

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

March 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
READERS:	Mrs G Moore	842054
	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. However, we will now be conducting a joint Parish Service in one of our churches each week. As soon as we can, we will resume services in all our churches weekly. These services will be live-streamed.

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.03

Dear Friends,

We are now into our second year of Pandemic and in the second if not the third wave and I'm sure you've heard all the cliches and oft repeated comments, such as '*who would have thought last year...?*' and so on; but there are some positives to be had out of all suffering and upset, not least the gift of the extra downtime the vast majority of us have had.

One of the bonuses for me is to have been able to read a book, other than on holiday and more, I've been reading a theological book, something I don't normally do on holiday!! The book I've been reading, is on St Matthew's Gospel, called '*Everyday Conversations with Matthew*' by John Holdsworth, an Archdeacon in the Diocese of Europe. Apart from being a commentary on aspects of said Gospel, it's also set in the context of how the church might reach people today in the face of serious questioning.

We have had to face some major hurdles in all areas of our lives, even in the church, most notably how to stay in touch with people, how to continue to do the business of the church and how to offer worship. The internet has played an enormous part on all levels, enabling general conversations and catchups, discussion groups, committee meetings and of course online pre-recorded worship, both in video and radio format – available on our church websites.

Holdsworth wrote this, and I think it makes a lot of sense in the situation in which we find ourselves:

*The church may have learnt quite a lot about how a religious community should **not** work. It should not be hierarchical. It should not be obsessed by rules and laws. It should not confer authority on gatekeepers who can abuse their power. On the other hand, it should be a community that mirrors or embodies Kingdom values, (in other words, the teaching of Jesus, much of which is to be found in Matthew's Gospel). Holdsworth continues, among other things, that means paying attention to the 'least'*

in our society. The church should be the context in which people can show their best side. It should have a mission mentality. It should be a community that has a real sense of God's reassuring presence and help, despite possible hardship and suffering. Its priorities should be those of Jesus himself, namely preaching, teaching and healing, and especially teaching. Healing involves forgiveness.

The Early Church, as it developed and sought out its place in the world faced huge challenges as it established its identity in the prevailing Jewish culture.

Holdsworth compares the massive cultural difference between the early Christian leaders and their Jewish counterparts, the latter *being powerful gatekeepers and, if you like, being the masters of the people*, whereas *Christian ministry is about being servants to the people. They follow the example of the Son of Man and must indeed be more than servants, they must be slaves*. This narrative is given practical demonstration in the foot-washing recounted in John's Gospel at the Last Supper (13.14-17).

Those of us who lead the church in our communities have had to partially reinvent ourselves and discover new ways of ministering to people. The 'cure' of souls – that care of all people in our areas, no matter whether they are of any faith or no faith - remains our calling.

How to continue to fulfil that calling?

That is the question in this new world where I, for one, have a strong sense of guilt because I'm prevented by the pandemic from doing what I feel called to and should be doing.

So we have to listen to God afresh and take our lead from the promptings of the Holy Spirit. It applies in my life and my context and I suspect it does in yours too, whatever your calling.

I am yours in Christ,

John.

THE REAL EASTER EGG CAMPAIGN



Do you want an Easter Egg that clearly celebrates the real meaning of Easter? Fairtrade and The Meaningful Chocolate Company are producing the “Real Easter Egg” range again for 2021. There are lots of different eggs to choose from and prices start at £4.50. Each contain Fairtrade Chocolate eggs (or a single large egg) and a copy of the Easter Story. Please see the website for more details: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>

The eggs are not sold in any supermarket. However, I know they have been available at Way Inn in Berkhamsted in previous years. Unfortunately, I have been unable to confirm that they will be stocking them this year.



EASTER LILIES

Every year at Easter the Church is decorated with lilies in memory of a loved one. This year, it would seem more important than ever. If you would like to participate, please let me know as soon as possible on 842780 or email me on

anneisherwood@btinternet.com as the lilies have to be ordered in good time for Easter. We plan to be able to have a service in church for Easter Day, but if not for some reason, the Church is open during the day for people to view the arrangements. The cost is £3 per lily. If possible, we hope this can be paid directly into our Bank Account. Details are:

Account Name:	Little Gaddesden PCC
Account Number:	00296015
Sort Code:	30 94 08
Reference:	Easter Lilies

If direct payment is not possible, please give cash or a cheque (payable to Little Gaddesden PCC) to me or Virginia Westmacott. The book for your dedication is in the Church on the cross aisle. Thank you.

