

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

September 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
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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 Evensong or Evening Worship	
	5 th 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.09

From Anthony Archer – Reader

Dear Friends,

By the grace of God, it does now seem that we are emerging from the pandemic. Maybe it's a new season, moving from pandemic to endemic, perhaps just learning to live with the virus going forward. But whatever season we are in, I thought it was a good time to start to reflect on COVID-19.

Initially, we didn't really think it was that serious. First it hit the Chinese: well, we aren't Chinese, and anyway China is far away, and strange things (like eating pangolins) happen there. Then it hit Iran, but we still didn't worry because Iran, too, is far pretty far away, and anyway it's such a different kind of place. Then it struck Italy, but we thought, well, the Italians are sociable, tactile people, of course it will spread there, but we'll be alright. And then it arrived in London. And New York and suddenly there was no safe place on the planet. There was no neutral zone. No medical equivalent of wartime Switzerland.

I've been reading Tom Wright's book, *God and the Pandemic*¹ in which he reflects on what a Christian is supposed to think about the coronavirus crisis. What has happened? What have we learned? What might the new normal look like now that Zoom isn't just a child's ice lolly? Hasn't God got something to do with it? Is someone trying to tell us something? Why is this happening?

But Tom Wright said that the best answer he'd heard had not been to the question why. It had been to the question, what. What can we do? And since he wrote his book quite early in the pandemic, we now have some pretty good answers to that question, including the harnessing of awesome vaccine technologies, Governments stepping up to prevent economies going into meltdown, and thereby arresting further poverty.

But faced with the rapid spread of coronavirus, some churches have reached for so-called Christian reactions. Some people think they know exactly what's gone wrong and what God is trying to say through it all. It's a sign of the End Times, is one strand. For other Christians, it's just a moment of opportunity! Now that everyone is thinking about death rather than wondering where to fly to on holiday, perhaps there will be a massive turning to God.

¹ Wright, Tom (2020) *God and the Pandemic*. SPCK: London.

Of course, in the Old Testament there were moments of great disaster, the greatest probably the Babylonian exile. And the great prophets interpreted that event in terms of the large-scale punishment for Israel's sin. Some events are hard to fathom, but when we are caught up in awful circumstances, apparent gross injustices, terrible plagues – at these points we are to lament, we are to complain, we are to state the case, and leave it with God. We get more help when we read the New Testament. Here there is constant reference back to the great foundational events of Passover, the time when God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt. And what Tom Wright helpfully emphasizes is that when Israel was enslaved in Egypt, nobody ever said it was because of their sin. Yes, they needed a new Exodus, and exile (from the prophets' point of view) was the result of sin, so rescue would suggest forgiveness. Yet Passover was never about forgiveness. When famine strikes, they don't say, 'Ah, this is because we have sinned!' They say, 'We've heard there is corn in Egypt!' They are not looking backwards, at what might have caused the problems. They are looking forward to what needs to be done.

In the early Church, Luke records in Acts 11 that a travelling prophet, Agabus, told the assembled company in Syrian Antioch that there would be a great famine over the whole world. The Antioch Jesus-followers didn't say this must be a sign that the Lord is coming back soon, or this must mean that we have sinned and need to repent! No, they asked three simple questions: Who is going to be at special risk when this happens? What can we do to help? And who shall we send? All of which sounds rather untheological. Pragmatic even. But here Tom Wright notes that we stumble on one of the great principles of the kingdom of God – the principle that God's kingdom, inaugurated through Jesus, is all about restoring creation the way it was meant to be. God always wanted to work in his world through loyal human beings. That is part of the point of being made in God's image.

So, where do we go from here? Lament? Certainly. We need to recognise that God has delegated the running of many aspects of his world to human government. And in doing so has run the risk that we will grieve him to his heart. And how do we live in the present, including with the ongoing reality of coronavirus? Some people have expressed the pious hope that when this is all over, we will have a kinder, gentler society. And maybe we will.

But how do we recover and what should be the priorities for us, as a Christian community? Tom Wright offers Psalm 72 as a clear statement on the priorities the Church should be articulating, not just by speech but through practical proposals:

“Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king’s son ...
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor ...

[The righteous ruler] delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

He has pity on the weak and needy and saves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence, he redeems their life,

And precious is their blood in his sight.”

