

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

June 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 D Scriven, Gaddesden House	843783
READERS:	Mrs G Moore	07970 868839
	Mr A Archer	842397
	Mrs H Tisbury	01582 842807
PCC OFFICERS:	Treasurer: Mr A Webster	843157
	Secretary: Mrs T Adams	842746

SUNDAY SERVICES: Our Services are:

- 9.30am Eucharist Service (new time for the moment)
- 6.00pm Evening Worship (3rd Sunday will be Evensong 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

Vol 44 No.06

Dear Friends,

As I write this the showers and sunshine are taking turns in a sort of meteorological dance, to give us some very variable weather. We all know that when rain and sun meet there is often a rainbow. What an extraordinary phenomenon the rainbow is.

During the coronavirus pandemic, it has become a symbol of support for people wanting to show their solidarity and thanks for NHS workers, to whom we do indeed owe so much. So we're seeing the rainbow absolutely everywhere and it's a wonderful demonstration of love and gratitude.

My renewed awareness of rainbows has been sparked, partly by the NHS support pictures and also by my current bible study, based around readings from Genesis, (chapters 5-7), and the story of Noah.

Genesis is the first book of the bible and from it we can deduce a great deal about the nature of God through his dealings with those early biblical figures, who are the founders and huge influences on not just the Christian faith but of Judaism and Islam too. Remember we share much of holy scripture with all world faiths.

The story of the Great Flood is one with which, I guess, we're all pretty familiar. Who didn't have a set of animals and a model ark as a child and enact the animals entering the ark two by two? Or draw pictures of the ark sitting high and dry in mountainous countryside, with the faces of animals peering out wondering when, or indeed if, the rain was coming? The story though, is so much more than that; yes, it is somewhat bizarre, but it's also hugely significant in what would appear to be an all-or-nothing scenario.

When God looks down on the earth in judgement and not liking what he sees: violence, corruption and evil of all kinds, he recognises that it all stems from people's attitude, the state of the human heart and the lack of understanding of himself.

The time has come for action and it isn't going to be pleasant, every living creature is going to be affected - a few for good and a lot for not so good.

In fact, the whole of the known earth was going to be irrevocably changed. As it is not possible to accurately date the flood, history passed down in aural tradition often being selective, it's hard to judge the significance of any of the archaeological or geological evidence that has surfaced subsequently. Whatever the geographical boundaries of the Great Flood, it was cataclysmic and marked the beginning of a new era in the history of God and his creation.

Tough but fair might be one way of describing God's action, but the story teaches us that a fresh start is always possible. In the story of Noah this manifests itself in a new form of commitment or covenant between God and his people: 'if you... then I will...' God trusts Noah and his trust is rewarded, because Noah was extraordinarily faithful and obedient, not perfect, because he is only human.

The new covenant is all give from God's side, no conditions imposed, but a promise is made that he will never again destroy the whole earth, no matter what.

Whenever I see a rainbow, I am reminded of that covenant, that God made with Noah and continues to make with us and I find it immensely reassuring and a source of joy.

I am yours in Christ,
John.

When to church you go to ringle
Spirits rise and flesh will tingle
Mix the bells with bob or single
But with folk you must not mingle.

If you have but ringers few
There is nothing you need to do
But keep your distance
As told to
And ring on three as proverbial mice
And try to pretend it sounds quite nice.

And keep the hope of no third wave
And dream that ringing we can save
To the tower I might repair
Once the barber's cut my hair.

By courtesy of The Ringing World and AJB

From the Registers:

3rd May Holy Matrimony Sam Gater and Daniella Bailey

9th May Holy Baptism Rex Smith

FLOWER POWER JUNE

June is normally a lovely month. In the woods around Northchurch Common the honeysuckle will be gently scenting the air, there may still be bluebells as, like much else, they were a little behind. (I just wish that I wouldn't automatically think of that old childhood silly joke about Bert the Butcher a little behind with the orders due to standing in front of the bacon slicer... I am so sorry).

Anyway, June is the month to look out for orchids; there have been bee orchids at the Pulridge end of the Golden Valley slopes and College Lake will have common spotted, pyramidal and bee orchids amongst others less well known. Another of my old favourite places, the footpath below Duncombe Terrace, near Aldbury always had, amongst its display of meadow flowers, my favourite harebells (they remind me of the Isle of Man), knapweed, field scabious and ladies bedstraw. The last time I looked, though, cattle had been allowed to overgraze this NT land whilst the wild flowers were in bloom, therefore little seed was set. Hopefully this has now been righted.

