

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

May 2021



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

SUNDAY SERVICES: We are getting our services back to some sort of normal:
9.30am Eucharist Service (new time for the moment)
6.00pm Evensong or Evening Worship (3rd Sunday in Nettleden)
5th Sunday in the month – Joint Eucharist at one of our three Churches

However, please do still check the website for up-to-date details

WEEKDAY SERVICE:	Thursday 10am Said Eucharist
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

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Dear Friends,

It was good to experience some sort of return to normality on Easter Day. Considering everything, we had a heartening number of people come to all three churches. The congregations were about half the number we would have expected in normal times, on the most important day in the Christian calendar, but in the circumstances, it was about all Little and Great Gaddesden churches could manage from a social distancing point of view.

Eastertide itself continues for some weeks and includes Ascension Day, (which always falls on the sixth Thursday after Easter and was a half day holiday when my parents were growing up in the 1920's and 30's). The season of Easter concludes with Pentecost or Whitsunday, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. This year, Whit Sunday is on 23rd May, so we have some weeks of celebration still to come.

Our celebrations were rather set aside during Easter week, following the sad death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We abandoned our usual worship and held special services giving time to reflect on a long and distinguished life of duty and service. It also enabled us to say prayers for members of the Royal Family, mourning the loss of the head of the family, but who was not of course, the most senior member of that family in public life.

Many of us have to carve a new or unexpected niche for ourselves during the course of our lives, or find a new place, given the changing roles of other members of our families; roles that come to us through the changes and chances of this life, but are not necessarily our own choice. Prince Philip knew the sort of family he was marrying into, but I wonder how he envisaged it would pan out, when he married the Princess Elizabeth back in 1947?

A long life doesn't always indicate a good life or a perfect person, but what Prince Philip's life of almost a century exemplifies is:

duty and service

strength to take the knockbacks

to bite one's tongue when unable to speak out against ill-informed criticism

to not always get the credit for good things achieved,

the unending, undemanding support given to a loved partner, which has to be the reward in itself.

Much is made, and rightly so, of the Queen's Christian faith; she is the perfect person to be head of the Church of England. Much less is spoken of Prince Philip's faith, but his example is a true example to Christians everywhere and witness to the world in general.

The values we saw lived out by the Prince, are Kingdom values and Kingdom values are those first demonstrated by Jesus himself in his earthly ministry.

Unlike Our Lord, Prince Philip was all too human, he had flaws and foibles and weaknesses just as we all do, but nevertheless we should give thanks to God for his life and example, a life from which we take and learn much.

I finish with a prayer taught me by my Father and which I have used before; it is the prayer of St Ignatius Loyola (1491- 1556).

Teach us, good Lord to serve thee as thou deserves,

to give and not to count the cost;

to fight and not to heed the wounds;

to toil and not to seek for rest;

to labour and not to ask for any reward;

except that of knowing that we do thy will. Amen.

I am yours in Christ,

John.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

Life is a pattern of criss crossed thread
Of bright recollection and of things left unsaid.
Made powerful by the strength of warp and weft
Bringing comfort for the grieving and bereft.
Giving thanks for the dedication of a life lived well
As a nation mourns, quietly, at the tolling of the bell.

Josie Jeffrey

Christian Aid Week 10th – 16th May 2021

Helping to fight the Climate Crisis

Droughts are now much more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Millions of people in Kenya, including Rose and her family, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so that when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

For more information, visit the Christian Aid website on www.christianaid.org.uk

Happiness

Happiness is like a butterfly.
The more you chase it, the more it will elude you.
but if you turn your attention to other things,
it comes softly and sits on your shoulder.

Unknown Author

CHILDREN'S PAGE

PENTECOST - What's that all about?

Jesus had vanished. He had left his friends on their own. They were very sad. They didn't know what to do next. "Wait in Jerusalem until I send the Holy Spirit to you," he had told them. They didn't know what he meant.

A few days later they had all gone to a house to celebrate the festival of PENTECOST. They were talking—arguing maybe—when suddenly WHOOSH, a gale blew through the room, wind tugging at their clothes and pushing them about. FLAMES of fire shot across the room. The friends looked wildly at each other. They each appeared to have a flame hovering over their heads. What on earth was going on???

Draw in the expressions on the faces of the disciples and then colour the picture.



