

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

April 2019



The Lord is risen indeed

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 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 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.04
From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of Lent: a time we can look upon in a very negative way or we use as a time of reflection and growth in our personal life and our relationship with God.

Giving something up is all very well, but when the joy of Easter comes, all the sacrifice is forgotten and the inevitable binge happens and we return to our bad old ways! Moreover, whilst we're busy giving things up, how much do we reflect on what Jesus was going through when he was in the wilderness neither eating nor drinking for forty days? Surely it would be much better to devote some **time** to God, ourselves and others, or to take on something new which doesn't fizzle out at the end of Lent and, even though we are in the midst of the forty days of Lent, it isn't too late to start.

It's unfortunate that Easter falls very late this year so that the schools are starting Summer Term immediately after, and the children celebrate Easter before it has happened, which is a pity. (I for one would like to see Easter set permanently for a particular Sunday in April, rather than rely on the vagaries of the moon).

One of the positive things we could do in Lent is work on our prayers. I wonder how many of us really pray – even in church, do we pray in a personal way, talking and listening to God or just reading the words and trying to follow what's going on? Sunday worship is perhaps best seen as a time of spiritual nourishment and community, as well as communing with God in a physical sense through the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which is a vital part of having a relationship with God and indeed makes us full members of his Church; but what happens for the rest of the week?

*There was a woman who told her priest, "I can't pray on my own,"
"Not at all?" asked the priest.*

"No, only when I am in church with others; you know, when we're asking God for things, confessing, all that sort of thing."

"But you can't talk to God at home?" the priest enquired further.

"It just seems ... well, not natural for me. Not that there's anything wrong with it of course, talking to God, that is. It's just that I feel it's for other people to do - not for me."

"This seems to worry you."

"I feel that I'm not doing my duty, you know, that I'm not a good Christian. I've been told since I was a child that I should pray to God, but I just don't seem able to do it."

The priest paused for a while, choosing the next words carefully. "Tell me, are there any times when you feel particularly peaceful, you know, when your mind is more still than normal?"

The woman looked slightly puzzled by the question and didn't answer immediately. She stared at the ceiling for a minute or so, but then a thought seemed to occur to her.

"The washing-up," she said suddenly.

"How do you mean?" asked the priest.

"It's like this," she replied. "Our kitchen window looks out west over the fields. At the right time of year, I often stand there after dinner washing the dishes, watching the sun set."

The woman started to look a little embarrassed. "Well, you're going to think I'm crazy," she continued, "but often when I'm standing there it suddenly hits me how amazing everything is."

She began to warm to her theme. "You know, how beautiful the light is and the shadows as they get longer. I watch the barley swaying in the fields, and all the colours, and all the birds and insects."

She was clearly getting more excited as she spoke. "And sometimes, you know, it suddenly hits me that none of this has to be; that there could just be nothing! And that it doesn't have to be so beautiful and so...", "she was clearly struggling for words "... simple and complicated. And sometimes when it's happening my mind seems to slow down and I become very still. I feel like I am part of everything, and everything is part of me. And in those moments, I kind of just know that God is there. Not some old man with a white beard, but just like, you know, present."

She was struggling for words again. "Like an ... energy or an atmosphere, yet also like a person."

She paused and suddenly her confidence drained away. She looked very embarrassed.

"But you think that you can't pray?" asked the priest.

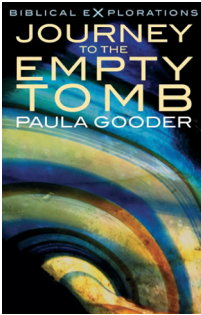
"Oh no," she replied, "I can't pray at all."

(From his book 'From the bottom of the pond' by Simon Small.)

We live in uncertain times, the constancy of God is very reassuring.

I am yours in Christ, John.

