

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

February 2021



St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NZ
Berkhamsted Team
Revd John Russell

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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 above-mentioned email address. Messages can also be left with the Churchwardens. If the Vicarage telephone is on the answering service please leave a message. It will be attended to as soon as possible. To contact The Berkhamsted Team, please call The Parish Office on 01442 878227.

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
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	Mr A Archer	842397
	Mrs H Tisbury	01582 842807
PCC OFFICERS:	Treasurer: Mr A Webster	843157
	Secretary: Mrs T Adams	842746

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Due to the Covid pandemic, our normal timetable of services is disrupted. At the moment, there will be a recorded service on-line. We hope to have services in church in March if possible.

Please check our website for the most up-to-date details.

The Midweek Podcast will be at 10.00am on a Wednesday and can be listened to via the website. There will be no midweek services in church for the moment.

BELL RINGING:	Sunday 8.30 am Practice: Tuesday 8.00 pm Tower Captain – Mrs Virginia Westmacott LG 842428
CHOIR PRACTICE:	Friday 7 pm – Mr John Leonhardt LG 843550
LITTLE GADDESSEN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL:	We welcome all children aged 4 – 11. Contact the Head Teacher, for more information on 01442 842464 or admin@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk
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:	Mrs Heather Tisbury 01582 842807
WEEKLY UPDATES:	PEW SHEET distributed each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be sent to 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 44 No.02

Dear Friends,

It feels like a long time since I last wrote to you. Christmas has come and gone and Lockdown is once again with us. At present, even though we now have vaccines which will, in the course of time, enable us to get out and about, that time hasn't come yet.

Firstly, I do wish you all a Happy New Year, certainly a better one than 2020. We hope and pray for life to resume some sort of normal order, but I suspect it will be a new normal.

How long before we stop wearing face masks if ever? Will the use of hand cleanser when entering any building remain part of the 'new' normal? Will we live with this threat forever – or if not this one, some other (God forbid)?

I think few people will deny that this pandemic is a continuing wakeup call as to the reality of life. We have been living in one enormous bubble for years and now it has burst. It has left us with lives changed, it has forced us to examine our lifestyles and the impact that has on ourselves, other people and the world itself.

Many of our loved ones have sadly died or been made very ill by Covid-19. Family life has been thrown into confusion as forced separation from our nearest and dearest, both young and old, has taken its toll. Through it all, by any method we can, the church has tried as best it can, to maintain contact with people of all ages, with faith and without, through online worship, podcasts, phone calls, financial help and of course, by prayer.

We may pray for ourselves and each other and those whom we love and care about, but what is much harder to do is pray for those we're not so keen on and for those who decide on aspects of our lives that we may not like. I'm thinking now about those in government who, I have to believe, are trying to do the best for the common good, yet are always

under the cosh of criticism. I do not envy them one bit. In the relatively small decisions I have had to make over the last year, I have had to do a great deal of soul searching. I have had to adapt and change, something that none of us much enjoy.

We have many blessings and a great deal of freedom and we don't like those aspects of our lives being taken from us but one thing this time has given us, is an opportunity to think and to reevaluate. It is a time that need not be wasted. It is a time when we can allow God to work in us, to speak to us and we have been given this time to listen and perhaps for the first time in a long time, to actually hear God.

If we believe heaven to be a timeless place and that time itself has been invented by God for this life, to enable us to prepare for that future life with him, then this life is about learning.

The Peace of God which St Paul talks about being '*beyond our understanding*' (*Philippians 4: 7*) comes from the God whom we do not fully understand, by any means, and Paul reminds us, *we see only in part as in a mirror (1 Corinthians 13: 12)*.

So we need faith, we need to trust in a God who is unchanging, ever loving and ever caring. Words from Ecclesiastes remind us that, '*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven*', (*Ecc 3: 1*) and Jesus himself reminds, '*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me*'. (*John 14: 1*).