Anne Isherwood

Annual Revision of the Electoral Roll

There was a complete revision of the church Electoral Roll in 2019 but we still need to check that the Roll is up to date in time for the APCM on 18th April 2021. I will be leaving a copy of the current Roll on display in the church on the cross aisle. If you are already on the list please take a moment to check that all your details are correct.

In the current circumstances with no public worship, it is difficult to anticipate new entries for the Roll unless you live in the parish. But if you are not already listed and would like to join the Roll please consider the following requirements:

You should be baptized and over 16 years of age;

And either:

1. you should live in the parish
or
2. if you live outside the parish you should be a regular member of the congregation at St Peter and St Paul;
or
3. you should be baptized into any denomination in communion with the Church of England and regularly worship in our congregation.

What is the significance of the Electoral Roll?

Members of the church are encouraged to play an active 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, enrolment 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 current Mission Action Plan is developing these areas in our locality.

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.

The current Roll will be displayed from Sunday 14th March to Saturday 27th March and registration forms for new members will also be available in the church. The deadline for revisions is 27th March to prepare for our Annual Parish meeting on 18th April 2021. If you would like to discuss this further please talk to John Russell; our churchwardens Barbara Sheard and Michael Carver or me, the Electoral Roll Officer.

Terri Adams, Electoral Roll Officer

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 Name:	Little Gaddesden PCC
Account Number:	00296015
Sort Code:	30 94 08
Reference:	(your name) followed by "Parish News or PN"

Please let me know by email if you pay this way (a_admin-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 Little Gaddesden PCC). If you no longer wish to receive the Parish News please also let me know. 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

Julie Winifred Leonhardt (née Miller)

When the PN editors heard about Julie Leonhardt's passing, they were very saddened by the news.

As a mark of her involvement (and the Leonhardt family) in so many areas of our village life, we felt it was very appropriate to write an article that would help people remember what a special person she was.

Julie was born in Cheshire on 8th July 1937, but brought up and educated in Wandsworth where her Christian faith developed, becoming the inspiration of her life.

After completing her training as a nurse at Westminster Hospital, she worked for several years in various places around the UK. From her strong connection with the Church of England and the Universities Mission to Central Africa (UMCA), she travelled by ship in 1963 to Tanzania, living in Masasi (in southern Tanzania) which had a small Anglican cathedral. She, and other missionaries, spent seven years training many male and female nurses, including midwifery. She very much enjoyed her time in Africa learning to speak Swahili (many local Tanzanians didn't speak English); she was very well liked and was a great asset to the local community. When John, Peter and Alice visited Masasi in 2003, many local people had very fond memories of Julie from all those years ago.

Julie met John in Tanzania as he was working in the Masasi area. On their return to UK, they were married in 1973 – their first home being in Watford – with Julie continuing her nursing career until Peter and Alice were born.

In 1977, John was appointed Warden of the Environmental Study Centre at Hudnall Park and they all lived in the lodge. Quoting from the article Julie wrote in the book 'A Century Remembered' about the Leonhardt family: she felt so fortunate to be living in such a beautiful place with the amazing sight of all the bluebells on Hudnall Common and in the woods. The only real drawback, she said, was the frequency of power failures!

When Peter and Alice started at the village school, she was already immersed in Little Gaddesden village life. The sharing of chauffeuring

the children to school, not only brought her into contact with many more people, but also allowed her to play a bigger part in the village, particularly the church, the societies and the clubs.

Over the years, Julie helped Anne Webster restart the Brownies – becoming a leader (Tawny Owl); she was the local organizer of events and collections for Christian Aid for many years; she was a member of the church choir; she worked in the village shop; she was a regular attendee of the WI; she hosted visiting clergy from East Africa; she did church flower arranging and church cleaning with Jan McLarty; a strong supporter of local cycling safety. Many will remember with amusement the annual bandage rolling afternoons: old sheets had been donated and were converted into bandages, then sent to Tanzania for medical use. In addition, she enjoyed attending local events and organizations such as the VPA, village fetes, Lent lunches, the Drama club; she was an editor of the Parish News; she even tried bellringing for a while. There weren't many village activities that she didn't join.