I went to College Lake during May and it was such a delight: violets, primroses and cowslips lined the path and delayed greenery and blossom shone out from the trees and shrubs alongside. I recognized about nine bird species singing their welcome spring songs, especially the chiff chaffs a chiffing and a chaffing and several blackcaps, sounding like blackbirds on speed. Both have been more inclined not to leave us for the winter in recent years, meaning, in spite of some nasty winter surprises, they do not have to fly and roost over the killing grounds which is the Continent. Other summer migrants seem to be in short supply. Very few swallows and martins had made it to College Lake due, not least, to the awful weather here and northerly winds.

I am so hoping that the sound-of-summer, the swifts, have made it back to Ashridge Cottages and all their other nesting places in this country; it wouldn't be a proper summer without them. (I'm writing this about a week before I would normally be listening out for them. So, fingers crossed). Three years ago, there was a nightingale singing his heart out during a few June evenings in a hedgerow not a million miles from Church Road so fingers still crossed for a return visit. A sad but sadly inevitable update on the nest a pair of foolhardy blackbirds made in my choisya shrub. The magpies got them. Far too many magpies, not enough songbirds.

Josie Jeffrey

Three Short Prayers by Robert Louis Stevenson

Lord, receive our supplications for this house, family and country. Protect the innocent, restrain the greedy and the treacherous, lead us out of our tribulation into a quiet land.

Look down upon ourselves and upon our absent dear ones. Help us and prolong our days in peace and honour. Give us health, food, bright weather, and light hearts. In what we mediate of evil, frustrate our will: in what of good, further our endeavours. Cause injuries to be forgot and benefits to be remembered.

Lord behold our family here assembled.

The day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces, let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give to us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonoured, and grant us the gift of sleep.

Lord, receive our supplications for this house, family and country. Protect the innocent, restrain the greedy and the treacherous, lead us out of our tribulation into a quiet land.

Look down upon ourselves and upon our absent dear ones. Help us and them prolong our days in peace and honour. Give us health, food, bright weather and light hearts. In what we mediate of evil, frustrate our will: in what good, further our endeavours. Cause injuries to be forgot and benefits to be remembered.

Let us lie down without fear and awake and rise with exultation.

These prayers come from a small book, called **Prayers from Valima**. In the introduction written by Robert Louis Stevenson's wife and published after R.L.S.'s death, she writes, " In every Samoan household the day is closed with prayer and the singing of hymn. The omission of this sacred duty would indicate, not only the lack of religious training in the house chief, but a shameless disregard of all that is reputable in Samoan social life. With my husband, prayer, the direct appeal was necessary.

When he was happy he felt impelled to offer thanks for that undeserved joy. When in sorrow or pain, to call for strength to bear what must be born.

I suppose that ours was the only white man's family in all Samoa, except those of the missionaries, where the day ended with this homely, patriarchal custom. Not only were the religious scruples of the natives satisfied, but what we then did not foresee, our own respectability and - incidentally that of our retainers - became assured and the influence of Tusitala (as R.L.S was known) increased tenfold."

This book is now out of print but can still be downloaded on Kindle.

Barbara Day

JUNE 2021

At last! Looks like the new normal has begun,
Meaning that some of the viral battle has been won,
And that mistrust and elbow bumping is now done,
But dare we boldly jet south to seek warm sea and sun?
Do we unmask slowly or flash smiles and teeth as one?
And celebrate quite madly for precious freedoms won,
Or continue carefully, hugs and handshakes still to shun?
Will the nightmare return, hidden for now like a smoking gun?
Yet, jabbed, sanitised and desperate for normal life, normal fun,
It's now or never, freedom beckons, the new normal has begun.

Josie Jeffrey

Strawberry Cream Tea for Christian Aid

Join us for a Strawberry Cream Tea in support of Christian Aid on Saturday, 26th June between 3pm and 5pm at the Church's new Thomas Field Hall. £5 per person, children under 10 years free. Win a hamper of goodies in our raffle!

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Our church is dedicated to two Saints - **RETEP** _____ and **LUAP** _____.

(Can you work out their names?) We celebrate their day on June 29th.

Here is a first part of the story about the second Saint.

Jesus had gone up to heaven and his disciples were now going around telling people about him and how they could live their lives loving God. A man called Saul hated the people who had started following Jesus and was determined to stop them.

He was marching along the road towards the city of Damascus when suddenly he was struck by a great light which flashed all around him. He fell to the ground and then heard a voice saying, "Saul, why do you hate me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus," said the voice, "now get up and go into the city and wait." Saul opened his eyes, but he was blind! He couldn't see anything!