It is the unchanging aspects of the life that we know, which will form the basis of the new normal which is yet to come and what are those unchanging aspects of life? '*Faith, hope and love, these three and the greatest of these is love.*' (*1Cor 13:13*), because they are the core of the unchanging nature of God beyond our understanding.

I am yours in Christ,

John.

2021 FIRSTS

*Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings*

On Friday January 1st a Robin sang outside my window and the **Viburnum tinus** was just coming into flower (WHITE clusters from PINK buds).

Most of our first observations on the first day of the year are carry-overs from December, such as Berries:

RED: **Guelder Rose, Holly, Cotoneaster, Woody Nightshade.**

BLACK: **Hypericum** bush. BLUISH-BLACK: **Viburnum tinus** (old berries and new flowers together).

WHITE: **Snowberry.** PURPLE: **Ivy.**

ORANGE: **Chinese Lantern** (berries inside capes).

Other Flowers this day:

YELLOW: **Winter Jasmine, Primrose, Groundsel.**

WHITE-AND-YELLOW: **Daisy** in the lawn, **Shasta Daisy** (Large white daisy attempting late flowering)

VIOLET: **Periwinkle.**

And more Birds:

Seen and heard calling: **Wood Pigeon, Jackdaw, Blue Tit** (twittering flock foraging), **Rook.**

Seen but not heard: **Magpie, Great Tit, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Goldfinch.** And **Grey Squirrel.**

Later days in January

Saturday 2nd. **Ivy-leaved Toadflax** - just one flower on a wall (VIOLET-AND-WHITE). **Red Kite** flew past.. **Blue Tit** now heard making its more distinctive call, a high churrrrr.

Sunday 3rd. Flock of 7 **white Doves** circling, **Dunnock.**

Thursday 7th. **Long-tailed Tit.** Friday 8th. **Starlings.**

Sunday 10th. **Witch Hazel** Flowers (YELLOW)

Monday 11th. **White Dead Nettle, Coal Tit**

Tuesday 12th. **Wren**

SKY AND WEATHER FIRSTS

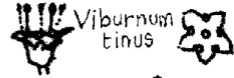
Mist and Frost: January 1st

Rain: January 2nd. Before dawn.

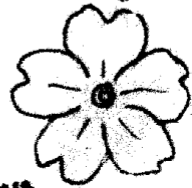
The Sun: January 2nd. Slowly broke through the clouds, Deep blue sky.

The Moon: January 5th. High in the south at 5.20am in the dark. Half moon, its bright side dipped to the east, and again at 8.30am in blue sky in south-west.

Snow: January 5th. First few little flakes 9:30 am not settling.



Winter Jasmine



Primrose



Daisy



Witch Hazel



White Dead Nettle



J.L.

A Psalm of Life

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
“Life is but an empty dream!”
For the soul is dead but slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
“Dust thou art, to dust returnest,”
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us farther than today.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world’s broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe’er pleasant!
Let the Dead past bury its dead!
Act – act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o’erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.

Submitted by: Mike Walsham

From the Registers:

No entries for the last few months

The Thomas Field Hall

Since the last bulletin at the end of November a huge amount has been achieved. The kitchen has been fitted, the doors, including the sliding 'pocket' doors to the Hall, installed, the door surrounds and skirting boards fixed in place and the lights wired up. The plumbing has been finished along with the heating and boiler pipework and the audio-visual cabling. The bronze framed door between the church and Ambulatory has been fitted and there are now just a few bits and pieces to finalise. Externally, the gutters have been put up and the roof slating completed, although the replacement of the eroded brickwork in the original walls is being held up because of the incessant rain. However, this is not far off being completed and it should be done by the end of the week, if there are some dry days.

The area outside the west side of the tower and down to the Ambulatory entrance was to have been finished in bonded gravel to match the existing paths in the churchyard, however, the builder was told that it would not be advisable to use it now as the bonding formula had changed and it did not seem to be as long lasting as previously. After much thought stone paving was chosen. During the time it took to lay we had the wettest day of the month but the men laying it were heroes and worked through, so that it was finished before the end of the week. It sets the church off very well. It is supplemented by an area paved with the coping stones from the original churchyard wall. These had formed the pathway down to the old Ambulatory and it is very nice to preserve them and be able to use them in this way.