Mid-Week Group – Lent April 2019



The Mid-Week Group continues to explore the book

Journey to the Empty Tomb by Paula Gooder

The meetings continue for two **Thursdays** in April – 4th (discussing the Crucifixion) and 11th (The Empty Tomb and Resurrection Appearances). These take place 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.

For any further details, contact: Anthony Archer, 07721 504125, 01442 843249,
anthony.archer@bridgewaterassociates.co.uk



LENT LUNCHES

These are held every **Friday**, continuing 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 the Vestry Appeal.

Virginia (842428)

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.

From the Registers:

18th March

Funeral and Burial

James Green

COME WITH US TO THE CATHEDRAL ON EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 22nd

As mentioned in last month's Parish News, this is traditionally a Youth Pilgrimage. Younger people are urged to help keep it so. Some of the older ones can show you the way.

8am Be at Little Gaddesden church if you are prepared to walk 12 miles mainly by footpaths.

or 9am Be at Great Gaddesden church, catch us as we pass (by 9.30) and walk about 10 miles.

or Make your own way

Bring something to eat and drink.

Have clothes suitable for unexpected weather.

Wear comfortable walking shoes or boots, which will cope with mud.

(Take some sticking plasters to cover blisters if your feet are not used to long walks.)

Arrange in advance for someone to take you home, usually soon after 4pm.

On arrival in the cathedral grounds look out for the green and blue Gaddesdens Together banner.

From 2.30pm the congregation will begin to enter the cathedral.

3 pm The Easter-themed Service begins.

It is helpful to know if you are coming, but you can just turn up on the spur of the moment. The contact number is 01442 843550 (home of Peter and John Leonhardt).

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

DENS Appeal



Please don't forget that we have not stopped collecting food for DENS Food Bank. It is still very much needed. There are two boxes at the back of the church by the font which are emptied as soon as the contents are sufficient to make a trip to Hemel. Lent is a good time to

remember other's needs and provide help if we can.

Food must be non-perishable with long use-by dates. There is a list of suggested items by the boxes. Thank you very much.

Gaddesden Gallop 2019



This fundraising event – offering 10k and 5k race options to participants – is taking place again on Sunday 5th May 2019. The races will start at 10.30am from the sports field and follow a loop through our lovely countryside via the Golden Valley in Ashridge and Hudnall.

On-line registration is at www.entrycentral.com.

The race is now being organised by the Friends of Little Gaddesden School, with proceeds going to the school and the Church Vestry Fund.

The race organizers are looking for marshals to direct the runners around the route and if you are able to contribute in this way please contact Catriona Angel via email on catrionawebster@yahoo.co.uk or mobile 07980 310502.

EASTER LILIES



Every year at Easter the Church is decorated with lilies in memory of a loved one. If you would like to participate, please would you let me know as soon as possible on 842780 or email anneisherwood@btinternet.com as the lilies have to be ordered in good time for Easter. The cost is £3 per lily, which you can give to me or Virginia Westmacott. The book for your dedication is in the Church. Thank you.

Anne Isherwood

THE SONG THRUSH

Most British opinion polls on birdsong put the song thrush as our favourite, though its more common cousin the blackbird provides stiff competition. There are good reasons for the song thrush's popularity – the song is loud, clear, far-carrying and wonderfully happy. You can hear it in autumn and on warmer winter days but especially from early spring until mid-summer, usually from high in a tree. One of the most striking aspects of the song is repetition of brief phrases – a single bird may have up to 100 of these in its repertoire and typically the song consists of a series of phrases, each repeated a few times. This is beautifully caught by Robert Browning in his great poem on the English spring, 'Home-Thoughts from Abroad':

Oh to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England – now!