They moved from the Lodge to No 21 Little Gaddesden in 1995 which had previously been the police house (Alf Sherringham) and the school house (Molly & Albert Williams). People will recall Julie's sad physical deterioration over the years – her use of a tricycle then a walking frame – but never losing her smile and her interest in other people's difficulties. She invited people to her house to play Scrabble or just chat until Lockdown!

When village people heard we were going to write about Julie in the PN, it was very clear that she was a lovely caring, thoughtful, person. She was always willing to offer help with whatever was being arranged; she was genuinely one of God's true representatives on earth. We thank everyone who has been in touch giving us their heartfelt contributions. She will be greatly missed by so many villagers.

Our thoughts go out to John, Peter, Alice and their families at this difficult time.

Submitted by the PN editors, written by Mike Walsham
with input from the family and villagers

SPARROWS

The late great Alan Coren, very much a Londoner and no bird watcher, said that 'sparrows are the birds that aren't pigeons'. That's taking it a bit far, even in Coren's Cricklewood - like most birds, they are a lot less common than they used to be but fortunately there are still plenty of house sparrows around the towns and countryside of Britain, maybe six million pairs. Their much rarer cousins, tree sparrows, are a separate species, marginally smaller and slimmer and the males have a distinctive black patch on each white cheek and a brown cap to the head rather than the grey crown band of house sparrows. As you might expect from the name, tree sparrows are very much birds of the countryside but still far less common than house sparrows. The third 'sparrow' is the hedge sparrow, which isn't a sparrow at all and should strictly be called a dunnock, though old habits die hard.

True sparrows are related to finches, have thickish beaks for seed eating, chirp rather than sing and are highly sociable. Dunnocks have no close British relatives: they are small, streaky, rather dull birds with much finer bills more suited to insects, a small but pleasant song and a characteristic shuffle or creep, quite different from the hop of sparrows. Both house sparrows and dunnocks are very public in their matings, but whereas house sparrows at least give the impression of fidelity to their partner, the sex life of dunnocks is extraordinarily complex, more so than any other British bird species.

The Scottish poet Norman MacCaig (1910-1996) is spot on in 'Sparrow' with his description of the house sparrow's personality, though there are elements of his own in this poem too.

He's no artist,
His taste in clothes is more
dowdy than gaudy.
And his nest – that blackbird, writing
pretty scrolls on the air with the gold nib of his beak
would call it a slum
To stalk solitary on lawns,
to sing solitary in midnight trees,
to glide solitary over grey atlantics -
not for him: he'd rather
a punch up in a gutter
He carries what learning he has
lightly – it is, in fact, based only
on the usefulness whose result
is survival. A proletarian bird.
No scholar.
But when winter soft-shoes in
and those other birds -
ballet dancers, musicians, architects -
die in the snow
and freeze to branches,
watch him happily flying
on the O-levels and A-levels
of the air.

MacCaig was born and educated in Edinburgh; after working for some years as a teacher he held academic posts at Stirling and Edinburgh Universities. His mother was Highland, from Sutherland, and he always returned to the Lochinver area. His poetry has been said to combine precise observation with creative wit - one of his best-known is about his Aunt Julia, a native Gaelic speaker who never learned English. He had a certain, possibly cultivated, dourness of manner - I particularly like his description of himself as a Zen Calvinist.

Nick Murray

INTRODUCING AN OUTDOOR GYM

Whilst gyms have been closed and all exercise classes and sports cancelled, it is not always easy to motivate yourself to exercise. It is often difficult to get back into that mindset and routine, not to mention the cost. Luckily, I am here with a helpful suggestion. Green Gym, which should soon be up and running in a wood near you.

