)	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Family Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
III Sunday 17th March – Lent 2		
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 24th March – Lent 3		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
V Sunday 31st March – Mothering Sunday		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Family Service (No Sunday School)	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Family Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
I Sunday 7th April – Lent 5		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion followed by APCM	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Morning Worship	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
Mid-Week Services		
Tuesday	9.00am Holy Communion	Great Gaddesden
Thursday	10.00am Holy Communion	Little Gaddesden