And after April, when May follows,
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge
Leans to the fields and scatters on the clover
Blossoms and dewdrops – at the bent spray's edge –
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew
The buttercups, the little children's dower
- Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

Appropriately for its popularity, the song thrush probably appears in more poems than any other British bird, from Chaucer to Ted Hughes. 'The Darkling Thrush' by Thomas Hardy was apparently inspired by the poet hearing the joyful song, interpreted by him as a message of hope for the future, on a miserable New Year's Eve, 1900:

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

Edward Thomas often wrote about birds in his poems (notably the blackbird singing in 'Adlestrop') and several are about song thrushes - this is an excerpt from 'The Thrush', written during military training in 1915 and conveying in a lower-profile sort of way a similar message to Hardy's, but with a distinct nod to the characteristic repetition:

When Winter's ahead,
What can you read in November
That you read in April
When Winter's dead?

I hear the thrush, and I see
Him alone at the end of the lane
Near the bare poplar's tip,
Singing continuously.

Is it more that you know
Than that, even as in April,
So in November,
Winter is gone that must go?

Or is all your lore
Not to call November November,
And April April,
And Winter Winter – no more?

Nick Murray

HOW OUR PALM CROSSES WERE DISCOVERED

Last August the priest who founded the charitable business called African Palm Crosses died at the age of 95. He was Father Alan Talbot.

I first met him when he was about 42 and I was 28. I was a teacher at a remote Tanzanian boarding school and he was the Parish Priest of a very remote and very small village about 80 miles away. We were both in the diocese of Masasi where Trevor Huddleston, the anti-apartheid campaigning monk, was bishop.

It was at Masasi that we would occasionally meet, and Father Alan invited my fellow biologist, Richard Price, and me to visit him. We knew that Namakambale (the village) only had thatched mud hut accommodation but that did not put us off. Richard had a Landrover, ideal for the rougher parts of the journey.

Alan told us that we would be helping fetch bamboos for the construction of a roof. On the way to the place where they grew Richard and I, as always, were noticing the local plants and insects. I saw an area covered with what Alan thought were reeds, but we took a closer look and Richard and I realised that they were palms of some sort, though only short. This was because of the unique way in which the leaves developed from something like a folded Japanese fan in which alternate creases split apart as they expanded.

On hearing us talking about palms, Alan recalled a recent Church Times article on how English churches were finding it hard to get Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday from the usual suppliers in Spain.

Alan was a very practical as well as deeply inspired priest. Soon after taking on his Parish he had started a small village shop selling at the lowest prices essential goods which he could obtain wholesale from the coastal town of Lindi, about 150 miles away. A friend in England had provided money to build and start his shop. The villagers grew their own food and used local resources, but their source of income was the sale of cashew nuts once a year at harvest, to the government agency. The shop was soon a success, as people from up to two days journey away started coming to it.

After realising that local palm leaves were available, Alan paid some local people to collect and fold some into palm crosses and sent a sample to a church in England. From this small start a business grew, which has now become a world-wide supplier of palm crosses, including our own here in Little Gaddesden, whose profits entirely go back to benefit people in Tanzania. It is now run by Alan's family and volunteers.

John Leonhardt

The Children's Society and the Berkhamsted Walk

The Church of England's charity, The Children's Society, started in 1881 running small children's homes for the orphans on London's streets and has evolved to the national system of help for children suffering in this country today. It works to reduce the risk of exploitation, neglect and abuse. It builds the resilience of young people who have experienced these evils and strengthens the resources available to meet these young people's needs. It supports children in the care system and those leaving care at 18, children who have caring responsibilities in the home, those facing poverty, destitution and crisis in their lives, refugees, migrant families and unaccompanied children arriving in this country.

The Berkhamsted Walk has been supporting this charity since 1968 and the amazing sum of £8,200 was raised from our 50th walk last year!

The Walk this year will take place on **Sunday 12th May** and we hope to build on last year's brilliant success.

18 mile and 12 mile routes start at the Court House next to St. Peter's Church, HP4 2AX in Berkhamsted and will explore the gorgeous bluebell woods and spring colours of Ashridge and beyond! The 6 mile Fun Walk for all ages starts at Ashridge College, HP4 1NS, between 11am and 2pm, where free parking is available. A quiz will keep young walkers running ahead!