The builders had estimated that they would complete the building works by the end of the third week in January and they are on course to reach their target. There have been hiccups, hold ups and delays during the building works, but our contractors have worked very hard, finding substitutes, pleading with suppliers and even hunting down items delivered to completely the wrong address, to finish on time and we are very grateful to them.

We still have to fit out the Hall with some cupboarding and once this is done we will be able to move in. Once restrictions due to the Covid virus are lifted, we will hold a party to celebrate the construction of the Thomas Field Hall and thank everyone who so generously gave their wonderful support to achieve this great facility for both the church and all the village. See the website and watch out for posters.

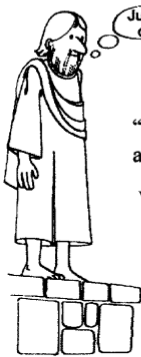
Barbara Sheard

CHILDREN'S PAGE

"I'm giving up **CHOCOLATE** for **LENT!**" How often will you hear friends say that in the next few weeks? But why do that? What is **LENT** all about?

It's the time when we remember the story of the temptations that Jesus had, when he was wondering how he was going to start telling people about God's love for them.

Like many people with a problem he went away to a quiet place in order to pray to God and listen to His reply. St Luke tells the story in chapter 4. Jesus went out into the desert and stayed there for 40 days, eating nothing. How would he make people listen to him?



Then he seemed to hear a voice in his head, saying, "If you are really the Son of God then you can do all sorts of tricks to amaze people. They'll soon listen to you.

"Look! If you climb to the top of the Temple you can jump off—God will send his angels to catch you and hold you up. People will really notice you then!"

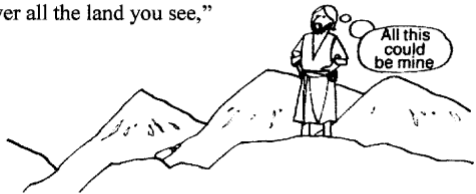
What did Jesus say?

OD TON TUP EHT DROL RUOY DOG OT EHT TSET (mirror writing)

Jesus was standing at the top of a high mountain looking down over a huge area of land.

"Bow down to me and you will have power over all the land you see," said the voice, "It's easy."

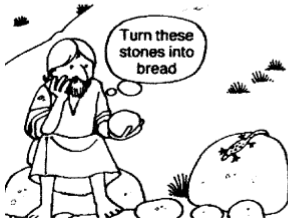
What did Jesus say?



PIHSROW EHT DROL RUOY DOG DNA
EVRES YLNO MIH

Jesus was hungry. He looked at the stones. "Turn those stones into bread," said the voice.

What did Jesus Say?



NAM TONNAC EVIL YB DAERB ENOLA TUB YB YREVE DROW FO DOG.

Jesus didn't give into these temptations. *LENT* is when we practise not giving in to Temptations ourselves, so that we can do the right thing. Can you last 40 days?

THE NUTHATCH

Quick, at the feeder, pausing
Upside down, in its beak
A sunflower seed held tight
To glance by chestnut, dust-blue,
White, an eye-streak
Gone in a blurred ripple
Straight to the cedar branch
To the trunk to a crevice
In bark and putting it
In there, quick, with the others,
Then arrowing straight back
For just one more all morning.

The American poet David Wagoner perfectly captures what's special about the nuthatch, nowadays a regular if episodic visitor to our bird tables, where it spends much of the time upside down, just as it does on tree trunks. Quite small but smart, chunky and pugnacious, the strong impression is of decisiveness and organisation as it zips back and forth between tree and feeder. The name derives from the middle-English 'nut-hacker', reflecting their habit of wedging nuts in the bark of trees then splitting them with their strong beaks. As Wagoner describes, they are great stors of food, and will jam nuts and seeds into any convenient cracks, including between patio slabs where unexpected crops of sunflowers, maize and the like provide evidence of forgotten caches.