His friends led him into the city where he sat in a room for three long days.

Then a man called Ananias came to him and put his hands on his eyes. "God has sent me to make you see," he said. "Your name will change to Paul and you will travel on long journeys to tell people about Jesus, and change their lives."



WORDSEARCH

Find the words underlined in the story and colour in the pictures.

Dear God, Help me to see your love in the world, to know your love for me and show that love to other people in my life. *Amen*

R	K	B	L	I	N	D	S
S	E	Y	E	S	C	A	E
U	A	M	N	H	N	S	E
S	U	C	S	A	M	A	D
E	L	C	N	T	P	U	H
J	U	I	F	E	L	L	B
B	A	T	L	I	G	H	T
S	P	Y	S	E	V	I	L

“THE LITTLE GADDESSEN CHARITIES”

Report for 2020

The aim of the Charity as defined in the Charity Commissioners’ “Scheme” which regulates its activities is to:-

“Relieve either generally or individually, persons resident in the Parish of Little Gaddesden who are in need, hardship or distress, by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to redress the need, hardship or distress of such persons.”

The Trustees during 2020 were:

The Team Vicar of Little Gaddesden Church - Reverend John Russell,
(Chairman)

Mrs Jane Murray

Mrs Susan Pritchard as representative of the Parish Council

Mrs Pat Catchpole

Mr Michael Thompson nominated by Ashridge College

(Mrs Pat Catchpole acted as Secretary and Treasurer)

The Accounts were examined by Hillier Hopkins, Chartered Accountants of Watford. The expenditure for the year was £1,230

The strictest confidentiality is observed in the handling of requests for assistance and details about cases are never made public in any form. Any of the Trustees, however, will be glad to answer questions of a general nature on how the charity operates.

Pat Catchpole

WILLIAM BUCKLAND REVISITED and the last Earl of Bridgewater's Will

A new book about William Buckland, was published last year. He was the Professor of Geology who wrote the sixth of the Bridgewater Treatises. It was a pair of hardback books published in 1833 with many superb engravings of fossils and a detailed text.

From September 2008 to August 2009 I wrote a series of articles in this magazine about these treatises. They were the proposed "essays" referred to in the inscription below the memorial to the last (8th) Earl of Bridgewater in our church:

HE BEQUEATHED L 8000 [£8000] AS A REWARD TO LITERARY MEN, FOR WRITING ESSAYS TO
PROVE THE BENEVOLENCE OF GOD AS DISPLAYED IN THE WORKS OF CREATION

He died in 1829, aged 72. I speculated on the influences or reasons for the earl to have left this money in his will in my article in the August 2009 issue of *Parish News*. so I will not go into that again. A list of the other seven treatises and their authors can be found on a framed card on a shelf opposite the memorial.

The author of the new book is Dr Allan Chapman, who has brought Buckland to life, not only in the things he did but also in the influence that his contemporaries had on him and he on them. Since writing those articles I have noticed Buckland being mentioned once or twice on television. He is depicted on TV, just as in Dr Chapman's book, as a pioneer of the study of fossils simultaneously with the understanding of geology. His teaching methods included taking students on field visits to quarries, caves and cliffs.

From Chapman we learn that Buckland was born in 1784 near Axminster, Devon. His father was a naturalist, and taught his son from what they discovered on walks together, including fossils, which are common in that area, famously so around Lyme Regis. It was here that Mary Anning became famous for collecting and selling fossils, but she was not born until about 1799. She and her brother discovered and excavated the first ichthyosaurus when she was only 12. She went on to become a palaeontologist in her own right, recognised as an authority amongst other scientists although self-taught. William Buckland soon got to know her.

William was educated at home until he was sent to Blundell's Grammar School at the age of 13, and rapidly won a scholarship to Winchester College. He proceeded to Corpus Christi College, Oxford University when he was 17 in 1801.

Although there was no science degree to work for, there were many courses of lectures available in the university and around, including medicine, anatomy, astronomy, botany, chemistry and mineralogy. These ran alongside the main classical subjects of the university which were needed for a degree, Latin and Greek literature, theology, geometry etc.

Among these lecturers Dr John Kidd, Regius Professor of Medicine is of particular interest to us as he was another of the chosen authors of the Bridgewater Treatises. His subject was the Adaptation of external nature to the Physical condition of man... and the exercise of his intellectual facilities. The common theme of all these treatises, remember, was to prove the benevolence of God in creation.

Kidd also lectured on chemistry and mineralogy.