Please download a sponsor form from www.berkhamstedwalk.com or pick one up from church, Berkhamsted Library, Cafe Epicure or at The Complete Outdoors shop, Bourne End.

Phone Ann Browning on 01442 864968 for more details.

Good Friday Family Workshop

19th April, 9.30am in the church
followed by a short service

Hot Cross Buns, Coffee and Tea

Children's Craft Area

All Welcome

For more information, contact John Russell on
01442 214898



CHILDREN'S PAGE

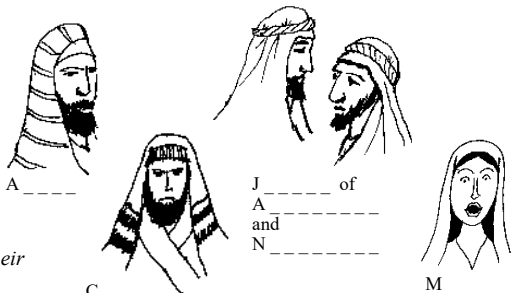
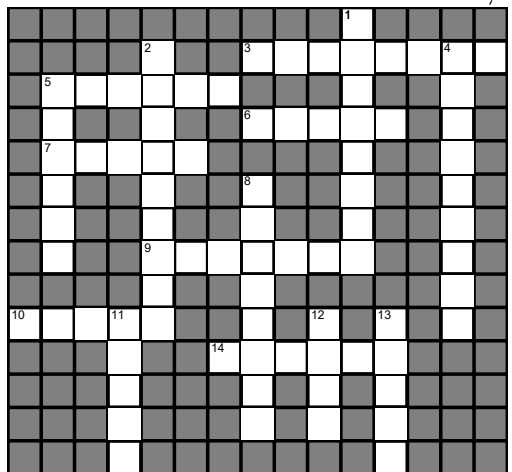
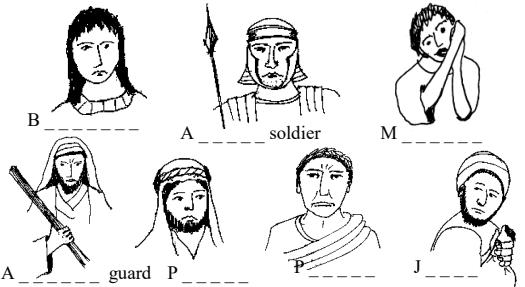
There were many people caught up in the **EASTER STORY** of how Jesus was betrayed, arrested, accused, sentenced, crucified and buried before rising to life again on **EASTER SUNDAY**. Saint John's Gospel tells the story in great detail starting in chapters 18, 19 and 20. Find the names of these people and put them in the crossword below. All the clues are from St. John's Gospel.

ACROSS

3. Who was released instead of Jesus? (ch.18 v.40)
5. What nationality were the guards? (ch.18 v.12)
6. What nationality were the soldiers? (ch.18 v.3)
- 7 and 13 Down. The full name of the disciple who denied Jesus. (ch.18 v.15)
9. The name of the man whose ear was cut off. (ch.18 v.10)
10. Who betrayed Jesus? (ch.18 v.2)
14. Who tried Jesus? (ch.18 v.29)

DOWN

1. The name of the High Priest. (ch.18 v.13)
2. The name of the second man who buried Jesus' body. (ch.19 v.39)
4. Where did the man in 5 down come from? (ch.19 v.38)
5. The name of the first man who buried Jesus' body. (ch.19 v.38)
8. The last name of the man who betrayed Jesus. (ch.13 v.26)
11. The name of the first man to whom Jesus was taken when he was arrested. (ch.18 v.13)
12. The first name of the lady who first discovered the empty tomb on Easter morning. (ch.20 v.1)
13. See 7 across.



Colour in the pictures of the people and write their names underneath.