Nuthatches are increasing in numbers and in their distribution; once a bird of southern England and Wales, they first bred in Cumbria in the early 1980s, southern Scotland by 1990 and have now just about established a foothold in the Highlands. This territorial expansion is probably by first autumn birds chased away by their parents, which themselves rarely move very far at all throughout their adult lives. When they're not on feeders, nuthatches in winter may join up with

gangs of tits to find food. In summer they can be hard to spot high in the woods but they're noisy birds, producing quite a variety of whistles and calls; this was well-recognised by England's great poet of the countryside, the Northamptonshire farm labourer John Clare (1793 – 1864).

In summer showers a skreeking noise is heard
Deep in the woods of some uncommon bird
It makes a loud and long and loud continued noise
And often stops the speed of men and boys
They think somebody mocks and goes along
And never thinks the nuthatch makes the song

Nick Murray

Square Puzzle

The square puzzle from the December/January edition was impossible to work out as I (your editor) put the second page in the wrong way round. This was amended in some copies in the shop and church. Apologies. The answers were MEMORIES and SOMERSET. However, try the one below.

FOUR-SQUARE PUZZLE NO.2

**Cut out the squares on the right.
Try turning them over and back.
Arrange four squares to make an
eight-letter name of a hymn tune.
Then turn the row over carefully
in order.
If you are right you will find the
name of another hymn tune.**

EV	CH
RI	AU

WHAT CHEERS US UP

What is it that cheers us up?
A playful kitten, a cuddly pup,
Staring at a crackling fire,
Soothing tones of a Welsh pub choir,
Finding snowdrops, glowing white,
Hearing owls throughout the night,
Blue tits, getting busy with their nest,
The company of a welcome guest,
Music that just makes you dance,
(Even 'though some may look askance),
70's Top of the Pops, cool street cred,
Red Dwarf, The Fast Show, Father Ted,
A soft boiled egg from a local hen,
Grateful mindfulness or ancient zen.
In these days when much is fraught,
Best hang on to that cheerful thought.

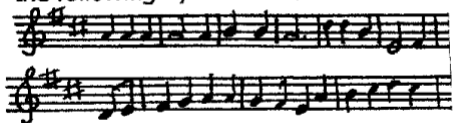
Josie Jeffrey

LX

SE

Four-square puzzle No. 2 Instructions on previous page.

The answers will be the names of
the following hymn tunes:



NA

EI

Do you know which is which?
What are the words of the hymns?

SOME WINTER WILD LIFE

On 13th January, a dank, dark day, I heard a mistle thrush in full voice en route to the shop. I stopped and listened as it cheered me up no end – something that we all need in these depressing and worrying times. He is a big chap, much larger than the song thrush and much more pushy; a pair will take over any berry producing tree, hedge or shrubby area, seeing off any rivals. Some live here year round and many more arrive with the fieldfares and redwings to overwinter from colder northern climes. His song really made me smile, similar to a blackbird with a bit of songthrush thrown in: problem is, they never finish it. Easily bored, or looking for hungry invaders.

There have been unprecedented berry crops this winter; I have never known there to be holly berries at this time, they are usually scooped by obese wood pigeons well before Christmas. The visiting thrushes and resident blackbirds and other fruit eaters are well provided for, which is why there have been fewer garden sightings of our favourite bird table guests. My front garden robin, Roxy (or is it Roger?) and Roger (?) from the back garden are meeting up – a good sign or just robin territorial aggression? Only they know but hopefully they will pair up over the next month. Nature rolls along, whatever else is going on and that careless constancy is cheering and life affirming.

We have all been aware of the hordes of town dwellers who have discovered this beautiful and peaceful area over the past year. I do hope that this results in more understanding of the countryside, farming and wildlife, including particularly, those who cannot understand that any dog should be on a lead around farm animals. Pregnant ewes and those with new lambs are particularly vulnerable to being 'playfully' savaged by otherwise gentle family pets. They should also understand that a normally placid cow can and will, kill if she sees a threat to her calf.