Yours in Christ



**1st Little Gaddesden Scout Group
JUMBLE SALE**

on Saturday 11th September

in Little Gaddesden Village Hall

10.00 – 12 noon

For collection contact Glenda on 842505 or Linda on 842512
or bring Jumble on Friday evening 10th or early Saturday 11th



The Berkhamsted Walk – Sunday 19th September 2021

Whilst it has been a disappointing year for events and fundraising, we are delighted to announce that we will be putting on a smaller version of the Berkhamsted Walk

on Sunday 19th September 2021!

The walk will be slightly different to our normal event – there will be one 12-mile route, but you will be able to walk as little or as much of it as you like – and join the route wherever suits you best. As usual, the route will be marked, and we will be providing maps – we are also aiming to have one checkpoint available. For more information and to register, please visit www.berkhamstedwalk.com.

To find out more about The Children's Society's work, take a look at their website: www.childrenssociety.org.uk



CAFÉ CHURCH RESUMES!

A different type of service for everyone.

A much more relaxed and
informal Café format
with tables in the nave or
The Thomas Field Hall

**Coffee, tea and pastries on arrival
No sermon, more of a chat!**

Please join us on Sunday 12th September at 9.30am

OPERA CONCERT
Saturday 23rd October 2021

It is hoped to revive the Opera Concert after a gap of a year and to contribute the net proceeds as usual to Charity. We will celebrate what it is hoped will be freedom from Covid restriction by that time in Little Gaddesden Church at 7:30 (Doors open at 6:30). The programme will consist of popular Opera music and song to the usual high quality sung by four very talented professionals who will be on the stage at the Royal Opera House the Saturday before our evening.

The singers are Marianne Cotterill, Soprano, Jeanette Agar, Mezzo, George Freeburn, Tenor and Jonathan Fisher, Baritone, accompanied by the very accomplished pianist Viv McLean. It will be an evening to remember. Tickets will be available from Little Gaddesden Village Shop and from Michael Roberts on 01442 843444 or MCRoberts4@aol.com from 1st October.

A Little Gaddesden Parents' Forum event
LOVE, SEX and the TEENAGE YEARS

How to help prepare children for adult, loving relationships.

As our children move on to senior school they will find it almost impossible to avoid sexting and internet pornography, which are all a fingertip away. What meaningful (Christian) guidance can we give them as they steer through this difficult age so they feel empowered to take their own decisions and see sex as part of loving, caring, committed relationships? What practical advice is available to help monitor their digital technology? What can our school do?

There will be contributions from the School Head, Lorna Elkes, and our Rector John Russell.

Wednesday, 22nd September at 7.30 pm
in
The Thomas Field Hall, St Peter & St Paul Church,
Church Road, Little Gaddesden

All welcome

A Strike Among The Poets (Anon.)

In his chamber, weak and dying,
While the Norman Baron lay,
Loud, without, his men were crying,
'Shorter hours and better pay.'

Know you why the ploughman, fretting,
Homeward plods his weary way
Ere his time? He's after getting
Shorter hours and better pay.

See! the Hesperus is swinging
Idle in the wintry bay,
And the skipper's daughter's singing,
'Shorter hours and better pay.'

Where's the minstrel boy? I've found him
Joining in the labour fray
With his placards slung around him,
'Shorter hours and better pay.'

Oh, young Lochinvar is coming;
Though his hair is getting grey,
Yet I'm glad to hear him humming,
'Shorter hours and better pay.'

E'en the boy upon the burning
Deck has got a word to say,
Something rather cross concerning
Shorter hours and better pay.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make as much as they,
Work no more, until they find us
Shorter hours and better pay.

Hail to thee, blithe spirit! (Shelley)
Wilt thou be a blackleg? Nay.
Soaring, sing above the melee,
'Shorter hours and better pay.'

When reading this entertaining poem, one soon notices a certain familiarity. This is because each verse relates to a separate, well-known poem, but with one or more of the characters now depicted as supporting a strike for better pay and working conditions – utterly different from the original. All of these poems would have been very well known to school children in the first half of the 20th century, though that would certainly not be the case for some of them nowadays. Despite some efforts, I haven't managed to identify the anonymous author or when it was written. I have it in an anthology from 1952, but I would guess it dates from the 1920s or 30s, a particularly important time of arguments over hours of work and minimum pay levels.