PLEASE HELP

Due to difficulties in mobility I can no longer carry out all the tasks involved in organising the **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**. In particular posters need putting up around the village at the beginning of May, and the red envelopes and collecting bags need delivering to the band of about 20 collectors. I would be very grateful for help.

Christian Aid week is from **12th to 18th May** this year, and we shall be having a house-to-house collection as usual in the village. Last year this collection raised £1234 in Little Gaddesden so the effort is worth it.

This year the focus is on SIERRA LEONE where ten women die every day giving birth. Many lives can be saved by providing health clinics and medical training and combating poverty.

Please contact me, Julie Leonhardt, on 843550.

Thank you

DEJA VU

Do we recognise ourselves in the mirror of the past?
After all, it is our gift, to look, to identify, to learn,
Should we look back with pride, or perhaps aghast?
Acknowledge the causes of a wrong and fateful turn.

There is nothing new under that same old sun,
It has all been said so many times before,
What went around came around, so the deed was done,
But why look back just to studiously ignore?

Did those Olympians, with powers to punish and to praise,
Consult the oracle of the past with clear and honest gaze,
Or did they, as we do now, stumble blindly along,
And pay no heed to that lonely Siren's song?

Josie Jeffrey

COME AND SING FOR EASTER PLEASE

As usual we need extra singers to keep our Easter service up to standard. Please make yourself known if you enjoy singing. You will need to be available on Sunday April 21st for the service, and come to a reasonable number of Friday evening practices from 29th March to 19th April. Any singer is welcome, whether you can sing descants, alto, tenor or bass parts or "just sing the tune", but we can't put on a really good service if we just have our faithful few regulars. Don't wait to be asked, because we can't know every likely singer by telepathy. You can come to a practice unannounced, or contact me, John Leonhardt, 01442 843550.



Village Produce Market

**Saturday, 6th April
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;

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

Little Gaddesden Art Club

EXHIBITION

Little Gaddesden Village Hall

Saturday 1st June, 10.30am – 6.00pm

Sunday 2nd June, 10.30am – 6.00pm

Monday 3rd June, 11.00am – 6.00pm

Including framed art works, folios, sculptures, wood carving, pottery and fused glass

Refreshments

Vestry @50 - The Thomas Field Hall

Our meeting at the end of February with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the DAC, went very well with only two amendments being asked for: revisions to the layout of the WC to allow for easier manoeuvring and to the fabrication of the main gutter. These have been done and incorporated into the architect's drawings which are now being submitted to the DAC for their consideration at their meeting at the end of March when we hope to gain their formal assent. In the meantime we are making an application for a Faculty which will give us permission from the Diocese to carry out the works. The structural engineers are now designing their final details of the structure of the Ambulatory roof and these will be incorporated into the architect's drawings.

A small committee has been visiting kitchens to look at layouts and equipment and we have drawn up a final design for ours, which has been incorporated into the architect's drawings. Window manufacturers have been considered and a visit will be made to the selected one to check on the appearance and suitability before a final decision is made. The architect is now writing a Specification so that we can go out to Tender to selected building companies next month.

We have accepted an estimate for renewing the mullion in the north aisle window and are waiting to hear from the stonemasons when they propose to carry out the work. We hope that will be in the next few weeks so that it will be finished before the other works start.

Barbara Sheard

CONCERT ON 8TH MAY 2019

Margaret, Rus and Bill are singing in the Royal Festival Hall as members of Berkhamsted Choral Society part of a 250 strong choir performing the Dream of Gerontius; the work that Elgar called "the best of him" and that's saying something. For more information, or to support us by coming to the concert, please see the flyers in church or go on to the RFH website

A NEW HEDGE

Just as February was staring into the face of March and some local birds were showing off and starting to view possible 'des res'es' in the old hedge rear of Bede Court, than some very heavy machinery rolled up and quickly grubbed the hedge out. It was rather brutal but effective, leaving friable soil into which a thick row of whips were planted. Whips are young native hedgerow trees about 45 to 60 cm in length. They don't look much but have proved over many years to be the quickest and surest way to start a new hedge.