All of the many local Wildlife Trusts, including College Lake, Boxmoor Trust and The National Trust organize groups of volunteers to undertake countryside conservation work. Full training is given, tools provided and all tasks organized. With some groups, after sufficient experience you may have the opportunity to become a task leader. This involves site security, picking appropriate tools, giving a tools talk, explaining purposes of the tools and safety issues as well as explaining the need for and benefit of the task. You are in the fresh air, usually in the countryside and in good company, it cheers you up too, so what's not to like? There is no age limit and interested kids are welcome. (All the help possible is needed now, given the damage done to the local countryside environment by the thousands of visiting townspeople over the past year.)

There are certain rules of thumb which are helpful to know. You will need:

Suitable clothing (particularly in winter).

Anorak with plenty of pockets. Bobble hat. (Preferably striped and hand knitted by an elderly aunt.)

Fleece. Jumper. Another jumper. Vest. (preferably hand knitted by, as above.) Jeans. Over-trousers. 2 pairs of socks. (not ski socks, they will need washing due to possible life forms taking up home in boots and ski socks, frankly, are anti-social). Backpack lined with plastic bag.

Flask of tea or coffee. Packet of hobnobs (mandatory, custard creams may be substituted on birthdays), cheese and pickle sandwiches. Ginsters pies acceptable for single men only. Cake. Piece of fruit. Bar of fruit and nut does count. Plastic bag to sit on.

For would-be leaders. Try introducing a work song; my earlier introduction of the eighties disco hit, The rowing song, (“Oops upside your head, I said oops upside your head”, etc. Might not have been my brightest idea). Something more folksy would be good, probably best learning ‘Wellerman’. Dancing is not discouraged, except when brandishing a bill hook.

Try to introduce diversions on a particularly cold day, ie. who can keep a dewdrop on their nose the longest usually went down well, until a German chap who used to turn up on site on his bike was accused of cheating (in a light hearted manner) as his had frozen. Sadly, he took umbrage and never showed up again. Obviously more competitive than the rest of us.

The sort of things you would be expected to do. The National Trust uses its volunteers a lot for scrub bashing, ie. cutting down invasive (usually hawthorn) scrub on areas such as Ivinghoe Beacon and the surrounding area. Bonus is, you should get to have a fire. Rhody bashing, clearing rhododendron taking over woods. This is utterly useless for wildlife, but makes an OK fire. Boxmoor Trust has a lot of this, along with laurel. Lovely satisfying work and totally mindless which is just what the doctor ordered. Clearing ponds. You either love it or hate it. Worst gig - Potten End pond. Best gig - Berkhamsted Golf Club. They feed you and beer has been involved. Hedge planting, tree planting, tree cutting down (usually invasive sycamore taking over woodland.) Lots more. Do give it a go.

Josie Jeffrey

From the Registers:

No entries this month

Children's Page

SPRING in here! How do we know? Lots of things are springing into new life. Here are some, listed below, but they seem to have got mixed up. Can you draw a line to link what really happens to each of these:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| BIRDS' EGGS | Burst into flowers |
| LAMBS | Grow into leaves |
| BUDS | Hatch into chicks |
| BULBS | Are born |

Have you noticed the twigs on the bare trees and in the hedges? They will soon be coming into leaf. Unscramble the letters to find out from which tree each of these buds comes. Draw a line to the right shaped leaf and colour them in. Pick some twigs this week, bring them indoors, put them in water and watch them open.



.....
MYRACOSE

.....
EHECB

.....
SHORE
TUNHTESC



.....
HAS

.....
KAO

Jesus often spoke about trees and the fruit that they produce. In St Matthew, chapter 7, verse 16 he says, "NRDHT _____ bushes so not bear SEPARG _____ and SRAIRB _____ do not bear SGIF _____. A healthy tree bears DOOG _____ fruit but a poor tree bears DAB _____ fruit." You are like a tree. If you live a life loving God then other people will see God in you and come to know him. You will have borne good fruit. *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Amen*

LOCKDOWN BLUES

Is that a light at the end of the tunnel I see,
Or an out of control train coming right back at me?
Thundering back, rattling track, filling the air with a deafening roar,
Or better times, summer climes, a future beyond clutching at straw.

“What’s normal?” we ask, “Is it a woman filling her car with fuel
In her nightclothes. At the petrol station. Or am I just cruel?
Is she working from home, washing, cleaning, baking banana bread,
Harassed, home schooling, 3 meals a day for the man in the shed?