A Prayer for Pentecost

*O Holy Spirit,
Speak to me when I am
tempted to do wrong;
Give me courage to do
what is right,
And strength to follow
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.*



It was the power of the Holy Spirit coming as Jesus had promised. Suddenly the disciples found that they could speak different languages—just like that! Now, Jerusalem was full of lots of people from all sorts of different countries who had come for Pentecost, and of course they all spoke different languages. Unscramble the letters to find out some of the countries and cities they had come from and link them to the language they would have spoken. *Read Acts, chapter 2, (in the New Testament) to help you.*

Greek

ΔΙΟΥΑΕ

ΤΥΕΡΓ

Latin

Arabic

مِירו

ΥΑΒΙΛ

Hebrew

The disciples were able to tell all these people the wonderful news of Jesus' death and coming alive again; of giving everyone a new way to live. The Holy Spirit gave them the power and energy to do this. It comes to all of us nowadays too. We need to ask for it by praying to God. It will help us to do things God's way. It is our 'Energy Source'.

PENTECOST

Pentecost is one of the Christian church's more exuberant and joyful celebrations. Considered to be the Church's birthday, Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday.

Story of Pentecost

Believed to be the oldest feast in the Church, the story of Pentecost dates back to the first century. The feast originated from the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs 50 days after the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:10). According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover, which freed the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, the feast became a time to honour the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labours. At the time of Jesus, the festival focused on rabbinical law and traditions.

Meaning of Pentecost

According to Scriptures in the Book of Acts, the Church came into being on the day of Pentecost. As 120 worshippers, including the Disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent rushing wind that was heard throughout the city. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the Apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. From the crowd of Jews and converts, 3,000 realised the truth of his words and became followers of Jesus.

Pentecost Traditions

There are many Pentecost traditions. In some churches, baptisms are performed throughout the day. Pentecost is also known as Whitsunday, because of the white garments worn by those who are baptized. In most Pentecost services, priests or church officials wear red vestments. Sanctuaries are decorated with banners depicting flames, wind, and doves. Churches in Italy disperse rose petals from the ceiling to symbolize the tongues of fire described in the book of Acts. French churches blow trumpets throughout the service to suggest the Holy Spirit coming with a violent rushing wind. Both Catholic and Protestant services have scripture readings from the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel or Acts.

The purest meaning of Pentecost is that of a time of renewal for Christian believers. Through studying of Pentecost, many seek and pray for spiritual gifts for the church during this time of holy celebration. There is a renewed focus on evangelism, empowerment from the Holy Spirit, deeper intimacy with God, and fellowship. For Christians, the celebration of Pentecost imparts faith, hope, a sharing of community, and an awareness of a purpose much greater than ourselves.

From Parish News, May 2009, written by David Katski

THE MONTH OF MAY ---WELCOME!

April, and another month of unprecedented Arctic weather, yet Nature powers through; I cannot remember when the daffodils were so beautiful for so long and the blackthorn along the hedgerows brighter and more spectacular. Does it herald another prolific sloe harvest I wonder; the harvest last autumn for sloes was fantastic, the branches were weighed down with the fruit. Every other autumn fruit was also way over the top: the acorns were like coconuts (bit of an exaggeration, but never mind). Or does that mean that the plants exhausted themselves and this autumn will be putting strength into roots.? Time will tell, we have summer to look forward to first.

Apparently, swallows, arriving during April were turning back as the bitter cold meant that there was no flying insect food; some migratory birds froze to death and probably some natives. Wrens perish in the cold as they are so small. They survive at night by huddling together in nest boxes and holes in trees. Long tailed tits perch along a branch and move along to the other end, thus getting turns inside the line. What smashing little birds, in the event of a nest being raided, (I've seen magpies work as a team of three) the pair that lose their nests will help bring up another pair's young. We should now be welcoming the swifts back, they are so much the sound of summer, and listening out for the cuckoo. There seemed to be a lot of them last year, or just the one who got about a bit.

May is the best month for birdsong - many have already started, as ever. It's good to hear the chaffinch again - they got hit with the same virus which decimated the greenfinches. The blackbird's song is just sublime but the bird is barmy. It is said that birds which hop along the ground are less intelligent than those that walk, like the magpie and others of the crow family. I wonder about the pairs of male blackbirds you see chasing each other all over the place instead of feeding up. Are they gay? Or, probably, fighting over territory or a female? They are in shorter supply as they are more vulnerable on the nest. I have a pair nesting in the TWBG.

They went through a phase of chasing all the smaller birds away, blue tits, dunnocks, goldfinches, but have quietened down. The male flies into the garden and creeps quietly into the choisya shrub with food, so as not to give the location away. There are predatory cats locally as well as magpies, jackdaws, kites etc and I am really hoping that this time, against all the odds, they will be successful and raise some young.

We have all, wildlife as well as us, been through a long, cold, miserable winter and never has May been more welcome. I'm looking forward to the return of the swifts, the sound of a cricket game on a sunny afternoon, pubs, meetings, WI, entertainment at the village hall, freedom, sunshine and nice hair.