They soon extended along the fence line inside the big field running alongside the footpath (part of the Chiltern Way) which runs to the Nettleden road adjacent to the pub, the planting notable only by the ubiquitous plastic rabbit guards which will also protect the whips from other grazers. These are kept in place with a bamboo cane and in due course the young trees will show themselves to be a mix of hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, dog rose, field maple, guelder rose (a viburnum) and one other specimen, which could be spindle. Other species could be holly, beech, hornbeam and privet, plus others. Something to look forward to will be the various blossoms appearing from early spring through to late summer from the various shrubs, attracting also bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

The whips are planted at staggered 30cm intervals creating a double hedge which will thicken and thrive. After about 5 years the hedge could be layered or laid. This involves taking sturdy upright branches and bending them along the line of the hedge and rendering them more pliable by cutting away most of a section of wood, leaving not much more than a section of bark. This enables the branch to be laid, held in place by upright stakes and being woven through existing growth. This is nerve racking as one swipe too many with your bill hook and the branch is cut though. Methods of securing the hedge structure varies around the country but in these parts we weave 3 to 4 metre long pliable upright growth from hazel coppice, known as feathering along the top of the laid hedge.

This is a job which has to be done in the winter when growth is dormant and as well as being nerve racking is very cold as gloves should not be worn when using bill hooks and pruning saws. Luckily, these days it is possible to use a chain saw and hedges laid this way are quickly sorted by trained operatives. Come Spring, new growth sprouts up vertically along the horizontal branches

and spreads out; thus, in a short time creating a secure barrier, used over the years to contain stock, sheep and cattle mainly, in the designated fields.

These days, chain link and barbed wire fencing has replaced most hedges, more's the pity; as they served so many purposes. Hawthorn and blackthorn are prickly, forming an effective barrier. Hawthorn is also used herbally for heart conditions and blackthorn of course provides us with sloes for a nice drop of gin. Spindle wood is very hard and was used, literally, as spindles for turning fleece into wool. Hazel, before grey squirrels, provided hazel nuts and much more: feathering, stakes, poles, woven fencing, in thatched roofing, tent pegs, pea sticks, protection for emergent shoots; hazel is just the most useful tree. Field maple was used for furniture and often, ash would be planted near to farm gates as it was used for making wagon wheels.

So much history in a line of hedgerow. Ours will grow on and if not laid should be trimmed lightly after berries have been taken and before nesting, generally during February after about five years. Ideally, it should be mulched to minimise competition from couch grass but anyway, must be watered regularly for the first two years for it to survive. The great thing about hedges were the unintended consequences, namely the benefits to wildlife: food, shelter, safe routes, nesting and roosting opportunities. Ideally, a ditch would appear alongside which would help provide water and create more wildlife habitat and food. A whole ecosystem grew up around hedges and for that reason we should nurture and nourish them.

An extra bonus occurred when I asked the farmer doing the job if he could find my old walking boots that I hid in a holly section of the old hedge some years ago. He found them with remains of old nests in, and they now reside in a nearby old holly hedge ready to provide two secure homes again for small birds. Result!

Josie Jeffrey



Good Friday, 19th April

9.30am – Family workshop in the church with
Hot Cross Buns and Refreshments

11.00am Service of Witness on The Green

Alphege of Canterbury

On 19th April, the Church of England celebrates the memory of Alphege, described in the Calendar of Common Worship as 'Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012'. His death was at the hands of the invading Danes, by whom he had been taken prisoner. Not long after the Norman Conquest, Archbishop Lanfranc (a Norman appointee) questioned whether Alphege had actually been a martyr, that is, someone who had suffered death for the faith, though he did not question Alphege's piety and standing as Archbishop. The person with whom he had this conversation – the theologian and philosopher Anslem – persuaded Lanfranc otherwise, the argument turning on the fact that, although the invading heathens wished to put him up for ransom, Alphege refused to make any payment to obtain his release and forbade anyone else to do so. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the enraged Danes had Alphege brought to their assembly at Greenwich, where some of the men, in a drunken stupor 'pelted him with bones and ox-heads, and one of them struck him on the head with the back of an axe, so that he sank down with the blow, and his holy blood fell on the ground, and thus he sent his holy soul to God's kingdom'.