Otherwise, welcome to retirement-lite, but know that you need to have
a plan,
A routine, a frame to hang each day on, give it structure if you can,
Make each day different or be embroiled in amorphous continuation,
One day melting into the next, sapping energy, fun and motivation.

But surely a new dawn will break as we focus on the light,
Not suddenly, but imperceptibly, as dawn overcomes the night,
Somehow we carefully stretch our outlook, building up new hope and
strength,
Trusting that we will one day greet friends and family at less than two
arms’ length.

Josie Jeffrey

The Disciples were first called Christians at Antioch

The keeping of Lent has always been associated with penitence and penance often, these days, in the form of giving up some enjoyable luxury. But from the early centuries it has also been a time for learning about the faith: those who are already Christians would often attend the instruction provided during Lent for catechumens, the converts who were being prepared for Baptism on Holy Saturday. These days, as part of our spiritual sprucing up in preparation for Easter, we often echo this practice, for example by some form of study, such as a lent-course, directed reading, or themed sermons. This Lent, I have decided to explore the very name by which we are known, 'Christians'.

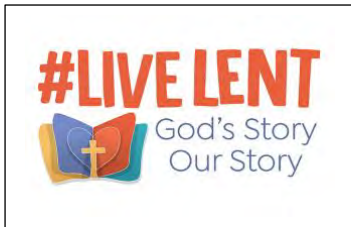
We read in Acts 11 v26 that 'The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch'. Clearly, this word coined by others to describe a newly identifiable group: it was not the disciples themselves who thought up the name. Later, in Acts 26 v28, we see it used by King Herod Agrippa II. Faced with St Paul eloquently repudiating the charges against him, Herod Agrippa rather scornfully remarks, "You think it will not take much to win me over and make a Christian of me." This event took place in c. AD59, by which time 'Christian' had evidently become established as a pejorative term. But almost immediately, the so-called 'Christians', followers of Christ, adopted the term for themselves. We see evidence of this in Acts 16, v1 and 2, where we are told that Timothy was the son of a 'Jewish Christian' mother and was well thought of by the 'Christians' at Lystra and Iconium.

It is worth digging a bit deeper to see if we can learn more from the word itself. As it appears in Acts, it is, of course, in Greek (Christianos). The first element of the word, Christ, means 'the anointed one'. In terms of its meaning, it is the Greek equivalent of Messiah in Hebrew. So the first half of the word accurately acknowledges that the new sect believed they were following the Christ, the Messiah, 'the anointed one', for whom the Jews had long been hoping. However, the last part of the word, -ianos, which conveys the meaning 'adherent of a group', 'a follower', is not a

Greek construction at all. It is, rather, a common Latin one (-ianus), which was quite freely added to names to form a collective term. What we see in the New Testament is its direct transliteration into Greek script, so forming a linguistic hybrid: Greek for the first half of the word, and Latin-origin for the second half. Latin was, of course, the official language of the occupying power, even though the lingua franca in the eastern Mediterranean was Greek. So perhaps, the term Christianos grew up among those complaining about the sect to the Roman authorities, for whom the meaning of this made-up word would have been transparent, economical and effective. Maybe that's how Herod Agrippa, an agent of the Roman imperial power, had come to know it. It was, though, a very good one-word description and it is no wonder that the community of believers quite quickly adopted it.

Joyce Hill, Two Valleys Parish News

A time to Reflect



During Lent, as it is impossible for us to all get together due to lockdown, this is the year to make some time each day to reflect on our own. Follow the Archbishop of Canterbury's #LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story – Our Lent reflections at www.churchofengland.org/lent. Scroll down to #LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story – Our Lent reflections in the menu bar. There is a free app to download if you prefer or you can sign up for daily reflections by email. This course is based on the Archbishop's Lent book for 2021, Living His Story by Hannah Steele.

Both the book and the accompanying daily reflections encourage all Christians to think about their calling, how to share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives.

The Thomas Field Hall

Our hope that the building works would be completely finished at the end of last month was not quite realised. There are some items of making good internally to be done and there have been a number of details which needed to be completed. The manifestations, or spots, on the glazed entrance front, to stop people walking into the glass, have been carefully put on, and the installation of the external lights up the path through the churchyard was completed.