Josie Jeffrey

Take Time

Take time to think – it is the source of power.

Take time to play – it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read – it is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray – it is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved – it is a God-given privilege.

Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh – it is the music of the soul.

Take time to give – it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work – it is the price of success.

Take time to do charity – it is the key to Heaven.

Author unknown

The Candle of the Church

Sometime in the mid-740s, the Anglo-Saxon missionary Boniface, working in what we would now call Germany, sent two letters back to England: one to the Archbishop of York and one to the Abbot of the twin monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, in what is now country Durham. He asked each of them if they would send to him some of the writings of 'that most wise investigator of the Scriptures ... Who, as we have heard, lately shone in your midst in the house of God like a candle of the church.' The 'candle of the church', as Boniface so effectively described him, was Bede, the greatest of early medieval scholars, whose feast-day is kept on 25th May. It was extraordinary how his fame had spread. He had died as recently as 735, had scarcely ever left the monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, and was simply a monk and a priest. But he had immersed himself in the study of the bible and had produced a vast body of interpretative commentary, drawing upon the greatest authorities: Augustine of Hippo, Jerome, Gregory the Great and many others. This body of knowledge he expressed in Latin, the universal language of the western church, with great clarity. It was orthodoxy made accessible not by a process of dumbing down, but by virtue of his complete mastery of his subject. He also wrote sermons interpreting the set lections which were much copied over the centuries, several highly influential works on cosmology and chronology, literary treatises on the art of writing, poetic metre and figures of speech, some verses, hymns and epigrams, historical works on St Cuthbert and the abbots of his own monastic community. He also wrote the great *History of the English Church and People*, for which he is still famous today (copied and recopied in the days of manuscripts and in print ever since. It's readily available in paperback).

Bede achieved so much because Benedict Biscop, the Anglo-Saxon founder of the monastic community, made a total of six journeys to Rome bringing back with him collections of texts which gave Monkwearmouth and Jarrow a truly exceptional library. The foundation was also well supported and richly endowed so that it could afford the enormous expense of producing manuscript copies of Bede's work alongside many other manuscripts, including biblical texts. Some of these survive, as does some of the stonework of the two churches of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, so that part of what we can see there today is what Bede saw fourteen hundred years ago.

Bede's name means 'prayer' in Anglo-Saxon and maybe he was so named because he was a longed-for late child. That might account for why his family then offered him to God round about the year 680, when he was seven years old. He entered Benedict's new monastery of Monkwearmouth, where his education began, and two years later was one of the small community of monks who went to Jarrow to establish an additional monastery there. Bede remained at Jarrow for the rest of his life, serving God humbly through his scholarship. In his own words, he concludes: "I have spent all my life in this monastery, applying myself entirely to the study of the Scriptures; and amid the observance of the discipline of the Rule and the daily task of singing in the church, it has always been my delight to learn or to teach or to write."

Joyce Hill, Two Valleys Parish News

From the Registers:

23rd March Reflection Service. Day of Reflection by the Nation and the church for the one-year anniversary of the first lockdown.

Interring of Ashes Patricia Fraser-Beck

11th April Special Service marking the life of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Little Gaddesden Art Club

As you will no doubt realise, there will be no Art Exhibition this year at the end of May in the village hall. This is disappointing but we can't put anything on until social distancing is a thing of the past. We are hoping that the One Day exhibition in November will be able to go ahead, so look out for details nearer the time.

One Perfect Rose
Dorothy Parker (1893 – 1967)

A single flow'r he sent me, since we met,
All tenderly his messenger he chose:
Deep-hearted, pure, with scented dew still wet -
One perfect rose.
I knew the language of the floweret;
'My fragile leaves,' it said, 'his heart enclose.'
Love long has taken for his amulet
One perfect rose.
Why is it no one ever sent me yet
One perfect limousine, do you suppose?
Ah no, it's always just my luck to get
One perfect rose.

Dorothy Parker was a poet and writer of articles, novels and short stories, and a film and drama critic. She was a proper poet, rather than simply a writer of humorous verse, but most of her poems have a sharp, acerbic wit mixed with disillusion. A true New Yorker, she wrote for *Vanity Fair* (her breakthrough was there as a holiday stand-in for P G Wodehouse) and also for *Vogue*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and *The New Yorker*.

Parker was a prominent member of the Round Table group of literati who met to drink and exchange bon mots at the Algonquin Hotel - unlike many of the group who would save up the good lines for when they met, hers seem to have been mostly spontaneous. Well known examples include: 'Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses', 'The first thing I do in the morning is brush my teeth and sharpen my tongue', 'If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people He gave it to'. She greatly disliked whimsy – her *New Yorker* review of A A Milne's 'The House at Pooh Corner' under her by-line of Constant Reader ended 'Tonstant Weader fwowed up'.