Alphege was buried in St Paul's, but, in 1023, by which time England was part of an Anglo-Danish empire ruled by King Cnut, the king authorised a public display of veneration for the Archbishop and his body was taken from St Paul's on the 8th June and taken to Canterbury. He was reburied there on the 15th June. He was revered as a symbol of resistance to the Danes, in admirable contrast to the ineffectual King Ethelred, who had heavily taxed the country in order to pay the Danes to go away – though they repeatedly came back for more! King Cnut may have been astute in moving the focal point of Alphege's potentially hostile cult away from London, but the decision to honour him publicly could be seen as a gesture of reconciliation towards his Anglo-Saxon subjects. Alphege's cult flourished but was eclipsed in the twelfth century by that of Thomas Becket for which Canterbury became famous throughout the Western Christendom.

Alphege, or more properly Ælfheah – for that was his Anglo-Saxon name, Alphege being a Norman version of it – was recognised while he was still alive as a learned and holy man and a noteworthy leader of the church. He began his ecclesiastical career as a monk at Deerhurst near Tewkesbury. He then went to Bath in the early 960s, at a time when a great reform of monastic life and learning was taking place in England and there, he soon became Abbot. He was appointed Bishop of Winchester (the capital of England at the time) in 984 as a worthy successor to the greatest of the reformers, Bishop Æthelwold. After working there to promote Æthelwold's favoured cult of St Swithun, completing a massive extension to the cathedral and continuing to foster the scholarship for which Winchester had become renowned, he became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1006. As Archbishop he would have been required to take a lead in resisting the renewed Danish invasions. It was their siege of Canterbury in September 1011 that led to Ælfheah's capture and his death the following year.

Joyce Hill, Two Valleys Parish News

PRAYER PAGE

A Prayer for Unity

(From 'The Accession Service')

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace,
give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in
by our unhappy divisions.
Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us
from godly Union and Concord:
that, as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one Hope of our Calling,
one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all,
so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul,
united in one holy bond of Truth and Peace, of Faith and Charity,
and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

St George, Martyr, Patron of England, c304, 23rd April

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love
in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord
by his life and by his death:
give us the same faith and power of love
that we who rejoice in his triumphs
may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection;
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 Gaelic Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

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Deadline Date for May edition of Magazine:
Thursday 18th April (Maundy Thursday)

CHURCH SERVICES – APRIL 2019

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
II Sunday 14th April – Palm Sunday – HOLY WEEK		
9.00am	Morning worship with Blessing of the Palms	Nettleden
9.00am	Procession to church followed by Family Service	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Family Communion with Blessing of the Palms followed by APCM	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
Tuesday 16th April		
8.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Great Gaddesden
Thursday 18th April – Maundy Thursday		
8.00pm	Sung Eucharist with stripping of the altars and washing of feet	Little Gaddesden
Friday 19th April – Good Friday		
9.30am	Family Workshop in the church	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Service of Witness on The Green	Little Gaddesden
2.00pm	Hour before the Cross	Nettleden
III Sunday 21st April - Easter Sunday		
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 28th April – Easter 2		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
I Sunday 5th May – Easter 3		
9.00am	Mattins	Nettleden
9.00am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
10.45am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
Mid-Week Services		
Tuesday	9.00am Holy Communion EXCEPT MAY – JULY: NO SERVICES	Great Gaddesden
Thursday	10.00am Holy Communion	Little Gaddesden