The freezing temperatures at the beginning of February meant that it was impossible to finish the external landscaping as the ground was frozen hard. Since then, topsoil has been spread and it will be sown with grass seed which should come through next month. The site hut has been taken away and the builders decamped to the Hall, testing out the kitchen plumbing and electrics. Clearing the site has also been difficult as the boards protecting the soil were sodden and too heavy to carry. They had to be dragged to the skip, which was then too heavy, so had to be unloaded and one skip load became two.

The path through the churchyard was damaged at its edges where it had sunk into the ground softened by the incessant rain at the time, pushed down by the builder's vehicles. The repairs involve raising the brick edging and cutting out the cracked areas of bonded gravel which are being done very neatly. The new bonded gravel has to be installed in dry weather, so we are all waiting!

We are working to obtain formal Practical Completion at the very end of February, when the Planning Conditions will be discharged by the completion and submission of the Archaeological Survey and the confirmation that the ground gas prevention measures have been achieved. The Certificate will be signed, the builder will have compiled an Operations Manual which will be handed over, together with the keys, and we will have possession.

This will mark the end of a journey which began 10 years ago, and the beginning of a new venture when we, as the church, will be able to offer a new outreach, through the use of the Thomas Field Hall, as encouraged by our Bishop's Mission Action Plan, as well as benefitting ourselves from the greatly improved facilities.

Barbara Sheard

Why God made dogs and cats

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you anymore. We are lonesome here and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal." And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG." And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them. And they were comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, "No problem! I will create for them a companion who will be with them forever and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so that they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve. And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings. And Adam and Eve learned humility. And things were greatly improved. And God was pleased. And Dog wagged his tail. And Cat didn't give a hoot one way or another.

MORE 2021 FIRSTS

by someone who doesn't get out far, continued from January 12th

The flowers that bloom in the Spring, trala, bring promise of merry sunshine.

FRUIT

January 16th Dog Rose hips, Hawthorn berries (carry-overs from 2020)

FLOWERS

About January 17th: Waves of scent from Witch Hazel

January 22nd: Snowdrop, light purple Crocus (*C. tomasinianus*), deep yellow Crocus

January 29th: Common garden Daffodil

January 31st: Lesser Celandine

February 1st: Lenten Rose (Hellebore), Miniature Daffodil

February 15th: Purple Heather

February 20th: Cream Crocus, Lungwort (Soldiers and Sailors)

BIRDSONG

January 17th: Dunnock

January 26th: Great Tit

January 28th: Chaffinch

February 1st: Song Thrush

BIRDS SEEN

January 16th: Carrion Crow

January 30th: Black Pheasant by the Green

January 31st: Collared Dove

February 13th Pied Wagtail

BUTTERFLIES

February 20th: Brimstone First butterfly this year

SKY AND WEATHER

January 17th: New Moon First sighting after the actual moment, Jan. 13th 5:01 am. and Orion and Sirius (the Dog Star)

January 24th: First proper blanketing fall of snow, approximately 2 inches deep

John Leonhardt

Thomas Field – after whom our new hall is named

Thomas, son of Henry and Elizabeth Field was baptized in St Peter and Paul's Church, Little Gaddesden on 27th July 1806. As a child and young man he remained in the parish, marrying Anne Anderson on 17th March 1832.

From 1841, information about Thomas and his family is found in Census returns. In 1841, Thomas, a Gamekeeper lived in St Margaret's Lane with his wife Anne and children George (b. 1834), Joshua (b. 1839) and Elizabeth Ann (b. 1841). By 1851, they had another son, Matthew (b. 1846) and had moved to Wards Hurst, Ringshall. Thomas and his son George were Agricultural Labourers; his wife and all three younger children aged 12, 9 and 5, were Straw Plait Makers. They had moved again by 1861 when Thomas, Anne and their children Elizabeth and Matthew lived at Upper Wards Coomb and Thomas was again working as a Game Keeper. His son Matthew was an Agricultural Labourer and both Anne and Elizabeth were Straw Plaiters.