See how many of the originals you can identify. A few clues: all but one of the poets were British; six of the poems were composed in the first half of the 19th century, one in the 18th and one early in the 20th; from what I know, the poets covered a fairly wide spectrum in their political leanings (those who had any).

I've given my answers on page 13 – do let me know if you disagree, or if you know more about the author of the poem.

Nick Murray

Water is Life

The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal

Life in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is tough. With a history of civil war, widespread poverty and a cycle of conflict and displacement, communities struggle every day. More than 70% of the DRC population use unsafe drinking water which leads to a very high risk of cholera, a preventable disease. The Bishop of St Albans' Appeal 2021 - Water is Life – will bring clean water to many more communities in the DRC transforming daily lives and giving hope for the future.

For individuals wishing to give to this appeal, please go to www.harvestappeal.org and click on the Tearfund tap picture where your donation will be collected on behalf of the church.

The Moody Sea

On a summer's day, gentle, calm, yet never still,
Slave to mysterious moon as she bends the sea to Selene's will,
The tide, today, whispers along the shore, teasing toes with lacy brine,
As sun shines down, so comforting and warm and so benign.

Tomorrow, the mood could change, along with the wind and tide,
White horses could ride the waves above where strange creatures
forever bide,
Hiding within the secret laden, dark, mysterious deep,
Wait for Poseidon's command to rise, rob sailors of their sleep.

The streaming currents and shifting winds obey, rise and so conspire,
Fling the waves with fury for the angry sea god to admire,
Before his tempest temper cools and all is calm and safe again,
For to spar with imperious goddess moon would forever be in vain.

Josie Jeffrey.

From the Registers:

5 th August	Interring of Ashes	Patricia Clayton
14 th August	Holy Baptism	Laurie Andrew Gibson
15 th August	Interring of Ashes	Frank Mayling
17 th August	Interring of Ashes	Elizabeth Fountain Eames

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid by attending or helping at the Strawberry Cream Tea on Saturday 31st July in Little Gaddesden. We are delighted to say that we raised £660 on the day. This means that we have raised over £2,250 for Christian Aid in 2021. Thank you all.



CHILDREN'S PAGE

Here is a QUIZ.

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF:

1. The wife of King Ahab? (*1 Kings ch.16 v.29-31*)
2. Adam's wife? (*Genesis ch.3 v.20*)
3. Joseph's mother? (*Genesis ch.30 v.22*)
4. The 8th Book in the Old Testament?
5. The country whose Queen visited King Solomon? (*2 Chronicles ch.9 v.1*)
6. Jesus' mother? (*St. Matthew ch.1 v. 18*)
7. The mother of John the Baptist? (*St. Luke ch.1 v.57-60*)
8. One of the Prophets, or Judges, of the Israelites? (*Judges ch.4 v.1*)
9. The woman who had too much work to do? (*St. Luke ch.10 v 40*)



NOW, write the answers in the grid and read the letters down the shaded squares to discover the name of the most important city in Israel.

1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									



SPRING TO SUMMER. MISSING IN ACTION.

Basically, there was no Spring this year: Winter, with the exception of a few unseasonal scorchio days dragged on until the second week of June after which re-grown tender veg struggled through in spite of cold grey days of low light and hungry bees. Looking on the bright side, like all us gardeners, there wasn't much risk of hosepipe bans and heat rash through June and all but one week of July but the humidity into August brought blight to allotment spuds and tomatoes. Temperatures in August went as low as 13 degrees, in between downpours. Fingers crossed for a late summer when all will be forgiven (well, nearly all).

Even allotmenters feel compassion for families holidaying at home: kids with little noses frozen to their cornettos and trench feet from a summer in wellies, hardy campers drying out the scrabble board and musty socks in soggy tents, along with the pong and steam of wet dog and all the woodland creatures huddling in, looking for a bit of warmth and the odd damp cheese 'n onion crisp. So: Staycation. Like lock down, but in a wet tent.

There have been some bright spots 'though, (honest!) My local goldfinches, blue tits and robins (at least) seem to have had more than one brood and the marjoram on my allotment has hosted lots of small tortoiseshells, gatekeepers, red admirals, peacocks and I've also seen common blue and brimstones knocking around. At College Lake, which has been open on a Wednesday evening, I saw a lovely little moth, apparently a magpie moth with black, white and yellow markings and whopping great dragon flies, fascinating to watch, like dare devil pilots in little helicopters.