From the 1930s Parker was a great supporter of anti-Fascist organisations and the Civil Rights movement. She left her estate to Martin Luther King Jr, and on his death to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nick Murray

St Mary's Church in Northchurch (Berkhamsted) is looking for an Organist and Director of Music

This is a permanent position to replace Jenny Hoare, who is relocating to Shropshire. To find out more please contact Revd Canon Jonathan Gordon, mobile 07752 261679 or email revjagordon@gmail.com

BELL RINGING FOR THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

As you are aware there has been no bell ringing since January 2020. Following the death of Prince Philip rules set by the CCBR were lifted to permit ringing to mark the occasion. On Saturday 10th April the order was to toll or chime one bell, muffled if you so desired, for 99 dongs. I went to the church and chimed the tenor for 99 dongs. On the day of his funeral, 17th April the instructions were to do the same for any length of time between 2 and 3pm. This was done by Peter Leonhardt and Mike Walsham who each took a turn. This time Peter raised the bell so it could be tolled.

Also rules were lifted permitting bells to be rung or chimed for 15 minutes before morning service on Easter Day. As it turned out there were three ringers in church, namely Peter and Mike and Barbara Sheard so 3 bells were raised and they rang for 15 minutes. Our bells are too close together to allow more than 3 to be rung at once still observing social distancing.

As things stand bell ringing is not permitted until after 17th May: social distancing has to be observed which means we can only ring 3 bells. After 21st June who knows what will be allowed!

Virginia Westmacott

2021 FIRSTS – THE FINAL INSTALMENT

continued from March 18th

Sumer is acomen in

BUTTERFLIES

March 30th **Peacock Butterfly**. At last, the second species of the year. The first, Brimstone, was back on February 20th.

April 4th **Small White Butterfly**

April 18th **Orange Tip** (just as its food plants flowered, see below)

BIRDS

March 24th **Jay**

March 28th **House Sparrow**

April 1st **Buzzard**

April 5th **Blackcap**

OTHER ANIMALS

February 22nd **Bat** in flight (pipistrelle-sized, not necessarily this species)

FLOWERS OPENING

March c.23rd **Spurge Laurel** (*Daphne laureola*)

March c.25th **Flowering Currant, White Dead Nettle, a Euphorbia (Spurge)** cultivar

March 26th **Grape Hyacinth**, white and blue **Hyacinths**

March 27th **Forget-me-not, Coltsfoot**

March 29th **Dandelion**, White **Narcissus** with yellow cup

April 2nd **Greengage** blossom

April 4th **Blackthorn** blossom, red **Tulip**

April c.5th **Skimmia**

April c.7th white **Bluebell** (a form of the native species)

April 11th **Plum** blossom

April 17th Purple-flowered **Honesty**

April 18th **Garlic Mustard (Jack-by-the-hedge), Cow Parsley,**

blue **Bluebell**, the open ones probably mainly native species, but ones which haven't quite opened are more likely Spanish.

I am concluding this series now while there many more spring species to come. It is getting more difficult to keep track, and I expect you are getting tired of it (or perhaps I am). I keep watching out for them, but not noting the dates. I know that many readers see these plants and animals long before I do anyway.

John Leonhardt

PRAYER PAGE

Love

ever gives, forgives, outlives;
and ever stands with open hands;
and while it lives it gives,
for this is love's prerogative,
to give and give and give.

Lord, there are so many voices calling to us
in our world today,
but one voice has spoken loud and clear.
Lord, we offer ourselves to you now, as your faithful servants.
We offer our minds, to think for you.
We offer our eyes, to see the needs of others.
We offer our voices, to speak for you.
We offer our hands, to work for your kingdom.
We offer our feet, to walk in your path.
We offer our hearts, to love you above all, and to love others
as much as we love ourselves.
We offer our lives, to be used in your service,
and to the glory of your name.
Accept us, bless us, and use us for your glory.

Amen

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 23rd May

CHURCH SERVICES – MAY

I Sunday 2nd May, Easter 5		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Little Gaddesden
II Sunday 9th May, Easter 6		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Netteden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
III Sunday 16th May, Easter 7 / Sunday after Ascension		
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 23rd May, Pentecost		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
V 30th May, Trinity Sunday		
9.00am	Joint Parish Communion	Nettleden
6.00pm	Evensong	Little Gaddesden
I 6th June, Trinity 1		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Worship	Little Gaddesden
Mid-Week Services		
Tuesdays	9.00am Holy Communion	Great Gaddesden
Thursdays	10.00am Holy Communion	Little Gaddesden