Thomas was widowed in 1863. His 56-year-old wife Anne was buried in Little Gaddesden Churchyard on 2nd October that year but there is no evidence of a headstone. By 1871, Thomas was living with his daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law George Beechey in Little Gaddesden, probably at No. 4, though the Census gives no details. He worked as a Garden Labourer, his son-in-law as a Butler and his daughter as a Straw Plaiter. However, in November 1872, Elizabeth was widowed when George died, aged only 30. He was buried in Little Gaddesden Churchyard on 23rd November and has no known headstone. In 1881 Thomas was an Agricultural Labourer, still living with Elizabeth and his grandson George. On that Census his age was recorded as 74.

Thomas Field of Little Gaddesden died on 16th December 1886 and was buried next day, the service conducted by Arthur Anderson, Officiating Minister. In the Burial Register, his age is given as 82. His actual age was uncertain but all the evidence found shows that he would have been over 80.

By the time of Thomas's death, his eldest son George was a Police Constable in the Kent Constabulary while his younger sons Joshua and Matthew worked together in the building trade. At a time when not all graves had a headstone and when some of those erected were wooden, Thomas's sons were able to furnish him with an impressive, lasting stone memorial. His headstone is inscribed: "In/ loving memory of/ Thomas Field who departed this life/ December 16th 1886/ aged 84 years/ In departing he assured us/ of his safety in Christ/ Prayer is the Christians vital breath/ the Christians native air/ his watchword at the fate of death/ he entered heaven with prayer".

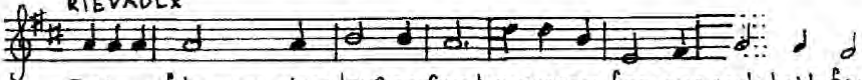
After Thomas's death, his daughter and grandson left Little Gaddesden. However, Thomas's youngest son Matthew, who died aged 72 on 24th April 1918, is also buried in Little Gaddesden Churchyard, though he lived in London. Other than Thomas, he is the only family member to have a headstone here. It is inscribed: "In memory/ of/ my dear husband/ Matthew Field who passed away April 24th 1918/ aged 72 years/ gone to rest".

Jane Dickson

FOUR SQUARES PUZZLE ANSWERS

The answers to February's puzzle were RIEVAULX and EISENACH. This was the comparatively easy part. The follow-up was a challenge to identify the actual tunes and words, which few would be able to meet without reference to a hymn book with tunes. I wouldn't have known it myself without one. As printed in the magazine, the upper one was Rievaulx, the lower one Eisenach, and here they are with words:

RIEVAULX



Father of heaven, whose love profound a ransom for our souls hath found

The musical notation for RIEVAULX is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

EISENACH



Jesu thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou perfect grace
OR O love how deep, how broad, how high! It fills the heart with ecstasy

The musical notation for EISENACH is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

John Leonhardt

PRAYER PAGE

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

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of Your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in Your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from Your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Lord Christ, by whose cross all enmity is ended and all walls broken down:
look with compassion on the anguish of Your world
and by the power of the Holy Spirit heal our divisions,
unite us in truth,
and make us instruments of Your peace in the life of the world,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

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

CHURCH SERVICES – MARCH

I Sunday 7th March, Lent 3		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship - Eucharist	Little Gaddesden
II Sunday 14th March, Mothering Sunday		
9.30am	Parish Worship	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Worship	Great Gaddesden
III Sunday 21st March, Passion Sunday		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship – Eucharist	Nettleden
IV Sunday 28th March, Palm Sunday		
9.30am	Parish Worship	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Worship	Great Gaddesden
Tuesday, 30th March		
8.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Great Gaddesden
Thursday 1st April, Maundy Thursday		
8.00pm	Eucharist with stripping of the altars	Little Gaddesden
Friday 2nd April, Good Friday		
11.00am	Service of Witness on The Green - TBC	Little Gaddesden
2.00pm	Hour Before the Cross	Nettleden
I Sunday 4th April, Easter Day		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.30am	Family Service	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Family Service	Great Gaddesden
Mid-Week Service		
Wednesday	10.00am on-line Podcast except Holy Week	

Please do tune in to the Podcast from 10.00am on a Wednesday morning. In March, the Podcasts will concentrate on some of the Beatitudes.

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.

greatgaddesdenchurch.com
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