Footpaths have become three times wider in many places and damage has been done to surroundings, undergrowth and trees. Many exercisers, newly discovering the countryside have allowed incontinent dogs free rein. Don't get me started on the fashionable foraging pastime. Perhaps many of them will come to realise the difference between a town park, provided as a fresh air and dog walking facility for townspeople without any interest in farming, the countryside and native wildlife, where toilets and dog bins are provided in an

open space where legs can be safely stretched and lots of fresh air enjoyed without any harm being done.

Hopefully, some of the newer walkers will be inspired to join one of the local wildlife trusts and enjoy the opportunity to put something back and contribute to these lovely and productive areas around us. Volunteering is a wonderful way of learning about nature, is social and a great way to get fresh air and exercise. The National Trust runs work parties locally and The Chiltern Society, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, (HMWT), College Lake, The Boxmoor Trust and Bucks, Berks & Oxford Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) are all grateful for any hands-on volunteering. I know it's difficult currently, but what a positive thing to look forward to. Do think about joining one or more of them. At the very least, by becoming a paid up member you will be putting something back for the pleasure and comfort local nature brings. I do heartily recommend it; nothing like chopping down invasive scrub and having a lovely fire (for example). Very elemental.

Josie Jeffrey

Parish News Subscription

Thank you so much to all those of you who have paid your £5.00 subscription for the Parish News for 2021. This year, your distributors will be unable to knock on your door for your subscription money due to Covid, so we would be very grateful if you could pay on-line if possible.

Account Number: 00296015
Sort Code: 30 94 08
Reference: (your name) followed by "Parish News"

Please let me know by email if you pay this way (a_dmin-church@outlook.com). Otherwise, please feel free to drop £5.00 around to me (Marian Lodge, The Green, Little Gaddesden, HP4 1PH) with a note of your name and house name. Cash or cheques are acceptable (payable to PCC of Little Gaddesden Parish). As you will realise, this year has been a difficult one for the church and if you could help us in this way, we would be most grateful.

Helene Hockings

PRAYER PAGE

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ,
understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them,
we pray for those in hospital;
surround the frightened with your tenderness;
give strength to those in pain;
hold the weak in your arms of love,
and give hope and patience
to those who are recovering;
we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Gracious God,
surround us and all who mourn this day
with your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children,
or turn them against you.
When grief seems never-ending,
take them one step at a time
along your road of death and resurrection
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,
be with doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of your
healing touch.
In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;
and when their work is done,
be with them in their weariness and in their tears.

Amen

(Althea Hayton, adapted)

CHURCH SERVICES – FEBRUARY

I Sunday 7th February, 2nd Sunday before Lent		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship - Eucharist	On-line
II Sunday 14th February, Next before Lent		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship – Morning Prayer	On-line
Wednesday 17th February, Ash Wednesday		
From 10.00am	Joint Parish Worship with Imposition of Ashes	On-line
III Sunday 21st February, Lent 1		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship – Eucharist	On-line
IV Sunday 28th February, Lent 2		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship - Eucharist	On-line
I Sunday 3rd March, Lent 3		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship - Eucharist	On-line
Mid-Week Service		
Wednesday	10.00am on-line Podcast	

At the time of printing, there are no church services in our church. This stance has been approved by the PCC. As soon as we are able, we will begin services in one of the three churches on Sunday mornings at 9.30am. For the meantime, we will continue to record the services and show them through the website.

Please do tune in to the Podcast which is available through our website from 10.00am on a Wednesday morning.

**Please check our church websites for the most up-to-date information.
We apologise if we have to change details with little or no notice.**

littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk

Parish News Editors:

Helene Hockings, Nick Murray, David Nowell-Withers, Mike Walsham
editor-pn@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk

Deadline Date for next edition of Magazine: Sunday 21st February