However, the most recent highlight for me was the morning when I flung open my living room curtains at 6.30 am. to see six very pretty goats, a bold young billy and his 5 lovely ladies paying a courtesy call to my front garden. They continued around Bede Court, happily snacking. Looking out a little later they were back, nibbling from low branches of my crab apple, which was fine but they then started on my variegated myrtles, quite ravenously. Myrtle grows wild on Greek mountains and to goats it's like a cross between M&S chilli coated peanuts and Ben & Jerry's Cookie Dough ice cream so I was sadly obliged to firmly move them on with a broom. Much to the annoyance of young Billy who stamped and pouted a bit before moving his ladies on. Looking out again after about 20 minutes, (couldn't resist) they had moved on

but there was a guy walking along Church Road looking around as if he had lost something, looking a bit sus if I'm honest but I realised that he was probably just a lonely goatherd.

It seems that all was eventually well and they never made it to the Ashridge Woods. Phew, that's a relief then. Wouldn't want them lost in the woods would we!

Josie Jeffrey

Answers to Actors Strike Poem Quiz

1st verse: 'Norman and Saxon, AD 1100', by Rudyard Kipling, publ. 1911.

2nd verse: 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' by Thomas Gray, publ. 1751.

3rd verse: 'The Wreck of the Hesperus' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, publ. 1842.

4th verse: 'The Minstrel Boy' by Thomas Moore, publ. 1810.

5th verse: 'Young Lochinvar', from 'Marmion' by Sir Walter Scott, publ. 1808.

6th verse: 'Casabianca' by Felicia Dorothea Hemans, publ. 1826.

7th verse: 'A Psalm of Life' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, publ. 1838.

8th verse: 'To a Skylark' by Percy Bysshe Shelley, publ. 1820.

The Midweek Discussion Group

The midweek discussion group is due to reconvene on Wednesday 8th September. For the moment it will remain on-line. The sessions start with a general welcome chat to hear how everyone is getting on, then some discussion centred around a Bible passage, with a short time of prayer at the end.

Sign in is at 7.55pm and the sessions end at 9.30pm sharp. The Zoom invitation is sent a few days beforehand, usually with some backup material. Please contact Anthony Archer on anthony.archer@bridgewaterassociates.co.uk or 07721 504125 with any questions.



Little Gaddesden Church will be participating as usual in the Sponsored Bike 'n Hike in aid of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Half of the money raised by the riders or walkers from Little Gaddesden will go to Little Gaddesden Church (or the church of the participant's choice).

Last Year we raised over £1000 which is a fantastic amount! It would be great if we could match it or even beat it this year!

It's a lovely day out where the riders or walkers can visit as many churches as they wish in which ever order they like on the day between 9am – 5pm, and just need to record their presence. It can be done as a group or individually. Some churches lay on refreshments also!

I will leave sponsor packs in the back of the church (on the table) so feel free to take one or contact me for more info (07901914533) or see the website for general info.

<https://bedshertshct.org.uk/bike-n-hike/>

Peter Leonhardt

PRAYER PAGE

Prayer for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and peace,
We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan;
be living bread to those who are hungry each day.

Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care
amid the ravages of the pandemic.
Be a true home to all who have been displaced.

Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their
gender, ethnicity, religious or political views.

Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict,
And those who live within its shadow.

Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace;
open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care.

Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity
with your suffering people, and hold us all in your unfailing love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love,
in order to bring life in all its fullness. **Amen**

God bless each one of us.
We have remembered today that as human beings
we need to keep in touch with one another
and with the God of love
who made us and sustains us
during all the ups and downs of life.
Help us to encourage one another with thoughtfulness,
and be ready to forgive and be forgiven whenever necessary.
May God build us up in love
so that we can live good lives which shine with his friendship.

Amen

CHURCH SERVICES – SEPTEMBER

I Sunday 5th September, Trinity 14		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Little Gaddesden
II Sunday 12th September, Trinity 15		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Café Church	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Café Church	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Little Gaddesden
III Sunday 19th September, Trinity 16		
11.00am	Dedication of The Thomas Field Hall in the presence of Michael, the Bishop of Hertford, followed by buffet lunch	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Nettleden
IV Sunday 26th September, Trinity 17		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	Nettleden
9.30am	Parish Communion	Little Gaddesden
11.00am	Parish Communion	Great Gaddesden
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Little Gaddesden
I Sunday 3rd October, Trinity 18		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	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 19th September