Buckland studied under him, and later became his successor as Oxford University Reader in Mineralogy. In this role he continued to build up the study of geology and fossils and was appointed Reader in Geology, a new readership in the university in 1819.

One of the controversies of this period was about the timing of strata being laid down, and the reason for there being sudden changes in the kinds of fossils found in them – the succession from molluscs (but no fish) to fish (but no reptiles) and so on, and no humans until the most recent deposits. Catastrophes seemed involved, and new creations. Geological evidence of great floods was found, at first assumed to be the flood of Noah, which ought to have been in the human period, but that theory soon didn't fit. Other ancient changes were evident in the geological record and the observed landscapes, so the timing of water erosion, glacial erosion, inundation, falling sea levels (or was it rising land? - marine fossils way up in hills), earthquakes, eruptions, and changes in climates (tropical animals in places now cold) were in need of explanation.

Buckland knew well the work of his predecessors and contemporaries such as Georges Cuvier and was by now the leading authority in England, so when Francis Henry Egerton died and his legacy of £8000 was revealed, he took the opportunity to write his Magnum Opus, as Dr Chapman has described it. His Treatise was welcomed as an up-to-date presentation of the subject, and an instant success.

This clearly impinged on the subject of God's Creation. The eight treatises reveal how the beliefs of the authors did not agree with each other, but they all found ways of demonstrating that God was behind it all, and Buckland was absolutely confident about this, pointing out examples at every turn.

Astronomy was another topic very relevant to creation. By 1800 the existence of space beyond our own galaxy was becoming known and, with some knowledge of the speed of light, the creation of distant objects was being thrown back by thousands or millions of years. This had become possible especially through the work of William and Caroline Herschel (brother and sister) between 1770 and 1790. They built bigger and better telescopes and used them to search assiduously for new astronomical objects, to describe them, and to make calculations on their distances and motions, far exceeding the work of previous astronomers.

Buckland knew many astronomers, including the successive Directors of the Radcliffe Observatory in Oxford and the Astronomers Royal based at Greenwich, and was well aware of progress in that field.

For your reference, the book I have used as the main source of this account is: Caves, Coprolites and Catastrophes, by Dr Allan Chapman, published in 2020 by SPCK. There are more very interesting details about the life of Buckland and of his wife Mary which I will try to write about in a later article.

John Leonhardt



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) The Platinum Jubilee 2022

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative is encouraging everyone to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by planting trees. Wherever you are in the UK, you can plant a tree to celebrate this milestone.

The Queen's Green Canopy will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built. This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

Please try to get involved from planting a single tree in your garden to joining neighbours, a community group or your school applying for a free tree pack. Every tree makes a difference.

Any trees planted from October 2021 to the end of the jubilee year in 2022 can be part of the QGC. Tree planting season is October to March – this is when roots are dormant and new trees will have the best chance of flourishing. Why not use the summer months to plan your planting and arrange a day of celebration?

Schools and community groups can apply in June for their packs. For more information and to apply for the packs, please go to www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Prayer Page

St Peter & St Paul, 29th June

Patron Saints of our Parish Church

Almighty God,

whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul
glorified you in their death as in their life:

grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example,
and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm on the one foundation,
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

O God of love, have pity, we implore you,
on all who are hit by sudden calamity.

Look mercifully on the hungry,
the homeless and the bereaved.

Heal and restore the fearful, the lonely and the despairing.

Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer,
and hasten the coming of your Kingdom of justice and truth.

Amen

A Motorist's Prayer

Grant me a steady hand and watchful eye
that no man shall be hurt as I pass by.

Thou gavest life, and I pray that no act of mine
may take away or mar that gift of Thine.

Shelter those, dear Lord, who bear me company
from the evils of fire and calamity.

Teach me to use my car for others' need,
nor miss through love of speed

the beauties of Thy world; that thus I may
with joy and courtesy go on my way.

Amen

CHURCH SERVICES – JUNE

I Sunday 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
II Sunday 13th June, Trinity 2		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Netteden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Little Gaddesden
III Sunday 20th June, Trinity 3 / Birth of John the Baptist		
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Patronal Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evensong	Nettleden
IV Sunday 27th June, Trinity 4 / Festival of St Peter & St Paul		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Patronal Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Great Gaddesden
NO EVENSONG AT LITTLE GADESSEN		
I Sunday 4th July, Trinity 5		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	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

Parish News Editors:

Helene Hockings, Nick Murray, David Nowell-Withers, Mike Walsham
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Deadline Date for next edition of Magazine: Sunday 20th June